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## August 2023 Newsletter

Editor: Tom Henderson





Left: Make and Take Coordinator Tim Barb talks to the membership about the upcoming 7 July event at Montross. Right: Two modelers discussing models!

The IPMS Northern Virginia Modelers monthly meeting took place on 5 July at Fairfax High School with 45 attendees present. The chapter welcomed new member Tim Montgomery, who likes to build Bandai products.

After President Scott Bricker brought the meeting to order, he passed the mic to Tim Barb who reminded members of his announcement last month about a Make & Take on 7 July in Montross, Virginia. Tim urged members interested in helping to make the trip and help a young builder who may be inspired to future IPMS membership. Tim's report on the event is on page 12.

Upon conclusion of the business meeting, we had a break so members could vote on the models entered in contest and meet other needs (like checking out the non-profit vendors) before settling down for the program.

The program was Part 2 of Jim Rotramel's presentation on the planning and execution of Operation El Dorado Canyon. The operation was a punitive strike against Muammar Gaddafi and his regime on 14-15 April 1986 in response to Libya's terrorist activities. Part 2 covered the execution phase of the operation. As one of the mission planers, Jim described the execution of the mission by USAF and US Navy forces in detail. During any given meeting presentation, there are always, always audible chatter in the back of the room by members who do not wish to take in the program. The room was silent during Jim's presentation. Enough said. The meeting ended with Contest Director Walter Schlueter who announced the winners of the evening's contest.

Hague's Corner starts on the next page, followed by the monthly gallery starting on page 5. Page 13 starts a Rafy Levy written article on Syrian use of the German WWII Panzer Mk. IV tank against Israel. Tail end Charlie this month is the 19 July Tips and Share meeting report.





Jim Rotramel delivering the second of his two-part presentation on Operations El Dorado Canyon.

Stay cool out there. See you on 2 August at the Sully Government Center in Chantilly.

# Hague's Corner Fun Without Fireworks with French Photo-etch over the Fourth 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.

Having had some 3D printed decal seat belts and harness lately to work with I had been dreading going back to these steel versions for several nights. Since I haven't found any 3D printed decals for French aircraft so far, there was no other choice if I wanted to add some detail to the cockpits of these French fighter kits that came out around 1997.

The aircraft: The Dewoitine D. 520 was probably the most modern French built fighter available to the French Air Force early in WWII. As most modelers know, when France surrendered to Germany the armistice allowed the French to maintain most of their armed forces. The country had to become neutral, and their planes had to be painted with large areas of red and yellow stripes. These were normally called 'Vichy markings' as Vichy was where the new French government was headquartered. About a year into the armistice Germany occupied all of France and dissolved the French military. The D. 520, while it had no chance to evolve beyond a few advanced prototypes, was modern enough for the German occupiers to keep it in production as an advanced trainer for the occupying Luftwaffe units.

#### Hague's Corner (continued)

The models: Other than a primitive Frog example (I have a completed one in German markings from years ago), the only other 1/72 kit of the D.520 is the Hasegawa release which is also released under the Hobby 2000 name. Pictured are the two versions I have but several other boxings with different illustrations are out there (Figure 1). There are also a couple of 'Battle of France' double boxings with either another French fighter type or German Messerschmitts. The kits are generally accurate although I have seen some remarks about the shape of the forward fuselage in front of the engine. As far as I'm concerned it looks close enough like a Dewoitine for me!

There are a lot of aftermarket choices available for it. Quite a bit of resin detail parts and a wide variety of decals which is somewhat surprising given its limited export and few other users. There are at least three separate French Air Force users; French Air Force, Vichy French Air Force, and Free French Air Force which came into use using recaptured machines following D-Day. Then there were the German trainers which usually had bright yellow undersurfaces. Eduard has a bit of pre-painted photoetch along with the belts I used from some older Eduard belt sets as well as using some instrument panels from the Polish company Yahu.



Tip alert! While I haven't seen any brass aftermarket items recently this shear with brass written on it is okay on the current steel photoetch materials (Figure 2). I use it to make relief cuts so when I use the Xacto style knife to free them from the etch 'jacket', it is easier for the cut piece to push away. Notice the silver 'nut' next to the red top. All this does is keep this knife from rolling off the desk. I advise modelers to get rid of any knives that don't have this feature! I once had a knife roll off the desk and it took all the self control I had to not grab for it. That could have driven it harder into my leg if I didn't catch it. As it was, the knife came point down onto my tough blue jeans and barely stuck in my leg although it was enough to be standing up!

Cutting metal is tough on knives. I have a dedicated knife to use for that. A nearby sharpening stone can keep the same blade in use for years! Figure 3 (next page) shows the fret on a cutting matt along with the plastic holder that keeps the part from flying off. Notice the corner cut away using the shears. Further cuts between the harnesses leave just a small bit of material to be pushed away from the belt end as you cut. Just watch out for flying little scraps! A plastic jar makes a great place to put the cut etch pieces (Figure 4 next page).

#### Hague's Corner (continued)

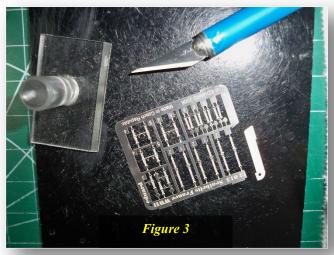
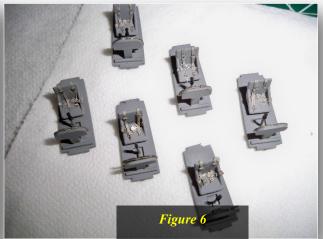




Figure 5 shows six cockpit assemblies that have the Yahu panels installed. I can't remember if they are adhesive backed or if I used super glue but it was fast! And these are great if you just want a minimal amount of detail here. Next, looking from the other direction you can see the just installed belts and shoulder harnesses (Figure 6). Using BS101 quick setting glue followed by a touch of accelerator, the completed units were taken outside and sprayed with some Tamiya Flat Clear. This further locked on the etch as well as getting rid of any metallic shines.





Finally, Figure 7 shows five fuselages ready for the interiors to be added. I bought four kits myself and two more came from the late Tom Kolk's collection, one of which he had modified the fuselage so much for some project that I found it unusable. The other one had some parts missing but with six interiors of which four complete aircraft can be built, if I decide to do more D.520's at least that etch stuff is done!



### **Contest Winners July 2023**



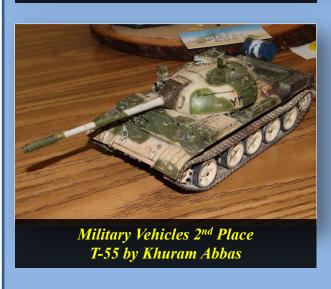






Military Vehicles 1/35, 1st Place

Challenger by Rafy Levy





### **Contest Winners July 2023 (continued)**



#### **Meeting Schedule September 2023 – June 2024**

This is the Fairfax High School approved schedule as of today. The school could change the date, or even cancel a month (like they did in August) during the year should unforeseen events force the school to do so. The chapter website (<a href="https://www.nova.org">https://www.nova.org</a>) will always have the latest meeting information as the year goes on. The website is your guide.

2 August (see page 19 for the location	7 February
6 September	6 March
1 November	3 April
6 December	1 May
3 January	13 June (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)

### **Contest Winners July 2023 (continued)**

# Best out of the Box 1/48 Spirit of St Louis by Ed Mautner











# Contest Winners July 2023 (continued) OOB Supplement: Ed Mautner's 1/48 Spirit of St. Louis

There is no need to go into much detail on the history of this airplane, one of the most famous on the planet. The introduction of the Wikipedia piece is below:

"The Spirit of St. Louis (formally the Ryan NYP, registration: N-X-211) is the custom-built, single-engine, single-seat, high-wing monoplane that was flown by Charles Lindbergh on May 20–21, 1927, on the first solo nonstop transatlantic flight from Long Island, New York, to Paris, France, for which Lindbergh won the \$25,000 Orteig Prize.

Lindbergh took off in the Spirit from Roosevelt Airfield, Garden City, New York, and landed 33 hours, 30 minutes later at Aéroport Le Bourget in Paris, France, a distance of approximately 3,600 miles (5,800 km). One of the best-known aircraft in the world, the Spirit was built by Ryan Airlines in San Diego, California, owned and operated at the time by Benjamin Franklin Mahoney, who had purchased it from its founder, T. Claude Ryan, in 1926."



Ed told me it is the Revell kit. He bought it for \$10.00 at a show several years ago. "It is pretty accurate, easy to build, fit is good, has a small parts count, and good interior pieces (though difficult to see with the small door opening). I'd like to build another."



### **Contest Winners July 2023 (continued)**

# Best of Show 1/32 Sea Cobra by Matt Lunn











# Contest Winners July 2023 (continued) Best of Show Supplement: Matt Lunn's Sea Cobra

I copied part of the history of the Sea Cobra below from the Naval History and Heritage Command National Naval Aviation Museum.

https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nnam/explore/collections/aircraft/a/ah-1j-seacobra.html

The successful employment of the Army AH-1G drew the interest of the Marine Corps, which acquired four examples of the type and began operating them in country in 1969. Based on this experience, the Marine Corps sought to procure its own version of the helicopter, which differed from the Army version in the incorporation of two engines to provide more insurance in overwater operations, and the inclusion of a 20-millimeter multi-barrel M197 cannon in a nose turret. The first of the Marine Corps' AH-1J SeaCobra helicopters entered service in the latter stages of the Vietnam War.

In 1972, Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMA) 369 operated its AH-1Js at night from the deck of the amphibious assault ship Cleveland (LPD 7) off the coast of North Vietnam in support of blockade operations in Operation MARHUK. In this capacity the squadron interdicted small boat traffic ferrying cargo from merchant ships to landing sites off the North Vietnamese coast. HMA 369 AH-1Js also flew combat sorties in the last chapter of America's experience in Vietnam, covering the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon in April 1975.





Editor's Note: I failed miserably to find a decent USMC AH-1G photo on the web, probably because the Marines only had a few to evaluate in action in Vietnam before going on to develop the AH-1J. The vast majority of G pics I found on the web were box tops from the 1/72 and 1/32 Special Hobby and 1/32 Revell kits. I gave up and dropped a Wikipedia photo of a J model to show a real Sea Cobra, easy to tell with its twin engines. The photo on the right from Airliners.net identifies the instrument panel as belonging to an AH-1G.

### **Rest of the Models July 2023**



1/32 AH-1 Cobra by Jake Goodman



1/72 Gnat by Walter Schlueter



1/35 KV-2 by Jake Goodman



Natural metal finish example – builder unknown



1/72 P-51 by Jake Goodman



1/32 X-1 by Mark Haskell

# Westmoreland Museum Make and Take By Timothy Barb

On Friday, July 7, 2023, the Northern Virginia Modelers, in conjunction with the Westmorland County Museum in Montross VA, conducted a Make & Take for the local children. Unfortunately, a severe lightning storm kept almost everyone away. We did, however, get two families and three children to participate after the storm abated. Below are the pictures I took at the event.

A special salute to Dave Milne (who now lives near Montross and volunteers at the museum) who helped me show the kids how to build a model airplane.









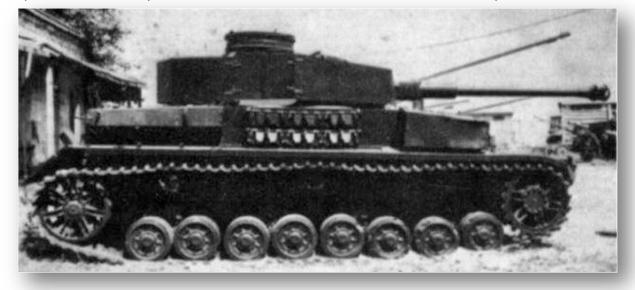
# The Panzerkampfwagen IV (Pz.Kpfw.IV) in Syrian Service Against Israel by Rafy Levy

Editor's Note: Rafy took best of show at our July meeting with his Syrian Panzer IV. In keeping with my idea to add some information about the story behind the best of show and best out of the box winners, I asked Rafy for some help in composing my BOS supplement page. No answer. I sent him a reminder. No Answer. Being an airplane builder, I went to Wikipedia along with other armor sites to find information and did the best I could. At the July meeting, Rafy said "Was my Panzer IV story OK?" I said, Rafy I never received anything from you. I gave up and came up with something



on my own." It turned out he did send me this story, and for whatever reason never made it to my inbox. So, one month late, here is the story behind his excellent 1/35 Panzer IV.

The Panzer IV was Germany's most produced tank through WWII. Its last appearance on the world's battlefields came after WWII in 1967, when Syria's panzer force faced off against modern Israeli armor. Syria assembled its collection of ex-Wehrmacht vehicles from a half-dozen sources over a decade and a half. While their numbers remain uncertain, Syria received around 60 refurbished Panzers from France between 1950 and 1952, followed by 50 others purchased from Czechoslovakia in 1954. Syria retrofitted a Soviet 12.7mm DShK machine gun on an anti-aircraft mount on the cupola. The Syrians used these ex-German tanks, together with Soviet-supplied T-34s, to shell Israeli settlements below the Golan Heights. They saw action again against Israeli Super Shermans and Centurion tanks during the Water War in 1965. Syria received 17 Panzer IVs from Spain, with these seeing combat during the Six-Day War in 1967. Panzer IVs also participated in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, with some dug in as pillboxes. The Israeli Army captured several of Syria's Panzer IVs and donated them to the Yad La-Shiryon Museum.



#### Panzer IV (continued)

The number of Panzer IVs arriving from France in the 1950s is uncertain. Various sources record as few as 5 to as many as 40. These Panzer IVs were not segregated by variant and were of the Ausf D, G, H and J versions. Most military historians consider the Syrian Panzer IV Ausf H models captured by Israel to be the best of the Pz.Kpfw IV models. However, it was not uncommon for the existence of "half-breeds" between the types, especially those repaired after WWII.

As they had been lumped all together in Czechoslovak army service, the Syrians received a mixed bag of versions, many of them "half-breeds" or "Frankensteins". Many had the bow machine gun removed, in some cases the coaxial gun as well. It doesn't appear that the Czechoslovaks updated the radio fit on these tanks.



The Czechoslovaks also delivered an adapter kit to allow use of their AA crescent mount for the Soviet-made DShK 12.7mm machine gun. This AA mount was developed after WWII for the T-34 tank. An adapter allowed it to be fitted onto the Panzer IV commander's cupola. These kits were fitted to all the initial 45 tanks of the 1955 order and enough were delivered that some could be installed on a few of the Spanish and French-sourced tanks as well.

Seventeen of Syria's Panzer IVs came from Spain in December 1965. All the Spanish tanks were of the Ausf H version, with the 75mm "long-barrel" KwK 40 main gun. These tanks were part of a 20-vehicle order of Panzer IVs delivered to Spain during WWII in 1943. These were top-line tanks identical to the Wehrmacht version. They had all the Ausf H features including the enhanced transmission, additional armor, and cast sprockets. When sold to Syria, they were all still completely in



#### Panzer IV (continued)

the original German WWII configuration. The Spanish Panzer IVs had been immaculately maintained in Spain and never saw combat. These were the best Panzer IVs operated by Syria.

By the time of the Six Day War, very few of Syria's Panzer IVs still had the bow machine gun. According to the Israeli Defense Forces, some also lacked a coaxial machine gun. An IDF report on one captured Panzer IV said that it had a nameless "Soviet .50 caliber coaxial". The DShK 12.7mm machine gun was larger and longer than the German machine guns. It would have been quite difficult (but not impossible) to shoehorn into the turret.

Syrian vehicles of German origin were either painted in beige or a dark OD green. Almost all had the name of a Syrian soldier killed in a previous war on the turret in white. During the Six Day War, no national roundel was carried. However just as the conflict was starting, some had florescent red recognition triangles added.

There were a series of skirmishes between Israel and Syria during the mid-1960s. With increasing frequency starting in 1964, Syria emplaced tanks on the western slope of the Golan Heights, almost directly on the border, to fire down on Israeli irrigation workers and farmers in the Galilee region. Surprisingly (considering the small number available) Syria chose the Panzer IV for this task. It had no feature making it better or worse than any other tank. Most likely the Syrians felt they were the most expendable tanks in their inventory as Israeli counterfire was expected. The panzers were in defilade (dug in) positions and not easy to shoot back at due to their altitude advantage.





Syria's participation in this 1967 war was sloppy and ultimately disastrous. Israel initially intended the conflict to be limited to a preemptive strike against Egypt to forestall an imminent attack by that country, with the possibility of having to fight Syria and Jordan defensively if they responded to the operations against Egypt. The war against Egypt started on 5 June 1967.

Because of the poor organization of the Syrian army, news of the fighting in the Sinai passed down from Damascus was scarce and usually outdated by the time it reached the brigade level. Many Syrian units (including the GHQ) were using civilian shortwave radios to monitor Radio Cairo which was spouting off outlandish claims of imaginary Egyptian victories, even as Israeli divisions were steamrolling towards the Suez Canal.

#### Panzer IV (continued)

By best estimate, Syria had twenty-five Panzer IVs fully operational on 6 June 1967, with maybe another ten or so partially operational or at least functional enough to take into combat. Most if not all the ex-French batch was probably out of service by 1967. Conversely, the entire ex-Spanish lot was in use along with some of the ex-Czechoslovak machines.

Four more were captured intact and taken to Israel as trophies. As these relics obviously had zero intelligence value, they went straight to museum display. Two additional Panzer IVs were knocked out but stable enough to be taken back to Israel for Israeli evaluation of how their ammunition performed.





Since Syria lost those in the best condition, the bulk of the remaining two dozen or so Panzer IVs would have been in a marginal material state. After the conflict, it was clear that WWII panzers had no place on a modern Cold War battlefield. As far as is known, they did not destroy a single Israeli tank. While it is a credit to German industry that they were even running at all 22 years after WWII ended, it was clearly a mistake to use them against Cold War-era tanks.

The main kit is from Dragon with parts and details from two other Dragon Panzer IV kits to create an ex-Spanish tank in Syrian service. I built it based on my research on an individual tank. The completed model represents a Panzer IV Ausf. G with parts from an Ausf J. I painted it with Vallejo model air light grey green 71044. The decals (FCM35205) and 3D printed storage boxes are from FC Modeltips.



Ed. I pulled the photos in this article from the website "wwiiafterwwii". For reference, more photos and more information on the story of the Panzer IV at the Golan Heights can found here:

https://wwiiafterwwii.wordpress.com/2016/09/04/panzers-in-the-golan-heights/

#### **Tips and Share Meeting 19 July 2023**

The July Tips and Share meeting was another winner. I did not count attendance, but around 10 squares with modelers inside of them were on the screen. Mike Fleckenstein displayed three completed models, all in 1/72, that would be a great Triathlon entry. All were of course gorgeous: A Star Trek space shuttle by Comic Models, an Airfix TSR-2, and a WWII desert vignette. The shuttle is from the Star Trek Voyager series. Pretty much one resin piece. The figures are well cast and easily recognizable as the various characters on the show. Mike loaded his TSR-2 every CMK aftermarket set he could find. As us aircraft modelers already knew from experience or learning of other's experiences, the kit is a bit challenging. Mike added to the fun with all the aftermarket sets (cockpit, wheel wells, speed brakes, exhausts, fin, stabilators...you get the idea). It took him much longer than normal to finish the build. The vignette is a SSR Models BMW R-75 motorcycle and sidecar. I don't recall who made the figures (SSR as well). Mike was very pleased with how well detailed they are.

Courageous Ken LaSala (in my book) continues his WWI aircraft series with a beautiful 1/72 Revell Fokker D.VII. Ken described his rigging technique, which led to a good discussion of rigging the things. Perhaps I will try it....someday. The rigging talk wound up launching the crew into the first of five topics discussed during the remainder of the meeting. The other four were use of mechanical pencils instead of paint for panel line highlighting, application of pastels for weathering, using micro-electric paint mixers, the figures Neal Gause was working on during the meeting. Attendance at the DC Zoom meetings was the last discussion topic. We were talking about how difficult traffic makes it is for Virginians, especially those of us who live south of the beltway, to make it to the DC meetings. Aris Pappas suggested we join the chapter's monthly Zoom meetings. Although the chapter is not large, Aris said the programs are excellent. I intend to act on Aris's suggestion. Here are the model pics shared at the meeting. The second two pics are on the next page.





#### Tips and Share (continued)





#### **August Meeting Program and Contest Theme**

Program: TBD

**Contest**: **Pixels** – Any vehicle/figure with a pixel type

camouflage or scheme

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

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

#### **IPMS NoVA Executive Board and Chapter Volunteers**

# IPMS Northern Virginia Modelers Chapter Officers

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# IPMS Northern Virginia Modelers Chapter Volunteers

# Contest Coordinator: Walter Schlueter

#### Webmaster:

Mike Fleckenstein

IPMS USA Webpage of the Year for 2017

#### Newsletter Editor:

Tom Henderson

IPMS R2 2020 Newsletter of the Year tomhenderson51@verizon.net

#### Raffle Coordinators:

Randy Corish, Mike Howe

#### Program Coordinator:

Vacant, volunteer needed

Make and Take Coordinator
Tim Barb

#### **Upcoming Events**

2 August 2023

IPMS Northern Virginia Modelers Monthly Meeting

**NEW VENUE THIS MONTH ONLY** 

**Sully District Government Center** 

**4900 Stonecroft Boulevard** 

Chantilly, VA 20151

5 August 2023

Washington Armor Club Meeting

George Mason Regional Library

7001 Little River Turnpike (VA route 236)

Annandale, VA

10:00am - 1:00pm

15 August 2023

**IPMS DC Meeting** 

Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Rec Ctr

13850 Travilah Rd. Rockville, MD 20850

6:30-8:45pm

16 August 2023

IPMS Northern Virginia Tips and Share Zoom Meeting

23 August 2023

**NCMSS Monthly Meeting** 

Thomas Edison High School

5801 Franconia Road

Alexandria, VA 22310

2-6 August 2023

**IPMS USA National Convention** 

San Marcos, TX

16 September 2023

PENNCON 2023

US Army Heritage and Education Center

Carlisle, PA 17013-5021

30 September 2023

National Capitol Model Soldier Society (NCMSS)

**Annual Show** 

Springfield Hilton

6550 Loisdale Road

Springfield VA

7 October 2023

PAXCON 2023

**IPMS Southern Maryland Scale Modelers** 

Hollywood Volunteer Fire

24801 MD-235

Hollywood, MD 20636





