

The Plastic Whittler



Our Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, February 15th (Presidents Day) at 7:00 pm**, at HobbyTown USA near Hamilton Place Mall.

I spoke with Marsha and she assures me that we can meet at the bead crafting table area, they are expecting us and there is not a problem as far as they are concerned. Last month's meeting was well attended as these accompanying photos will show. With the up coming show season I



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hope the next meeting will be even better! Special thanks to Mike Moore for his article on the show in Birmingham that was held last Saturday! Enjoy



Philip Chandler and a really nice KV-1

UPCOMING EVENTS	DATE
AMPS Atlanta (with the Atlanta Military Figure Show)	Feb 19 thru 21, 2010
Cookeville 26th Annual MTMA Model Show and Swap Meet	Mar 13, 2010
IPMS/Knoxville - Smokey Mountain Mini-Con 28	Mar 27, 2010
April 3, 2010 - Phantom Phlashers Annual Phurball	April 3, 2010
IPMS/Memphis - Kingcon 2010	May 29, 2010
Atlanta Model Expo 2010 - Region 3 Convention	June 25-26, 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS	DATE
IPMS National Convention Phoenix, AZ	8/4-7/2010
IPMS/Huntsville	Oct ???, 2010
IPMS Murfreesboro Show	Nov 6, 2010

1st Annual Southern Museum of Flight Military Model Show (now there's a mouthful!)

An early start to the shows. (All pictures curtsey of Mr. Tom Gaston)



So here's the deal. You spend months (years if you last name starts with a "P") working on your latest masterpiece. You only build a couple of aircraft a year, so you want to really make it something special. You've picked a subject that is pretty cool, has a fair number of kits on the market, and yet, you really don't see that many built and entered. You finish it in the last days leading up to a show and you pack it up and off you go. You get to the table with the 1/48 Allied Props split and you reach into your box to grab your model and as you look down at the table your legs wobble a bit. That kit. The one you hardly ever see on the contest tables. The one you slaved over for months. There isn't one other one on the table. There aren't two others on the table. In fact, there aren't three, or four others on the table. There are FIVE, count 'em, five (cinco, go (Japanese), V,) I-16's already down. You shoulda seen the look on Tom's face when he realized he was debuting his Rata in that crowd. That said, it was a hell of a debut. He won.

Overall, it was a good day. I got the car so I got 27 mpg there and back instead of 15. It didn't pour there and back, and the museum is a pretty cool place. Like most museums, the lighting doesn't do a model show any favors, and a pen light really was required equipment for judging. Being the first year of the show, turn out was a light, but there were some very good models entered, like Tom's I-16. Phil Hale had a really nice Fw-190, and the boys from Memphis put in a good showing with Roger Rasor and Rich Van Zandt making the trip. Rich's 1/72 F-111 EASILY knocked my finally finished Canberra into a distant second.

The one downside was the mood among the vendors. Honestly, I'm not too surprised. I know it's getting harder and harder to separate me from my money these days, and apparently, that goes for a lot of the show going folks. I really haven't been around this scene long enough to understand if it's the harbinger of doom, or just a natural cycle that will bounce back with the economy. It does make sense though that if the vendors are hurting, they won't be out in force, which should make shows harder to hold from a

financial sense, as I have to imagine that the \$25 a table the show makes contributes a large portion of the show budget.

So what's my point? Get thee to the shows! See some great models, some old friends, make some new friends (remember though, it's a model show, if you see someone you don't like, don't trip them...plastic models break when a body lands on them), and spend a little money with the vendors if you can. But most of all, get to the shows!

And now, pictures of the SIX Polikarpov I-16's entered:



Which one is Tom's? You'll have to come to the meeting to find out!



