



MADDOG MONTHLY

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December Is The Kurt Vandervoort Memorial Auto Contest!

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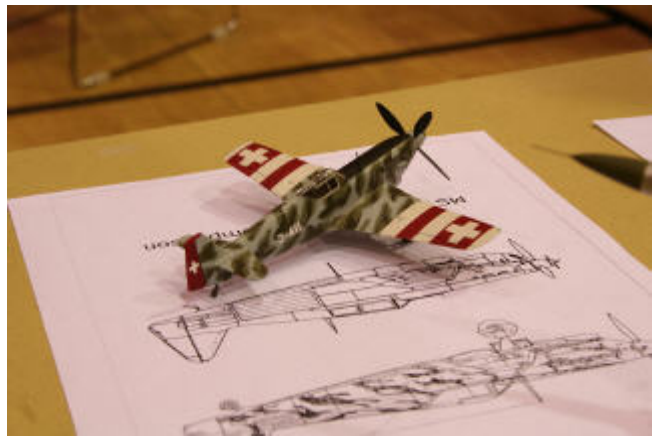
2009 THEME CONTESTS

BLUE	MARCH
CANADA	JUNE
RACE	SEPT.
KIT BASH	DEC.

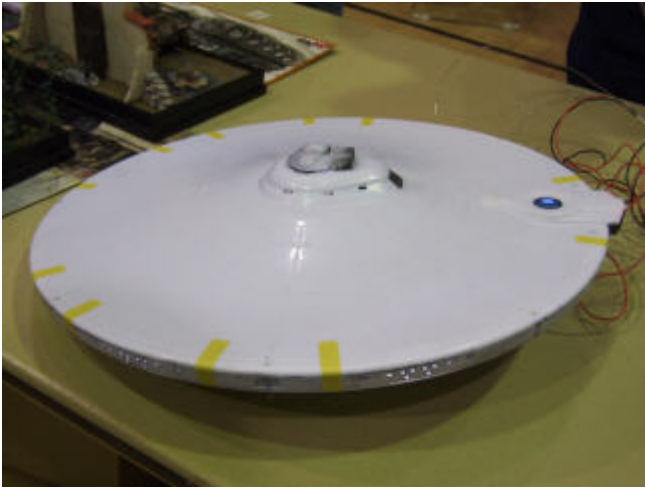


Meeting Pictures

November 2009







A Note From The Office Of The President

Well, another month has arrived this year, although it has been actually 3 weeks instead of 4. Hope everyone is able to still model as much. With the first good snow fall, that's going to keep me indoors more. Will it allow me to model more? I hope so. I don't do winter like I did when I was younger. Maybe my projects will come to life this time. But, why is it that some other idea pops up before I finish the previous project?

We have had all year to prepare for the kit-bashing theme. This is quite an undertaking and we should see a few good ideas. Being practical, I personally find it difficult to combine different kits together to end up with one final creation. What do I do with the left over parts? Can I combine the remaining piece and still do another model. One project that I could do would be stretching and shortening a DC-9 since no manufacturer makes those versions. Oh well. Just when I have started bashing something in the past, a new kit is produced that made my efforts unnecessary.

We are also doing Kurt Vandervoort's Memorial. This has always brought out some terrific automobiles. This year won't be any different. It's a chance to move out of your comfort zone if you don't normally build cars. Since the club is assisting Don doing the commemorations in a worthwhile inspiration, I am looking forward to seeing some fantastic creations.

Remember, it was agreed that there isn't a Model of the Month for December with the other 2 showing this month. Invite your friends and bring anything you want photographed. See you soon.



Bill Speece

The Scuttlebutt

The Greek company YS has released a 1/350 scale Bouvet, a French build pre-dreadnaught. This is a first in the world of ship modeling that someone has released a French ship of that era. There is an increasing amount of ship modelers who have show interest (and buying) WWI era warships, after all how many New Jersey, Yamato, and Bismark can someone build! Also like old cars, old ships have “character” and show very well their origin through their design.

The Bouvet was a typical French battleship with the pronounced tumblehome hull, massive superstructures, and odd shaped funnels and gun layout. One other strange feature of the Bouvet was a forward sloped foredeck, probably to reduce blast damage but in heavy sea large amount of water came above the deck causing the ship to become “nose heavy” and plow into the sea even deeper! The pronounced tumblehome caused the ship to roll and this added to the plowing effect resulted into a very interesting ride.

Internally, the Bouvet had very large longitudinal bulkheads rendering the ship very prone to capsizing in case of flooding.

The gun turrets were electrically operated and the ship had a 3 screw propulsion system. The armor was the American Harvey surface hardened steel. The German Krupp system was not available to the French, but oddly enough was made available to the British.

As mentioned earlier the armament size and layout was odd, two single gun (12 in.) in two turrets one forward and one aft. Two single 10.8 in guns again in separate turrets on each beam. Each of the 10.8 in gun turrets were flanked by two 5.5 in gun turrets. A nightmare in magazine protection and fire control (if they had any).

The Bouvet was laid down at Lorient in 1893 and was completed in 1898, had a length of 387' and displaced 12,000 tons, had a speed of 17 knots and had a crew of 666 (now this is really bad news, never mind the sloped foredeck, tumblehome, and poor magazine protection).



During WWI, the Bouvet was relegated as a secondary unit being a pre-dreadnaught. She was assigned to the infamous Gallipoli campaign. On March 8, 1915 she was hit by eight rounds of 8” guns from the Turkish artillery (Krupp guns, manned by Germans). The ship survived the damage well enough but hit a mine, the longitudinal bulkhead arrangement caused the ship to capsize after an explosion in the secondary armament magazines. The entire crew was loss, the capsizing motion was accentuated by the pronounced tumblehome design. Later the surviving French pre-dreadnaught were fitted with lateral caissons, this did not do much for their speed but did help a few of them to survive mining long enough for the crew to be able to abandon ship with minimal loses.

At the start of WWI the French had nearly 40 battleships but none could have participated in an encounter such as the Jutland. They were too slow, poorly armed, very unstable in any but calm sea and did not have the training of the Royal Navy or German Imperial Navy. Very wisely the French did not try to compete in the Naval arena and let the British sdeal with the Naval theater. Instead the concentrated in building heavy artillery on rails which was used by all the allied in WWI.

John Thirion



The World of Model horses.



For the most of us (modelers) when the word modeling is used, what comes to mind are models of P-51, shermans, Bismarcks, with the occasional sci-fi or car models and the rare figurine. The predominance of military subjects is very attractive to the male modelers but has far less attraction to the female modelers.

A friend who showed some interest in my modeling expressed her curiosity in trying her skills on figures but did not feel that a Teutonic Knight would be a good first figure to paint! But was very impressed with the knights on horseback only if that horse would be available separately. I figure that the perfect approach for a newcomer to the world of modeling would be to match an existing interest (horses, participation in dressage, and rodeos) with modeling. My only knowledge of model horses available for modeling were the now defunct Poste Militaire horses in 90 mm. The next step was to be an internet search.



The search revealed a totally new modeling world. Apparently the hobby of equine modeling was alive and well. The hobby began in the 50's when an obscure company (Breyer) produced some model horses to be used as decorations on clocks. When the clock company went out of business Breyer started to sell the horses as toys, and soon adults started to collect Breyer's horses. Modifying and changing the coats soon followed. For over 50 years Breyer has been the leader in this field. Peter Stone jr, the son of Breyer's founder, started the Peter Stone Company who use some of the best sculptors in the field. In spite of the competition from the Stone company and many „garage“ companies Breyer has maintained their lead and quality. Recently they acquired the molds from the Hagen-Renaker Company and has released some of their larger models.

Similar to other aspects of modeling, equine modeling has scale standards which developed throughout the development of the hobby. Most were started with Breyer.



Traditional Series; 1/9 scale, this is the largest and most popular size among Breyer figures, they are sold as toys but because of their prices they are also bought by collectors. The average figure is 12" long and 9" high. A single figure can cost from \$25 to \$65. A similar resin figure from a „garage“ company can cost as much as \$300.

Classic Series; 1/12 scale, this is aimed at the younger collector, being smaller and relatively less expensive. In this series other animals are included and multiple accessories are also offered. The average horse is 9" long and 6" high.

Paddock Pals; 1/24 scale, single animals are available but most often it is sold in boxed sets with multiple accessories. An average horse would be 6" long and 5" high.

Stablemate series; 1/32 scale, again in this series most horses are available only in boxed sets. Can be and are often used by modelers in diorama settings because of the closeness with 1/35 scale of military vehicles. A horse would be about 4" long and 5" high.

Minni Whinnies; 1/84, this is a fairly new category with a very extensive amount of accessories. Popular with the HO railroaders and the building sets are also very popular with the wargamers!

As with any other aspects of modeling there is an increasing of aftermarket accessories available, such as patterns for saddles, PE set for saddle decorations, hair for manes and tails, etc..... Breyer also offer a kit that allows for the modification of their kits which included a razor saw, putty, glue, and an extensive booklet on the different poses that could be achieved.

Most of the resin horses available from independent sculptors are in 1/10 scale and are in resin. Most are hollow and reinforced with steel rods. Most are cast in small runs of about 50 figures.

There is even a National organization called National Organization North American Model Horses Show Organization which is divided into 11 regions and hold regional contests and a National convention every year.

Rio Hondo is a site that offers extensive amount of information on where to find equine models but also some very interesting how to expansions.

John Thirion