



# Sprue Bits

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## Nate's Notes

By Nate Jones, President IPMS/MOSS

While I was updating the MOSS website, I took some time to scroll through the "This Month in History" page. As I looked through the list of notable events, I kept thinking about how I would model a scene to represent or build a kit that related to some of the historical events. That

brought about the question, *what inspires you in model building?*

For me, years ago, it was the fact that I liked the kit—the primary inspiration was simply that the subject interested me. Many times as a young builder, my inspiration for building the kit was the box art! If the painting on

the front was exciting, I'd usually build the kit! In my middle school years, I built a

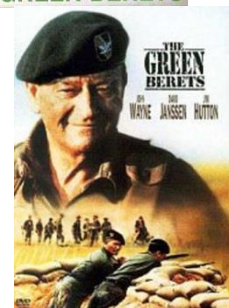
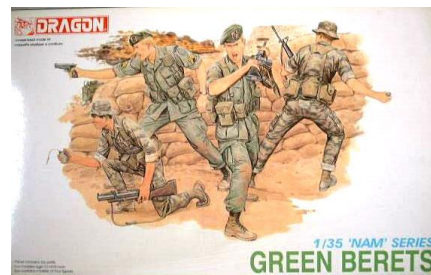
Monogram B-17 after watching the movie *Memphis Belle* over and over again. I did

venture (though unsuccessfully at the time) into 1:35 figures.

In high school, my interest in military history—and partly because of the box art—drew me to build a few of the DML 'Nam Series figure sets, including the Green Berets set, but I was also drawn to that set after

watching the John Wayne movie by the same name.

As the years have passed, I now draw inspiration from a variety of sources, photographs, books, paintings, WWII era cartoons, among other things. I still cruise through the Facebook pages and other websites to find pictures that inspire me to want to



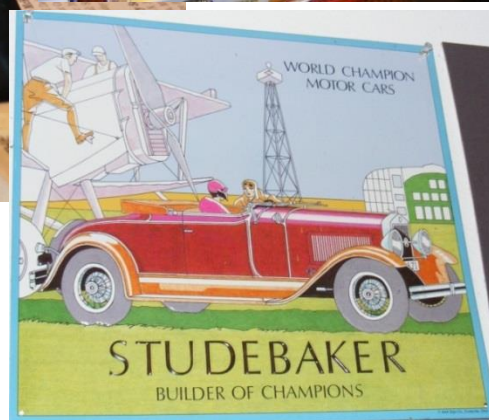
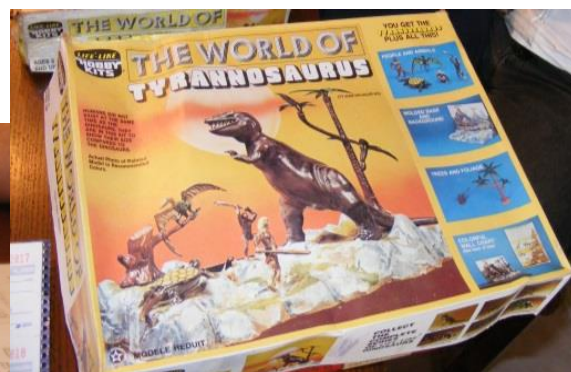
build the kits on my shelf and other kits that I have yet to buy!  
From where do you get your inspiration? Go over to [ipmsmoss.com](http://ipmsmoss.com) and visit the MOSS Rocks forum and let us know; we'd like to hear from you!

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

## LAST MEETING

By Nate Jones

**22 September:** We met at MOSS member Gary Sanders' house. He and his wife were gracious hosts and opened their home for our meeting. We had an excellent time and enjoyed some delicious dessert homemade by Mrs. Sanders! Richard Carroll showed off some unique Life-Like company dinosaur kits, including a chubby T-Rex. Gary also showed us his vast collection of Studebaker toys, collectibles and models! A huge thank you goes out to Gary and his wife for allowing us to visit their home!





by Rusty Hamblin

What is the most used tool in model building?

I've had many people tell me that they love models but they just don't have the patience to build them. Now that is the one essential tool all modelers must have, patience.

When I was kid building model cars I had no patience. I wanted it done as fast as possible. Every part was twisted off the sprue. If a little glue works then more glue must make a stronger joint. Don't tell me you've never experimented with that theory. Paint came right out of those little Testors bottles and yes for some reason I always worried about leaving brush strokes. Occasionally I would get my hands on a can of spray paint. Wow, I thought I was a professional then.

Done, and it only took two hours! Now for the true fun and the real reason my brother and I built model cars. Where are the firecrackers? Yep, we blew them up. After half a dozen gas tank explosions we got tired so we lit it on fire and watched it burn.

Now our patience kicked in because we had to buy our own models. You don't think our mom and dad were going to pay for something just so we could blow it up do you? We saved for a couple of weeks until we had enough for another Hollywood car explosion. You might think that we would have tried our hands at military models but no, we stuck to those poor Pontiacs, crispy Chevrolets, and destroyed Dodges.

I've learned to appreciate models more now and I've learned just how important patience is in building them. We all know it takes loads of patience to sit still and assemble, sand, glue, paint, and decal tiny little parts. There are many people in this world that simply cannot bring themselves to do this. They can sit for hours moving only their hand as they stuff food into their mouths while they stare at a television but they won't sit and build something.



So model builder hold your head up high knowing you can do what others cannot. The next time you sit down at your modeling table to work don't forget to break out that most important tool, patience.



**13 October 2013 - 6pm on Sunday** in the West Wing of The White House Theatre. We will be Reviewing the Judging Guidelines, putting the finishing touches on the awards package and discussing some final details for the Show. Please bring a model or two so we can have examples

### **FLYING COLORS**

Where has your club shirt been?



IPMS/MOSS member Michael Steenstra, his grandson, Evan and his son-in-law, Kyle, took the opportunity to tour the Arizona-based Commemorative Air Force's B-25J Mitchell "*Maid in the Shade*" when it and a P-51 stopped over at the Springfield-Branson National Airport in September.

**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](mailto:ipmsmoss@hotmail.com). Please put "Flying Colors" in the subject line.**

**For more pictures of *Maid in the Shade* and the P-51 at the Springfield Airport, please check out these pictures from IPMS/MOSS member Mark Mahy:**

[http://public.fotki.com/FINKSGARAGE/mahys\\_mess/b-25j-maid-in-the-shade/](http://public.fotki.com/FINKSGARAGE/mahys_mess/b-25j-maid-in-the-shade/)

[http://s16.photobucket.com/user/p51d007/library/091413\\_SGF%20Airport](http://s16.photobucket.com/user/p51d007/library/091413_SGF%20Airport)



## WORK IN PROGRESS

by Michael Praetorius

My name is Michael Praetorius; I attended MOSS CON 2012 and have been a

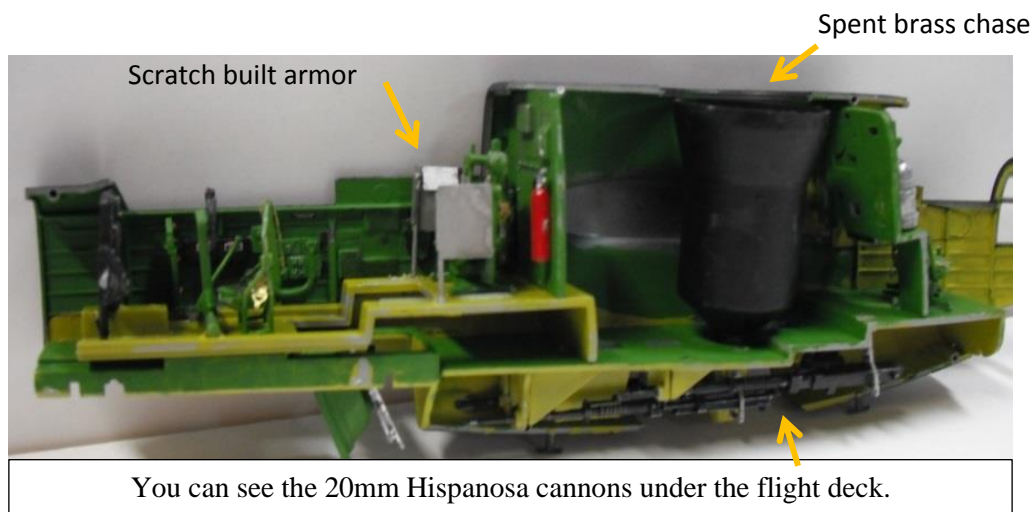


recipient of the *Sprue Bits* newsletter ever since. I have always been a big fan of the P-61 Black Widow. And I have been an even bigger fan of the plane responsible for the downing of the final enemy aircraft of WWII, *Lady in the Dark*. So when Great Wall Hobby announced they were to put out a detailed P-61B *Lady in the Dark* with masks and photo-etched metal

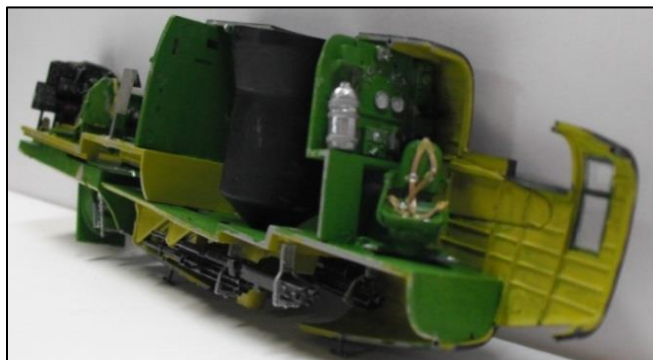
parts I knew I would buy one. I have built several Revell-Monogram versions of the Black Widow and was excited to see the improvements. At a kit cost of \$80, the improvements had better be major improvements.

I received the model and am quite impressed! The kit comes with nine sprues, masks for all that glass, decal marking for two aircraft, stencils including each individual dial and gauge on the instrument panel, a set each of opened and closed cowlings and sheet of photo-etched metal parts.

The build starts with the flight deck and three six-piece seat belted seats for the crew. If you look at the gunner's seat you will notice I scratch built the bullet-proof armor protection. Aft of this section, what looks like a smoker or a bar-b-que is the chase for the turrets' empty



brass.



The Radio/Radar Operator section in the rear of the fuselage

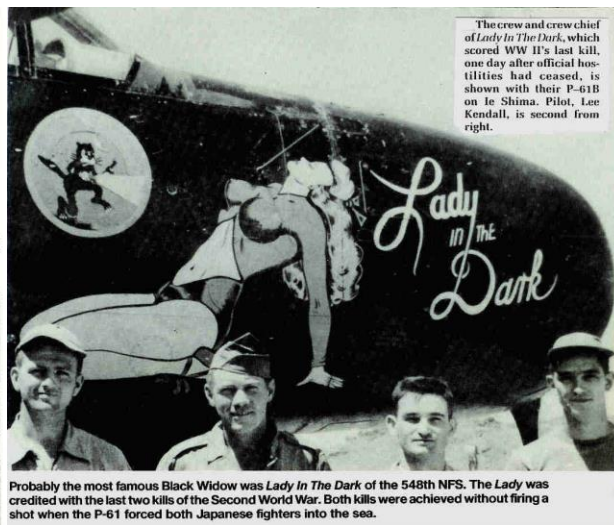


One of the two Pratt & Whitney R2800-65 Double Wasp engines

*Thanks, Michael! We are looking forward to the next installment of your P-61 work in progress! ~editor*

### History Spotlight: P-61 Lady in the Dark

On the night of 14 August 1945, a P-61B of the 548th Night Fight Squadron named "*Lady in the Dark*" was unofficially credited with the last Allied air victory before VJ Day. Some sources even say that the final kill happened on the night of the 15-16th of Aug. 1945, almost 24 hours after the war was officially over!



Probably the most famous Black Widow was *Lady in the Dark* of the 548th NFS. The *Lady* was credited with the last two kills of the Second World War. Both kills were achieved without firing a shot when the P-61 forced both Japanese fighters into the sea.

Sources: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northrop\\_P-61\\_Black\\_Widow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northrop_P-61_Black_Widow)  
[http://www.military.cz/usa/air/war/fighter/p61/p61\\_docum.htm](http://www.military.cz/usa/air/war/fighter/p61/p61_docum.htm)  
<http://www.flickrriver.com/groups/1070323@N22/pool/interesting/>  
<http://www.network54.com/Forum/149674/thread/1258559474/P-61+Lady+in+the+Dark++question>



## COMING EVENTS

Dates may change, but we will provide you with as much notice as possible.

**October 13** – Monthly Meeting - week before MOSS CON 2013

**October 19 –MOSS CON 2013!!** Held at The White House Theatre  
2255 Gretna Road, Branson, MO 65616




**November 17** – Monthly Meeting - last meeting of the year!

## SHOWS & CONTESTS

Here are some upcoming shows in the “local” area (IPMS Region 5 & some nearby Region 6) in case you’d like to attend!

10/12/2013	<b>Kansas</b> Wichita Region 6	<b>ConAir 2013 Model Expo &amp; Contest</b> Kansas Aviation Museum 3350 South George Washington Boulevard <a href="#">Map</a> IPMS/Air Capital Modelers <a href="#">Mark Vittorini</a> 316-440-6846
<b>10/19/2013</b>	<b>Missouri</b> <b>Branson</b> <b>Region 5</b>	<b>MOSS CON 2013</b> <b>White House Theatre</b> <b>2255 Gretna Road</b> <a href="#">Map</a> <b>IPMS Missouri Ozarks Scale Specialists</b> <a href="#">Nate Jones</a> 417-230-6220
10/19/2013	<b>Wisconsin</b> Wausau Region 5	<b>Glue Crew 2013</b> Howard Johnson Inn & Conference Center 2101 North Mountain Road <a href="#">Map</a> 5-36 The Glue Crew <a href="#">Joseph Drew</a> 715-842-0173
11/9/2013	<b>Missouri</b> Columbia	<b>TigerCon 2013</b> Hickman High School 1104 North Providence Road <a href="#">Map</a>

	Region 5	Central Missouri Scale Modelers <a href="#">Colin Smialek</a> (573) 673-1110
11/9/2013	<b>Illinois</b> Downers Grove Region 5	<b>31st Annual IPMS Butch O'Hare Chapter Open Model Contest</b>  Lakeview Jr. High School 701 Planfield Road <a href="#">Map</a> IPMS Butch O'Hare <a href="#">John Bishop</a> (630)880-4905

## History You Can Model

**October 14, 1947** - U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier, flying in a rocket-powered research aircraft.

After WWII, Yeager remained in the Air Force becoming a test pilot at Muroc Army Air Field (now Edwards Air Force Base). After Bell Aircraft test pilot "Slick" Goodlin demanded \$150,000 to break the sound "barrier," the United States Army Air Force (USAAF) selected Yeager to fly the rocket-powered Bell XS-1 in a NACA program to research high-speed flight.



Such was the difficulty in this task that the answer to many of the inherent challenges were along the lines of "Yeager better have paid-up insurance." Two nights before the scheduled date for the flight, Yeager broke two ribs falling from a horse. He was so afraid of being removed from the mission that he went to a veterinarian in a nearby town for treatment and told only his wife, as well as friend and fellow project pilot Jack Ridley about the accident. On the day of the

flight, Yeager was in such pain that he could not seal the X-1's hatch by himself. Ridley rigged up a device, using the end of a broom handle as an extra lever, to allow Yeager to seal the hatch of the X-1.

Yeager broke the sound barrier on October 14, 1947, flying the X-1 at Mach 1.07 at an altitude of 45,000 ft. Yeager was awarded the MacKay and Collier Trophies in 1948 for his mach-transcending flight, and the Harmon International Trophy in 1954. The X-1 he flew that day was later put on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

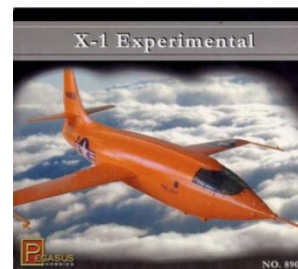
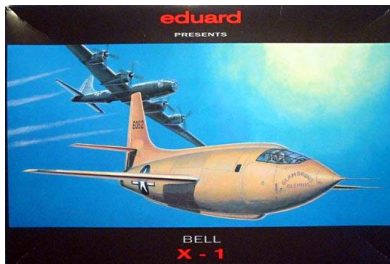
For modelers who would like to build the Bell X-1, there are a



variety of model kits available in scales ranging from 1:18 to 1:144, by manufacturers like Pegasus, Revell, Eduard, Dragon and Tamiya.







Sources: <http://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/october.htm>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuck\\_Yeager](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuck_Yeager)  
 Google Images

We'll see you at the meeting on October 13th!

Take care, be safe and Happy Modeling!



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

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