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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Last Meeting
- 6** History in a Box: Otto Carius
- 7** Rusty's Ramblin'
- 8** Next Meeting: 22 February

Nate's Notes

By Nate Jones, President IPMS/MOSS

Welcome to 2015!
Thanks for reading this month's issue.

Where has the time gone?
Looking back, 2014 slipped past pretty quickly and now here we are starting a new

year.

June 2015 will mark eight years since IPMS/MOSS was started (but only four years since becoming an IPMS chapter). I am thankful for how the club has grown and for all the members who have joined since our first thirty-minute meeting where only two of us were in attendance.

2015 holds good things for IPMS/MOSS. Speaking of which, on Saturday, June 20th we will host our fifth annual model show and competition – MOSS CON 2015 – in Branson! We have truly enjoyed the previous shows and are thankful to all of you who have attended. We are looking forward to seeing you all and your models at this year's show!

On a more somber note, over the past few days ago, three legendary warriors have passed away: Oberleutnant Otto Carius (German Army), Cmdr. Alexander Vraciu (USN), and Lt. Col. Edward J. Saylor (USAAC/USAF). To honor their memory, over the next three months, we will showcase their service in the "History in a Box" section of *Sprue Bits* (on page 6 in this issue).



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



LAST MEETING

18 January: We met at The White House Theatre and had record attendance (13) for our first 2015 meeting! Thank you to everyone who was there!

Richard Carrol brought in a 1932 Ford Roadster Monogram kit that he originally built in 1970 for the *Car Model Magazine* “Out Daniel Tom Daniels” contest.

Richard also brought in an in-progress 1939 Ford Sedan kit similar to one he originally built in the 1960’s (now broken), and he intends to make an exact copy of that original AMT kit.



Gary Sanders brought in his finished Hudson Hornet. He used Bare Metal Foil for all the chrome parts and Future Floor wax to finish the model.



Brian Taylor brought in some 1/25 scale customized Studebaker kits and a custom funny car dragster named “Chickenhawk II” hand-painted by a friend of his. Another one of his models is a Studebaker truck modeled after his dad’s real Studebaker truck – complete with custom flame paint job. He also brought in an in-progress Avani car kit that he is modifying with flared fenders.

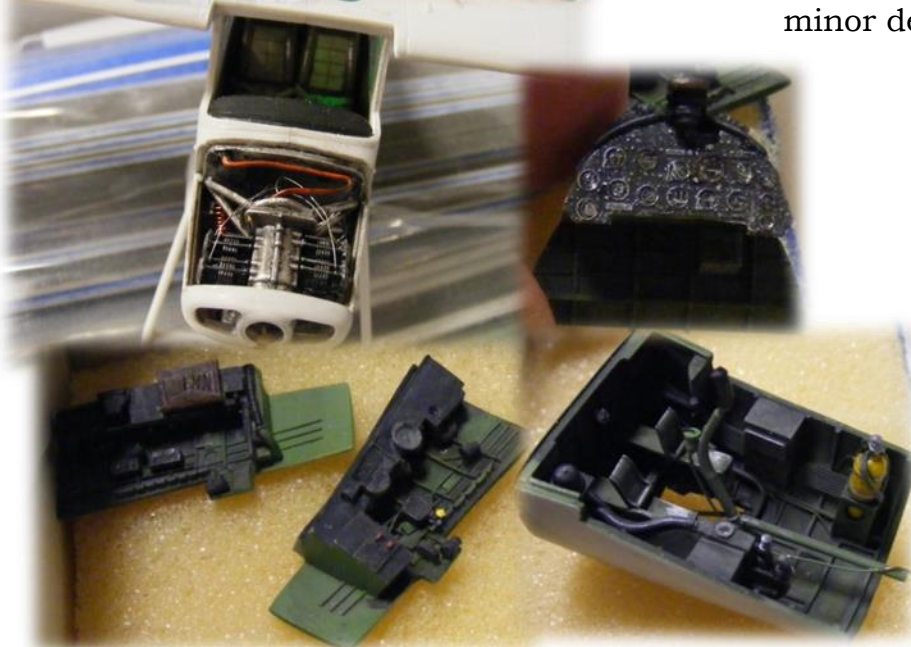


Dan Nowak brought in two car 1/25 models, a Monogram 1968 Dodge Dart dragster and an AMT 1957 Chevy. Both of his models were fully loaded with aftermarket and scratchbuilt details—including brake calipers, splitters, lines and clamps! He even used an electronic resistor to make oil filters.





Bill Loden brought in an in-progress 1/48 Minicraft Cessna 172 Floatplane and a 1/48 Aires resin cockpit for a Tamiya F4U-1 “Birdcage” Corsair. In preparation for a diorama, Bill added pushrods, wiring and other details to the engine of his floatplane and added seatbelts and other minor details to the cockpit.



Evan Sherman brought in his Revell 1/72 F-18 *Blue Angels* Hornet kit that he got for Christmas. He is excited about putting it together soon!



Mike Steenstra brought in his recently purchased Tamiya 1/35 Cromwell Mk IV kit and his in-progress AFV Club 1/35 sandbagged hull Stuart (*not pictured—sorry, Mike!*). His WWII European Theater of Operations Stuart is outfitted with link-to-link tracks, and fully primed ready for its camo paint.





Rusty Hamblin brought in his Hasegawa Eggplane in All Nippon Airways (ANA) livery and his 1/72 WWII German BMW R75 motorcycle with sidecar (and a dime for a size reference!).



Paul Drinkall brought in his 1960 Edsel kit for the MOSS Group Build ("What if" race car") This model was made from a combination of two AMT kits to represent "what if" the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) had a Factory Experimental class.



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

Wife

„I've got nothing to wear.“



Scale Modeler

„I've got nothing to build.“



***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.**

History In A Box

Oberleutnant Otto Carius

27 May 1922 – 24 January 2015

Otto Carius was a German tank ace within the German Army who fought during World War II and was credited with destroying more than 150 tanks. He was a recipient of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves (*Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes mit Eichenlaub*). The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross and its higher grade Oak Leaves were awarded to recognize extreme battlefield bravery or successful military leadership.



Carius had been drafted twice before, but sent home as "Not fit for service at present underweight!" In May 1940, however, Carius was drafted into the 104th Infantry Replacement Battalion. Following training, he volunteered for the Panzer Corps. Carius learned the fundamentals of tank warfare at Putlos in Holstein as a member of the 7th Panzer Replacement Battalion. His unit was integrated into the newly formed 21st Panzer Regiment and



in June 1941 was sent to East Prussia. He experienced his first battle as a loader in a Panzer 38(t) during Operation Barbarossa in late June 1941. It was during this operation that Carius suffered wounds from a round that struck his tank.

In 1943 Carius transferred to the *schwere Panzer-Abteilung 502* (502 heavy tank battalion). This unit fought at the Leningrad front and then in the area of Narva, Estonia, and was subordinated to Strachwitz Battle Group, under the command of *Hyacinth Graf Strachwitz von Groß-Zauche und Camminetz*.

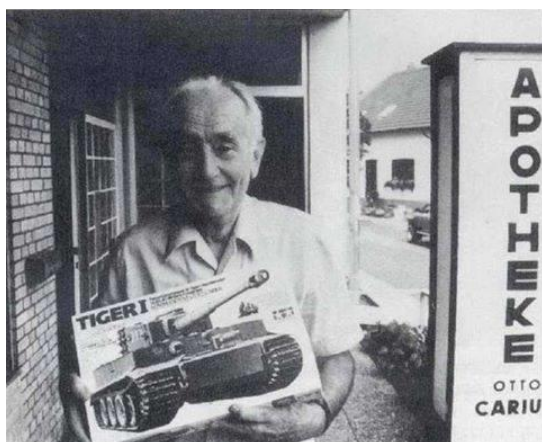
In November 1943, the company was moved to counter the Russian breakthrough near Vitebsk and fought to hold open the important highway to Newel. During the fighting Carius' gunner had an amazing stroke of luck. Carius wrote, 'My gunner, *Unteroffizier* Kramer, can take credit for a deed that was probably unparalleled on the Eastern Front. That is, he succeeded in shooting down a Russian fighter with a tank cannon ... Kramer, upset by the unrelenting nuisance of [Russian fighters], elevated his cannon along the approach route. I talked him in. He took a chance and pulled the trigger. On the second attempt, he hit one of the 'bees' in its wing. The Russian plane [sic] crashed behind us'.

Carius was severely wounded on 24 July 1944 while reconnoitering a village on a motorcycle ahead of his tanks. Until that day, he was unofficially running the 2nd company of 502nd. He officially became the commander



of 2nd company; on the same day he was shot through the leg and arm, received four bullets in the back and one through the neck. He subsequently became the commander of a *Jagdtiger* company of the 512th Heavy Antitank Battalion (*schwere Panzerjägerabteilung*) in the West at the beginning of 1945. On 8 March 1945, without finishing its training, 2nd company was directed to the front line near Siegburg. It then took part in the defense of the River Rhine and eventually surrendered to the United States Army on 15 April 1945.

After the war he studied pharmacy at Heidelberg University. In 1956 he started his own pharmacy shop called *Tiger Apotheke* in Herschweiler-Pettersheim, Rhineland-Palatinate, named after the Tiger tank, which he ran until 2011. He also wrote a book about his own experience in the war, entitled *Tigers in the Mud*. Carius died on 24 January 2015 at the age of 92.



Taken directly from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Carius and http://www.flamesofwar.com/hobby.aspx?art_id=3234

Rusty's Ramblin'

by Rusty Hamblin

It's the end of the world! Thank goodness my stash of models was big enough to last me until the end. I mean why else would I have 1000+ unbuilt model kits? They have to last me until the end of time right?

I remember a time when I was just returning to the world of modeling and I read somewhere about a modeler that owned over 250 unbuilt model kits. Wow, what a waste. Why own so many without building them? Then I heard about someone with over 400 unbuilt model kits. There was another with 600+ and another with 1000+ and even one with 2000+ unbuilt model kits.

Are you kidding me? More than two thousand unbuilt models kits? Where do you find space for all of them? Are these people deranged?

There came a day in my life when I deemed it necessary to list all of my unbuilt model kits on my computer so I wouldn't buy multiples of the same kit. I felt like a proud papa the day I realized my kit stash had reached 200. It felt like hardly a week passed before it hit 400 kits. What happened to 300 in between? Quick enough I had 500 kits. I actually got to shooting for that one and bought kits I might not have otherwise.

Somewhere along in that time I decided instead of one big list with all my unbuilt models I would separate them into categories. I already had a list for my figure models but now I had one for ships, one for armor, one for aircraft, and even one list entirely for motorcycle models. I didn't pay much attention to these lists until recently. Here is how they break down in unbuilt kits: aircraft = 123, figures = 197, ships = 46, armor = 30, motorcycles = 9, and cars = 682. That equals 1087 model kits I have yet to finish.

Even I have gotten to the point where I feel enough is enough. For one thing I am, running out of room to store them. I have them stacked throughout the house. It isn't as bad as an episode of Hoarders but close. There are just too many kits to hide away in closets anymore.

I'm not the only one with such large collections and that is honestly a comforting thought. Often when this subject is brought up it is as to why do we do it? My thinking has always been that by the time I will be ready to build a particular model it may no longer be available anymore. Better to buy now and have it in stock than not have it at all. Some call themselves kit collectors. Over the summer, Nate wrote about this same phenomenon* and the kits he has collected. So how many unbuilt kits do you have and why?

See the May-June issue of **Sprue Bits, Vol. 6 issue 5*

NEXT MEETING

22 February 2015 - Sunday at 6pm (check website for location)

Bring a friend! Remember it's **SWAP MEET** time! Bring those unwanted models, or the ones you know you'll never build to sell or trade! And don't forget the cash to buy the ones you want! See you there!

Go to www.ipmsmoss.com and check out the Events Calendar for upcoming meetings, shows and events!

We'll see you at the meeting on February 22nd!

Take care, be safe and Happy Modeling!



"We're making it a small world!"

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