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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Last Meeting: May 21
- 7** Where has your shirt been?
- 8** Tips & Techniques
- 9** Next Meeting: June 11

Nate's Notes

By Nate Jones, President IPMS/MOSS

Do you attend model shows? If so, why? If not, why not? Have you ever thought about it? I've heard a lot of reasons through the years for why people do not attend shows: "*aww, they're just a bunch of rivet counters,*" "*I hate IPMS judging rules,*" "*my models aren't good enough for competition,*" "*I don't want my model compared to someone else's stuff,*" and other similar comments. Mark

Twain once noted that "Comparison is the death of joy," but for me model shows are not strictly about competition. They are an opportunity to show off one's creativity, and also serve as an avenue from which to draw inspiration!

I remember attending my first model show in 2004. I had built my first diorama and hesitantly entered it into the competition, thinking that my work was not to show quality standard and not good enough compared to other modelers. As Henri Matisse stated, "Creativity takes courage;" and it took courage for me to put my work out there for the world (or at least the other show attendees) to see. I was later surprised and humbled when I received an award for my model! But award ceremony aside, my biggest take-away from that model show was inspiration; having the opportunity to see all the other models on the tables. Until that day, I had never been in a room with hundreds of built models. Seeing the aircraft paint schemes, the diorama layouts, and looking at the other details that the modelers had put into their kits, I wanted to soak it all in. It was almost overwhelming. I left that show ready to go home and build every kit I had in my stash! I jotted notes and plans for future model builds. It was exciting! I still get that same excitement at model shows! Every time, I walk away more inspired than when I walked in.

And when it comes down to the competition aspect, Thomas Keller said it best, "I think that you've got to make something that pleases you and hope that other people feel the same way." If they don't, don't worry about it. Just enjoy the hobby and build what you enjoy!

So, put that courageous creativity to work, build something that pleases you, and come get inspired at MOSS CON 2017 on Saturday, June 17th! Your model may inspire someone else too!

"We're making it a small world, because small things matter!"



MOSS CON 2017
 Hosted by
MOSS
 Missouri Diorama Scale Specialists

**Saturday
 June 17, 2017
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 Branson, Missouri**

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 still needs
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Vendor tables are \$20 each.

Category Sponsorship is \$30 each for
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*All Sponsors and Vendors will be recognized on our
 website, Facebook page and at the Show!*

For more information, contact Nate Jones at
ipmsmoss@hotmail.com
 or call 417-230-6220.



21 May: 16 members of the Knights of the Square Table met on the first floor of Branson Hobby Center.

Michael Steenstra brought in his 1:48 Eduard Royal Models FW-190A kit. This highly collectible kit includes parts for two complete FW-190 models, a full color booklet detailing the Air Battle over the Ore Mountains on September 11, 1944, a replica Iron Cross with Oak Leaves, and an actual fragment of "Yellow 8" one of the JG4 FW-190's shot down during the battle, along with the Certificate of Authenticity.



History In A Box

The Air Battle over the Ore Mountains happened on September 11, 1944 over present day Kovářská in the Czech Republic. 36 B-17s from the USAAF 8th Air Force's 100th Bomb Group were attacked by 60 FW-190s and Bf-109s from *Jagdgeschwader (JG) 4*. 14 B-17s were shot down almost immediately.

Initially the bombers were unescorted, but P-51s later arrived to relieve the beleaguered bomber formation.

The battle resulted in 19 US aircraft lost, 32 German fighters lost, 50 Americans killed, 29 German pilots killed, and 89 American airmen captured.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_battle_over_the_Ore_Mountains

Rusty Hamblin brought in his recently finished Timber Kits Dragon wood kit. In an effort to clean up some of his many in-progress projects on his workbench, Rusty decided to finish building this wooden kit. A small hand crank on the back of the kit allows the dragon to move!



Steve McKinnon brought in three of his in-progress 1:35 model kits: his Zvezda BTR-80A, Academy M113 Fitter Combat Repair Vehicle, and Tamiya Centurion kit. Steve has encountered many problems with his BTR-80, but he is slowly getting the kit together, replacing the many grab bars and handles with bent wire. Steve's M113 Fitter is coming together as well, just about ready for the paint! And his Centurion needs a little TLC after being packed away while Steve was finishing his house and getting his hobby workspace set up.



Darren Gloyd brought in his nearly completed MPC 1967 Charger that he is building to enter in MOSS CON 2017's *1967: 50 Years of Muscle Cars* special theme category. Darren painted his Charger in Testor's One Coat Lacquer Graphite Dust color spray paint. The car is coming along very nicely, and Darren noted that he brought this model in to show that he doesn't just build trucks!



Dan Nowak brought in a 1:25 model set that he completed about 10-12 years ago: Revell's 1980's Chevy Van and dual axle race car trailer, hauling an AMT 1955 Chevy dragster.

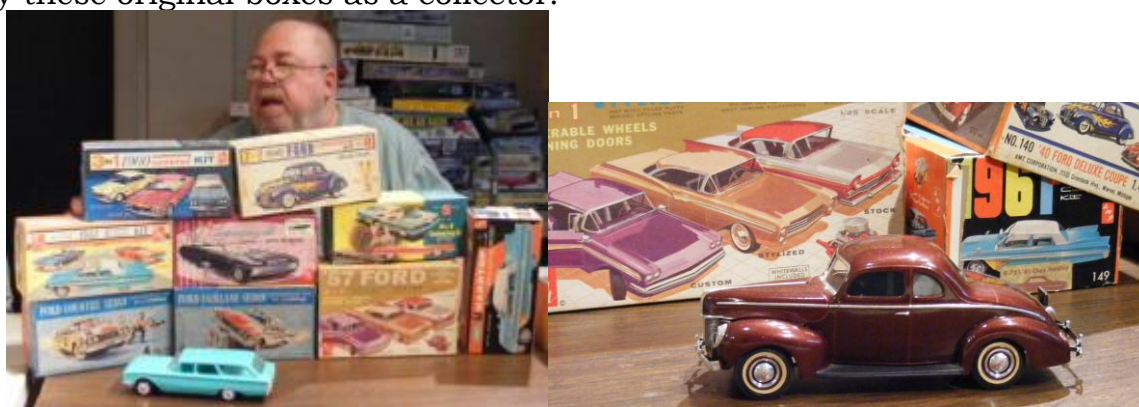


Dan added tools and equipment to the back of the van, but accidentally forgot to open the back doors. So, if you bring a flashlight, and look through the windshield, you can see all the extra details he added!

Dan completely plumbed and wired the '55 Chevy, and tubbed out the chassis. Wanting to build something a little different, Dan completed these models with custom decals. Because Dan was working full time and traveling a lot when he built these kits, it took about 8 or 9 months to finish the van, trailer and dragster.



Gordon King brought in some of his collection of original issue model cars and their original boxes. Gordon has sought out and collected many of these kits and their boxes over the years, even though he built most of these models years ago. When these kits were sold in the 1960's the prices ranged from \$1.39 to \$2.00 each, but Gordon noted that he spent more than that to buy these original boxes as a collector!



Bob Grenier brought in his Academy 1:32 FA-18C Hornet kit. Bob's oldest son is a US Navy pilot who flew Hornets, so when Academy released the 1:32 scale kit, he purchased it with the intent to build it for his son. Bob also found a *Two Bobs Aviation Graphics* decal set for VFA-203 – one Fighter Squadron his son flew with. That decal set includes markings for the Squadron Commander's aircraft, which Bob's son flew at one point in time in real life! Bob also purchased the Cutting Edge resin cockpit detail set, along

with the Verlinden Lock On book and other F-18 reference materials, including the September 2003 issue of *Finescale Modeler* magazine, which reviews the Academy Hornet.



Paul Drinkall brought in his recently completed 1:25 Moebius Models' 1965 Mercury Comet Cyclone. Paul wanted a '65 Comet Cyclone model kit since 1965, and purchased the Moebius kit as soon as it was released. Despite a few errors in the kit and bizarre exhaust manifolds, Paul was impressed with the scale thickness hood part, and fact that the window glass is installed from the outside-in. Paul added a radio antenna to his model, and finished it in a factory color "Olive Mist" green metallic. He's hoping that the rumors of a Factory Experimental variant release of the kit are true!



Gary Sanders brought in his in-progress 1:35 ICM Studebaker US6 Russian Katyusha Rocket Launcher truck. Inspired by another Katyusha rocket truck model that he saw on the internet, Gary is building it in launch configuration with the rocket rails in the raised position, and plans to have some of the rockets staged as if firing. The kit decals were pretty poor quality, but thankfully held together after coating them with Micro Liquid Decal Film.





Madison Taylor brought in her in-progress 1:25 AMT 1941 Plymouth Coupe that she is customizing. Madison chopped the top and is modifying the front and changing out the grill to a 1962 Chrysler 300 grill from the old Revell Parts Pack set, in addition to adding custom fender skirts. Madison said she still



has a lot of work (sanding and filling) to do, but her model is looking good so far!

Brian Taylor brought in an in-progress Johan Studebaker Lark that he bought as a “finished” second-hand kit. The previous owner had painted it, so Brian added some rust effect and additional weathering. Brian also brought in a 1962 Studebaker GT Hawk body that he plans to build and update to a 1964 version.



Mike Mangan brought in his 1:48 Monogram Messerschmitt Bf-109 kit that he finished in Croatian markings. Mike completed this kit years ago and added the Croatian markings because he “wanted to do something different” with the kit.



History In A Box

The Croatian Air Force in WWII

The Air Force of the Independent State of Croatia, or *Zrakoplovstvo Nezavisne Države Hrvatske* (ZNDH) came into existence in July 1941. During the war, much of the force's capacity was sent to the Eastern Front as the Croatian Air Force Legion, which consisted of one fighter squadron equipped with Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighters, and one bomber squadron equipped with Dornier Do 17 bombers. The fighter squadron served in Russia as part of the German JG 52, where many of the unit's pilots became aces.

Croatia had a large fleet of relatively modern aircraft during the WWII, usually of German origin, but also ex-Royal Yugoslav, Italian, French, British and Czech. The fleet numbered several hundred aircraft, from training biplanes to the latest Messerschmitt 109 fighters.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Croatian_Air_Force#World_war_II

Mark Mahy brought in his in-progress Pegasus Models' UFO. Inspired by the artwork on the side of the box, Mark went in search of some scale cows and a way to replicate the tractor beam. Initially, he found that a plastic 2 ounce shot glass would fit the bottom of the spacecraft. Not satisfied with the



effect, Mark later found a more suitable beam – a 25 ounce plastic martini glass! An online search resulted in some O-gauge railroad scenery cows that would be suitable, and a piece of sign foam will serve as the base.

Go to www.ipmsmoss.com and check out the Gallery for more pictures!

Where Has Your Shirt Been?

MOSS member, Rusty Hamblin, while on a business trip out west, visited the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, California. Rusty is seen here wearing his MOSS shirt, kneeling next to Bruce McLaren's original Can Am race car.



If you would like to show your shirt traveling the country or the globe, please e-mail picture(s) of you wearing your club "colors" on your adventures to ipmsmoss@hotmail.com.



TIPS & TECHNIQUES

How to Open that Stubborn Square Bottle of Model Paint

by John DeRosia (IPMS/Seattle)

For those that use the square Testors' bottles to detail paint with – ever had this happen to you? You can't open the darn lid to save your life. What the!! Then you try to grab and hold it tight with your 'bear sized' hands – but you just can't grip it right. Getting the pliers to help open the lid doesn't help either because the bottle just spins in your hands.

What to do??? Go out into the shop in this beautiful Seattle weather in sub-zero temps (well- hey it felt like it. I had my flippers on and a T-shirt!).

I got a scrap piece of wood and outlined the bottle on it. I drilled a few holes etc. and cut out the profile of the bottle.

Work time – tops – 5 minutes. You can tell. But hey – it works. Now I can put the bottle in the holder – and it stays from rotating. I can grip the wood easily.

As far as what to do with round bottles – good question...will have to come to that if someone hasn't already...Enjoy!



Source: <http://ipms-seattle.org/modeltalk/2015/11/16/how-to-open-that-stubborn-square-bottle-of-model-paint/>

Rusty's Ramblin'

In response to *Rusty's Ramblin'* from the April issue, MOSS member **Paul Drinkall** sent in pictures of his work area.



Sprue Bits is always looking for new articles, pictures, comics, tips and techniques! If you have an article or work in progress build that you would like included in *Sprue Bits*, please e-mail it to ipmsmoss@hotmail.com.

NEXT MEETING

11 June 2017 - Sunday at 6pm - Branson Hobby Center, first floor. Bring a model, bring a friend, and definitely bring a chair! See you there!

We'll see you at the meeting on June 11th!

Happy Modeling!



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