



The Plastic Whittler



Our Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, April 18 at 7:00 pm**, at East Brainerd Church of Christ. There has been a request to see a little demo on filling and smoothing seams. We're going to collect those ideas and dibby out some demos for future meetings. Bring your ideas to the meeting and let's discuss.

This Issue

This issue has a few items to interest all! Still thinking about Marsha and the loss of our local HobbyTown USA, I was inundated with e-mails and calls from all who wanted to do something to thank Marsha and wish her well. We sent her a card with a short note inside. That note is reproduced on page 2. An article on the annual IPMS/Knoxville show followed by an article on Tom's trip to the AMPS National show. Be sure to look at the two pages called EXTREME MODELLING. IF you like those TV insurance commercials about MAYHEM...well here's a real



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life one. And to boot, this guy as he is an avid scale modeler who always enters some incredible models at the national conventions. He also builds models professionally for the movies! And has done many of the masters for some of those wonderful redin aftermarket items. I'd say his name but that's something tagged into a link from the article.

His story of an accident while building a model is wild.....

Mike Moore has sent a couple of articles to boot. One of those inaugurates a new competition that all can participate in.

It's all heresomething is bound to get your attention.

UPCOMING EVENTS	DATE
Phantom Phurball—Anniston Alabama	April 16th, 2011
Great Tennessee Air show	May 5 & 6, 2011
KING-CON (Memphis)	May 28, 2011
IPMS/Warner Robins	June 4, 2011
IPMS/Marietta	June 25, 2011



Marsha:

March 28, 2011

Just a quick note from all the guys in our group to you!

Of course we're sorry to hear the shop is closing but we wish you and all involved the very best!

Thank you for the many years of support you have shown our club. We appreciate all you've done for us. You supported our little club in many ways. From allowing us to meet in your store, (where we know sometimes you or your employees had to stay late to accommodate us) to the many little gifts, raffle prizes, discounts, pizzas, and kind words of support.

Best Wishes From Our Club to You!!!



Note: In the name of the club we sent a little thank you card to Marsh's home address with the above note included.....

How About a Little Intra-Club Competition?



By Mike Moore

Yup...That's my shop. Well, at least one view of it. Trust me when I tell you the other views...well, ok, I'm a bit of a messy modeler. My main work area is a door. I forget exactly what size, but it's a whole freakin' door. Useable modeling space? Call it perhaps 144 square inches ... on a good day!

So what's the competition part? Send me a picture of your shop. At the end of the year, we'll run pictures of all the "entries" and whoever gets the most votes as "best" wins. Who decides what qualifies as best? You do. What are the criteria? Most messy? Cleanest? Most organized? Most spilled paint? Most reference books scattered around? Doesn't matter, what ever you guys decide is best, is.

So come on. Let's see some pictures of your shop! And at the end of the year ,we'll vote.

IPMS Knoxville Show is a Wrap

Note: This is from an e-mail that Mike Driskill sent out the day after the show in Knoxville. It serves well to give all the stats from the show and lets you see it from an insider's perspective. Following that is a second article from yours truly to give my perspective. First is from Mike Driskill

Well dudes, we survived another one--Smoky Mountain Mini-Con 29 is in the books!

As always, many many thanks to everyone for pitching in, especially our vendors and everyone who was there for putting up, taking, down, and all the thousands of little jobs in between. A special thanks to our hard-working crew of judges, with the categories headed by Lynn Petty (aircraft), Larry Bayer (armor), Sid McLendon (auto), and David Lakin (miscellaneous); with a special call-out to the auto crew for very graciously agreeing to be drafted on the spot!

We had 153 total entries, down from last year almost entirely due to many fewer cars than we usually have, but quality was very good--in particular the aircraft competition was the fiercest we've had in several years. The extra display models that so many of you brought, along with the table risers from the club in Chattanooga, made for a great-looking show too--general attendance was our best in a long time, and everyone really seemed to enjoy the day. We also tried a new "on-the-fly" method of trophy presentation that saved time at the end of the festivities, and seemed to be well-received.

Buddy Brown, our special guest, seemed to have a good time and I know many people enjoyed the chance to chat with him. Special thanks to Bob Miles for putting that together--having that unique "special ingredient" in our contest for the last two years has been a source of real pride for us all. I hope everyone also enjoyed the U2 and SR-71 models that Steve Wiley so beautifully built for the occasion, by the way!

Without further ado, the big winners were:

Best Armor: Earl Barnhardt's 1/35 scale M1A1 Abrams

Best Automotive: Jeff Greene's 1/25 scale 1966 Ford Fairlane

Best Miscellaneous: Craig Livingston's 1/48 scale Star Wars TIE Fighter

Best Aircraft and BEST IN SHOW: Sam Morgan's 1/144 scale Mi-24 Hind (INCREDIBLE MODEL...the greatest quantity of gorgeous parts in the smallest space to ever appear in Knoxville, I'm thinking!).

Again--THANK YOU EVERYONE!

And now from my (Lynn's) perspective

You Can Go Home Again...

The Knoxville show is one of those stalwarts of the show season. It is a consistent show where you can always count on a good time. I may be a little bit prejudiced since this is my home show, being the IPMS club I was associated with for many years and where I first worked behind the scenes at a show. This show always has the atmosphere of old friends and a good time.

Mike Moore and I left and made the easy drive north to Knoxville to the coliseum which has been the venue for this show in recent years. The layout of the room was split between the vendors area and the display area. Display tables were on risers, complements of a sharing arrangement with our own club! Being busy at our own show I was much more able to "enjoy" the elevation shift the risers provide at this show. It is truly amazing how much difference those little pieces of pipe make in the physical enjoyment of the show alone. The models are truly at a much more favorable viewing angle and made conversations with builders and admirers much more comfortable.

A spin around the display area revealed that there were fewer cars entered this year but a definite increase in the number of aircraft and armor. 1/72 scale aircraft being certainly plentiful and of a high standard. I was home for a while. A trip into the

vending area followed. Our own Tom Gaston and his stalwart K-town modeling partner Ed Marcum had already set up vending space. They were later joined by David Well where they vending away and had a profitable day. I camped out there for a while to enjoy some restful moments while I ate some remarkably stale popcorn from the concession area below.

Back to the display area, I saw many of the 1980's guys I know. Sam Morgan and Sid McClendon form North Carolina. I may not have spelled Sid's name quite right here but I know him as not just an accomplished modeler but hilarious wise cracker to boot. You've already read about Sam's Hind. Be sure to check out the photos of it a little later on. A few minutes were spent with Ken Warden who is an avid 1/72 aircraft modeler/collector and friend for many years. Yes I got to see a lot of the old cronies. Fun ws certainly name of the game thru the day. Little plastic army men seemed to appear from nowhere attacking the displayed models. Go figure (and see photos!)

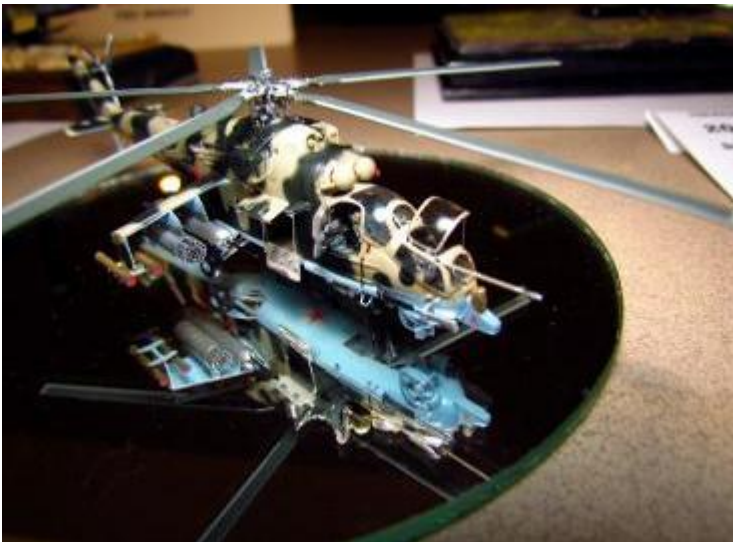
The Tabler Challenge. If you don't know by now, the Tabler Challenge began just after the Knoxville show three years ago. This being a "bet" of sorts where a few of us agreed that those who didn't build and enter a 1/72 single engine entry for the next Knoxville show would buy dinner after the show for them that did! This challenge beign seen as a way to fight off Advanced Modeller Syndrome (AMS). For two years in a row Jeff Tabler has been on the buying dinner side of the equation and was heard to say he would not participate in the upcoming year. The natural response is the challenge still will forever bear his name!! [in another vein AMS is known in some circles as **"Tableritis"**

That ought to help Jeff get down to business!

Of no surprise then is that the dinner after the show is now as much a part of the Knoxville show as can be. Meeting afterwards at Calhoun's were many of the faces seen through the day. It was a very relaxing way to wind down from the show, if winding down was really needed. In fact the good food good friends theme shifted into second gear! You really haven't lived till you've heard Sam Morgan's "Flaming Wall of Death" remmeberances of stuffing frogs into his plastic model cars and rolling them into a gasoline wall of flame. These and several stories that took us all down memory lane with so many similar antics made many smiles come to our faces.

And if that wasn't enough, Mike Moore and I stopped by Mike Driskill house to chat a few minutes and look over his stash of kits and more importantly, his references relating to a future group build—"All The King's Horses" - a collection of RAF Mustangs.

Nothing like a day at the Knoxville Show to keep your interest and spark you into building more!







MODEL EXPO 2011

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**Featuring
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sorts of plastic and
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**Saturday,
June 25, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Cobb County Civic Center
Marietta, Georgia**



Categories

Aircraft
Space & Science Fiction
Ships
Figures
Dioramas

Miscellaneous
Armor
Automotive
Juniors

Special Awards

Best Of Show
Best In Category

Best Theme



IPMS METRO ATLANTA LLC
ATLANTA MODEL EXPO 2011
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Entry Form, Entry ID Form & Table Display Form available online at:

WWW.IPMSMETROATLANTA.ORG

Entry Fees:

Contest Entry \$10 (unlimited models)
General Admission \$5 (No contest entries)

Contest Rules:

1. The Registration deadline for entering models into the contest is 12:30PM. All models must be placed on the contest tables no later than 1:00PM.
2. Judging will begin at 1:15PM and the upper level of the Civic Center will be closed for judging from 1:00PM until the end of judging. The contest area will reopen at the end of judging.
3. No model shall be removed before the completion of the awards ceremony at 5:00PM.
4. The decisions of the judges are final.
5. Models that have won at previous IPMS/USA National conventions are ineligible.
6. All awards and models must be picked up after the contest. Any unclaimed items become the property of IPMS Metro Atlanta, LLC.
7. Models on bases should be firmly attached or noted otherwise.
8. IPMS Metro Atlanta, IPMS/USA, its members, the Cobb Civic Center, and/or any participating facility are not responsible for any damage, loss or injury that may occur during this event.

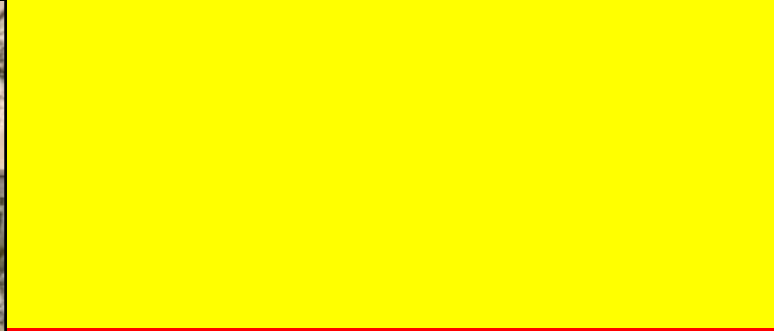
Rules of Conduct:

1. **Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules.** Know the rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on officials or judges. The spirit of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.
2. **Exercise good behavior at all times.** The true value of Scale Model competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior that is representative of a sound value base. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.
3. **Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of affiliation.** Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP but also reflects a true awareness of the contest rules by recognizing and acknowledging quality.
4. **Exhibit respect for the officials and judges.** The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are unavoidable due to human nature. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the decisions made by the judges. This is critical for modelers to learn for later applications in life.
5. **Openly display respect for the opponent at all times.** Opponents should be treated cordially and accorded tolerance at all times. Be a positive representative for your Club. This fundamental is the Golden Rule in action.
6. **Display pride in your actions at every opportunity.** Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment and your responsibility as a contestant. Regardless of whether you are an adult, youth, judge, or official, this value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you.

AMPS National Convention

The 2011 Amps National Convention was held in Fredericksburg Virginia April 6 thru 9th and our own Tom Gaston was there. To reports that there were 501 models with 150 plus entries. There were a number of seminars on painting and weathering from the MIG guys. With the theme of Marine Armor a trip out to the National Marine Museum, near Quantico, was in order. As you can imaging Tom saying "this is one of the nicest museums I been too." There was also another tour out to a private armor collector, Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles, who had 120 running vehicles collection, quite impressive. Chattanooga was well represented and did well in the contest arena. Tom has supplied us with the photos on this page and the next to give us a taste of the convention. Enjoy!





These three photos [outlined in red] are from the Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles



The Phantom II in Tom's photos is the third Phantom built. Note the rear canopy's lack of a bulge and low profile.



It's not a hockey puck



By Mike Moore

But following on from Lynn's sanding needles product plug, I thought I'd toss this one out.

For years I've been wiping sanding sticks on my pants leg to get sanding dust out of the grit. Well, no longer. From the same folks who brought us the Sanding Needles, We have this little rubber disk. It's textured, and it does a remarkable job cleaning up sanding sticks. Just rub the "dirty" sanding stick across it a few times, and presto, it's clean. I can already tell it's extending the life of my sanding sticks.

Available at Hobby Lobby, just like the Sanding Needles.

And, if you're interested, if I can find some time, and remember to do it, I'm going to check with Alpha Abrasives to see what kind of deal we might get if we order a bunch of sanding sticks. My experience is that more units usually nets out to a lower price! Hopefully I'll have more information at the next meeting.

Extreme Modeling



A cautionary tale of modeling from the edge.
As always, please remember the participants in
this story are highly trained professionals

DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS AT HOME!

Do you recognize this man?

Even if you don't, I'm betting you know his work. And believe it or not, the injuries to his mug are modeling related! The following post appeared on Hyperscale on April 1st (where more than one person thought it was an April Fools gag):

So, there i am working away sitting at my work table, when I drop my exacto knife.

It hits the table, rolls off and falls between my legs. Being a modeller, I slam my legs shut to catch the dropped object, as we have become accustomed to doing to keep the part from disappearing onto the floor. Concrete in this instance.

By doing so, I drove the #11 blade into my left thigh, all the way to the hilt. I pull it out, and pull down my pants to see what damage has been done. I jam my thumb onto the wound as it is bleeding, and I don't want to find out if its going to jet blood across the room like last time.

I'm sitting there alone, holding my thigh and feeling increasingly lightheaded. I call my friend "Name withheld to protect the innocent" to have someone keep me focused and from passing out. We are talking for about 5 minutes when he hears a crash. He starts calling my name out to see what happened. 45 seconds later, I come to, face down on the floor. My glasses are smashed and my face is hurting. Not sure why I passed out. Not afraid of the sight of blood, even precious Canadian blood.

Long story short, I landed on my left temple, opening up a good sized gash. I am heading out to the clinic to get stitched up in a few minutes.

So... how was YOUR day? LOL

This post was followed a couple days later by the picture above.

And a couple days later, this post appeared. It seems adequate precautions are now being taken to prevent a reoccurrence!

You'd be surprised with what you can do with safety scissors and elmer's glue when you have no other safe options!

The headgear and hockey pants are a little cumbersome, but they don't impede my new modelling style as much as the boxing gloves. The typing is the hardest part. See below:

evnio45hnji90acnio hun, wefuin jiownj nj8945yu5

So who is the Mystery Modeler? The Exzcto Expert? The Bagwan of Bloodshed?

Let's just say I can only hope the project he was working on was the masters for the Airfix Sea Vixen cockpits, and I hope that Barracuda Studios returns to a full production schedule soon! If you're still unclear, check his blog here: <http://barracudacals.blogspot.com>

Oh, one other thing...I gave him an opportunity to object to this "article"!