



The Plastic Whittler



Our Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, June 20 at 7:00 pm**, at East Brainerd Church of Christ. 7745 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421.

The News and This Issue

This is turning out to be a fairly big issue!

Our own Dave Wells made it to the “Warbirds over the Beach” air show late last month. This event was held May 20—22 at the Military Aviation Museum held just a few miles south of Virginia Beach, VA. Pages 6 and 7 have several photos of his from that air show. We’ll also have a projector set up and we’ll run more of his photos the night of our meeting.

There’s a two page article on model shows in Memphis and Warner –Robins. If you didn’t make it to the meeting last month, the handout related to our demo on seam filling is reprinted here. And



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There is news printed all through this edition. Enjoy!

Captain Jim Poston

Congratulations goes to our own Jim Poston who was effective June 01 promoted to a Captain in the US Navy Reserves. Quite a feat!

In Memoriam—Clark Hollis

(paraphrased from an e-mail from Mike Driskill) I am sad to inform you that KSMA member Clark Hollis passed away last Sunday of natural causes. He was the older gentleman that hung around Mike Driskill (and on occasion myself) Many of you may not have known Clark well, but he had been around this area for about 20 years. Mike Driskill says “He was a soft-spoken and good-natured soul if ever there was one! He had a general interest in 1/72 aircraft, with particular focus on WW2 Japanese subjects, but research into correct camouflage shades was his true passion. I will miss his always-good advice in that area.”

Clark had endured some bad experiences in other model clubs, and the openness and friendly fellowship of the Knoxville group (and some of us who knew him) meant a great deal to him. Please keep Clark's partner Faith Lorenzen, and his two daughters and their families, in your thoughts and prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS	DATE
IPMS/Marietta CANCELLED	June 25, 2011
IPMS/Huntsville	10/01/2011
IPMS/Murfreesboro	11/05/2011
IPMS/CHATTANOOGA!!!! (not yet confirmed by R-III Director)	1/25/2012
Anniston Al	4/12/2012

2-2-1154

Huh?

Two Shows...Two Weekends...One Thousand One Hundred Fifty Four miles. That's what my twisted brain came up with after hitting King Con in Memphis and Scott Con in Warner Robbins on consecutive weekends. Sometimes I really have to wonder about myself. Ok, a little more often than sometimes.

Part one by Mike Moore

Anyway. Memphis. This year marks my third trip to Memphis for King Con. And I haven't regretted a single trip. I even remembered to warn my wife, who tagged along 'cause she'd never been to Memphis before, to slow down as we entered Shelby County. And sure enough, right where I picked up a speeding ticket two years ago traveling on business, there were plain black Chevy Tahoes with light bars and blacked out windows on the medians.

The show was great. As always it was nice to see the boys from Memphis and see what they've been up to. As well as do a little damage in the vendor area (I Hate when CRM shows up!). And, move a little excess inventory myself. On a whim, I took a box full of old magazines I knew I was never going to thumb through again, and 90% of them had sold before I even got there Saturday morning (I had set things up Friday evening).

And while I can't prove it with the pictures (mostly because between vending and judging, I never even had chance to take the camera out of the case) there were plenty of great looking models to see. One of the highlights was seeing one of the newish Airfix 1/48 Sea Vixens. It's a great looking plane, and the kit obviously builds up as nicely as it looks in the box.

To top show day off, we found our way to the Germantown Commissary, where, according to Rob Ervin, the locals go for bar-b-que. If so, they sure are smart...it was great! Then a Sunday exploring a bit of Memphis (my advice, pass on Mud Island, but make time for the Dixon Gallery and Gardens) and it was time for the five and a half hour drive home on Monday.

Warner Robins 2011 (**by Jeff Mattheiss** and once again, no photos. After getting up an unholy hour to make the drive, I was too wore out and had to save what energy I had to drive home on, and I couldn't tell you what Jeff's excuse was)

Each time I hear or see Warner Robins I think of Bugs Bunny. Must've been that left I didn't take at Albuquerque (and you thought I was messed up????mm)

I've not been to a show in WR before so I was rather looking forward to what I might find. I knew it was at the Robins Air Force Base Museum (I think it has an OFFICIAL name but I don't remember it). Having lots of accumulated modeling "stuff" to sell it was rather neat to be sitting almost directly under the nose of the SR71. Mike Moore and I were "hawking our wares" to those passersby and in general having a good time talking. We had some fun with folks that were browsing through my brother Mike's ROCO vehicles that he had with us for sale. Most talked about "memories" but few bought any. It was neat to see some young "modelers" come with their parents and purchase things.

The show seemed to be well attended. The vendor area was pretty full as far as the layout was concerned and many folks took time to "dig up" a wanted item or two. The model turn out was average (from my limited experience) in that about 75 (I'm betting that Jeff never won the "guess how many gum balls" contests. I think there well over 100 models on display mm) or so models were on display. The only real negatives were that, even inside with A/C, it did become somewhat warm in the afternoon AND there wasn't much in the way of snacks close by. Neither is a negative on the club as they did have a fairly smooth running show and they had no control over those things anyway.

The only real rough item was the ride to and from. That is – it took a little over 3 hours one way. Of course to those that go to Memphis and such that isn't that far but the heat and traffic seemed a little on the rough side. A nice touch was that I actually rode with Mike Moore instead of driving but he was right, we'd never have survived in my van without A/C (you bet you're sweet bippy I was right!). Mike drove quite well (not sure I've ever been accused of that before!) with my dialogue helping to keep him awake.

My real reason for going was to sell models and books but I also wanted to go to a show since being disappointed at Marietta's cancellation. It appeared that there were those at the show that shared my sentiments.



The show was fun, good models were on hand, and many an acquaintance was renewed. THAT is what makes these shows an enjoyable time. And, yes, I'd gladly go again.

Lt. Gray aka Jeff Mattheiss (who I'm betting sends his show reports straight through to Lynn from now on!)

← A Look Back A Look Ahead 2 →

A Different Kind of Model Show....

Presented By Chattanooga Scale Modelers

- Gold, Silver, Bronze Judging—**Check our website for judging guidelines**
- Revised display format—grouped by genre**
- Vendors & Raffle!!!!
- Models eligible for entry: If we ain't seen it at a Chattanooga show...**BRING IT** In other words, if it wasn't entered last Year, bring it this year!

**January
21, 2012**

Last year we had nearly 500 models on display. There is no doubt that was great to see, and we'd like to see it again, and we suspect so would you! However, judging 500 models in the time allotted clearly wasn't feasible. We are working on ideas to make thing work more smoothly, and will get details posted on our website as we develop them, but rest assured we are working hard to assure that we can stay on schedule for our sophomore effort. But plan on bringing any model you didn't bring last year. Lots of models = Lots of fun!

For More Information www.chattanoogascalemodelers.com

General Contact – Mike Moore maxwinthrop@yahoo.com

Vendor Contact – Jeff Mattheiss emilyshouse@juno.com

Location:

East Brainerd Church of Christ

7745 East Brainerd Road

Chattanooga, TN 37421

Take I-75 Exit 3 (from the north) or 3A (from the south) and go east 1.6 miles



Region Three Update

From Phil Hale (May 22, 2011)

OK, this will be short and sweet.

Re-charter: Start working towards rep-charter now. Use your chapter fact sheet to update memberships. Most people will appreciate an email or phone call telling them when they need to renew their IPMS Membership. If they are going to the Nationals, this will speed the process as they will have new membership cards and will thank you for it.

Contests: YOU MUST GET MY APPROVAL FOR YOUR CONTEST BEFORE MAKING YOUR ARRANGEMENTS. NOT UP FOR NEGOTIATION!!!!!! NO APPROVAL, NO SHOW, NO INSURANCE NO SHOW!!!!!! I'm as tired of this as you are.

Ok, now for the fun stuff.

IPMS Roadwarriors, King Con, Memphis TN, May 28, 2011

IPMS Robert L. Scott, Warner Robins Contest, Warner Robins, GA, June 4, 2011

IPMS Marietta - CANCELLED

Phil, RC 3



Gap Filling

Notes By Lynn Petty

Here's a few words from me on filling seams. This is my own slant on the subject. If I sound prejudicial about my methods it's okay. I've always said this is a bit of an individualistic hobby. What works for one may not work for another person. I'm giving the demo at our club meeting. This is a replay of my notes so if you missed the meeting you've got a taste of what was said. If you were there this is a little handout to use to follow along. [I knew I could some how double this into some newsletter fodder!!! :-)]

Step One in filling seams is...you guessed it. Start with your basic build. The easiest seam to fill is the one that doesn't exist. Save yourself a lot of grief by preventing the seam to begin with. The newer, highly engineered kits usually fit like a dream. Taking the time to align the parts properly and grinding the little bur here and there to insure good fit will help immensely. Dry fit two or three times before committing glue. With some of the newer kits it is possible, taking your time to not have to fill any seams at all. On older kits put pieces of strip plastic at strategic locations to bend where necessary the original kit part to line up. Consider treating the injection molded fuselage halves like a vacuform kit. Also glue well my friend! Use the right glue for the right purpose. I simply do not use the Microweld type of products for major structural parts. My favorite glue for the major kit pieces is a 50-50 mix of Testor's liquid and Testor's tube glue. This for me gives a very strong bond for major components while keeping the mess to a minimum. I've had Micro weld seams split on me during the decal stage (an ugly sight!) Somehow the Testor's mix works well for me. Use rubber bands, tape, clothespins, anything to hold pressure and maintain alignment while the glue sets. Save the Microweld for those delicate parts where Microweld does excellent.

Nothing fills gaps in plastic like...well plastic! It has the same strength, the same sanding characteristics, and the same porosity as plastic. Consider using plastic for certain gaps. Strip sheet can be Microwelded (yes I said Microweld for this one) edgewise into a gap. I've often used that on some of those pesky wing root gaps. Stretched sprue can also be used to fill round holes, slicing off the tail after gluing in the sprue. Alternatively stretched sprue can be used to fill a panel line, again Microwelding in the sprue, letting it dry, then sanding it down. Years ago I hear of a tip where you dissolve bits of sprue into a bottle of liquid glue, then apply the resulting goop into the seam. I actually tired this in my youth. I do NOT recommend this at all. The goop can actually continue melting for weeks after the initial application.

Testor's Plastic Contour Putty— In it's day this was really high tech stuff. Used with Denatured Alcohol you can smooth things out before this putty dries and eliminate sanding. The stuff did still shrink. The dried product is very porous. This is best left to the history book as there are newer far better product available today.

Greenstuff, Squadron White Putty Squadron Green Putty These are lacquer based products that came out of the automotive body shop repair industry. They have their place. Some modelers have used nothing but this for years and with good results. Just not me..... The positive about this stuff is the lacquer base. This stuff sticks to plastic like nobody's business, melting a little into the surface. The lacquer base is also a source of a negative. This stuff shrinks as the lacquer evaporates. It also takes hours to dry, and if you don't pre-build it up high enough, you have to fill again because of the shrinkage. I have trouble getting a feather edge sanding this stuff down. It also has a higher porosity than plastic. This means you have to prime it at least once before you paint the finish color over it. The surface bubbles show up otherwise. And the hideous green color is difficult to cover. No wonder the same tube has lasted me 25 plus years!!!! Better stuff exists.

SUPERGLUE is perhaps my most used favorite seam filler of all. Paint it over a seam, let it dry a few minutes time, then sand with 400 grit wet or dry paper, followed by some 600 grit paper. That is usually all it takes. An extra step of polishing with Brasso is in order if it is a natural metal finish to follow. Quick and easy, it will hide a seam in a heartbeat. It adds strength to the joint. The downside is it is slightly tougher to sand than plastic. Use the wet or dry paper very wet!!!! Like superglue it can run to areas you don't want so be careful. Masking does no good, you just glue the masking tape to the model!

Milliput— A fine British product. (Available in three grades, I find no real difference among the three other than price and color. The white theoretically the finest grain but I find no perceptible difference) This is a 50-50 two part epoxy based putty. You have to slice into two equal size pieces (snakes) and roll the two together back and forth, kneading as you go to get a good mix. It sticks well to plastic. This stuff hardens like a rock, can be drilled, sanded, sawn, and treated like plastic. The real benefit to this tuff is it can be smoothed down with a wet finger or wet tools, eliminating the need for sanding later after it dries. You lose no details adjacent to the point of application that way. And it doesn't shrink at all. It even hardens underwater but what good is that to us???? In addition you can mix with the right amount of water and form a paste to smear into panel lines, etc. Good as it is the stuff has one draw back. Poor shelf life. It comes in two sticks that you cut off and mix. These sticks are best stored in two plastic bags, but it doesn't matter. With time the outer surface of the two sticks crust over with the crust progressively moving to the center of each stick. Each time you use the stick you have to cut off the offending crust to get to the meat of the product. Enter the current of another of my favorites among the fillers.....

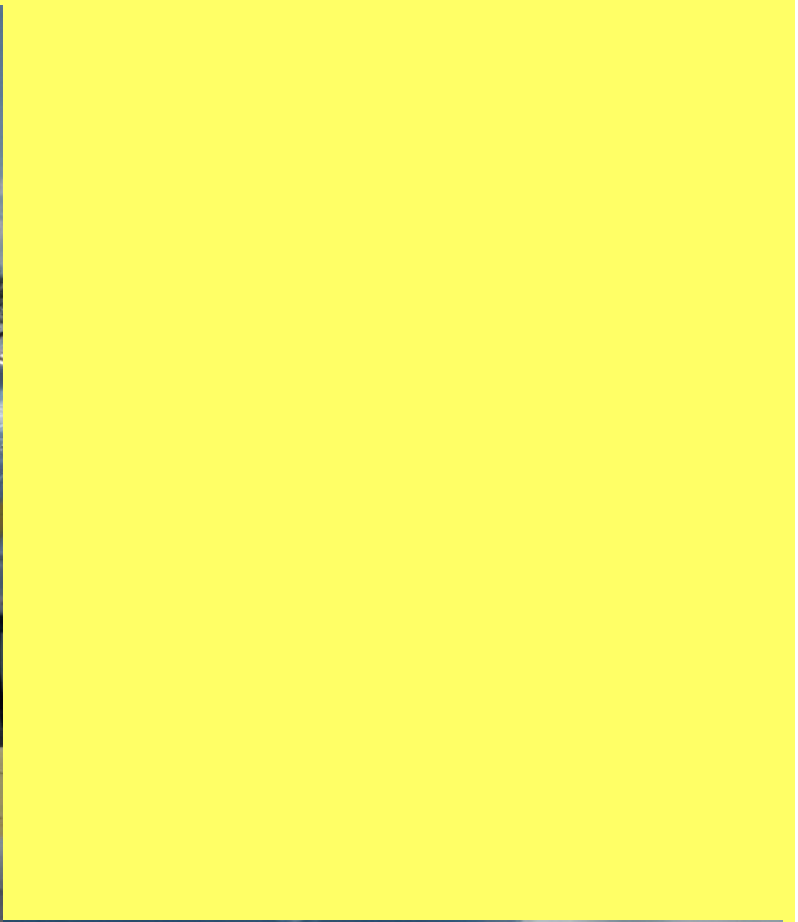
APOXIE - Very similar to Milliput. All the good plus....the real difference is it comes in a slightly more viscous form in two plastic containers with hinged sealable lids. This really adds to the shelf life. As with Milliput, you have to mix equal parts thoroughly. Then just go to town..

Warbirds over the Beach

Photos by Dave Wells

← And yes that's a real FW190!







SATURDAY

NOV 5 2011

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF DESERT STORM
MODEL CONTEST

RUTHERFORD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER
315 JOHN RICE BLVD, MURFREESBORO, TN 37129

Doors open for vendors @ 6:30am • Doors Open to the public @ 8am • Registration from 8am to 12:00pm
Judging begins at 12:30pm • Awards presentation at 4:00pm • Hall must be vacated by 6pm

www.IPMSMIDDLETENNESSEE.COM

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO PLEASE CONTACT:

Novus Henry • 322 Mandella Way • Murfreesboro TN 37127 • (615)-478-2305 • nhenryjr@bellsouth.net
Tom Winter • (615) 479-7737 • a330driver@bellsouth.net



Operation Geronimo Black Hawk

On the night of May 2 I was listening intently to the news that Bin Laden had been found and killed. My thoughts went instantly to who would star in the Hollywood movie that I am sure will come out? Well, I should have been thinking model kits! If you follow the Area51 secret aircraft threads (as well as Aviation Week) over the next few days a different “star” of the raid came out. In fact the dealings with the crashed helicopter became another thread to the story of the raid.

A key part of the success of the raid appears to be these two (or maybe really four?) stealth versions of the MH-60 Blackhawk. [Looking forward to the Chuck Norris movie on how they did it!!! :-)] Leave it to Dragon to already come out with a boxing of this headline grabbing copter in 1/144 scale. It is a mystery to me how they produced this so quickly. Perhaps it was already in their production queue? (It will be released in July of 2011) Regardless the box art (taken from the internet) clearly shows they want to capitalize on the kit’s relationship to the “Geronimo Raid.” With two kits in one box you are instantly set up to build a diorama.

The release of this kit reminds me of the Testor's F-19 Stealth Fighter and the ESCI release of the F-117



kit within months of the first DOD photo re-leased. It is hard for me to fathom the accuracy of the kit here in question. The copter kit is obviously based on a few artist renditions that are bound to be somewhat speculative in nature. The old “F-19” was based on many guesses and turned out to be wrong (but a very big money maker for Testor's!!!). The ESCI kit

based on a single grainy photo from one angle captured the look and feel of the F-117 (from that same angle) but turned out to be grossly inaccurate in size since there was nothing in that one photo to gauge dimensions from. With regard to the Dragon product in question, regardless of the accuracy I wish them well. I bought both of the previous stealth kits in the day and despite this being 1/144 I'll likely pick one of these up for the fun of it. Anything that puts plastic modeling in the public eye and maybe brings some more new modelers into the game is a good thing in my book!

Liberty Bell Gone.....



Earlier this week a B-17 crashed and burned near Chicago. The B-17 carried the nose art "Liberty Belle" and was painted much like the vintage Airfix kit "A Bit 'O Lace" if you can remember that far back. On the left is a photo I took in happier days at an air show just last November at Moody AFB. This was a popular B-17 on the warbird circuit. It was known for its accurate restoration. Fortunately no one was hurt, all aboard got out safely.

So few B-17's remain. Sad to see another one lost. The view below is from an e-mail I received and you



can tell this one will never fly again. And while we all build models for differing reasons, enjoyment, stress relief, etc.; at least a piece of history lives on in our artwork. As these Warbirds pass into history models may be the best way for them to "live" on.