

MAD DOG

MONTHLY

The Newsletter of IPMS Boise December 2011



The Winners - Dioramas and Vignettes



MEETING MINUTES

December 2011

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After some scrambling and manuevering our chapter charter has been renewed. Thanks was given to those that made it possible.

Themes for next year were beginning to be discussed. Right now we have the Monogram build for February and the Vandervoort for March. March is also the Take and Make that we didn't do in September. Still looking for ideas.

The Warhawk Museum is wanting to build two very large, 1/72nd scale WWII airfield dioramas, one from the European Theater and one from the Pacific Theater. There looking for builders to make this project happen.

Elections were held in November and winners were-

Pres- Jeff D

VP- Arlen

Treasurer- Herb

Editor- Brian

This means that this will be the last newsletter that I will be doing. At least for now. That means Brian will be putting his stamp on it. Help him make this newsletter as good, if not better, than I did.

See you at the meeting, and if not, have a happy holiday season. And of course, build something!

Your Executive Board members are-

President - Bill Speece

Vice President - Brian Geiger

Treasurer - Jeff D'Andrea

Secretary and Editor - Tom Gloeckle

Chapter Contact - Kent Eckhart



As we finish the year, I look back at all the fun and good times I have experienced. I am sure every one of you is doing the same. I started out with high hopes of building and FINISHING one or two models a month. The year started out that way, but then as the story goes...I met a girl. Well, I hope the year has been good to you too and if there have been some stressful times because of the economy, I hope the coming New Year will change your fortunes. It will also be a year of change in the club also with a new set of officers coming in the mold and shape the direction for our group. I had a fun time at the helm. I got to write articles about a hobby that I love, enrich relations with you, and meet new friends. Now it is time for new blood so you don't have to see my face each month.

Since this is my last article, I thought about how I began the hobby and building my first model. We had the theme to remember childhood memories and I brought my most important (to me) kits to a meeting a while ago from when I was a kid. I recall my dad bringing kits home and thinking this is cool, what are these boxes? A few years ago I later talked with one of my aunts that said my dad built models way back when. So he passed down the hobby to me. Don't we wish we still had some of those boxes yet? No doubt looking at the quality and detailing leaves a lot to desire if we want to rebuild one. I hope you inspire some one to continue. With the make and take coming up in March, let Arlen know if you have a grandson, son, or nephew (bring the girls too) you would like to bring so we have enough kits for everyone. If we need to order more, and don't use them, we can always do a second make and take.

Remember to have your Monogram kits at least started to be ready for the next theme and in March to have you cars revving to go for the Kurt Vandervoort Memorial. We will also come up with ideas for the coming themes, be creative. Hope Santa brings the newest model you want for Christmas and we all have a safe modeling New Year.

See ya Saturday

Bill

Theme - Vignettes and Dioramas

First Place



"Bargain Basement"
1/35th Scale
by Jeff D'Andrea

Second Place



"Storming of Prague"
54mm
by John Thirion

Third Place



"Red Star Mining"
1/48th Scale
by Gil Flores



"Last Stand of the Teutonic Knight"
54mm
by John Thirion



"Teutonic Knight defeated by Polish Knight"
54mm
by John Thirion



"U.S.S. Monitor, Dec 31, 1862"
1/200th Scale
by Bill Speece



"Oops"
1/48th Scale
by Jim Burton

Winner



"Flak 37 Diorama"
1/35th Scale
by Brian Geiger



"EB-29 & XF-85"
1/144th Scale
by Herb Arnold

Model of the Month



Hasegawa B-25J Mitchell
1/72nd Scale
by Ian Robertson



Maisto Ford Hot Rod
1/24th Scale
by Bob Smylie



Canyon County Ambulance
1/24th Scale
by Jim Burton



Tamiya Bradley
1/35th Scale
by Trevor Robertson



Tamiya Spitfire Mk. IXc
1/32nd Scale
by Tom Gloeckle

New releases.



Tamiya 1/350 Yamato. This is a new mold and by what I have heard it is a beauty. As expected from Tamiya the engineering is flawless and this time around the research team has done their work and came up with the most accurate model of this famous ship.

Aoshima 1/64 Ryo Ei Maru. An unusual model at an unusual scale. A squid fishing boat in 1/64!!! Not sure what the scale is supposed to fit with but being geared for the Japanese market there must be a good reason. This is not a very big boat therefore the large scale should not be a problem. An interesting kit but with a small appeal on the side of the Pacific unless you like calamari.



Wingnut Wings 1/32 FE.2B late or early version. Hey, that is an aircraft, ok I am not an aircraft modeler in the pure sense of the term but cannot help get very enthusiastic with any releases from the company from down under. This two-seater pusher configuration make for a very unusual aircraft. The kit contains over 300 plastic parts, the usual photo-etched parts and this amazing interaction booklet which always contains color and b&w photos of the real aircraft.

Early naval gunnery

First we should remember that the propellant (black powder) used in the middle ages was much different than the powder used today. By definition it is a mixture of salt peter, charcoal, and sulfur finely grounded and mixed together. The ratio of 1/1/1 was good enough to cause much mischief. The good news was that black powder is very tolerant of variations in the recipe. Black powder contains 57% of solids particles and therefore is very messy and leaves much residues in the gun barrel. Therefore the barrels had to be swabbed and cooled to avoid pouring powder into a hot barrel with the unfortunate consequences! Also black powder decomposes by means of three mutually dependent chemical reactions which cancel each other thermodynamically. This means that the length of the gun barrel will not affect the muzzle velocity which is always constant for the same amount of powder. The max being about 1400fps. A barrel length of 8 to 10 feet was enough to impart max velocity.

Early gunpowder was called serpentine and consisted of finely ground powder mixed together. Because the components had the tendency to separate when stored it had to be mixed before use. This created some very dangerous dust that would explode with catastrophic results. Also the serpentine had to be carefully stamped and confined with a wooden plug.

Those problems were overcome by grinding the ingredients together in an aqueous slurry (wine, vinegar or urine were used). The slurry was then pressed through a screen and left to dry in grains or sheets, then passed through a sieve and segregated by size and tumbled into drums to wear off the rough edges. Corned powder was more powerful than serpentine. Also because the rate of gas evolution is a function of the surface of the grain and surface is an inverse function of the grain size charge of smaller-grained powder evolved their propellant gases more rapidly.

Medieval gunner believed that certain size of grains were related to the size of the gun. Ironically they were correct. Next article will review the types of projectiles used and the fabrications of the guns themselves.



This is a 1/72nd scale diorama of a siegetower by Valdemar Miniature.
This one is submitted by John Thirion.



