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## Mike's Memo

Mike Miodonski

Well it's that time of the year again. So much to do and so little time... I've got a lot to cover so let's dive in.

As most of you know, this month's meeting is our annual Christmas party where the club buys pizza and wings as a thank you for all the hard work you have put in during the past year. Feel free to bring a snack (something sweet or salty) to share if you like.

We're having our annual Toys for Tots donations, too. Tom Brown will bring the US Marines to pick up the toys if they haven't been deployed by then (thanks Tom). Be sure to take a moment to thank them for the sacrifice they are making for all of us. Please keep in mind when donating that children of all ages are the recipients of these gifts and older children are often overlooked, so there's always a shortage of gifts for the kids in the 13-16 year old age group. This year's drive is going to be a bit more challenging because of all the Chinese toy recalls related to the lead content in the paint. Bob Collignon has told me in many cases the donation agencies end up throwing a lot of the toys out because they can't afford to take the risk. I know this is going to be very difficult, but if at all possible, try and find something that is not made in China; maybe even a gift card. I know it's not very Christmassy, but no one gets lead poisoning from a gift card. That would also work out well for the older kids' gifts that I mentioned earlier. Please do what you can, guys.

Next month marks the start of our 12th annual Kids' Class. I could always use donations to ensure we have enough variety so every child gets a good model, so if you have a model in your collection that you know you're not going to build (or sell to Dan Marafino), consider donating it to the kids class. The first class is January 19th. If you're going to volunteer, you should be there by 9:20 on the 19th for set up and orientation. For all the other classes you don't need to be there until 9:45. I will have signup sheets, as well as the Youth Center releases, at the next meeting. Please consider being an instructor if you can. By tradition, the classes are always followed up by a hearty lunch at the Wehrle Restaurant where much camaraderie is exchanged. As we speak, steps have been taken to deliver the mass quantities of baloney, onions, french fries and vinegar to the Wehrle that are required to sustain certain members of the group. Please see me or Bob Conshafter if you have any questions.

This month's club question submitted by Paul Hines is: Do you model for quantity or quality? That's an interesting question from a guy whose models routinely take first in a category or Best of Show. As I was thinking about Paul's question, the realization came to me that 99% of the club questions come from the E-Board. I have to believe that some of you have modeling related topics you would like to discuss that we haven't touched on. Why not bring them to me? Please keep in mind that I may have to alter your subject slightly to accommodate a 60+ member discussion, but I still want your input. Please think about topics you want discussed and let me know.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to wish all of you a merry Christmas and happy Chanukah. I hope the holiday finds you with peace in your heart and a reverent thought on your mind for those that have fallen on hard times. See you at the meeting.

-Mike

**The  
"BuffCon"  
Boys**

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### Notes From The November Meeting Dick Schulenberg

Tonight's meeting was dedicated to building and there was quite a bit of activity and rubbernecking going on.

President Mike Miodonski called for impressions about the SYRCON and Cleveland Model shows. Those of us who were fortunate enough to get to the shows all felt they were well worth the trip. SYRCON is a relatively small show that is growing each year. The site is

easy to find and very nice, with good lighting and good food on site. There were some impressive models on the tables and a nice cross section of vendors. The Cleveland Model Show has grown to the point of overcrowding their present high school site. Vendors overflow from the school gym and the excellent contest models overfill the cafeteria. The organizers have found a new and bigger site for next year at a local community college on the same road but nearer the I-90 interchange, so it will be even easier to find the show. Both shows should be on your to-do list. I'll be there for sure.

We had several tables full of models on display as well.

Dave Armitage filled a good portion of one of the tables all by himself with quite a range of recently built models and dioramas. Here's a list:

Shadowbox diorama of a Civil War Union Army 13" mortar named "Dictator" with crew  
Italeri (ex-ESCI) WWII German Demag halftrack in 1/35 scale

Russian ASU-57 airborne assault gun from the 1/35 scale Maquette kit

Several 1/35 scale WWII Russian figures

1/200 US Civil War ironclads USS Nashville and CSS Palmetto State from Verlinden kits

A neat little 1/72 Heller Morane Saulnier MS 225 parasol wing pre-WWII French fighter

A big scale brass headed Roman battering ram from a Mantua kit

A very nice 1/35 scale WWI diorama based on a boxed set of Emhar soft plastic figures

Joe Villone had a couple of diverse items too. First was a small scale 1880 cavalry revolver, the famous Colt Peacemaker. This was from a die cast kit that Joe cleaned up and finished quite nicely. Second was a conversion of the Accurate Miniatures P-51B into Bill Odom's "Beguine" racer that crashed in the 1949 Thompson Trophy race in Cleveland. This racing version of the P-51 replaces the familiar belly air scoop with wing tip radiators. Joe used an older, out of production resin conversion kit and Red Pegasus decals to make this striking green model.

Brian McFee was in with a 1/48 scale Grumman Hellcat from the Hasegawa kit. He finished this model as an F6F flown off USS Essex in late 1944 and mounted it on a flight deck base. The paint and decal work is exceptionally well done.

Tony Gliszczynski finished up another model in his marathon building effort, a very neat looking 1/25 Dodge Magnum in metallic purple. Nice one, Tony.

Paul Hines also finished up his current model, the CSS Alabama that he has been bringing in so we can see his progress. This is a wood kit of the famous Confederate steam and sail commerce raider of the American Civil War. It's very neatly done with lots of care and extra detailing lavished on in all the right places. Very nice display, Paul.

Frank Blonski showed us his current work in progress, a 1/25 scale Austin Coupe body with a scratch built frame. He's cross kitting the Austin body with parts from a 1957 Chevy Street Burner kit, supplemented with lots of chopping and fitting to make a one of a kind Pro-Mod vehicle. Cool looking car, Frank.

continued...

## The "BuffCon" Boys

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### November Meeting...

We had a visitor named John, too. I didn't get his last name, but he brought in an impressive large scale T-Rex dinosaur model. He repositioned some of the body parts to get the look he wanted, then "weathered" and "damaged" the model for more realism. An interesting idea he used was to keep all the "damage" on one side so that he can display his model in different aspects, depending on the sensitivities of his audience.

I brought in my almost done 1/350 Imperial Russian cruiser Novik. This was my 2 month project from last summer's non-contest. Didn't make it then, but I'm closer now. I still have some detail wire work and weathering to do before the rest of the rigging is installed. One of these days.

Bob Conshafter stopped in at Borders and found several neat reference books on WWII military vehicles that he brought in for us to peruse. There's lots of solid information in these reasonably priced books. Take a look sometime soon.

To finish up the table models, Andre Theriault brought in his 1/350 USS Enterprise nuclear carrier that we picked for his show and tell project. He's getting there. The under the flight deck structure is in place as are the ship's boats and guns. He repainted the hull, so now he's ready to install the flight deck. Sure makes a big model.

You may remember that Tom Faith told us about a project he's involved in to build a large diorama of Ft. Niagara and the surrounding area. The museum curator was in with maps and some sample models to get things rolling. Several of us were able help work out a scale for the diorama and help with the initial planning. This will be an interesting project.

Well, lots of good stuff again this evening. The next meeting is our annual holiday celebration on December 17th. We'll have pizza and wings as well as whatever goodies you bring in. Don't forget your Toys for Tots unwrapped gifts (for 13 to 16 year olds, please). As always, bring in a completed projects, works in progress, new kits, or a model you'd like to show off.

Happy Holidays, everyone!

### YOUR 2008 DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY

Your club dues for the 2008 calendar year are due at the January 2008 meeting. You'll remember that we changed back to an annual schedule in 2005 because of the difficulties we had tracking the dues schedule for members who received Dizpatch via e-mail.

If you receive a mailed Dizpatch, your renewal date is listed next to your name on the address label.

If you get Dizpatch by e-mail, your dues are probably due. Either check with Dave Schwab at the meeting, or e-mail him at [davidsp51stang@aol.com](mailto:davidsp51stang@aol.com) if you're not sure.

Everyone is now on the January to January schedule. Regular memberships are still \$10.00 per year and Juniors (under 18) are still \$5.00.

You can pay the Treasurer Dave Schwab at the meetings or by mailing a check to Dave at 28 Wanda Ave., Cheektowaga, NY 14211. Please make checks (or money orders) out to Niagara Frontier Chapter IPMS.

Make sure that you share any updated information like addresses and e-mail addresses with Dave as things change.

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# MEMBER INFORMATION PAGE



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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, December 17, 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:

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

Digital files can be e-mailed to:

ipmsediz@aol.com