



MADDOG MONTHLY

The Official Publication Of IPMS Boise June 2007

www.maddog.delta-v.org

E-Ticket



Calendar of Events:

February: WWI
March: P-51 Group Build
April: Between Wars
June: Fast Women
July: CVMAC
August: Science Fiction
October: Korean "Police Action"
December: Christmas Show?

Executive Board

President:.....Tom Gloeckle
Vice-President:.....Brian Geiger
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Secretary:.....John Thirion
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Meeting minutes for May 19

June 9 and 10 will be Navy Days at the Warhawk Museum. August 10 and 11 will be the B-25 days at the same venue.

We had 26 members present at the meeting. There were about 20 models, most entered in the "between the war" theme which was originally scheduled for April. The next theme will be "fast women" scheduled for the month of June.

Tom Vogt "Bone daddy" a custom chopper in 1/12 from Revell.



Brian Geiger 1/32 Hasegawa Me 109 G6 "wild saw".



Brian Geiger 1/32 Tamiya P51D.



Ed Jurassas 1/72 Heller Potez 540 in French Air Force colors



George Bacon 1/72 Bleriot from Pyro. A trainer aircraft with wing span. Took 1st place at the Seattle show in the vintage aircraft category.



Jim Wilsh 1939 "woody", a 1/25 AMT kit.



John Thirion 1/48 Wyvern from trumpeter.



Marshall Sanders P-26 "peashooter" in 1/48 and from Hobbycraft.



Ian Robertson Hasegawa FW 190 in 1/32 with replacement canon fairings and drop tanks.



Marshall Sanders 1/72 P-51 Italaeri kit



Dennis Kuikendall 1/35 deuce 1/2 with anti-aircraft guns.



Terry Falk 1/48 P-51B by Accurate Miniatures



Terry Falk 1/72 Gamma



Tom Vogt MG-TC, a 1/24 kit from Monogram



John Thirion 1/350, USS England



The winner was George Bacon with the Bleriot Penguin followed by Dennis with his deuce 1/2.



P-38 Fly-in

Another view from the Warhawk Museum

by Brian Geiger





Gapevine Rumor Update

by Brian Geiger



After hearing Tom's info on the Utah contest front, I fired off a set of emails to get a consensus of what's happening. Here's my spin.

Perhaps a little background is in order. Sometime way back, internal infighting caused the original IPMS club in the Salt Lake area split into two camps. The Northern club formed in Ogden and had an emphasis on aircraft. The Salt Lake IPMS club continued on with a variety of subject interests. Car modelers formed their own specialized automobile modeling guild. These three entities held their own events. Several members took advantage of having dual membership in both the Northern (NUSMA) and Salt Lake (IPMSSLC) club. When Fritz Brockman stepped in as President of NUSMA, he promoted a philosophy of cooperation and combining resources in order to host one whopping regional event. The idea worked and "The Gathering" contests shattered all previous attendance records in the area. "The Gathering" continued on successfully under a couple different leadership changes. However, for a variety of reasons, attendance over the last couple years of Shocon has dipped a bit. Gas prices, modeler burnout, Xbox 360, the war in Iraq, global warming... The reasons are varied but the cumulative effect was a smaller turnout.

I didn't hear anything specific but my sources hinted that there is a little bit of friction between the two clubs again and how the Fall contest is evolving. The current leadership of NUSMA is leaning towards a return to their roots and holding a smaller, easily managed event that meets their interests. For economic reasons, they would scale back categories that have traditionally seen low turnout.

That does not mean that they will exclude wholesale categories and make it "aircraft only".

Meanwhile, IPMSSLC is more enthusiastic about pushing for a BIG event. They have selected a date in April of 2008 to hold a contest. The venue may be at the Greek Orthodox Church. Mike Sanchez, IPMSSLC president, suggests that we check their website, ipmssl.org, for forthcoming details.

What does this mean to the dogs? While the number of events in Utah is increasing, they will most likely be smaller individual events than The Gathering years. However, IPMSLC has lots of members and support. It's very possible that they could build momentum and bring a triumphant return of "the big regional contest". I perplexed that our surrounding area, including Seattle, Oregon, and now Utah, have all cosmically chosen the same month of April to host a contest. Perhaps we should lobby the leadership of these clubs to coordinate dates in the future that would allow us to support as many events as we choose, rather than having to side with one over the other.

The good news is that there are still new contests on the horizon and that means that I'd better get busy and build something! ♦

Web Reference:

ipmssl.org
nusma.org

Be sure to check out the new launch of modelerchannel.com for a fresh video based full featured modeling site!



Mad Dog Modeler Profile: John Thirion



It's time to record another Mad Dog modeling biography, and this time our lucky subject is the distinguished John Thirion, the man behind the camera at our monthly meetings. John's first model was a Revell '57 Chevy, built while he was growing up in the jungles of the Belgian Congo! He remembers following that up with the venerable USS Arizona, a Sherman tank, and a C-130. Despite the exotic locale, it seems US citizenship was inevitable! Like many of us, he then sought comfort in that wide and deep ocean of plastic known as Airfix. Fighters, bombers, you name it...remember those great boxtops? But John didn't just fixate on things with wings. He moved to the US, and spent many of his teenage years building cars and 1/76 armor. John? Our John? It's true!



Growing into young manhood, he majored in Math and History at college. Medieval history in particular sparked his interest, and its continued expression through his superbly rendered figures is pretty clear. I can cite a few pithy lines from "Monty Python and the Holy Grail", but John can produce a scholarly soliloquy on honor codes of the High Middle Ages, or the likely style of chain-mail skivvies a well-dressed French Chevalier would wear in the 13th century. For his figure painting, he considers colors that will match plausible cloth dyes that existed hundreds of years ago! It makes you feel a little trivial to worry about the right shade of RLM 82 for a WWII Focke-Wulf...

As part of the development of the proper military historian, there's nothing like a little first-hand participation. From 1973 to 1981 John was a member of Uncle Sam's Misguided Children (USMC), and did his duty beating the atmosphere into submission as a Huey pilot. During his service, he was deployed on the USS HARLAN COUNTY for a fun-filled sea tour. Most Marines enjoy this type of deployment with non-stop push-ups, perpetual complaining, or a combination of both. Instead, our Belgian jarhead roamed all over the "Darlin' Harlan", and became fascinated with these big, metal, floating thingies called ships... (ATTENTION: foreshadowing of things to come!)



When he returned to civilian life, John continued building tanks and painting figures, but he also found himself drawn toward the Tamiya line of 1/350 ships. Coincidence? I think not! By the mid-80's, figure collecting jumped in popularity, first in white metal and then resin. John kept pace, and when resin ships hit the market place heavily in the 90's, he did his best to keep both industries in business. The result? Well, John has amassed an impressive collection of finished subjects, and perhaps a few still in the boxes, too. (...does anyone else have that problem?)



The J. Thirion Collection:

Figures: 50 on display / 100+ in stock
Subs: 8 on display / 6 in stock
Ships: 15 on display / 9 in stock
Aircraft: 6 on display / 40 in stock
Tanks: 6 on display / 20 in stock
(...he's also a collector of HO locomotives, but we'll leave that one in the closet...)

Each category of modeling has its particular appeal for John: Subs are great for the immediate satisfaction of finishing a model. Figures allow an appreciation of the finer artistic and aesthetic qualities of miniature reproductions. Building ships is a more intensive undertaking, requiring significant time, resources, and references, but he loves those funnels! And by now, airplanes have become novelties, and tanks are but a memory! Like many of us, John has amassed an impressive collection of reference material that has resulted from his historical as well as modeling interests, and also keeps up with favorite monthly publications. The internet is his principle source for 'Steel Navy' subjects, as well as more info on medieval warfare than you can read in a lifetime.



J. Thirion: On the Bench

100 mm Teutonic Knight
1/350 SS England
1/350 USS Illinois
1/6 Osiris
1/48 Westland Wyvern



John was a perfect host, and kept this interviewer lubricated with quality brew. (That guarantees a favorable article, by the way...) I appreciate him taking the time to illuminate his lifetime of modeling, and hope this gives you some appreciation of another remarkable Mad Dog Modeler right in our midst.

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