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Mike's Memo

Mike Miodonski

I was doing some spring cleaning over the weekend and going through multiple boxes of club stuff I seem to have accumulated over the years and I began to think about what a different modeler I am now as opposed to the guy who entered his first model contest approximately 20 years ago at the Thruway Mall. I still remember how insecure I felt as I watched Dick Schulenberg examined it. Since then I have learned so much.

Today a modeler must possess and demonstrate multiple skill sets that were rarely considered when we were in our youth. Let's see here, you need to be able to correctly assemble hundreds of complex parts with multiple types of adhesives all of which have different properties; you need to be able to sand and fill seams; super detail with both plastic and metal and then there's painting. Are you proficient with an airbrush? How about using multiple washes and layers of color? Can you effectively make the model look like it has a pristine paint job or like it's been beat up by its environment? Then there's decaling and the various chemicals that are involved with that. I'm sure I've missed a few skills but I think you get my point. You never stop learning and there's always some thing you can improve.

That became very apparent to me last week when I attended the first planning/building session for the Fort Niagara exhibit. I'm in a room full of very good modelers all of whom have different specialties and talents all of which are going to be applied to this project in one way or another. Very cool.

This brings me to this month's point of discussion and club question; what have you done to stretch your modeling skills? This should be an interesting discussion.

Now on to the club business. First I would like to thank those of you who stepped in for me at the last regular and E-Board meetings while I was under the weather, I appreciate it. As you have probably already gathered the construction of the Fort Niagara display has begun and there's a lot of work to be done between now and our October deadline so if you want to participate we could use the help. I'll give you more specifics at the meeting. The next E-Board meeting will be at my house on 7-28 at 7:00. Any one is welcome, see me if you need directions. That's it for now gentlemen. I'll see you at the meeting.

-Mike

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.

**The
"BuffCon"
Boys**

Mike's Memo

Notes From The
June Meeting

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2009

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Notes From The June Meeting

Dick Schulenberg

2nd Vice President started off the meeting with a reminder that we'll be holding judging seminars and coaching sessions starting later this year, closer to the beginning of the contest season. They will probably be in roundtable format based on general model groupings.

Dan Marafino reminded everyone about the upcoming club picnic. See his article in this issue.

Tom Faith let us know that the base for the Ft. Niagara diorama has been completed, ready for us to begin our part. The diorama scale is 1/350 and Paul Kittel has already built a number of the ships we need.

Larry Osolkowski, our Webmaster, has been uploading photos and information into the new NOREASTCON website. You can access it at www.noreastcon2009.com so take a look.

NOREASTCON Show Chairman Bob Collignon gave us an update on the planning for the show. It's progressing well, with many of the details resolved and the really big decisions behind us. Bob reminded us that NOREASTCON will require the active participation of the whole club membership. One way you can help is by finding sponsorships for our contest categories, or by sponsoring one yourself. Details are on the website and forms will be available shortly.

The club question was "Given the choice, how many hours a week would you spend building models?". Answers ranged from a couple of hours a week to "until my body atrophies". A common answer is along the lines of: It would be nice to have more consistency in my modeling time rather than more time in general.

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



Dave Armitage brought in another of his signature HO scale dioramas. It depicts a large plumbing and heating product distributor in the middle of the last century and features standard and narrow gauge railroad feeder tracks. Several kits from Fine Scale Miniatures, Jordan and Wheel

Works and a lot of other stuff were used to create the scene. Dave also showed a lighthouse shadowbox diorama. It's a nighttime scene, with a blinking light, big rocks and a dinghy for atmosphere.



Brian McFee finished up a 1/48 Hasegawa A7D as a North Dakota Air National Guard target tow plane at Nellis AFB. It's in a two tone gray wrap around scheme whose boundaries are fixed by the position of the two toned decals. Brian added a True Details seat and left the pylons bare except for the brightly finished tow dart.

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June Meeting...

Ilya Grinberg continues to work on his 1/72 RAF Mustang Mk I from the Academy kit. He's replaced the wing and nose machine guns and added some overlapping sheet metal panels for surface detail. He also brought in his older AML P-40 MkIIb that he's repainting and redetailing.



Eric Hillebrand has a flair for unusual military vehicles, as he

proved again this month. He's built the tractor from the reissued Lindberg Snark kit (hope he builds the rest of the kit) just for fun, adding some photoetched screens, detailing the hood and drilling out wheels and the exhaust. He also finished up a WWII Russian Stalinet artillery tractor from the old 1/35 Azimut resin kit. The kit tracks were unusable so he substituted some T34 tracks. It's a very interesting model, but weird looking.

Ernie Yuhnke, our iron man from the figure world, showed us a dozen or so 54mm painted figures, mostly from the French Revolution/Napoleonic era, along with a larger scale English Beefeater guard and small scale (old Airfix 1/600?) models of HMS Revenge and Santa Maria. Cool stuff.



Seth Geller comes up with some unusual collectors items. This month he had a Microscale 1/48 scale Douglas A2D Skyhawk. Back in the mid to late '70's, Microscale resurrected some old 1950's molds made by a company called Allyn. They started out as simple manufacturer's desk models that were eventually sold as kits, very similar to early Aurora or Hawk kits. There was also an XF-92, an F4D Skyray and I think a Convair XFY-1 in the series. Microscale added nice decals, but that's all, so the series never sold very well and disappeared. In a previous life, I really coveted these kits. Never mind.



Bob Conshafter showed us his Maquette T34 Model 1940 work-in-progress. Work is the operative word here as the kit is a conversion of their original Model 1945. There are lots of parts to accomplish the conversion and lots of stuff to fix. Bob feels that the kit is overall more accurate than the DML kits, however.

The rest of the models are mostly candidates for the "I am not a modeling loser Part DOH!" non-contest for the 2008 NOREASTCON contingent.

continued...

The "BuffCon" Boys

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June Meeting...



I brought in my entry, a 1/72 scale Heller Dassault MD 450 Ouragan French jet fighter from the '50's. It's basically together and I'm working on seams and rescribing all over. So far so good. The intended finish is natural metal with the box decals and lots of red trim. I also showed my nearly completed 1/72 Boeing F4B-4 from the very old Monogram kit. It's in USMC markings from a new Starfighters Decals by Mark Tutton. Great decals for a still nice kit.

Tony Gliszczynki repainted the white on his 1/25 Pro Stock Thunderbird entry because the red was bleeding through. Tony also showed his 1/35 M551 Sheridan in Vietnam camo and markings.

Bob Collignon started his Eduard 1/48 scale Fokker EIII WWI fighter plane. Bob has come up with a bunch of aftermarket stuff to complicate his build. Good luck, Bob.

Tom Faith is well on his way with his Panzer III build. He brought in the nearly completed turret with Tank Workshop interior details. It looked great. This is a good project to watch as there is so much good stuff to learn.



The next meeting is Monday, July 21st. It will be a Build and Bull session (aren't they all?) with a flea market. Bring your stuff to sell, new kits and projects to show, or just yourself. See you Monday.



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the
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ADMISSIONS, REGISTRATION, SCHEDULE, and HOTEL DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!

MEMBER INFORMATION PAGE



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The Next Club Meeting:

The next meeting of the Niagara Frontier Chapter IPMS will be on Monday, July 21, 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:

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Attn: e-DIZPATCH

Digital files can be e-mailed to:

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