



Mike's Memo

Mike Miodonski

Hi Guys.

Sometimes getting ideas for these articles is like pulling teeth and other times they slap you in the face and scream "write me now!" (which is what happened this month). This will be a little long and initially off topic but it will tie in to our hobby, so bear with me.

I am a pet owner. I have two cats (Martin & Lewis) that I love dearly. Being a dedicated animal lover and modeler, I realize that I am going to have to accept the fact that occasionally my pets will get into my work and I need to take precautions to protect it. Let's face it, if you have a cat you know anything that dangles or rolls automatically becomes a toy, regardless of its value or purpose. I know that, I accept that, but there is a line which got crossed this morning that made me feel like I needed to go shopping for a pair of cat handcuffs. That being said, let me lay out this tragic tale that unfolded on my Saturday morning.....

6:44 AM: I'm sleeping with the comforting thought that it's Saturday and I can sleep as long as I want.

6:45 AM: On cue, like he does every day, one of my furry alarm clocks walks into the bedroom and begins to announce that he is ready to be fed by making any one of a dozen sounds. If the catcalls fail to rouse her, he concludes his mission by sitting on my wife's face.

"That's okay," I said to myself, "he's not sitting on my face and she'll eventually get up, like she always does, and feed that little monster." I drifted back to sleep from my semi-comatose state. The next sensation I felt was like the cold hand of death on my shoulder.

"Okay, so this is it, I feel I've lived a good life so let's get on with it... Wait a minute, my defibulator isn't firing and I'm not dying. What's going on?"

When I fully awoke I realized that the hand of death that I was dreaming about was actually my wife's left hand shaking me to get me up and let me know, in no uncertain terms, just how pissed off she was. In her right hand was a small, yellow 1/72 T-6 Texan that she had inadvertently stepped on while getting up to feed the aforementioned monster.

"What is this doing on the floor in front of our bed!?" she growled.

Good question. I own a cape home, my modeling room is in the basement, and my bedroom is on the 2nd floor. That T-6 has been on my work bench for at least 7 months, and hasn't been touched. Then I began to think about it. Cats don't have hands, so that means one of those little 4 legged terrorists actually carried my T-6 up 2 flights of stairs, in their mouth (God only knows what happened on the way up), and left it at the foot of my bed. Close examination of the model revealed multiple tiny little teeth marks in the wings, so it looks like I've got a lot of repair work to do. I guess it's time for me to redo my work space and make it feline proof, if there is such a thing.

(Authors note: No felines were harmed as a result of this article, but I do reserve the right to dress them in funny outfits and photograph them as punishment. They are smarter than we think they are, and that annoys them to no end.)

In conclusion, since I have wanted to lighten up the group discussions, this month's group topic will echo my editorial. "What is your best or worst pet/modeling related story?"

Ok, now on to the business. This month's meeting will feature a demo on how to buff out paint jobs, given by Larry Osolkowski. Thanks Larry, I'm sure it will be good. We will also be pushing attendance at the SYRCON on October 21st, and the Ajax, Ontario show on the 28th.

The October E-Board meeting will be Monday, 10/22, 7:00PM at Bob Collignon's studio. See Bob or me if you need directions.

Because the last meeting ran long and I did the Car and Driver photo shoot, I didn't have a chance to photograph the models on the table (sorry about that guys). What you're seeing instead are photos of some of the nicer pieces at the recent ROCON in Rochester.

continued...

**The
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[Mike's Memo](#)

[Rechartering
with IPMS USA](#)

[Notes From The
September
Meeting](#)

[ROCON Pics](#)

[IPMS Niagara
Frontier
Member's Page](#)

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If you weren't there, you missed a good show, so enjoy the pics. My compliments to IPMS Rochester Historical Scale Modelers for a fun show.

Lastly, we got a lot of positive feedback from the last build only meeting, so we're going to do it again in November. The format will be an abbreviated business report and building the rest of the meeting, so bring something to work on.

That's it for now guys, see you at the meeting.

RECHARTERING WITH IPMS USA

It's the time of year when this club renews its charter with the national organization. The chartering allows us to be a part of a strong organization that really works to support the hobby we love and get the word out to other interested modelers. A major benefit to belonging to this national organization is the group insurance we have that allows us to meet and have shows and contests while being secure in the knowledge that we are covered by a good policy that minimizes any liability we have.

Chartering requires that we have a minimum number of IPMS national memberships. You have seen the application blank in every issue of Dizpatch forever. We are always above that minimum number, but we would like to account for everyone who is a current national member.

Those of you who are current national members, please give your IPMS membership number and expiration date to Dave Schwab or Dick Schulenberg so that we can be sure our records are up to date.

If you are not a national member, please consider signing up. The Journal has been upgraded in the last year and is a first class magazine now, and you get a cool membership card too. We'll have some copies of the Journal at the meeting so you can get an idea of what's happening.

Attention Car Modellers!

Paul Hines will have an excellent selection of *automotive reference books* on sale at the next 2 meetings (September and October). All are carefully selected and beautifully illustrated in full color, and cover everything from great cars of the world; ultimate race cars; sports cars; the history of automobile technology; and even drawing and painting cars like a pro.

See Paul at both meetings to check out the books, all at very reasonable prices.

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[Mike's Memo](#)

[Rechartering
with IPMS USA](#)

[Notes From The
September
Meeting](#)

[ROCON Pics](#)

[IPMS Niagara
Frontier
Member's Page](#)

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Notes From The September Meeting

Dick Schulenberg

The important topic for the September meeting was the vote to propose to Doug Hamilton, our IPMS Region I Coordinator and the other clubs in IPMS Region 1 that IPMS Niagara Frontier will sponsor NOREASTCON 2009 at McKinley's Banquet & Conference Center, S-3950 McKinley Parkway, Blasdell, New York 14219 on the last weekend of April, 2009.

The selection of a show site is crucial to our ability to host a NOREASTCON. It's our biggest expense and our biggest exposure. Bob Collignon, who will be the Show Chairman if our proposal is accepted, presented the logic and economics for the selection of this site. On the whole, the site is as good as or better than any we have had, without the specter of room nights hanging over our final expenses. The Clarion Hotel adjacent to McKinley's offered an exceptionally good room rate that they would hold for the show. The site selection committee did a great job with finding an excellent show space. Thanks to all of you for your efforts.

After some very positive discussion, the vote to go forward was unanimous, so "onward and upward"! There are lots of details to iron out once we're approved by the Region. We'll keep you posted, and we will be asking for our help.

As a lot of you know, Tom Faith has been an active War of 1812 re-enactor out at Fort Niagara for many years. He's also involved with the museum in the fort. Recently, they decided to replace the historical diorama of the fort with a new 5 foot by 6 foot diorama. Tom is looking for volunteers to help out. He'll be glad to talk to you about how you can help, so see him at the next meeting. Sounds like this could be a neat project to be involved in.

The round the room question came from Mike Miodonski's editorial in Dizpatch. He wrote about how model kits have become increasingly complicated with parts counts in excess of 500 pieces. Granted, the high parts counts often cater to multiple versions, but do modelers really benefit from the complexity?

The question made for an enjoyable, wide ranging discussion that was very reflective of the individual's modeling philosophy, more so than their time in the hobby. Many like the "all on one box" options and the opportunity to become more involved in the building, as opposed to painting. Others thought that this kind of kit tends to be over engineered and that the fit of the components suffers. Some find that prepping the many parts before construction becomes a turn-off after awhile and the build never progresses while others find the prep work relaxing. I loved the statement from someone: "Complexity has never stopped me from starting a kit". For some, the complex kits give them a better sense of what went into the real thing, while others feel that simpler, good fitting kits are more apt to get people into the hobby. A number of modelers look forward to the challenge and complexity, really enjoying it as a journey in which modeling skills are developed, no matter how the model comes out. Some felt that some kits are complex for the sake of complexity while others feel that if the kit is not complex, they'll have fun making it complex. Great stuff. Now pick one and get out there and build!

I apologize that I have no report of the models on the tables. I had to leave before we got to the discussion. There were quite a few of them and they looked great.

Mike Miodonski carried out the photo shoot of the model cars for the Car and Driver model car photo contest. It always amazes me how many excellent car modelers we have in this club and how prolific you are. Good luck with the contest. We'll all look forward to seeing the results.

Well, lots of good stuff again this evening. The next meeting is on October 15. Remember to bring your completed projects, works in progress, new kits, or a model you'd like to show off.

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[Mike's Memo](#)

[Rechartering
with IPMS USA](#)

[Notes From The
September
Meeting](#)

[ROCON Pics](#)

[IPMS Niagara
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IPMS Niagara Frontier

October 2007



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Mike's Memo

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Notes From The
September
Meeting

ROCON Pics

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The Next Club Meeting:

The next meeting of the Niagara Frontier Chapter IPMS will be on Monday, October 15, 2007 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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