

January 2007 Newsletter



*IPMS Syracuse Business meeting: 7 PM to 9 PM, 2nd Thursday of the month.
IPMS Syracuse Builders meeting: 7 PM to 9 PM 4th Thursday of the month.*

*All meetings held at: **WALT'S HOBBY***

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Phone: 315-453-2291 Fax: 315-451-8708
<http://www.walts-hobby.com/>

*IPMS SYRACUSE Web Site: <http://www.ipmssyracuse.org>
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NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

- ❖ *Minutes from the December meeting*
- ❖ *Christmas Party Photos*
- ❖ *Agenda for the January Meeting and Upcoming Events*
- ❖ *Show and Tell at the December Meeting*
- ❖ *Caught In the Net: A new feature by Chuck Wise*

I Want You!



At the Next Meeting!

Agenda for the November Meeting

Old Business

New Business

Show and Tell

Upcoming Events

- **January 11: Syracuse IPMS Meeting** at Walt's Hobby 7-9 pm.
- **January 25 : Syracuse IPMS Builder's Night** at Walt's Hobby, 7-9 PM.
- **March 31, 2007: Replicon** will be held at the Freeport Recreation Center, 130E. Merrick Rd., Freeport, New York (Long Island). For further information please contact Steve Andreano at 516-632-5418.
- **March 30-31 2007: Region 4 Model Exposition and Contest** will be held at The Holiday Inn Pittsburg Airport, 2856 University Blvd., Coraopolis, PA. For further information please Contact Tim Swisher at (412)-367-8690.
- **April 15 2007: BUFFCON 24** will be held at Knights of Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Rd., Cheektowaga NY. For further information contact Bob Collignon at 716-875- 0234 (e-mail: cjltd@adelphia.net)
- **AMPS 2007: Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21** at the Community Center In Havre de Gras, MD. This is the premier armor modeling event in the Western Hemisphere. If you have any interest in armor modeling you don't want to miss this show! For further information, check out the AMPS website at <http://www.amps-armor.org>
- **April 21 2007: CAN AM CON 8** will be held at the Comfort Inn, 411 Rt. 3, Plattsburg, NY. For further information please contact: Frank Baehre at 518-561-4265.



HMS Britannica from Syrcon 19

Minutes from the December Meeting

The December meeting was a very festive and successful meeting due to a great membership turnout and our **Annual Christmas Party**. We also had a very good show and tell to top off the occasion. The Yankee gift exchange was enjoyable as always, and the apparent "disappearance" of Chuck's gift at the end added an interesting twist! We can thank John King (King of Pranksters) for the drama which was solved when Chuck went past the counter at Walt's and was given back his hard fought for present!

We collected a nice variety of models for sending to the hobby clubs in the military units overseas. **We have not sent them yet, so anyone with a last minute donation can bring them to the January meeting.**

Here are a few shots from the Christmas Party-



Christmas party Continued....



A fine time was had by all!

We didn't have a white Christmas, but we did have a beautiful sunrise Christmas morning. This picture was taken in Elbridge.



Show and Tell

John Kesler brought in two kits, one was an Eduard 1/48th scale Polikarpov I-16, and a Tamiya 1/32 A6M2 Model 21 "Zero". The I-16 kit actually builds 3 complete aircraft with parts left over! Three sets of decals are provided, including a naval version which is very rare. The Tamiya kit represents the Zero version used Pearl Harbor. Both kits include photo-etched parts.



Chuck Wise brought in three Sherman tank versions in different stages of completion. On the left is an M4A3 which is a kit bash of the Dragon and Tamiya kits. In the center is the Tamiya M-4, and on the right is the Dragon M4A2(76). All three models are in 1/35th scale.

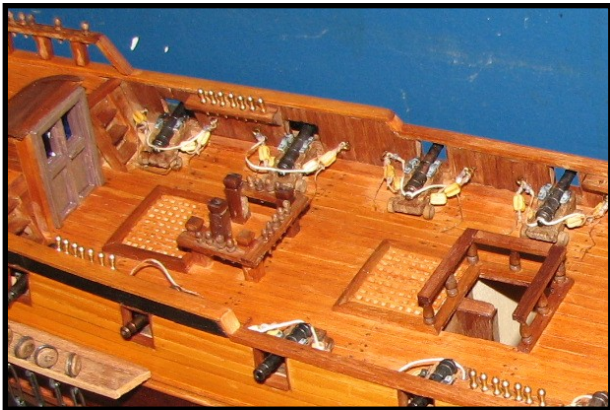
Chuck also showed us some Ultracast resin parts for a Tamiya Spitfire project. Included were seats, exhaust manifold, wing cannons, and control surfaces. He also had a very extensive Sherman conversion kit from Blast Models, which will create an up-armored M4A3E2 "Jumbo" version.



Show and Tell Continued....



Lou Wasserman brought in his F4U-2 Corsair by Hobbycraft in 1/48th scale. This version was used by the Marines as a night fighter. You can see the radar pod on the wing.

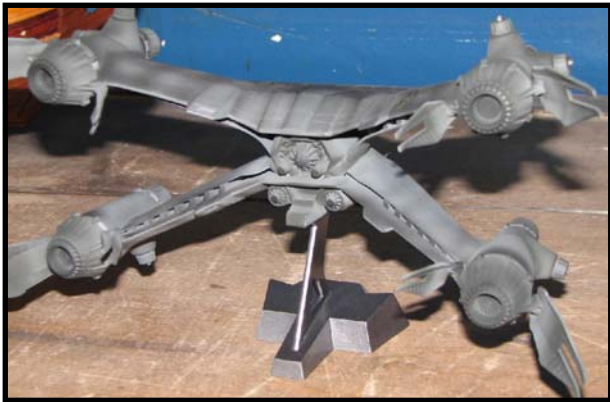


Kevin Thomas continues work on his ship, the Blue Shadow. He has finished the deck details, including cannons, and railings. It's really coming alive with the details, and various wood colors.



Show and Tell Continued....

Tony Casella finished a pair of science fiction models. On the right is a Gundam Robot from the Easy 8 program. He used Alclad for the natural metal parts.



This space ship is the Star Fury from The Babylon 5 series. Tony did a nice job with the airbrush, creating various tones of gray.



Caught In the Net

By Chuck Wise

For those of you who are "on-line", the internet has probably become one of those modern conveniences that you can't believe you survived without for so many years. That being said, there are many times that I find myself surprised by the widespread lack of net savvy that exists, even among people who have been using computers for a while. This is the first in a regular series of articles that I'll do to try to spread some information about ways of using the net successfully for researching your projects, posting them for others to see and to communicate with other modelers around the world.

The first topic is net etiquette. I 'm going to jump up on the stump and proclaim myself to be "Miss Manners" (yes, an ugly job, but someone has to do it). When you start posting your thoughts, opinions, and discoveries in discussion groups and on bulletin boards you need to remember that you are making a first impression with the rest of the world and first impressions are even more noticeable "in print" on thousands of computer screens. There are a number of do's and don'ts that are (or should be) generally followed in posting to discussion groups.

1. **DON'T TYPE YOUR MESSAGES IN UPPER CASE LETTERS! THIS IS WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE SHOUTING AND IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE ANNOYING AND RUDE!** Get the point?

2. Keep your language PG and your replies polite. Always assume that your grandmother is reading what you are writing. (Who knows, she might be.) People who misbehave on the net by "flaming" other people or are obnoxious, rude or otherwise uncivil are labeled by other denizens of the internet as "trolls" and are dismissed as such until they are banned by those who run the discussion groups and are cordially encouraged by all and sundry to crawl back under the rotting log from whence they came.

3. When posting a question in a discussion group, address your questions to the group, not to the moderator. The moderator's job is to monitor the discussion group and act as a referee when things start to get out of hand. If he wishes to reply on a subject, you can be sure that he will, (after all he's interested enough in the subject to be acting as a moderator).

4. Stay on topic. If the discussion group is about Allied Armor, keep your questions and observations about Allied Armor. There are usually more appropriate groups for your topic that you can post to.

5. Be sure to read and understand the terms and conditions of use that are posted on every website that has a discussion forum. Generally speaking, breaking the rules will cause you to be chastised or even banned from using the forum.

6. Use emoticons ("smileys") and shorthand (for example: LOL for laughing out loud) judiciously and only as needed. A message on the internet lacks any nonverbal cues such as voice tone, body language and gestures that make face to face conversation so meaningful, a written message, especially one written in haste can convey an entirely different meaning than was intended and can come off as mocking or aggressive when it was not meant to be. Sometimes emoticons can help with this (if the site supports them). Relying on shorthand constantly marks you as a "newbie" or a rube at best and gives the impression that you have no ability to actually communicate in an intelligent manner IMHO (in my humble opinion).

7. Use proper English and standard spellings. A pet peeve of mine is the use of what I would call "jerkspeak". An example would be: "the sherman sucked cuz it wuzn't kool like a tiger cuz the tiger had that big kickass 88 that could blow holes thru Shermans before the cru knew what hit'm. the panther was a kickass tank to." I'm fairly sure the writer knew how to spell wasn't, cool, because, hit them, kick ass, and through (I have my doubts about using too instead of to, but that's another matter). The point is that writing in the above manner in a public forum is childish at best and insultingly ignorant at least. The other readers deserve intelligent, thoughtful posts, not inane, childish replies that resemble an eighth grader shouting, "hey watch this". Along the same lines, it is sometimes better to compose a long reply on Word or Word Pad and then copy and paste it onto the discussion group posting after you have proofread and spell checked your posting. Your message will be clearer to others if you actually say what you meant to say. A dictionary is a good investment for anyone and a copy of The Elements of Style by William Strunk and E. B. White should be on every English speaker's desk. Use them: you'll win friends and influence people with your command of your native tongue.

8. Limit the size of any jpegs you post. Most websites post limits to the size of jpegs and gifs (the two most common standard files for still images) that can be posted onto a discussion page. This is largely an issue of the memory size that the jpeg uses and the amount of bandwidth that is consumed in downloading it. Both of these factors cost the website money and posting jpegs that are too large is inconsiderate to the website owners and to all the other users of the site. Most photo editing software has settings for web publishing that will minimize memory size to what is needed (cropping can also greatly reduce the size of your jpegs and can improve their look also). High resolution looks great on a print, but it makes little difference on a web page. Be sure to save your web jpegs with a different name from the original or you may very well lose your original, huge, high-resolution jpeg forever... not that it's ever happened to me... no sir...

9. Be sure to credit all items or information that you post that is not your original thought on the matter. There are many ugly names for claiming ideas and work of other people as your own: plagiarism, copyright infringement, theft of intellectual property, and so forth. Let's all do the right thing and give credit where credit is due. If you picked up a technique from a book, please give the title of the book and the author. We don't need to use MLA citations, just let people know where you picked up the information you are quoting.

10. Don't simply babble and pile onto a thread with "me too's". Follow the practice of the greatest sage since Confucius (that being Mr. Ed): never speak unless you have something to say. **CW**

The answer to last month's trivia question: What was the hood ornament on the classic Bugatti's of the 1930's? *An elephant reared up on its hind legs with its trunk extended above its head.*

January's Trivia Question: What tool was commonly kept in the cockpit of the Polikarpov I-16 and what was its purpose (*just in case*)?