



www.novaipms.org

April 2023 Newsletter

Editor: Tom Henderson

The IPMS Northern Virginia Modelers March events kicked-off with our monthly meeting on 1 March at Fairfax High School with 64 members in attendance. This month's meeting started off on a very good note. The tone was set before the majority of folks arrived. We've seen an uptick the past few months with folks bringing kits to sell. There was a good-natured frenzy as some of the prices were amazingly too hard to pass up. It is a testament to the good nature of many of our members to cut bargains for fellow modelers. It also provided a nice backdrop for good fellowship, as members arrived.

The meeting started off with an update from Tim Barb on the forthcoming April Model Classic. Sign-ups are available on the club website. Tim appealed to everyone to sign-up to help, as there are lots of openings. Judges and volunteers are especially needed. Sign-up Genius is where folks should navigate to volunteer. To do so, please use the sign-up genius to do so. The link is on the chapter website in the Model Classic page. It is also here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48ada923abfec07-model#/>

Vice President Haagen Klaus advocated for maximum participation in the first club group build on 11 March between noon and 4 o'clock. This was our pilot group build event, upon which we will build future events. It was held in the Springfield Governmental Center in West Springfield where up to 60 people can participate. Haagen emphasized that no food is permitted on the premises and airbrushing is not permitted in the multi-use facility. A report on the build event is on the next page.

Steve Smith brought two very worn space-related models in need of repair. The two gems were an Apollo capsule, and a unique 1/6 scale lunar rover. Although Steve wanted to show the pieces, he mainly brought them to solicit help in refurbishing them to their former glory. Haagen jumped at the chance to see if he can help bring the subjects back to life.

Thirty-four NoVA members attended the Old Dominion Open at Richmond. Unfortunately for me an injury kept me from attending so the previous sentence constitutes my entire ODO report. However, thanks to Tim Barb, I can give you a photo gallery starting on page 10.

Build The Same Subject (BTSS): The reason the chapter did not have any Lancaster kits at the meeting as promised is because they are hangered in my basement. Ferry flight to FHS had to be scrubbed due to my busted rib. I should be able to get them there next month, which by the way will be our last month prior to Model Classic. Time to support your chapter!

I truly hope every NoVA member reading this has signed up to help your E-board run this show. Strong support from the membership = success. Weak support = trouble and possibly disaster. Judging was extremely difficult last year due to a judging "volunteer shortage." That was not the only example. Vendor Concierge will need a dedicated team to help Gen Bagnoli unloaded and

reloaded. Those of who know his situation understand. Model Classic will be the first show he will be able to attend this year. Support your chapter – there are so many benefits in this modeling chapter that does not charge dues. MC is the reason we can do that. Volunteer a couple of hours. Small price to maintain such a vibrant chapter. Sponsor a trophy package. Sponsor two.

I was truly disappointed to miss the program this month. Chapter member Jim Rotramel gave the membership part one of a two-part story on the planning and execution of Operation El Dorado Canyon. El Dorado Canyon was the 14-15 April 1986 Operation attack on Libya in retribution for a bombing at a West Berlin discotheque. Jim is a US Air Force veteran and F-111 Weapons Officer. He is well qualified to tell us the El Dorado story because he was one of the mission planners. I am looking forward to part 2.

NoVA Modelers First Group Build

11 March 2023

In spite of being the hardest working E-Board member in general, and especially preparing us for Model Classic 2023, Jon Etherton found a very nice venue in West Springfield suitable for the chapter to host its first group build session on 11 March. I joined seven other chapter members at the West Springfield Government Center for a fun, relaxing afternoon building among friends while exchanging tips and of course solving numerous world problems. My building plan for the afternoon was shot due to an oversight. I brought a Bf-109E that is almost ready for primer. The plan was to deepen a large number of recessed rivets (yeah, I know but they are recessed on the kit) that I ALMOST sanded out after cleaning up the wing to fuselage joint. Tool: needle in a pin vice. After restoring a lot of rivet depressions, the needle bent. Did I have the foresight to bring a spare needle? Yes. One of the kind that comes with a new shirt with the round head on top. Did I have the foresight to bring a pair of wire cutters to cut off the head so it would fit into the pin vise? No.



L to R: Tom Dunbar, Haagen Klaus, Schull, Chris Niestepski, Jon Etherton, Tim Barb



From the other end of the tables: Better shot of Chris, and Cliff Brown who was not the photo to the left

Group Build (continued)

It turned out Wes Schull (remember that awesome He-219 at the March meeting?) brought a small pile of reference material with him. One of the books he handed me to look through while I was sitting there doing nothing blew my socks off. It is a big, colorful, expensive book published by AK called F.A.Q. by Daniel Zamarbide. It is about aircraft. If there is a better how to books I have not seen it. It is loaded with more how to mini articles than any single publication I have ever seen. The thing starts with opening the box on a new kit through the finishing stages. Not just one kit, many different kits are used to illustrate a large host of how-to dos. I ordered it that night. It arrived one week later. I am studying the section on painting WWII Luftwaffe camouflage on how to freehand spray those irregular splotches on the sides of the fuselage.

Contest Winners March 2023



***Military Vehicles, 1st Place
Merkava i Hybrid by Rafy Levy***



***Ships, 1st Place
Chuyo by Dennis Forrest***



***Ships, 2nd Place
British Bomb Ketch by Tim Hosek***



***Figures, 1st Place
Blood Bond Ogre and Halflings by Jon DeSalva***

Contest Winners/Rest of the Models March 2023



*Master, 1st Place
Spitfire by Leighton Greenstreet*



*Master, 2nd Place
F-4N Phantom by Jim Fitzgibbon*



*Special, 1st Place
LVT-4 by Dennis Forrest*



*Special, 2nd Place
F4F Wildcat by Walter Schlueter*

Rest of the Models



Kamoteph by Tim Hosek



Ki-84 by Walter Schlueter

Rest of the Models March 2023 (continued)



Klingon BoP by Walter Schlueter



T-2 Blue Impulse by Walter Schlueter



F1M Pete by Walter Schlueter



U-2



Merkava



Klingon BoP

Rest of the Models March 2023 (continued)



Two Display Only Figures

Hague's Corner by Dick Hague

Editor's note: Dick shares a unique running text and visual diary of his modeling adventures which includes triumphs, defeats, lessons learned and tips. It is too tall of an order to pull together one complete build from the various messages, so what you are seeing in these articles is a moving "window" of Dick's modeling adventures over time. Nevertheless, we are getting a host of tips and lessons learned suitable for beginners and experienced modelers alike.

First, what is a firewall? As the name implies, it is a wall to stop fire from spreading. In a car it is between the dashboard and the engine. Same thing in a single engine airplane. Planes with engines on the wings also need a firewall. It is not just a matter of keeping heat out of an occupied area but something protecting the basic structure from a catastrophe if an engine catches fire. The absolute worst example of not having firewalls was the WWII German Heinkel He-177. In an effort to streamline this bomber, a new engine created by marrying a pair of engines together, gave the power of a four-engine plane in what appeared to be a two-engine plane. So confident of this new engine were the designers that they eliminated a firewall behind it in order to save weight. Look up that aircraft type and see what a terrible loss of life and machines that omission caused.

Tip alert! While you won't have a disaster if you don't have a firewall in your model airplane you face the constant pointing out by other modelers that they can see the wheel wells behind (continued on page 9)

Best out of the Box
1/72 F-4N by Jim Fitzgibbon



Best of Show
Me-163 by Mark Haskell



New Modern Airport Concrete Runway Diorama Bases from Accuscale Models

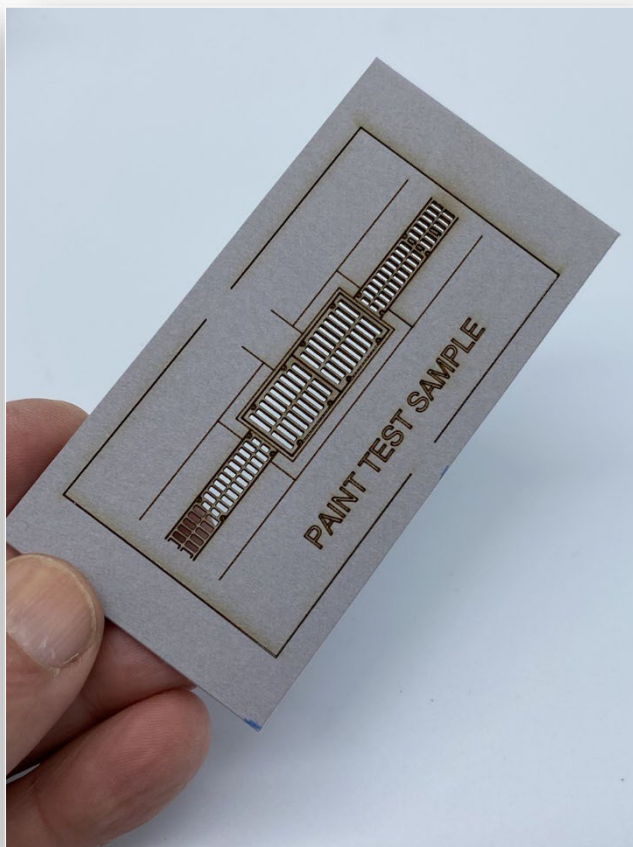
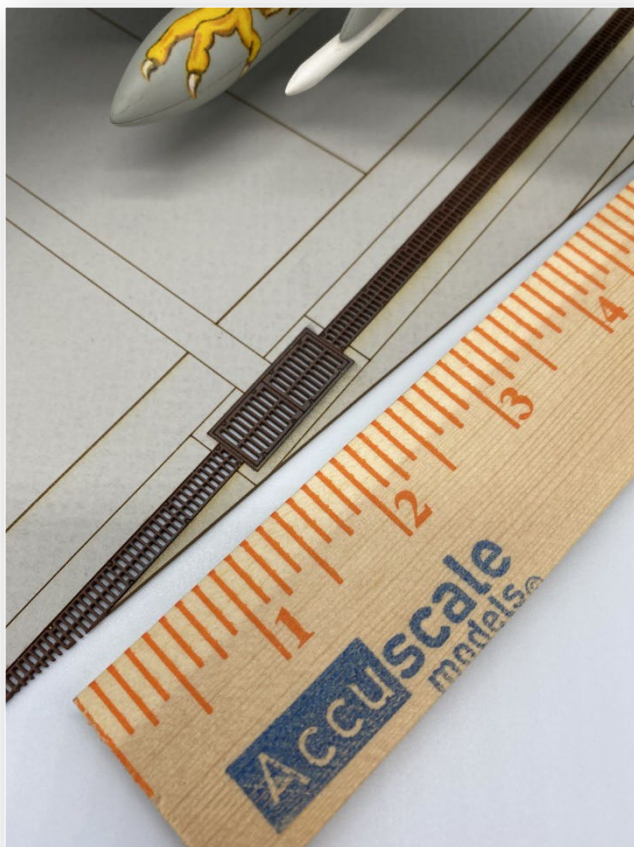
by Jon Etherton

Accuscale Models has added 1/48 and 1/72 scale Modern Airport Concrete Runway diorama bases to its product line. Accuscale's prior releases include WWII 1/48 Aircraft Carrier Decks for both US Navy and Imperial Japanese ships, which were reviewed in our Sept 2022 newsletter. The concrete airport/airbase runways feature detailed, prototype-based trench drains and grates with deep laser etching in 1/72 scale and see-through, laser-cut grates in 1/48 scale. Concrete slab lines are etched as well.

The runways are made of high-quality Crescent brand artist board, which allows fine-scale, 3D details to be reproduced. Should the modeler choose to paint and weather the runway, Crescent board can be spray and brush painted with a variety of acrylic, enamel and alcohol paints and inks. Water-based paints and inks should be used with care, and a separate paint sample swatch is included to allow a modeler to test them before committing to the final display surface. Low-tack tape should be used for any paint masking. Pencils and COPIC brand markers (alcohol-based ink) can be used to simulate stains, tire skids, cracks, rust and dirt on the runways.

In addition, Accuscale offers custom cut wood bases to create displays that include squadron badges, challenge coins, medals, nameplates or other memorabilia to complete a model diorama. The bases have a beveled front panel to allow the addition of these elements to a display. The Accuscale Models runway diorama surfaces and matching bases can be purchased on [eBay](#) or [Etsy](#).





Hague's Corner (continued from page 6)

the engine! Cut a circle of plastic card and glue it in the back of the engine nacelle (Figure 1). It doesn't have to be a perfect fit. Fill any gaps with scrap plastic and/or putty. Paint the engine side the same as inside the nacelle and the backside the same as the adjacent wheel well if there is one there. Of course, a four-engine plane usually wouldn't have a well behind the outboard engines.

Ever hear of the Italian Fiat BR.20 bomber? It was a fairly modern type when it came out in the mid 1930's but rapidly fell behind once the war started. I have a pair of very old Italeri kits of this type and even completed one almost four decades ago. A very interesting decal sheet for an unrepresented country in my collection, combined with what I think is just a pretty aircraft caused me to start work on both kits in my stash. Having some precut masks for the type pushed that decision and made me wonder how I finished one of these without masks!



Figure 1



Figure 2

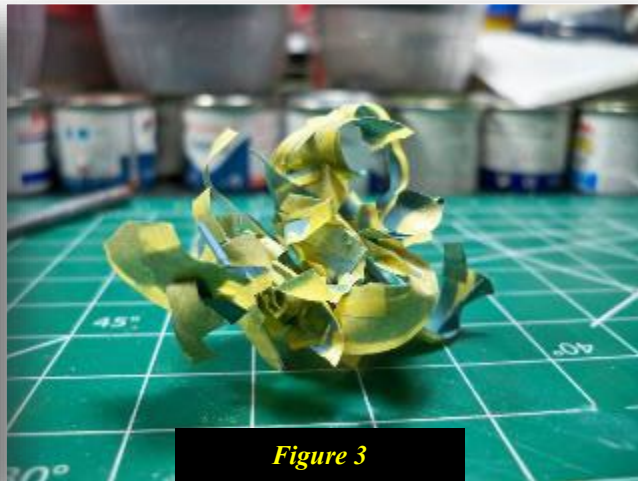


Figure 3

Tip alert! Working on a kit without much interior detail plus not really wanting to spend much time on an interior where you won't see much anyway, fill up that empty space with people. You won't notice the lack of other stuff. Once you have an instrument panel, control wheels or sticks, seats and minimal sidewall structure, adding a crew can be enough (Figure 2). While I only plan on finishing one BR.20 this time around, it is very easy to just do something twice. Figuring out what to do the first time is usually what takes the longest! Oen the paint, wipe off a lid, clean the brush, and somewhere in between all of that something gets painted and in probably less time than fabricating and painting those other 'supporting functions!' Here half a dozen crewmen await their painting that will bring them to life and move them to a less painful seat.

You know sometimes what appears to be a work of art turns out to just be a pile of trash? This tangle of removed masking tape almost needs to be put under glass! What started this work of art was masking a naval version of the B-25 bomber's top and bottom paint colors (Figure 3).

Tip alert! It took me a few minutes to realize that the box art I was using as a masking guide has a different size gun pod on the nose than what you are supposed to use for this version! This version used the larger of the two included in the kit. Of course, that didn't factor into the fact I ended up breaking off three of the four guns while masking this thing!

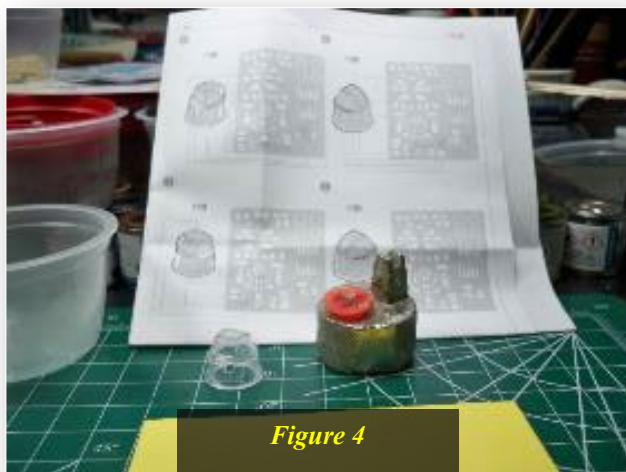


Figure 4

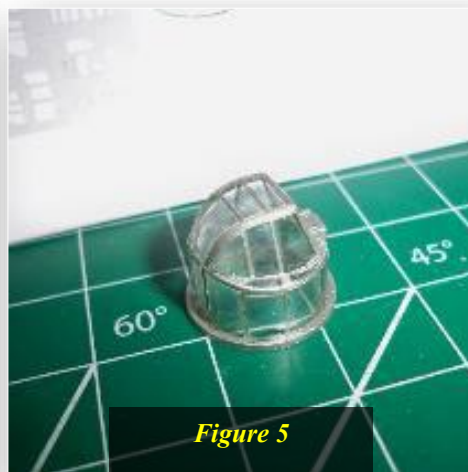


Figure 5

While on the subject of guns, the BR.20 has a retractable manned gun turret on its back. The pre-cut mask set has the most complicated set of tapes I have ever had to use on a single part of a model. The mask set also has some very tiny slivers of tape. Two were so small I just omitted them altogether. Figure 4 shows the direction sheet propped up as I began this intensive masking session. Figure 5 shows the turret just after mask removal and awaiting final clean up. What is funny is that the Italeri instruction sheet painting diagram of this turret shows the entire larger lower section of this turret just painted an interior green color! Eduard outdid themselves on this mask!

Tip alert! The BR.20 directions show the top turret mounted either extended or retracted. If you want to show it extended, you must remove enough of the lower retaining ring to close the fuselage around it or it can actually fall out of the plane! Well, you could glue it in place once you do that, but I wanted this particular one to be retracted. I still ended up knocking off the machine gun that was super glued inside while test fitting the turret between the halves!

Finally, Figures 6 and 7 are of the PBJ, which is the naval version of the B-25. This is the model that created the tape sculpture. Although the Italeri kit out of date, it should really look attractive in this somewhat unusual scheme. Another adventure on this PBJ was my declining to use the kit decals for the national insignias and opting for better appearing aftermarket sheet insignias. Result; three of the four broke while applying them! A real B-25 painted in Navy PBJ colors is traveling the warbird circuit.

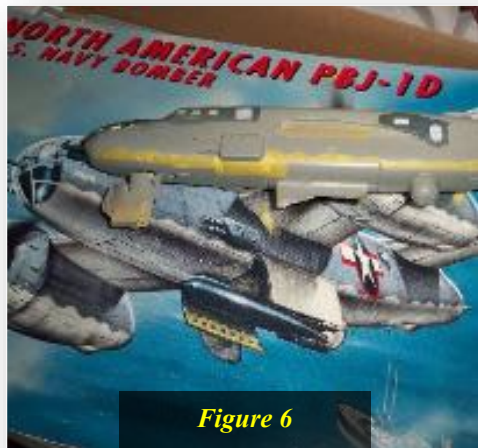


Figure 6

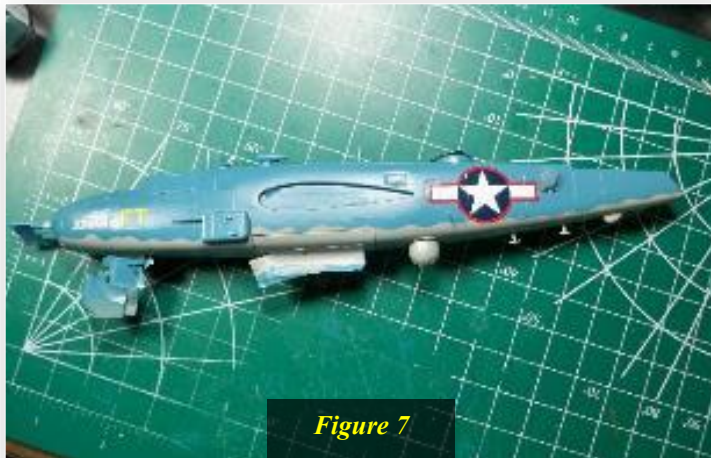


Figure 7

ODO Picture Gallery







April Meeting Program and Contest Theme

Program: Haagen Klaus – Aerospace Valley Airshow, Edwards AFB Oct 2022, 75th anniversary of supersonic flight.

Contest: Gimmicks - Any model with toy like working features

Visit the club website at www.novaipms.org and join the club Google group at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/northernvirginiamodelers>

Both locations will allow you to access the monthly Contest/Program Schedule as well as information about IPMS Northern Virginia Modelers.

We're also on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northern-Virginia-IPMS>

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IPMS USA Webpage of the Year for 2017

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IPMS R2 2020 Newsletter of the Year
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Upcoming Events

1 April 2023

MosquitoCon 31
Wayne Pal Hall, PAL Drive
Wayne, NJ

1 April 2023

Washington Armor Club Meeting
George Mason Regional Library
7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

5 April 2023

IPMS Northern Virginia Modelers Monthly Meeting
Fairfax High School
3501 Lion Run, Fairfax VA

15 April 2023

IPMS Northern Virginia Model Classic 2023
Fairfax High School
3501 Lion Run, Fairfax VA

18 April 2023

IPMS DC Meeting
Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Rec Ctr
13850 Travilah Rd. Rockville, MD 20850
7:30-9:00pm

19 April 2023

IPMS Northern Virginia Tips and Share Zoom Meeting

26 April 2023

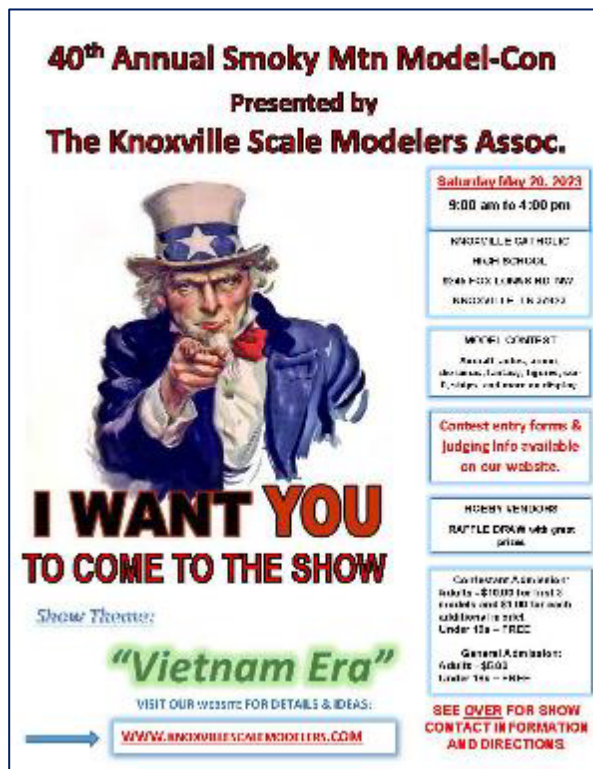
NCMSS Monthly Meeting
Thomas Edison High School
5801 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310

20 May 2023

Smoky Mountain Model-Con
Knoxville High School
9245 Fox Lonas Rd. NW
Knoxville, TN 37923

2-6 August 2023

IPMS USA National Convention
San Marcos, TX



Upcoming Events

**Northern Virginia Modelers
Model Classic 2023**
Between the Wars
1920 to 1940
Saturday, April 15, 2023
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Fairfax High School
3501 Lion Run, Fairfax, VA 22030



Walk-in Admission
\$8.00 Single Adult (18 and older)
\$10.00 Family

Contestants
\$10.00
Unlimited number of models

Juniors
(17 & under) and
Active Duty Military
(with ID)
FREE !

Super Raffle

Model Contest
Over 90 Categories

Award Sponsorships
\$30.00

Vendor Tables
\$30.00 per table

On Site Food Concession
by
FHS Choral Patrons

Make & Take FREE for the Kids!
(17 & under)

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