



# MADDOG MONTHLY

**The Official Publication Of IPMS Boise**  
September 2006

## **Calendar Of Events**

September.....MOM  
October.....MOM  
November..MOM, Color Silver Theme  
December.....MOM, Christmas Show

Hill Air Force Base Air Show 2006



## **Executive Board**

President: Brian Geiger  
Vice President: Ian Robertson  
Secretary: John Thirion  
Treasurer: Kent Eckhart  
Editor: Randy Hall  
Chapter Contact: Bill Speece

## August Meeting Minutes

We had two contests for the month of August, the usual model of the month and the long awaited and greatly anticipated theme contest on photoech.

In September we will have two regional conventions, the first at McMinnville on the 16<sup>th</sup> and then in Ogden sept the 23.

### Photo-ech contest

**Jim Burton** A Sherman diorama "out of gas" featuring a 1/35 Dragon Sherman.

**Kent Eckhart** The 1/32 BF 109 K-4 from Hasegawa with MDC tail wheel, loop antenna, seatbelts, exhaust flare shields.

**Randy Hall** The 1/700 USS Hancock from Hasegawa , PE used throughout.

**Marshall Sanders** A p-47 D "checkertail, a /72 scale Academy kit with PE seatbelts.

**Bill Bailey** The Tamyia 1/35 Leopard with Eduard PE.

**George Bacon** A Maquette 1/48 Morane G Type 197. With PE from Tom's , Eduard, and instrument gauges from Copper State.

**Tom Vogt** The 1/24 Monogram Brad Doty Sprint Car from the world of outlaws.

The winners were 1. Kent's Bf 109

2. George's Morane G
3. Randy's USS Hancock



### MoM Contest

**Jim Burton** A M113 Fitter in 1/35 from Academy.

**Gary Maslonka** A 1/24 Monogram 1970 Superbird , a NASCAR version.

**Brian Geiger** 1/35 Tamiya Char B1 inprogress.

1/72 Kopro Mig 19 in Pakistani servoce.

1/72 Kopro Mig 21 MF in Czech service.

**Tom Vogt** 1/25 1965 Mustang from AMT

**Dennis Kuykendall** 1/25 AMT/ERTL 1940 Ford Deluxe.

**Jeff D'Andrea** 1/35 M1A2 from Trumpeter.



The winners were 1. Jeff's M1

2. Gary's Superbird.
3. Jim's m113



Photo Etch Entries

*Continued from page 2...*

M.O.M. entries



## The Scuttlebutt

Heller, Airfix, Humbrol !!

All of those companies may be memory soon, Heller was put in “administration” (EU equivalent to chapter 11) due to its financial situation. This should not be a surprise, does anybody recall any worthwhile Heller kits those last few years? Airfix is now into trouble because all their mold are in Heller’s hands and they refuse to release them (Airfix own them money, as Heller was making the Airfix kits in their factory in France). Originally Airfix wanted to have their mold shipped to China and continue production. So no mold no kits to sell, no cash flow, Airfix was also put into Administration. Humbrol was the next domino to fall, being the parent company of Airfix and owning interests in Heller the financial strain appear to much for them to continue at this time and have severely curtailed any production of their products.

In the 70's Hornby (a successful model train manufacture in England), Meccano and Airfix did belong to the same parent company. Because of their financial strength, it is possible that Hornby may decide to take over Humbrol. Who will get the Airfix molds is another question. Anyway it is time to stock up on Airfix and Heller kits,

### Japanese Submarines I-400, 401 and 402.

The STO (Sen-Toku or special submarines) were designed to carry aircrafts which could attack targets on the US mainland. To this day the 3 STO are the largest diesel –electric submarines ever build. Ad the largest submarines until the launching of the US Ethan Allen in the 60's. The design begin in 1942 and was to accommodate 2 aircrafts, but then the requirement increased to 3 assembled aircrafts plus parts for a fourth. They were housed in a hangar slightly offset to starboard, with the bridge offset to port. The aircrafts engines were warmed up in the hangar and then launched by a 85 ft catapult on tracks. The planes ‘floats’ were fitted as the plane excited the hangar. All three aircraft could be launched within 45 minutes of surfacing.

The STO were complex boats and difficult to assemble. The rear of the hull had a circular cross-section, then changed to a horizontal figure 8, then back to a circular cross-section, then finally to a vertical figure 8. Originally 19 boats were planned, but only 5 were laid down. One was cancelled, and one was destroyed when 90% completed. Of the 3 completed, the I-400 and I-401 were designed to transport airplanes while the I-402 was completed as a tanker. All 3 surrendered to the US. The I-402 was apparently scuttled off the coast of Japan, the other two made their own way to Pearl Harbor. There is a rumor that the US crew had gathered a substantial mount of loot that was hidden in the torpedo tubes. Under the armistice agreements the Russian were to have access to the two subs, the US official afraid of letting the Russian gather information sunk boat subs off the coast of Hawaii.

In march of 2005 a deep research submarine found the wreck of the I-401 at a depth of 820 meters of Barbers Point.

Why were the Russian so interested in visiting those subs. In 1948 they developed project 621, a massive submarine designed to carry an entire infantry battalion and carry 3 aircrafts that could be launched by a catapult. Being extravagant, even by Soviet standards, the project was never seriously considered.

Dimension Length 400 feet  
Width 39 feet

Crew 144 men & officers

Diving depth 330 feet

Engines Four diesels for a total of 7700 hp and two electric motors ,

Armament One 5.5 inch deck gun, eight torpedo tubes, 10 25 mm AA guns .

Speed 18.75 kt on the surface, 6.5 kt submerged. Range of 37.500 nm.

Combat Sub of Japan offers a 1/350 model of the I-401, at 13.5 inch it is an impressive model. As usual with CS the molding is flawless. The major components are resin while some of the smaller parts are very good white metals pieces. YMW did offer PE for this model, but so far I have unable to locate a source to obtain it. CS models are sometimes difficult to obtain in the US, and even Hobby Link of Japan has problem keeping them in their inventory. So when I saw this kit in the Pacific Front catalog, I had to take the plunge (so all got this the plunge, submarine !!!).

### News From Bill Speece....

I will be bringing a product to show that cost roughly \$10 billion (yes, that's with a 'B') dollars a pound to the meeting. Give or take a couple of million because I could only roughly estimate the volume of the product and what it cost me retail. I have wanted to see what this product is like since I saw an article on a science news show over 10 years ago. You'll have to be at the meeting to find out what it is. Truly amazing.

Bill

# The Collector?

by Brian Geiger

You'll find them in basements, sometimes hidden behind boxes of seldom used goods. In many cases they will find a spare closet to inhabit, or even a spare bedroom. They tend to grow and once they fill an area, they quickly find another to take root and spread. Of course I'm talking about stacks of inbuilt model kits.

I remember, while in my teens, when the next few model projects had actually formed a column and became a sort of fixture in my room. Later, they were grouped in a few boxes stashed here and there. While in an apartment I hit on the idea of displaying them in a bedroom on shelves, almost like a personal hobby store. There wasn't much storage space and this protected them from moisture and extreme temperatures. Having them all in one visible place gave me the opportunity to organize them by scales, subjects, and manufacturer but mostly it allowed me to readily form a plan of attack for the next project. I enjoyed looking at them for inspiration as my interest would settle on the next build, perhaps sparked by a world event, a historical documentary, or a scene from a movie.

For a time, I maintained a computer database that detailed scales, types, prices, etc... Hobby time became a premium however, and I reasoned that that time should be spent building, not bookkeeping. I organized the box ends such that everything was visible so I could capture the whole entity in photos. This had the added benefit of documentation for insurance purposes. Your model stash may be covered by your home owners policy but make sure you document it with some photos that you can store off-site. Storing them on-line is a good solution.

My collection has changed over the years. There was a time when any plastic subject was fair game and I prided myself as not being constrained to any scale or subject. As a teen I was enrolled in Revell's Young Modelers Club, a kind of "book of the month club" that would send a

shelves, and before long a wall. Somewhere along the line I had to wrestle with the question that many modelers ask, "Given the amount of time I spend on each kit, will I really be able to finish all the kits I own?" Texas modeler Keith Goodman described his cache as "The

Wall of Shame" in reference to that realization. I found myself at the point where acquiring a new kit most likely meant that I would not be able to complete a kit that I currently owned. It was no longer just a stack of kits I was going to build. It was a full-fledged collection.

Some people make a hobby out of collecting, trading, and selling kits, a whole hobby unto itself. But I found myself making the choice of whether I wanted to go down that road or labor under the notion that every box would eventually yield a little masterpiece, suitable for display. I chose the latter, which meant that I would have to thin down the wall. Hello ebay. It's always a bit sad to let go of a kit, since it is wrapped up in the hopes and aspirations of how I envision the final result. The up-side is that, by sacrificing old kits, I am able to get newer kits and increase the likelihood of completing them. This seems to be an ongoing process. No matter how many kits I sell or build I wonder if I'll ever see the day that I build the last of the stack.

different bagged kit each month. It could be anything, a car one month, a helicopter, dinosaur, or space capsule the next. As time went on, my focus narrowed and I found myself specializing in aircraft & armor. Specializing simplified the set of paint colors and materials needed to complete projects. It also facilitated developing techniques through repetition.

The column of models from my youth grew into a shelf, then a couple of



You may have a different approach to your own collection. But if you see me at a meeting with a big box of models for sale, it doesn't mean that I've lost interest in models and am ready to take up base jumping. Rather, I'm getting closer to building my top pick at the moment and want to see my older subjects find a nice home. ☮

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