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# SPRUE BITS

## NATE'S NOTES

In April's newsletter, I wrote about building a model to help re-spark the joy and fun of building a model, and in May's newsletter we showed the models that our members built as part of the "Build Like A Kid Again" Group Build. As I am typing this, I still have three last things to do before I can call my UH-34 done. Nothing major, just touch up some paint around the windows, re-install an exterior grab bar near the cockpit that I bumped off when I was removing the window masks, and finish installing the tail rotor. While I completely missed the Group Build deadline, and while this model was challenging (vague part placement, incorrect and inconsistent assembly instructions, generic color call outs, extremely poor fitting parts, and thick decals, among other things), building this kit really did help me reignite the fun of building a model! That may sound strange given the issues with the kit that I listed out, but in reality, building it has been fun!



I caught myself a few times wanting to super detail a part, or modify something, but I stopped myself each time. My self-imposed desire to build a museum quality model kicked up a couple times, but I realized that wasn't the point of this model. The point of this model was to simply have fun! Building this helicopter helped me learn a few things (e.g. ensure you have enough paint in the spray can), and gave me an opportunity to practice some skills, so the next time I build a model I can be better than I was today. Not to mention, putting glue on styrene and seeing a model take shape is motivating and satisfying in many ways!

So, while my Revell UH-34 won't be seen at any model shows, it will be on display in my model cabinet—and mostly likely will often be flown around the house with the appropriate rotor sounds—as a reminder to have fun! I am already planning my next project and am looking forward to getting some of my shelved projects finished up soon!

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## LAST MEETING

**June 24:** 16 members met at Branson Hobby Center for our June meeting. The meeting theme was “Oldest Kit – built or unbuilt in your collection.” Once again we had a good response to the theme, as many of the members dug through their collections, dusted off, and brought in their oldest kits!

**Paul Drinkall** brought in the oldest unbuilt kit in his collection – a Comet Models balsa wood P-61. Paul’s older sister used to build basswood model airplanes, and she got Paul started building models when he was a young boy. Paul bought this kit on eBay a while ago while looking for vintage wooden model kits like what his sister used to build.

Paul also brought in his oldest built car model kit: an AMT 1959 Mercury, which has held up well through the years, brush paint and all!

And Paul brought in his oldest built airplane model, one that he built when he was around 10 years old, a Revell box scale P2V Neptune. Paul was surprised by his own decaling skills from years ago, noting that all the wing walk lines were very straight! The aircraft used to sit on a stand, but the stand has long since been lost.

**Dusty Taylor** brought in the oldest unbuilt kit from his collection: a Jo-Han 1962 Studebaker Lark kit. The box looks rough, but the kit is complete, and is a customizing kit, which provides various build options. Dusty has a couple similar kits in his collection as well.







**Mike Mangan** brought in three of his oldest kits from his collection: a 1958 issue of a 1:32 Revell 1956 Mercury four door, a built 1960 Plymouth Valiant, and a 1960 Dodge Dart.

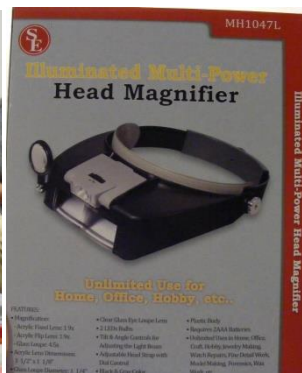
**Editor's Note:** Unfortunately, no pictures were taken of Mike's models. My sincerest apologies to Mike for not photographing your models.

**Les MacLaren** brought in three vintage kits from his collection: a Cycle Miniatures kit that includes two bicycle models, and a Miniature Masterpieces kit of a Roman Racing Chariot. Les also

brought in his recently purchased Revell Great Eastern ship model that he finally purchased, even though he has wanted this kit since he was 8 years old! (Read the full story on page 6).



**Phil Jurkowski** brought in the oldest unbuilt kit from his collection: a 1992 re-release 1:72 Hobbycraft EA-6B Prowler. Phil also brought in a



magnifying visor that he received as a gift. It has a built in light, and includes a jeweler's loop as well. Phil said this visor is a valuable tool he uses while working on his models!

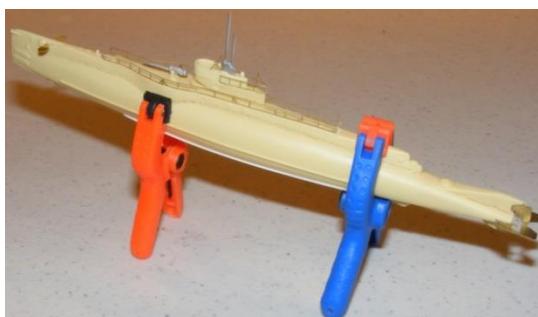
**Nick Kimes** brought in two work in progress models: a 1:30 scale Academy Starcraft Space Marine figure, and his Blue Water Navy 1:350 scale Post WWI "Pig Boat" submarine. Nick added photo-etch and white metal details to his submarine, and even had to scratch build some details from styrene to repair short comings in the resin casting.





**Left:** Nick's in-progress 1:30 scale Starcraft Space Marine figure.

**Right:** Nick's in-progress 1:350 Blue Water Navy WWI "Pig Boat" submarine.



**Bill Loden** brought in three models. Bill's oldest built model from his collection is actually a scratch built catamaran sail boat, replicating a life-sized Hobie Cat boat he wanted. Bill used the two catamaran hulls from a kit he purchased, but scratch built every other detail about the boat, including the sails.

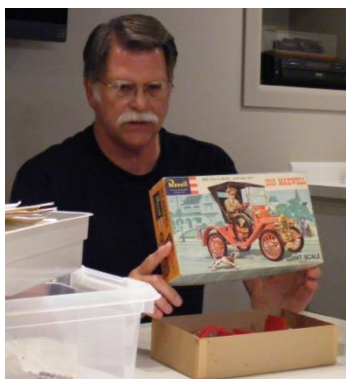


Bill also brought in his in-progress 1:48 Monogram F-117 Nighthawk and 1:48 Eduard Profipack Me 109G. The F-117 has some fit issues, requiring some putty work along the fuselage-wing joint, and the decals are not the greatest quality.

Bill added the Eduard Brassin engine to his Me 109G and the detail is outstanding! Bill used a clothes pin to protect the molded on pitot tube.



**Michael Steenstra** brought in the oldest built kit in his collection: his 1:48 Monogram F-104G Starfighter. This is the 1987 issue of the kit that he received as a gift on Christmas 1988 from his (now late) brother-in-law. The kit markings are for the yellow and black "Jabo" of the *Bundeswehr Luftwaffe* (German Air Force).



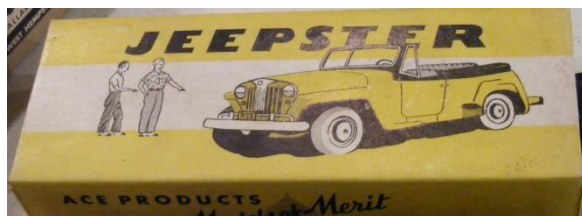
**Gary Sanders** brought in four of the oldest kits in his collection. Three of the kits are balsa car model kits by Merit Models: a 1946 Sport Roadster (not pictured), a 1948 Jeepster, and a 1953 Packard Caribbean (both pictured on the next page). Gary noted that it would take a highly skilled modeler to turn the rough blocks of wood into a nice looking model car!

Gary also brought in a recent purchase: a 1:18 scale Revell 1910 Maxwell. The kit was originally issued in 1951, but this model is a 1960 re-release. This kit is unique in that





it comes with paper patterns for the modeler to use in making the cloth top roof, and diagrams for bending wire in order to make the windshield frame.



**Steve McKinnon** brought in a couple of the oldest models from his collection: an M4 Sherman, an LVTA-4, and an M42 Duster.



These three kits are all from Adams Models and originally issued around 1958. Steve purchased these models and others around 1962 or 1963 from a friend of his in Japan – all for only \$10! Through the years Steve has used these models as a test bed for techniques, including using an acrylic medium to recreate the casting texture on the Sherman turret.



**Rusty Hamblin** brought in the oldest built (but falling apart) model from his collection: a Thunderbird Turbo Coupe. Rusty built this model as a teenager using Testors' tube glue, and painted it all snow white (interior too), since monochromatic vehicles were popular then. Over the years, the paint has faded to an off white. Rusty did paint the engine Ford blue, and added chrome wheels.



**Nate Jones** brought in two in-progress models; his 1:48 Revell UH-34 that he started for the May Group Build theme "Build Like A Kid Again." While Nate was not able to finish it yet, he was able to start the decaling process.



Nate also brought in his nearly completed 1:144 Academy P-38 Lightning model. Nate posed the



aircraft in flying configuration on a music wire inside a display cube and printed an aerial view of some European countryside to add interest.

***Go to [www.ipmsmoss.com](http://www.ipmsmoss.com) and check out the Gallery for more pictures!***

## MODEL MUSINGS

by Les MacLaren

"I just wanted to share something with you...when I was a young boy about 8 years old living in Pennsylvania, we had a hardware store called Mackall Bros. They were more of a general merchandise store rather than just hardware; appliances and furniture, etc. as well as model kits, which I visited every time we went there. One time, they had this ship model of the "Great Eastern." When the real ship was built, it as the largest one in the world...almost 700 ft long and weighed 32,000 tons...in 1858!!! It was used to lay the first telegraph cable between the British Isles and North America.



Anyhow, I looked at it every time I was there. I really wanted it, but it cost \$4.98, which was way out of my price range. My birthday was coming up so I asked for it for my present. My Dad said he would stop and get it, but because it was so expensive it would be the only thing I would get and I readily agreed.

I waited for him to get home all day. When he arrived he said that he couldn't find it and when he asked about it he was told that someone bought it the previous day, so he got me two different ones to make up for the one that I wanted. I said I understood and told him I knew he did his best.

I never saw another one....until Saturday [at MOSS CON]...in the same box, with the same picture, and the same \$4.98 price on the box end.



I picked it up and looked inside and saw a jumble of loose parts. I was afraid to ask the price, but gathered up the courage fearing it would be way out of my price range...I didn't want to lose it again. Much to my delight he only wanted \$8.00 for it, so the price was promptly paid! I knew that I could make

any missing parts. But now sitting here going through everything it is virtually complete.

So now 60 years and hundreds of thousands of miles later, I have my model. I just wanted to share this memory and the happiness a box full of old plastic parts can provide."

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### WANTED:



Looking for one or two of the 1:48 Monogram F-8 Crusader kits (or the more recent Revell or Revell Germany re-release version); complete and not started. Reasonable price preferred. Please contact Nate Jones at nrjones18[at]hotmail.com.

## WHERE HAS YOUR SHIRT BEEN



**MOSS member Gary Sanders visiting the Ironclad *USS Cairo* in Vicksburg, MS.**

“Since I have retired I don’t believe it is possible to take a vacation. I mean a vacation from what? So the week of June 11th my wife Donna and I took a trip to the Mississippi and Alabama Gulf Coast. The first night we stopped at Vicksburg, MS so that the next morning we could visit the Vicksburg National Military Park and the remains of the ironclad *USS Cairo*.

“The *USS Cairo* was one of seven ironclads built by the James Eads and Company, Mound City, IL. He was given 100 days to build seven ironclad ships and farmed out three of them to another company and completed the contract on time. The Ship was commissioned on 25 January 1862. The *Cairo* was named after a town on the Mississippi River. The other six ships were named after towns on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. James Eads would later be known for building the Eads Bridge at St. Louis, the world’s first steel truss bridge.



“Active in the occupation of Clarksville, TN February 17, 1862 and of Nashville, TN February 25, 1862 *Cairo* stood down the river on 12 April escorting mortar boats to begin the lengthy operations against Fort Pillow. An engagement with Confederate gunboats at Plum Point Bend on May 11th marked a series of blockading and bombardment activities which culminated into the abandonment of the fort by its defenders on June 4th. On 6 June 1862, *Cairo* joined in the triumph of seven Union ships and a tug over eight Confederate gunboats off Memphis. Five of the opposing gunboats were sunk or run ashore during this action; two were seriously damaged, one

managed to escape. That night Union forces occupied Memphis. *Cairo* returned to patrol on the Mississippi until November 21st when she joined the Yazoo Pass Expedition.

“On December 12, 1862, while clearing mines from the river preparatory to an attack on Hines Bluff, *Cairo* struck a hidden “torpedo” (or naval mine) detonated by volunteers hidden behind the river bank and sunk in 12 minutes. There were no casualties. This was believed to be the first time a ship was lost by use of a remote control torpedo.

“The *Cairo* had a steam engine with 22 inch cylinders with a stroke of 6 feet, fed by five fire tube boilers at 140 psi. She burned 2 tons of coal an hour. She had a compliment of 251 officers and men. The *Cairo* had 16 canons as of January 1862 but was reduced to 14 by November of 1862.

“The gunboat was recovered from the Yazoo River bottom in 1964. It is on display at the Vicksburg National Military Park. In the museum on site is a large collection of personnel items discovered in the wreckage.

“If you are ever close to Vicksburg I would encourage you to stop by and drive the Park and take some time to explore the *Cairo*. I don’t think you will be disappointed.

While I was at the *Cairo* Museum I saw what looked like hand built models of the ship.

The web page [www.Flagshipmodels.com](http://www.Flagshipmodels.com) has 1:192 scale *USS Cairo* model available for \$115.00. Advanced modeling skills will be needed.”

## TIPS & TECHNIQUES

### Removing Burs from Photo-etch Parts

by **Nick Kimes**

When working with photo-etch parts, an easy way to remove burs from the brass parts is to use a wet stone. Nick purchased a cheap wet stone from Harbor Freight and found that a couple passes of the photo-etch part over the wet stone removed all the burs!

## NEXT MEETING



**July 15, 2018 – Sunday, 6pm at Godfather’s Pizza in Ozark (510 E. South Street)!** The pizza buffet opens at 5pm and the meeting starts at 6pm. Come join us for dinner before the meeting!

**Meeting Theme: “Shelved”** – bring in a model (or a couple) that you have shelved for whatever reason.

As always you are welcome to bring a model, tip or technique to share and discuss!

**Happy Modeling!**



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