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Mike's Memo

Mike Miodonski

While going through the mass of club photos last week, I came upon a picture that gave me an idea for this month's article. The photo was of a dessert Tom Brown's wife had made for one of the club picnics. It was a chocolate dish covered with crushed Oreo cookie crumbs that resembled small rocks so, in true Tom Brown fashion, he proceeded to turn it into a diorama by placing his son's toy bulldozer in it with a few accessories like

picks and shovels.

That got me thinking about some of the other "outside the box" examples of modeling components. Over the years I have seen many examples of this type of thinking like shotgun shell pellets to simulate cannon balls, foil from wine bottles to simulate metal and, in this year's Kids Class, I even saw pencil shavings used to simulate ground clutter. It was an interesting effect but the smell reminded me of some of my old elementary school math teachers and I immediately became uncomfortable. I also remembered as a child trying to carve a submarine from a bar of soap and realized (after using all the soap in the house) that it wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. The result of my failed modeling experiment did not go over well the next morning and to this day is still a topic of discussion at family gatherings.

So, here's this month's "Round the Room Question" topic: "What is the most personally controversial ingredient/tool/device you used for modeling over the years and what was the result?"

BuffCon is coming up soon and the signup sheets looked good with the exception of admissions/registration and security, so I will be pulling a few of you to work in those areas. Thanks in advance.

The next E-Board meeting will be at Paul Hines' house at 7:00 on 3-28-08. Please see Paul if you need directions. To Paul, thank you for hosting the meeting.

During the next general meeting we will be taking nominations for the E-Board and officer positions. Please see Tom Faith or me if you're interested in running for a position. All positions are open. If you are currently serving, you will automatically be nominated for that same position unless you tell Tom Faith or me otherwise.

I'm beginning to get photos from people of past club events and they are really great, so if you want to share your memories with everyone get them to me. I'll have them scanned and then returned to you.

One last thing; I stopped into 3 Guyz Hobbies last Saturday and was impressed by the pile of stuff that had been donated to be sent to our troops overseas. A special thank you goes out to Rich Bernecki for the significant donation. Well done guys, you have done the club and yourselves proud. That's all I have for now, I'll see you at the meeting...

-Mike

**The
"BuffCon"
Boys**

Mike's Memo

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Notes From The February Meeting

Dick Schulenberg

President Mike Miodonski reported on the 2008 Kids Class that finished up the Saturday before the meeting. We had 34 kids for the entire run, with lots of adults participating in the building. Even with this number of kids, those of us who mentored had a great time, probably one of the best classes yet.

The round the room question was "What scale do you feel most comfortable modeling in?" No surprises here. 1/48 aircraft, 1/24 cars, 1/35 armor are at the top of the list. There are a few of us holdouts in 1/72 and a fair number of modelers who prefer to build whatever interests them in whatever scale.

The collection of kits for Afghanistan and Iraq proposed by Rich Bernecki is coming along nicely. 3 Guyz Hobbies is coordinating the collection, packaging and shipping through IPMS/USA. Last I looked there was quite a nice pile. Modeling supplies are still needed, so if you want to be involved, contact Bob Collignon, Dave Schwab or Tony Glisczynski ASAP.



We had a good number of models on the tables tonight.

Paul Hines started us off with his 1/50 scale Samsom wood hulled tug from the Artesania Latina kit. Paul finished this big model about 6 years ago, building over a 10 month period. The hull is double planked over frames and the superstructure features many scratchbuilt details. Paul's won a number of awards with this one.

Bob Collignon brought in the new Tristar German Fiesler Storch observation plane from WWII. It's in 1/35 scale so it's compatible with an enormous number of armor kits. It appears to be quite a nice kit with great diorama possibilities.

Dave Armitage filled in for Ernie Yuhnke in the 54mm figure arena. He showed a dozen or so from a real mixed bag; a Western set, a pharmacist, a baker, a businessman, a native girl, a WWII German Women's Auxiliary soldier, some Winter War figures, a German soldier with binoculars and Nicholas II, the last Czar of Russia. Quite a range. Dave also brought in a small 1/35 WWII Russian front diorama he's building based on a plaster kit. He's carved bricks into the interior walls and added lots of homemade details. Another model was an HO scale Victorian house from a craftsman wood and metal kit with added details like a baby in a buggy and flower gardens. In addition, Dave showed an HO scale room diorama he's building just for fun. A neat fireplace kit provided the inspiration and pretty much everything else is from scratch.

Frank Blonski has made a lot of progress with his 1/24 scale custom pickup. Basically, it's a 1950 Chevy with a chopped top, '57 Chevy sedan headlight buckets and rear fenders, and scratched shocks and other suspension parts to add to the custom look. Cool looking vehicle.

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February Meeting...



Joe Villone brought in a couple of interesting airplane models. First was his 1/32 scale British Westland Wyvern 1950's fighter bomber made from the old ID Models vacuform kit. The kit provided the basic shapes and Joe provided the rest, like plastic & brass landing gear, turned wood rotating spinner, cockpit details, a new canopy and clear wing lights. Decals are from the old Matchbox Spitfire Mk 22/24 kit. Great looking model. Joe also brought in a finished 1/48 scale Grand Phoenix F3H Demon USN fighter from the 1950/1960 era. This one came with some beautiful resin details and excellent details but was a harder build than the Wyvern because those nice details wouldn't fit into the plastic parts without a knock-down, drag-out fight. Joe won and the Demon looks very aggressive. Nice work all around, Joe.



Paul Kittle is real serious about the 1/350 ship models for the Ft. Niagara diorama. The ones he built previously were not based on specific Great Lakes prototypes, which bugged him, so he built a brand new HMS Halifax from plans. This one has pretty convincing rigging with sails from silkspan, a light weight flying model airplane covering material. Just for fun, he also built a hull for the 1830 USS Pennsylvania, the largest ship of the line in the US Navy at the time. Paul says it was pretty much a white elephant because of its size and crew requirements, but it is impressive in 1/225 scale. Paul used styrene for all of the construction. What a neat pair of models. I love this stuff!

Tom Mooney showed up with three nice models; a 1/48 Tamiya Beaufighter in an unusual desert color scheme, painted in acrylics with a black wash, a 1/48 FW190D, also painted in acrylics and pastels for exhaust stains, and a 1/12 scale Tyrell P34 6 wheeled racer from the 1976 Formula One season. Lots of details possible in this big scale.



I (Dick Schulenberg) brought in two 1/72 scale models I finally finished. Both have been hanging around nearly done for several years and the glue had finally cured. First was an Airfix Vampire FB5 in high speed silver with panel lines scribed into the paint as an experiment ala Paul Budzik's 1/32 Tempest in a recent issue of Scale Aircraft Modeler International. I thought it worked pretty good and will do it again. The other model was a Seversky P35A fighter from the 17th Pursuit Group in the Philippine Islands in late 1941.

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February Meeting...

The Air Corps painted the upper surfaces of the natural metal airplanes with the washable paint used for war games as an expedient camouflage. However it rapidly wore off in the tropical conditions, especially on the leading edges as contemporary photos show. I brushed Vallejo olive drab over the Future coated Tamiya spray can silver paint and abraded some away with well worn scotchbrite until it matched the pictures in the Squadron Mini Profile. I'm happy with the results. Only have a half dozen or so more started models to finish!

Larry Osolkowski has made a lot of progress on his 1/24 Fiat Abarth for BuffCon. The engine and chassis are done and he's on to body work. The grill is nicely detailed but wasn't see through so Larry fixed it by grinding away the back side until the grill work opened up. Delicate work but worth the effort. The suggestion for this rework came from Bill Borkowski, who also turned Larry on to the spray can Faux Fabric he used on the plastic seats. Very nice.



Mike Butry brought in the Hasegawa F-16 he's building for a friend. He's having lots of fun with the detailing and plumbing. Mike also showed the Tamiya P-51D he built in 442 Squadron RCAF markings for a FineScale Modeler on-line forum build. It's striking with its yellow nose, but Mike says the masking was time consuming.

Steve Donacik showed up with a crashed 1/48 Bf109.

Not a diorama, just crashed. Seems it vibrated off his entertainment center and would not fly. Told you about that loud music, didn't I, Steve! Steve also showed a nice 1/48 Hasegawa P-40E he's painting with olive drab and neutral gray. Steve says he's happy to get this far.

As you can see, there was lots of good stuff again this evening. The next meeting is on March 17th. Bring in your completed projects, works in progress, new kits, or a model you'd like to show off.

An important point to remember for the March meeting is that nominations for club offices are due by the meeting for elections at the post-BuffCon April meeting. We encourage members in good standing to step up to help accomplish the business of the club. New faces mean new ideas and new energy. Come on in, the water's fine.



A REMINDER ABOUT THE 2008 SUMMER PICNIC

Dan Marafino

Don't forget to mark Saturday August 16 on your calendars for the 2008 Club Picnic at the Lancaster House Shelter in Como Park.

The Club will provide the dogs, burgers and pop. We ask you to bring salads and desserts. We're asking \$5.00 per family to help cover our expenses

Any games or low or non-contact events are encouraged (bring your own medical kit): rubber horseshoes, darts, checkers, chess, cards, volleyball, etc.

The picnic is on rain or shine. The shelter is fully enclosed with electricity, a stove and refrigerator, and bathrooms.

See Dan Marafino if you have any questions.

This is a great, non-contest, fun event for all. Let's make it a good one. For \$5.00 you can't go wrong.

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International Plastic Modelers Society
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From
the
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boys

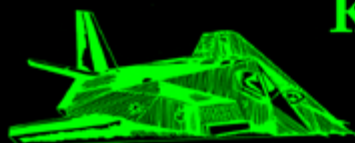
BUFF CON 25

SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2008

Knights of Columbus Club

2735 Union Rd. at William St.

Cheektowaga (Buffalo), NY

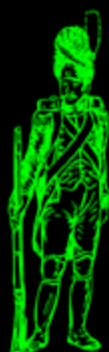


ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION OPEN AT 9:00

REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 2:00

JUDGING FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 (VENDORS OPEN)

AWARDS AT 4:00



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Junior (Ages 11-17) - \$1.00 each entry

Bantam (Under 11) - Free

(Sales tax included with admission fee)



Contacts:

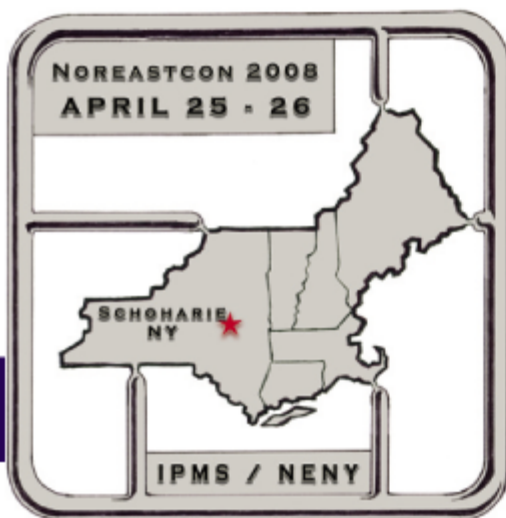
Mike Miodonski
137 Albert Dr
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086
716-651-0496
mio1@aol.com

Dick Schulenberg
18 Adam St.
SilverCreek, N.Y. 14136
716-934-2161
dick.schulenberg@excelco.net

Bob Collignon
403 Huntington Ave.
Buffalo, N.Y. 14214
716-837-2204
cjlt@adelphia.net

Dealers Contact:

Dave Schwab
23 Wanda Ave.
Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14211
716-896-8720



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▶ **WILLIAM DINGLE**
(416) 671-7970

▶ **HARVEY LOW**
(416) 544-9592

▶ **CHUCK ROTHMAN**
(416) 524-3198

▶ **DAVE BAILEY**
(905) 274-5148

torcan2008@hotmail.com

www.ipmstoronto.com

MEMBER INFORMATION PAGE



2007 - 2008 Officers and E-Board Members

President	Mike Miodonski	651-0496	mio1@aol.com
First Vice President	Andre Thierault	668-2669	CopDre928@aol.com
Second Vice President	Bill Sauer	873-5857	jujulizard@roadrunner.com
Secretary	Dick Schulenberg	934-2161	dick.schulenberg@excelco.net
Treasurer	Dave Schwab	896-8720	davidsp51tang@aol.com
e-Dizpatch Editor	Bill Sauer	873-5857	ipmsediz@aol.com
Internet Coordinator	Bill Sauer	873-5857	ipmsediz@aol.com
Chief Judge	Jim Hanna	433-6084	hanna1510@earthlink.net
E-Board Members	Jim Hanna	433-6084	hanna1510@earthlink.net
	Paul Hines	681-3760	ggandpoppop@gmail.com
	Larry Osolkowski	695-1224	osolkowski@roadrunner.com
	Chuck Nichter	681-2114	oldmodelman@verizon.net
	Dan Marafino	684-0733	digbee45@aol.com
Chapter Contact	Bob Collignon	837-2204	cjltd@adelphia.net

The Next Club Meeting:

The next meeting of the Niagara Frontier Chapter IPMS will be on Monday, March 17, 2008 at the Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road (near Main Street), Amherst, New York. We meet in the basement youth room from 7:00 P.M. to about 10:00 P.M. Please do not arrive before 6:45 P.M.

Important: All submissions to e-DIZPATCH

must be received by the Monday one week after our scheduled meeting night.

Printed articles and pictures can be mailed to:

JuJuLizard
25 Huetter Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14207
Attn: e-DIZPATCH

Digital files can be e-mailed to:

ipmsediz@aol.com