



The Plastic Whittler



Our Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, March 21** at **7:00 pm**, at East Brainerd Church of Christ (See story below). As part of our meeting Mike Moore has offered to put on an airbrush demo! He'll be demoing with acrylic paint so don't worry much about the fumes. He's got some pretty special techniques and the evening should be well worth learning some of the magic of the sometime intimidating airbrush.

HobbyTown USA

I don't know any details at this time but the doors to our local HobbyTown are locked and the overhead lights are turned out, having stopped there a day ago to pick up some RLM 66 paint. A follow up trip by Mike Moore today found the same situation. A phone call to the number yielded a voice recorder machine. It is early to speculate but in these hard economic times and knowing just a bit about the



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hobby business it could be the end of one of our favorite retailers. I hope I am wrong and I especially hope this is not a symptom of some other worse problem such as a health issue with Marsha or anything like that.

Marsha and the crew at HobbyTown have treated us well for many years now . We've had a steady place to meet at both the old Northgate location and in recent years the Hamilton Place locale. She has supported us in other ways including the frequent donation, and always a kind word for our group! Like the song says *you don't know you've got till its gone.....* We wish Marsha well and hope things will all turn out for the best!

This Issue

Special thanks to Mike for the two articles that are fleshing out this issue. Also note that Jeff has sent an interesting "Before and After" photo collection from the Battle of Normandy. Due to file size I'll send that as a separate e-mail. Enjoy!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS	DATE
IPMS/Knoxville A Recommended Show!!!!	Mar 26, 2011
Phantom Phurball—Anniston Alabama	April 16th, 2011
KING-CON (Memphis)	May 28, 2011
IPMS/Warner Robins	June 4, 2011
IPMS/Marietta	June 25, 2011



Aftermarket or Scratch build?

Tamiya or Classic Airframes?

Factory fresh or weathered?

Pre shade or Post shade?

1-2-3 or GSB?

1/72 or 1/48?

109 or Mustang?

WWI or Modern?

Armor or Automotive?

Acrylic or Enamel?

WHO CARES?!

Sometimes I think too much. This may be one of those times. Regardless, let me try to explain. If you spend any time at all browsing the various internet forums, you're no doubt aware of what seems like an ongoing effort to categorize us, or even split us into different camps, with everyone thinking theirs is the best. I really got to thinking about this again a month or so ago when someone posted a question on Hyperscale. To paraphrase, it was something like this:

If modeling is a hobby, why would someone say they use aftermarket parts to save time over scratch building?

Although the guy asking the question later made clear that he wasn't intending to cast aspersions on those who don't scratch build, that's still the way many folks took the question. Every so often you also see someone saying something along the lines of "assembling a Tamiya kit isn't *real* modeling", or that not worrying about accuracy issues with a kit is a cop out, or any number of other attempts to make everyone involved in the hobby conform to their way of enjoying the hobby.

I don't buy it. I build models because it interests me. I love the process, and I love to look at the completed models in my display cases. I also have an appreciation for the history behind them. Others build models for their own reasons. Some are the same as mine, and some are very different. But the common thread of course is that we all have an interest in building some sort of model.

I also got to thinking about this a bit after our last meeting. We had a few new folks come to the meeting after discovering the club via our show, and there was a very lively discussion at one end of the tables about airbrushing. There was also a pretty lively critique of one of Horton's models. Both served to reinforce a couple of ideas in my head.

First is that we are a diverse group with varying degrees of experience and skills. I know that when I first started hanging around with this bunch of, well, model geeks, my skills were no where near where they are now. I attribute my progress to several factors, but

the biggest was being exposed to a steady stream of inspiration and advice from guys like Lynn and Tom. I've flat out copied many techniques from them. If someone else can be inspired by or learn from something I've done, I consider it payback for what I've already received. I say that to encourage everyone to bring projects to the club meetings. Don't think your stuff isn't good enough. Hogwash. Even if you aren't interested in constructive criticism, it's still always more fun to look at models than empty tables.

The second idea is that we don't always know what folks are looking for or are interested in when they bring a model to a club meeting. Horton asking directly for us to "judge" his model last month was a two by four between my eyes driving that point home. For how long has he been bringing models to meetings, only to go home with no feedback on what he could try to do better or differently? Everyone who knows me at all, knows I want to know what I've messed up. I know I've never stuck a star on a US Aircraft upside down since Tom mentioned it to me once. But, speaking for myself, I'll never start pointing things like that out to you if you don't ask me to. Why? I don't want to offend you, or run you off. I'm also very confident that if you do ask for a critique, all the comments you get will be in the spirit of helping you.

On the other hand, if all you want to do is come to meetings, show what you've built and look at what the other guys have built, and not worry about things, that's cool too. The way I see it, this club is what you make of it. It's a big hobby with a group of folks within it that seems to be shrinking. I'm pretty sure there is room for everyone in it. Even if you only build cars (yeah, I hear they do exist), or only build one scratch built masterpiece per decade, or pop out a Tamigawa wonder kit a week. As my friend, and our esteemed IPMS Regional Coordinator Phil Hale once put it when we were talking:

If you like, or have any interest in gluing pieces of plastic together, we want you to feel welcome, take part and have fun. (or words to that effect)

There's no right way or wrong way to do it, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. So if you've built something lately, or have a project in the works, bring it Monday night. Let's take a look at it! Here's a sneak peek at what I'll be bringing...



With a little luck I'll pack up my airbrush and some paint and do some airbrushing to capitalize on that lively discussion from last month. And no, your eyes don't deceive you. There is a pilot in the cockpit and it's gear up...my first in flight model in a long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long time.

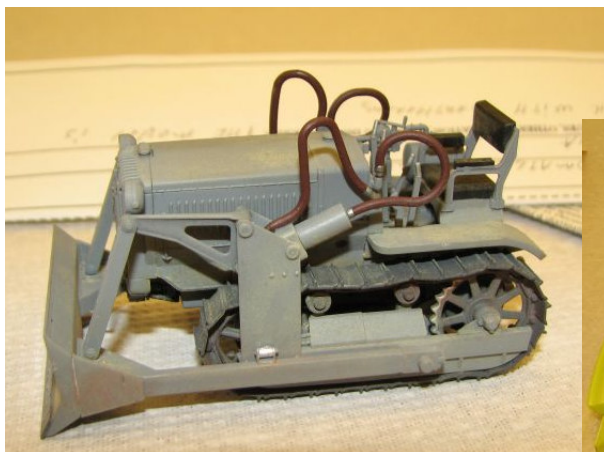
Montana...I think I'll move to Montana!

Why? Because they have, or at least had, no daytime maximum speed limit on rural highways. If Tennessee were the same, I'd still have \$155.00, Van Buren County would be \$155.00 poorer, and I wouldn't be cursing a particular Country Sheriff's deputy until the day I die! So other than that Mrs. Lincoln, how was the Cookville Show? Not bad. A bit small, but as I've told folks plenty of times, a bad day at a model show is better than a good day at work. And it wasn't a bad day. A bad trip home, Oh Yes, but a bad day? No.

Tom Gaston, Ed Marcum and I loaded up and left my place around 10am and had a perfectly pleasant drive to Cookville. We all got registered, got our models on the tables, and fell into the show routine...oogling models, BS'ing with other modelers (in my case Mike Driskill and Jeff Tabler) and even some friends, and making the rounds of the vendors. Before I knew it Tom was tugging on my elbow begging for lunch, and since I had the car, I was apparently indispensable! I was also hungry, so it wasn't much of a discussion. More of a quick mutual search for Ed, and we were off. After lunch I finally got a chance to browse the vendors. Being a heavily car oriented show, my wallet wasn't as challenged as it often is, but I never the less found a few items I couldn't live without. We then settled in for a couple hours of chatting with folks, taking pictures, and waited for the judging to wrap up. Contributing to the good day feeling was the fact that we all came home with rewards for our efforts.

Next up is Knoxville on March 26th. The lads up there always host a good show, so make the drive up , or ride up with us and take in a model show. And Lynn, don't pull an all nighter again finishing up your Tabler Challenge entries. I can't afford another ticket, so you're driving!

On to some pictures. The rest of what I took are on the website.



The Tamiya Komatsu Bulldozer looks pretty good!



I actually took pictures of cars!



For some reason I've always like the looks of a Mossie in these colors

Not often you see a Landing Craft with a crew and a load!



Damn you Tony Higgs!!!