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## NATE'S NOTES

Welcome to 2018 and the New Year's first issue of *Sprue Bits*! With the start of the new year, and the fact that we have used our old newsletter format for five years now, we decided it was time for a change. Hope you enjoy the new look of our newsletter!

One of the biggest events that we are looking forward to in 2018 is on **Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** we will host our 8th annual model show and competition, **MOSS CON 2018**, which is also the **IPMS/USA Region 5 Regional Show!** This is the first year the Regional Show will be held **in Branson**. We are looking forward to seeing you all and your models at this year's show! We are still looking for sponsors for the Show. Additionally, we have Vendor tables still available, but they are going fast! If you are interested in sponsoring a category, donating models for the raffle, or being a Vendor, please contact me at [ipmsmoss@hotmail.com](mailto:ipmsmoss@hotmail.com) or call me at 417-230-6220. We offer **discounts for multiple Vendor tables reserved before April 16<sup>th</sup>**, or multiple categories sponsored any time **before the May 5<sup>th</sup> deadline!** We look forward to seeing you at the Show!



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!**



**We still need Sponsors, Raffle Donors, and Vendors for MOSS CON 2018!**

**Vendor tables** are \$25 each (before April 16). *Discounts for multiple tables available.*

**Category Sponsorship** is \$30 each for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place awards.

**Special Theme Sponsorship** is \$45 each.

*All Sponsors, Raffle Donors, and Vendors will be recognized on our website, Facebook page and at the Show!*

For more information, contact Nate Jones at [ipmsmoss@hotmail.com](mailto:ipmsmoss@hotmail.com) or call 417-230-6220.

Join us for MOSS CON 2018 – the IPMS Region 5 Regional Show - at the **Branson Convention Center** on Saturday, May 19th!

There are two Special Show Themes: “Main Street USA: Route 66 – 30’s, 40’s, and 50’s”, and “Battlefield 1943.” Check out our website for more information!

# MOSS CON 2018 IPMS Region 5 Regional Show

Saturday, May 19, 2018

8:30 am – 5 pm

Branson, Missouri



MOSS CON 2018 is easily accessed from Highway 65 and is in close proximity to all the Shopping and Dining experiences **The Branson Landing** and **Historic Downtown Branson** have to offer! There are many restaurants and shops within walking distance of the **Convention Center** and **MOSS CON 2018!** So bring the whole family and enjoy the day with us at the IPMS Region 5 Show in Branson!

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## LAST MEETING

**January 28:** We had a record attendance for our first 2018 meeting. 19 Knights of the Square Table and two guests met on the first floor of Branson Hobby Center to start the new year’s series of meetings.

**Gary Sanders** brought in his completed 1:32 Revell UH-1D Huey. Gary finished his Huey in Red Diamond markings commemorating the unit he was assigned to during his tour in Vietnam – the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Mechanized (“whether they had helicopters marked like that or not.”) This was Gary’s fist helicopter build and also the first time he tried masking windows.





Gary also brought in his recently completed 1:25 AMT 1941 Plymouth Coupe that he built for the MOSS CON 2018 Route 66 theme. Inspired by a real car that he saw while watching *Jay Leno's Garage* on TV, Gary built and finished his

Coupe with Tamiya blue paint, and even matched the upholstery color. He painted wood grain on the dashboard, and used a Molotow Chrome pen for detailing the trim around the car.

**Rusty Hamblin** brought in a Metal Earth photo etch UH-1 Huey kit that he recently finished building. It was a fun kit that he put together so he could be more versed in the quality and construction of the Metal Earth kits that he sells. Rusty weighted the nose of his Huey with a two BB's to keep it resting on the skids and not on the tail.



Rusty also brought in his Ban-Dai Japanese anime figure kit, Liko, that he purchases in February 2017. Impressed by the excellent quality

of the Ban-Dai engineering and ease of assembly of the kit, Rusty purchased and assembled four more figure kits in the same series! All of these were assembled within a two week time frame. Rusty really enjoyed assembly of these kits, and said it was a good way to break the builder's block that modelers sometimes encounter.



Rusty also brought in his Ban-Dai Robo Chopper Kung Fu Tracer kit that he completed back in August. This was another fun kit that went together easily because of the engineering and quality of the kit. The assembled model features functional parts and interchangeable driver figures!





To prove that he actually does build models (inside joke), **Dwain Cunningham** brought in two in progress Academy 1:35 armor kits: his M3 Stuart light tank and his M3 Lee medium tank.

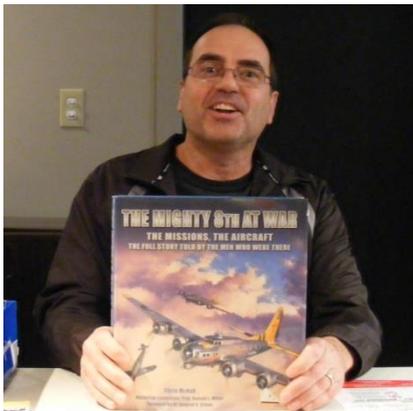
Dwain is building the Stuart to enter into the MOSS CON 2018

Battlefield 1943 theme; he plans to mark it for a tank used in North Africa. The interior parts of the Lee gave some fit difficulties during assembly, but Dwain was finally able to get everything where it should be.



**Michael Steenstra** brought in a book that his wife bought him for

Christmas, “The Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> At War.” While standing in line at Barnes & Noble, Michael saw it on the discount book shelf, but was unable to go get it. So when his wife asked if he had any ideas for one more Christmas gift, he told her about it. The book is filled with great reference pictures and memorabilia from the air war over Europe.



Guest and friend of Bill Loden, **Norm Olsen** brought in four of his model cars that he built years ago. Norm has been building models since he was a teenager and still enjoys building today at age 75. Norm likes to lower his cars and convert them. One of his kits is a Chevy Nomad that he converted to an El Camino body style, and a 1962 Chevy Bubbletop Impala that





he also converted to an El Camino body style. Norm also brought in a 1944 Ford Sedan Delivery truck that he chopped the top on and lowered.

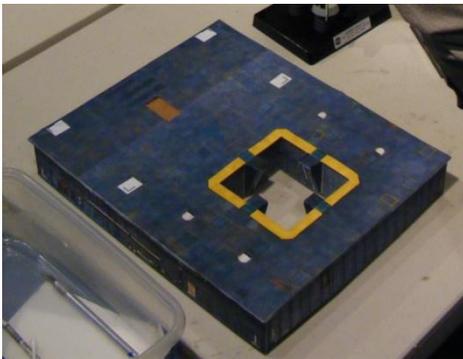
When Norm is not working or building car models, he and his wife

(who is also a scale model collector) enjoy driving and taking his life size 1969 AMC AMX, 1973 Chevy Nova, and 1977 Lincoln Mark V to car shows!

In keeping with his unofficial (and unintentional?) tradition of bringing the largest model to the meetings, **Bill Loden** brought in his nearly finished Academy 1:144 Apollo 11 Saturn V rocket. The kit was engineered to be able to disassemble the stages, but Bill did not like how it looked in that configuration, so he plans to display it fully assembled. Bill noted that the model is very detailed, for example the Command Module includes 3 astronaut figures, but there are no windows to the Command Module so you cannot see the figures once assembled.



Wanting to display his Saturn V properly, Bill found a 1:144 scale paper model of the Launch Umbilical Tower (more commonly referred to as the LUT) online from Educraft Diversions (<http://www.educraftdiversions.org/>). Bill started building the paper model and using cardboard to provide some structural stability. Should prove to be an impressive display once complete!



**Dan Nowak** brought in two recently finished models: a 1:25 Revell 1968 Pontiac Firebird, and a 1:25 Trumpeter 1963 Chevy Nova SS Coupe. Dan notes that overall the Revell kit is a nice kit, so he built his Firebird mostly out of the box, only swapping some engine parts out with some from his spares



box, and adding his own touch to the exhaust system. He finished it with Dupli-color lacquer paint. Dan finds lacquer paint to be a forgiving paint as opposed to enamels.

For his Trumpeter Nova, Dan put some of his usual touches to his model: tubbing it out, modifying some of the inner panels, swapping the wheels for others from his stash, adding brake calipers and brake lines, adding his own exhausts and heat staining them. The Trumpeter kit comes with photo-etch parts, but they were pretty fragile and a couple were damaged or lost in the build process, but Dan won't say where they were supposed to go! He finished his Nova with Bob's Paints.

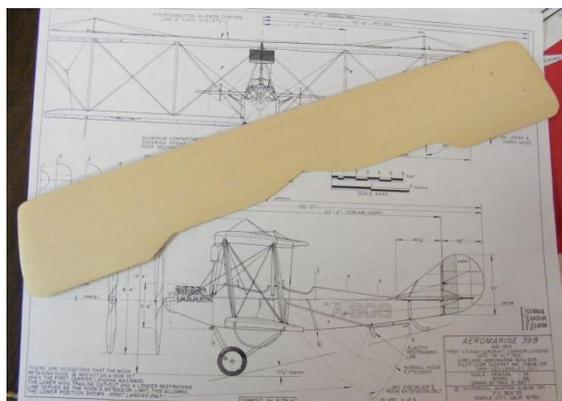


**For more information on Dan's heat staining technique, check out the Tips & Techniques section on page 13.**



Being a modeler who enjoys building models of less well known subjects, **Les MacLaren** brought in two in-progress 1:48 airplanes that he is building from scratch. The first one is the Fairchild FC-2W2, dubbed "Stars and Stripes" that Admiral (then Lt.Cdr) Richard E. Byrd flew during his first and second Antarctica Expeditions. (More information [here](#).)

Les is also building an Aeromarine 39B biplane, a two seat airplane operated by the US Navy in the 1920s and 1930s. Les is going to build his model to represent the one used in the first aircraft carrier shipboard landing, on October 26, 1922 piloted by Godfrey DeCourcelles Chevalier when he landed a 39B on the USS Langley



while it was underway. (More information [here](#).) Les commented that the arresting hook was operated by a handle on the exterior of the fuselage that the pilot had to reach out and pull in order to lower the hook.

Both aircraft are starting out as basswood masters that Les is carving to shape and size, then he will heat form styrene around the wood masters. Les noted that the toughest part is finding the three-view plan drawings.

**Brian Taylor** brought in his first diorama of an abandoned and rusted out race car. The model started out as a frame and chassis of a 1962 Studebaker Lark, but ultimately turned out to be a very rough and poorly made resin copy that was not salvageable to be finished any other way than a heavily weathered junker. He added wheels and tires from his



spares box, then started work on the diorama. Being the first heavily weathered diorama that Brian has ever done, he practiced using various weathering products and techniques, and added a custom fence and sign, and even added a derelict motorcycle in the tall grass next to the car.

**Mark Mahy** brought in two models that his friends built for him. Mark's buddy David Young built a 1:25 AMT 1960 Ford Ranchero, finishing it in the "Ohio" George Montgomery "Little Eliminator" markings that he won from Ford for winning his class at Indy in 1960. Mark had his buddy build it as a



curbside model with the hood glued shut because the kit comes with a V-8 instead of the required 6 cylinder. David finished the model with Tamiya Wimbledon White over the polished kit plastic.



Mark also brought in a 1:35 Italeri WLA-45 Harley Davidson motorcycle built by his late friend, Graig Sneed. Mark had built this same model years ago and another friend bought it from him. Years later, Graig built this kit for Mark. Graig added a fuel line and opened up the scabbard for the Thompson submachine gun on the front.



**Larry Krauk** brought in his finished High Top VW van that he brought to the November 2017 meeting. Larry humorously notes that this is the only model he built in 2017 and the first model he finished in 2018!



Because of the rough quality of the resin body, Larry knew he was going to finish it up as a quick, fun build and heavily weather it to resemble a well-used vehicle, not a beater. To

get the weather beaten look he wanted, Larry primed the model with Rustoleum primer red, then added some rubber cement to areas

that he wanted to look rusted. He covered the model with spray painted satin blue, then used 000 steel wool to give the worn look. He let the steel wool go all the way through to the red primer in some areas. Larry then brushed white acrylic craft paint to the roof and used 000 steel wool again once the paint was dry. The steel wool peeled most of the rubber cement away; any remaining was peeled away giving the desired effect. Larry made the display base from an AFP (“Another [Freaking] Plaque”) obtained from his civilian job, covered in Bondo. Once dry, he painted it, added static grass, and weathered the base with chalk and pastels. Once the base was ready, he super glued his VW van to the base, and finished weathering the van with pastels to add rain streaks and dust.

Larry also brought in two more VW truck model chassis that he recently received. The flat bed version (not shown),



because of the extremely rough resin casting, will be another heavily weathered model, this time a beater.

The pseudo crew cab body will be finished as a “what if” custom model (the real version does not have as long of a bed).



**Paul Drinkall** brought in his recently finished 1:48 Lindberg XF-88 Voodoo. This model is a re-release of a model that he built years ago as a kid. The real aircraft never entered service, but served as the basis for the McDonnell F-101 Voodoo. Originally, Paul started building this kit to get his mind off another problematic Edsel car model that he was working on. But Paul notes that the kit was awful and went together “a little better than a vacuform kit,” but he “would not recommend the kit to anyone.” The instructions showed the aircraft with some hideous wing tanks, but in all his research, Paul





could not find a single source that depicted the real XF-88 with wing tanks, so he left them off. The landing gear is pretty shaky, so he thought about putting his Voodoo on the display stand, but it was too frail to properly support the

plane. Despite the lack of quality of the kit, Paul finished it to get it done, and to be included in his collection of aircraft from the 1950s. Now, he is looking forward to getting back to his Edsel no matter what problems it has!

**Darren Gloyd** brought in his finished Phantom Gasser that he had showed off as an in-progress model at the November 2017 meeting. Darren said that after the last meeting, he had accidentally dropped the model. Thankfully, it survived mostly intact, and only required a few minor repairs before he could continue with the build progress. Darren finished the model with matt black paint for the frame and Tamiya Gloss Orange and Gloss White for the cab. The decals came from a mix of his spares box, and the 1:12 Revell "The Gambler" motorcycle kit.



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

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# RUSTY'S RAMBLIN'

By Rusty Hamblin

I have a saying that I usually keep to myself because it seems to piss off the model railroad guys. Model railroads are built, not bought. I'm going to expand that to include all plastic models.

I recently had a model builder in the store who was complaining that the model aircraft he wanted to build was only available as an older kit which had received bad reviews online. He wasn't going to buy the kit because someone he didn't know hadn't liked it. I shook my head in agreement but I didn't agree with him at all. Great models are built not bought. If you can't build a great model out of a bad or mediocre kit then perhaps you need to rethink exactly what this hobby is about. That's what modeling is: you, the kit builder, make the model great, not the manufacturer.

Model kits are the starting point, the canvas, not the painting itself. You are supposed to be the artist. The details are up to you. Like most things in life, the more work you put into it, the better the result.

If it is time invested you are worried about then maybe you should stick with snap kits. Revell has a nice line of snap and play kits you might be interested in.

Details or lack of details from the manufactures ties in directly to another complaint that affects us all, model kit prices. Model builders complain harshly about this kit or that kit not having enough detail. In the past they complained to their friends, family (who usually didn't care), or club members. Almost never did this get back to the manufactures so they expected everyone was happy and continued on the same course for years. Then our holy grail, god, and savior, the internet came along and people could join in with others from all over the world to badmouth whomever or whatever they wanted. They have the safety and comfort of sitting privately in homes or offices with no possible consequences for their actions. That bad mouthing hurt model sales, because other people actually believe those faceless bumbodies hiding behind their computer screens, so the manufacturer spends the extra time and effort to make the kit detail spectacular right out of the box and this means an increase in price. Now the same builders complain about the high cost. If you would build the detail into a kit rather than buy the details, the costs might not be



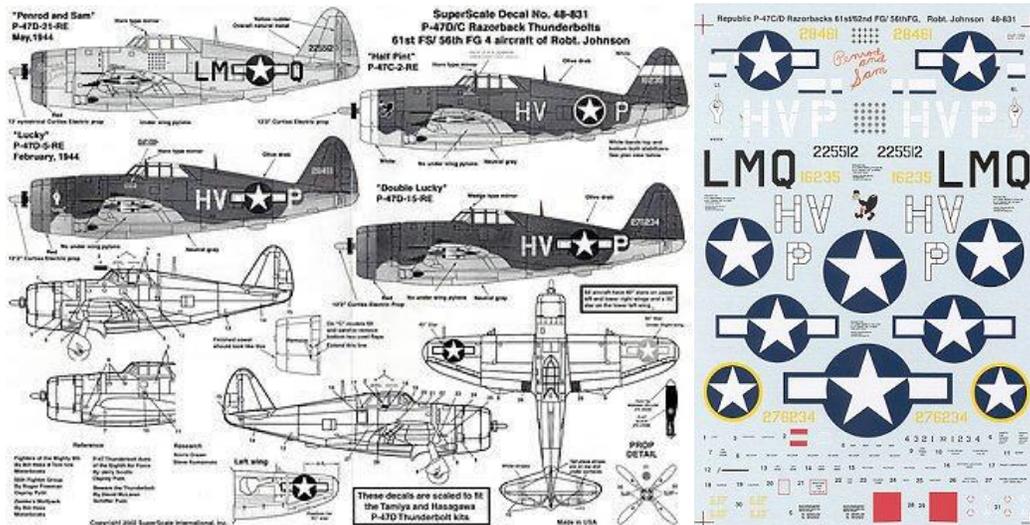
so bad. Plus, that extra detail you scratch-build, would differentiate your model from every other model built out there.

As a side benefit, you can now hold your head high, point out your one of a kind master piece, and proudly proclaim yourself a model builder, not just another model buyer. ~RH

## CLASSIFIEDS

### WANTED:

SuperScale Decal Sheet #48-831 P-47 D/C Razorback Thunderbolts 61<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron / 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, the 4 aircraft of Robert Johnson. (Pictured below) Whole decal sheet preferred, but specifically looking for the P-47 C “Half Pint” markings. Will pay any reasonable price, including shipping, for a good quality, usable set. Please contact Nate Jones 417-230-6220 or nrjones18@hotmail.com.



# TIPS & TECHNIQUES

During the January meeting, **Dan Nowak** gave a tutorial on his technique for heat staining headers and exhaust systems on his models. Dan uses solder wire and aluminum tubing to create custom headers and exhaust systems on his model cars. The solder wire allows you to custom fit the exhaust in and around the engine, chassis and other details of the model.



First, Dan starts by cutting a small section of aluminum tubing. The tube cutter he uses leaves a nice beveled edge to the cut. If you do not care to have the beveled edge, it can easily be cleaned up using an old X-Acto blade or a small file.



Next, Dan cuts lengths of solder wire. He uses two sizes: 0.40 and 0.62, but whatever size suits your model will work.

He leaves these solder sections a little longer than what he will need, which allows him to shape and fit the exhaust to the model. Stuff the sections of solder into the small aluminum tube.



Dan then trims off the excess once everything is shaped as he likes it.

Based on his experience, he recommends test fitting the model with the wheels on, because he once had to re-do the exhausts on a model since they were touching the ground and the wheels were not!



To heat stain his custom exhausts, Dan uses Sharpie permanent markers. He uses four colors primarily: blue, purple, orange, and yellow.

Dan starts with the blue color first, just applying the ink to the aluminum tube. After applying the amount he likes, he will dab away excess ink with either a Q-tip or the tip of his finger. The nice part

of this technique is that it is easily cleaned up or added to with either the swipe of a finger, or a few more strokes of the marker.

Next color applied is purple. The same process is used: apply the color to preference and dab away excess.

Yellow is the third color applied, and then finish the staining process with the orange color.



The end result (above right) resembles heat stained metal! Dan recommends overlapping and blending the colors for a better effect. He also cautions that any clear coat applied over the ink will cause the ink to disappear.

## NEXT MEETING

**February 18, 2018 - Sunday at 6pm at Branson Hobby Center**

It's our annual **SWAP MEET!** So check your stash for the models you won't get around to building, and bring them in to sell or trade!

**Happy Modeling!**



*"We're making it a small world!"*

Find us on Facebook at

Missouri Ozarks Scale Specialists

