

NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

AUGUST 1995

1995 IPMS Nationals



uite a few members of IPMS-Seattle made the

pilgrimmage to suburban Albuquerque, New Mexico, on the weekend of July 5-9. Some had noticed that the registration numbers coming back from the contest organizers were rather low fairly late in the game, but there apparentiy were enough plastic fans on hand to keep the room crowded and the hotel sold out. Both the display area and the vendor room were in conference room space at the hotel.

The IPMS-Seattle contingent included Terry Moore, Andrew Birkbeck, Ted Holowchuk, Bill Osborn, Brian Mulron, and Bill Johnson, and most of the following information comes from conversations with one or more of them.

On the Marco Polo stand were test shots of two upcoming Hasegawa kits, the Shinden (an advanced canard fighter that has only been kitted previously in 1:72 by Tamiya, many moons ago) and the 1:72 Dauntless. The dive brakes were there in plastic, though this probably won't be as glaringly noticeable as it was on the early issues of Hasegawa's 1:48 version. The Marco Polo rep also strongly confirmed that "lots of new kits" are coming from Hasegawa in the next 12 months, but there were no details about which subjects or scales are involved. The 1:48 Ki-44 was on display as well.

Those of you who have seen the recent Hasegawa kit of the Shusui (a Japanese adaptation of the Me-163 Komet) probably noticed that the mold was not created by Hasegawa per se. It was done by NK Models, but marketed under the Hasegawa label. Hasegawa has done this before (the Hobby Spot XF5U Flying Pancake, the Gartex conversions for the 1:48 Spitfire), and they seem to be expanding in this direction. I wouldn't be surprised if NK wasn't a group of Hasegawa moldmakers working on their own subjects; that is apparently where Fine Molds originated. Due to the smaller molding runs, prices tend to be higher, but at least we are getting competent kits of less commonplace subjects.

On the Minicraft stand, there was of course the company's recent 1:72 Spitfire Mk 14, but there was no sign of that kit's supposed stablemate, the Hurricane. The Spitfire is a well-detailed kit, especially when compared to the horribly price-inflated Fujimi Mk 14. There is actually an interior in the Minicraft kit, something the Fujimi folks simply neglected. And at \$7.50, the price can't be beat, at least in the US. If you want a bubbletop Mk 14, the PR versions, or a Mk 19, you're still stuck with Fujimi, but for the 14c fighter you now have a better alternative.

Minicraft also had an example of a 1:144 Catalina. This is reported to be a beautiful little kit, with nice detail for this smaller scale. Maybe it should have been displayed next to the lumbering Monogram 1:48 Catalina, which which also on show (at the Monogram booth).

There was one sad note from the Minicraft stand. We RAF fanatics had been holding out hope that once Minicraft had finished with their run of American WW2 heavy bombers, they would begin

working on the British counterparts, obviously starting with a Lancaster. But apparently this is not to be. Though Minicraft acknowledges that Europe is a substantial part of their market, and that the British have been burying them with Lancaster requests, they feel that economics argue against it. There just aren't that many Lancaster variants out there. which limits the number of boxings that Minicraft can use for one set of molds. Remember how many different versions they milked the B-29s for (bomber, tanker, B-50, the upcoming KB-50J with jet pods). Minicraft said that with a mold cost in excess of \$700,000, they just don't feel they could make a Lancaster pay back. That's a real blow for British aircraft fans everywhere. If a company that has specialized in large bombers can't figure a way to make a Lancaster pay, then we just aren't going to see one in the near term. Luckily the Airfix Lancaster isn't a total disaster (as long as you're prepared to do a significant bit of interior scratchbuilding and surface sanding).

Just as a side note, Minicraft mentioned that the B-29 kit (in all of its variants) is the highest selling kit they currently have on the market.

One advantage of having the local King of Schmoozers (Andrew Birkbeck) at the event is that he brings back lots of interesting anecdotes from the reps manning the company booths. Apparently the big story this year is how nasty and cutthroat the different model companies are getting in battling for scarce resources. Not resources like plastic or resin, but quality mold-makers and injectionmolding press time. It seems the big thing right now is for companies to try and steal everyone else's best moldmakers. This is probably a great deal for the moldmakers, but I don't see it being very healthy for the industry. Besides making the manufacturers act like a bunch of jackals fighting over the last piece of zebra meat, it raises the cost of overhead.

The molding press issue is even worse, because it actually prevents product from reaching the market. There are only so many injection molding machines capable of producing plastic kits in the world, and some companies are actually bumping others out of production time by waving more money at the press owners. Again, overhead only goes up.

It appears that as these manufacturers fight over a shrinking market, things are turning increasingly nasty.

There were other bits of gossip floating around the hall. Tamiya is rumoured to have plans to shift most of their production to the Phillipines, in an effort to lower their costs. They are concerned with the recent fairly drastic price rises in the US market.

Squadron will increase the output of their successful line of resin cockpit tubs. The goal is to be issuing two new tubs a month in a range of scales. Somewhat disappointingly, they are aiming squarely at newly released kits. We all know that it is the older kits that really need this sort of treatment -- those "peg and pilot" monstrosities. True, the Squadron cockpits are exquisitely detailed, but why spend all the effort improving an already excellent Tamiya kit? Squadron has bought into the philosophy that "new sells" - actually that **only** new sells.

Squadron also apparently has Cooper and Hawkeye grumbling about the competition for resin cockpit set sales. The smaller groups are convinced that, after they basically created the market niche in the first place, Squadron will put them out of business based on their lower prices and then raise those prices once the field is cleared.

MPM and Eduard, which everybody thinks is really the same people anyway, were floating the idea that a lot of kits, in multiple scales, were about to be unleashed from deepest darkest Czechoslovakia. No details yet, though MPM has always had an ambitious future release list. Most of those kits have actually appeared – eventually – so this could mean some interesting stuff ahead.

Though they have made their biggest impact in 1:48, Accurate Miniatures made the point that they do indeed see this as a business, and will produce in whatever scales they perceive a market need. As an example of this they pointed to the infamous 1:100 scale helicopters. Even though, by the anecdotal evidence of local retailers, they didn't sell worth beans in this area, these helicopters (which everyone admitted were well crafted kits) have done well for Accurate



Miniatures. They were meant to sort of keep AM in the news while the next wave of 1:48 kits worked their way through the development process, and make a few bucks in the bargain. Apparently AM is quite pleased with the way they've sold.

Monogram also had a wild observation that should cause we grizzled old longterm modellers a palpitation or two. They claimed that most of their sales - and therefore a majority of their marketing efforts - are directed at women. Before you scoff. listen to their logic. It's not that they say they're selling models for women to make, but rather that they are the ones who buy the majority of Monogram kits -- from K-Marts and Toys R Us, for their kids and grandkids. Seems to me this sort of gives some insight as to the Monogram marketing philosophy, as well as how they see the enthusiast market (ie, not particularly important).

OK, what about the models? The critique ran the gamut from excellent to barely above mediocre, but I did hear some disappointment that the average level of entry was declining somewhat. It's true that IPMS-Seattle has a reputation for harping on the basics of construction and finish, but it appears that many of the entries had some very fundamental problems, such as with alignment of parts or basic finish. This is probably to be expected, since it is an open contest, but one always hopes to see the country's best on display at a National event.

Best In Show was won by a 1:48 Sea King helicopter. I was told it was built by the same person who built last year's Best In Show 1:72 Dinah. Not much for output, but what he is producing is obviously high quality.

As has happened in the past, IPMS-Seattle members did well as far as awards are concerned. in fact, Ted Holowchuk brought home what must be some sort of record 12 placques for his work. As I understand it, he was up there receiving awards so often that the contest announcers were beginning to pronounce his name correctly by the end. Incidentally, it was announced at the event that the 1997 IPMS-Nationals would be held at Columbus, Ohio. (1996 will be in Virginia Beach, VA). If you are able to go to Columbus, leave some time in the schedule for a trip to the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton. It is one of the world's great aviation museums, and worth a full day or more.

IPMS-Seattle subsidized Andrew's film expense at the Nationals, and he will be putting on a slide show at a future meeting.

Kevin Callahan

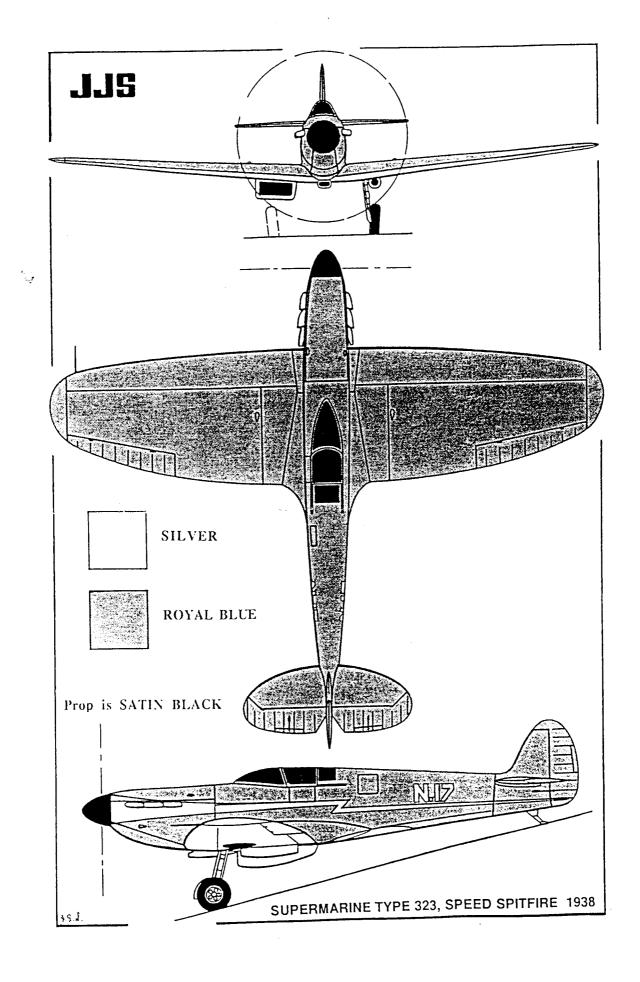
A couple of items of interest in this issue. First, the results of the recent Museum of Flight Model Contest, as provided by Ted Holowchuk. Then I have an article on the Speed Spitfire by Jim Schubert. I have heard that this one has been published elsewhere since I received the draft, so to some of you it may be a reprint.

Supermarine Speed Spitfire

BY JIM SCHUBERT

In late 1936 the prototype Spitfire flew 349 MPH at 16,800 feet and 290 MPH at 245 feet, the altitude required by the Federation Aeronautique International (FAI) for "official" speeds. Thoughts immediately turned to modifying a Spitfire for the world landplane speed record, which stood at 352 MPH, set up Howard Hughes in his H-1 powered by an 825 horsepower P&W R-1535 14cylinder twin row radial. Rolls-Royce began developing a "sprint" version of their V-12 Merlin II. In mid-1937, running on "hot" fuel, they showed 1536 HP. On the strength of this achievement, the Air Ministry contracted for two record attempt machines (though the second was never built). In early November 1937 Rolls-Royce committed to have 1995 HP available, which it was calculated would be good for 375 MPH.

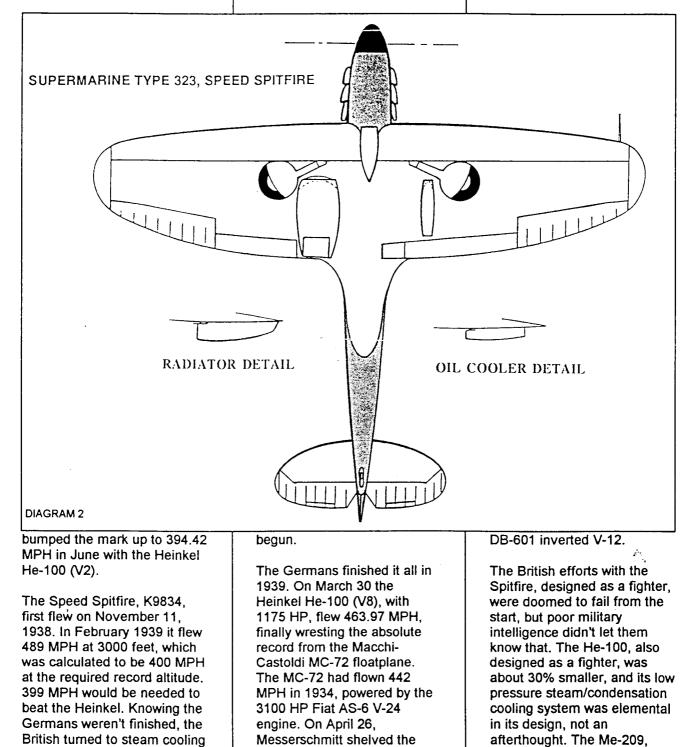
In late November the Messerschmitt Bf-109 (V13) officially flew 379.38 MPH.



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By May of 1938, Rolls-Royce were demonstrating 2122 HP, which should have permitted the Speed Spitfire to exceed the German mark by one percent required to set a record. But the Germans in an attempt to obtain a larger margin over the standing record. Steam cooling would permit deletion of the radiator, giving a substantial reduction in drag. These modifications were put in hand and testing absolute speed record for more than 30 years when their Me-209 (V1), with 1550 HP, flew 469.22 MPH. Both the Heinkel He-100s and the Me-209 were powered by special versions of the Daimler-Benz



smaller still, was purpose designed to take the record; its high pressure steam/condensation cooling system made it useless as a fighter, as subsequent efforts proved.

This is an attractive airplane. For 1:72 scale you need an Airfix Mk 1 kit, a Hasegawa Mk 1 kit, and the Aeroclub conversion set (propeller, fivespoke wheels and canopy). Hasegawa is the base kit. Use only the lower wing half from the Airfix kit -- it is the only 1:72 scale offering which has the correct gulling at the wing roots.

Crop the wings as shown in the diagram. Delete the right hand inboard flap and crop the outboard flap to clear the radiator. Delete the stock oil cooler. Make a new radiator and oil cooler per the sketches. Note that the radiator has a prominent boundary layer splitter plate. Delete the tailwheel and replace it with a skid. Delete all lights and radio gear. If you do an interior, delete the voltage regulator behind the pilot's headrest. Reduce the wheel clearance bulges atop the wings to small blisters.

The airplane was painted Royal Blue (your guess is as good as mine as to what color this is), with painted silver undersurfaces, including the wheel wells. A silver speed stripe runs from the prop to the trailing edge of the rudder. The class B registration "N.17" was also silver. The huge fourblade fixed-pitch wooden propeller and its spinner were painted satin black. In early testing the plane had a silver painted prop and spinner with red blade tips. The black prop had no color at its blade tips.

REFERENCES (in order of usefulness to this modelling project):

A. *Air International* magazine, September 1990.

B. Scale Models International magazine, October 1984.

C. Aeroplane Monthly magazine, August 1990.

D. Aeroplane Monthly magazine, May 1983.

1995 Mof Model Show Results

FROM THE NORTHWEST SCALE MODELLER GROUP

AIRCRAFT

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(1) 1/73 AND SMALLER 1ST: Mosquito (Glenn Adams) 2ND: B-17 (Glenn Adams) 3RD: SBD-3 (Glenn Adams) HM: B-2 (Tim Netson)

(2) 1:72 SINGLE PROP 1ST: DH-2 (Hany Avis) 2ND: Fw-190A8R11 (John Valadez) 3RD: P-51B (John Valadez) HM: XP-55 (James Green) HM: Bt-100E-7 (Bill Johnson)

(3) 1:72 MULTI PROP 1ST: Do-335A-6 (John Valadez) 2ND: He-219 (Bill Glinski) 3RD: Ar-240 (Bill Glinski) HM: Ju-88A (Bill Glinski) HM: B-17C (Noll Makar)

(4) 1:48 SINGLE PROP 1ST: Bf-109F (John Valadez) 2ND: P-47D (Les Sundt) 3RD: P-51D (Ken Conrad) HM: Fiat G-50 (Tony Trask) HM: F4F-4 Wildcat (Ken Conrad)

(5A) 1:48 MULTI PROP (2 ENGINES) 1ST: He-111H-6 (Richard Hoard) 2ND: B-25 (Martin Pritz) 3RD: Trent Meteor (Terry Moore) HM: He-111 (Mark Frailey) (5B) 1:48 MULTI PROP (4 ENGINES) 1ST: B-17D (Teny Moore) 2ND: B-29 (Martin Pritzi) 3RD: C-130 (John DeRosia) HM: PB4Y-2 (Scott Pedersen)

(6) 1:72 SINGLE JET 1ST: MiG-21MF (Has Beemink) 2ND: MiG-17 (Bill Gilinski) 3RD: F-16C (name not listed)

(7) 1:72 MULTI JET 1ST: F7U (Neal Makar) 2ND: A-6A (Bill Gilinski) 3RD: Su-27 (Bill Gilinsky)

(8) <u>1:48 SINGLE JET</u> 1ST: F-104 (Les Sundt) 2ND: MiG-15 (Les Sundt) 3RD: F-86 (Les Sundt) HM: MiG-15 (Ben Zayas)

(9) 1:48 MULTI JET 1ST: Horton 229 (John Valadez) 2ND: Horton 223(?) (Neal Makar) 3RD: F-15E (Ken Conred)

(10) 1:32 AND LARGER PROP 1ST: Fw-190 (Mark Frailey) 2ND: N1K1 George (Dave Sturm) 3RD: Bf-109 (Brian Willett) HM: P-S1 (Mark Frailey)

(11) 1:32 AND LARGER JET 1ST: MiG-29 (Brian Willett) 2ND: F-4E (Mark Frailey) 3RD: F-16 (Ken Peirson)

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(12) CIVIL_SPORT_RACING_AIRSHIP 1ST: DH-88 (Larry Schiller) No other entries

(13) AIRLINERS 1ST: 767 (Les Sundt) 2ND: 720 (Jack Ballard) 3RD: 767 (John DeRosia)

(14) HELCOPTERS 1ST: AH-1W (John DeRosia) 2ND: H-21 (Dan Best) 3RD: H-34 (name not listed) HM: UH-1 (John DeRosia)

(15) MISC (WOOD,METAL,SCRATCHBUILT) 1ST: Fokker D-8 (Harry Avis) 2ND: BMW003E engine (John Valadez) 3RD: F-4 (Gene Ritchhart)

AUTOMOBILES

(16) COMPETITION CLOSED COURSE 1ST: Hot Wheels Camaro (Ron Baker) 2ND: Chevy Super Truck (Steve Holmes) 3RD: Fernari 2005 (Ron Baker) HM: Mustang ETP (Tracy Rosselini)

(17) COMPETITION STRAIGHT LINE 1ST: Junkyard Dragster (Harry Avis) 2ND: Swamp Rat (Steve Holmes) 3RD: '62 Bel Air (Randy Hammer)

(18) CUSTOM AND SHOW CAR 1ST: '83 Viper (Joe Spitzer) 2ND: Dodge Viper (Glenn Ryder) 3RD: Lancia Stratos (Tracy Rosselini)

(19) FACTORY STOCK 1ST: '59 Impala (Glenn Ryder) 2ND: Ferrari Daytona 365 (Ron Baker) 3RD: '68 Hemi (Jim Pritzi) HM: '54 Corvette (Jim Pritzi)

(20) STREET MACHINE 1ST: 50 Chory Pickup (Crave Holmes) 2ND: 49 Ford (Joe Spitzer) 3RD: 46 Nova (Andrew Whitfield) HM: 468 AMX (Randy Hammer)

(21) STREET RODS 1ST: '40 Ford (Joe Spitzer) 2ND: Mysterion (Mac Neuven) 3RD: '40 Ford (Don Jensen) HM: '57 Chevy (John DeRosia)

(22) TRUCKS 1ST: '55 Cameo (Chris Berner) 2ND: Ford F-150 (Jim Pritz!) 3RD: Ford Snowplow (Rich MacDonald) HM: Ladderchief (Bill Ayer)

(23) MISCELLANEOUS AUTOMOBILES 1ST: Woody on a Surfari (Mike Percy) 2ND: Motorcycle (Mark Neumann) 3RD: Snakebite Monster Truck (Luke Barrett) HM: Mutt Jeep (Gene Ritchart)

DIORAMAS

<u>[24) AIRCRAFT</u> 1ST: Hu-16 (name not listed) 2ND: A-10 (James Deshiro) 3RD: F-18 flight deck (Jason Calhoon) HM: Pinky (Glenn Adams)

(25) AUTOMOBILES 1ST: Swap meet (Bob Carrey) 2ND: Opel truck/M113 APC (Gene Ritchart) No other entries

(20) MILITARY VEHICLES 1ST: POW camp (Mac Nguyen) 2ND:Soldiers at rest (Mac Nguyen) 3RD: Panther halftrack (Mikel Foss)

(27) SCI-FI 1ST: Breach (Rick Casas) 2ND: Forgotten (Rick Casas) 3RD: Stinger (Mac Nguyen) (28) SHIPS AND SUBMARINES 1ST: USS Alabama (Jeff Bullock) No other entries

(29) MISCELLANEOUS DIORAMAS 1ST: Maple Creek (Warren Jones) 2ND: Roarke's Drift (Harris Ian) 3RD: V-1 launch site (Gene Ritchart)

ARMOR

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(30) 1:35 CLOSED TOP THROUGH 1945 1ST: Panzer IVJ (George Stray) 2ND: Panzer IVF1 (George Stray) 3RD: Sdkfz 234/2 (George Stray) HM: BT5 (Hans Beemink)

(31) 1:35 CLOSED TOP POST 1945 1ST: T-62 (Mark Smith) 2ND: T-62 (David Jennings) 3RD: T-72 (Chris Beaner(7)

(32) 1:35 OPEN TOP AFV 1ST: Sdidz (George Stray) 2ND: 37mm Pak 35 (Jeff Hansen) 3RD: 88mm Flak (Rosenmuller Henning)

(<u>33) SOFTSKIN</u> 1ST: BMW R75 (Mikel Percy) 2ND: SA9 (Mark Smith) 3RD: RSO and Nebelwerfer (Jeff Hanson)

(34) CONVERSIONS AND SCRATCHBUILT 1ST: Mil 3 (Mikel Percy) 2ND: Luchs (W Foreman) 3RD: Masten (Steve Russo)

(35) SMALLER THAN 1:35) 1ST: Leopold railgun (Mikel Percy) 2ND: Stug III (Mikel Percy) 3RD: Tiger II (Niełs Wilhelm)

SHIPS

(36) POWERED 1ST: USS Missouri (Roger Torgerson) 2ND: USS New Jersey (Bill Glinski) 3RD: PT 109 (Steve Russo) HM: Butler class DE (B Cignol) HM: Cannon class DE (B Cignol)

(37) SAIL AND NON-POWERED 1ST: Labelle Poole (Niels Wilhelm) 2ND: Gazela Primeiro (Harrison MacNeil) 3RD: Royal Louis (Niels Wilhelm)

(38) MISCELLANEOUS SHIPS 157: Miss Caprice (Steve Holmes) No othe r entries

RAILROAD

(39) RAILROAD ENTRIES 1ST: GP 35 (Dave Montgomery) 2ND: Tank car (Dave Montgomery) 3RD: Caboose (Dave Montgomery)

FIGURES

(40) 53mm AND SMALLER 1ST: Apollo figures (Mikel Percy) 2ND: Space Marines rifleman (Mark Neuman) 3RD: Screamer killer (Mark Neuman)

(41) 54mm AND LARGER 1ST: Grendadier (Mikel Percy) 2ND: Chasmosaurus (Elliot Smith) 3RD: Weathering of armor (Mikel Percy)

SCI-FI AND FANTASY

(42) SPACE FACT 1ST: Space shuttle and tower (Jeff Nichols) 2ND: X-15 (John Veladez) 3RD: Space shuttle (Mark Andrews)

(43) SCI-FVFANTASY OUTER SPACE 1ST: Klingon wing (Brian Willett) 2ND: Star Trek runabout (David Eugrett) 3RD: Galactica (Troy Entow) HM: Enterprise (Jeff Bullock)



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(44):SCI-FVFANTASY LAND, SEA, AIR 1ST: Nautilus (Niels Wilheim) 2ND: Scorpion (Mark Neumann) 3RD: ? (Jay Zadina)

(45) SCI-FVFANTASY FIGURES No entries listed

SPECIALS

(46) OUT OF BOX WW2 FIGHTER 1ST: F4F (Bill Johnson) 2ND: Spitfire (Terry Moore) 3RD: Spitfire (Bill Johnson) HM: P-51D (name not listed)

(47) HOLLYWOOD SUBJECT 1ST: HA-1112 from "Battle of Britain" (Terry Moore) 2ND: Frankenstein (Jeff Hansen) 3RD: Bubbe Gump shrimp boat (Ross McPherson)

(48) RACING SUBJECT 1ST: Miss Exide (Terry Moore) 2ND: Nitro prototype (Steve Holmes)

(49) MODELFYING 1ST: Torncat (Dave Holmes) 2ND: F-14 (G Garrett) 3RD: America's Cup yacht (Stave Holmes)

JUDGES

(1) AIRCRAFT 1ST: Aircraft carrier diorama (Les Knerr) 2ND: 1:48 Tarniya Zero (Dave Holmes) 3RD: 1:48 OEZ MiG-21 MF (Les Knerr)

(2) AUTOMOBILES 1ST: Aubum school bus (Steve Hilby) 2ND: 1:24 Reveil Castrol GTXFC (Dave Holmes) 2ND: AMT '49 Ford (Desc Forry) 3RD: AMT Phymouth Prowler (Andrew Bertschi) 3RD: Ronault pickup (Steve Hilby) 3RD: AMT '55 Bel Air (Desc Forry)



Membership information: Andrew Birkbeck 3209 NE 98th St. Seattle, WA 98115

Newsletter comments or submissions: 305 Kevin Callahan 31849 Pacific Highway S Box 243 Federal Way, WA 98003

(3) ARMOR 1ST: Tamiya M-80 (G Garrett) 2ND: Tamiya M1A1 (G Garrett) 3RD: Hasegawa GMC 2.5 ton truck (Joel Morris)

(4) MISCELLANEOUS 1ST: AMT Bird Of Prey (G Garrett) 1ST: Gunze SMA Sdk211 (Tim Garrand) 2ND: DML 1:700 USS Ohio (Jim Schubert) 3RD: Tough Tess (Steve Hilby)

JUNIORS

(J1) AIRCRAFT 1ST: B-17G (Jacob Decker) 2ND: Fw-190 (Ed Rosenmuller) 3RD: B-29 (DJ Hall)

(J2) ARMOR 1ST: German halftrack (Ed Rosenmulier) 2ND: LAV AT (Michael Decker) 3RD: M1 tank (Jason Fukura) HM: Howitzer dio (Jason Fukura)

(J3) AUTOMOBILES 1ST: '92 Mustang (Ed Rosenmuller) 2ND: '55 Chevy pickup (Ed Rosenmuller) 3RD: '34 Ford pickup (Ed Rosenmuller)

(J4) SCI-FVFANTASY/SPACE 1ST: Runabout Ganges (Rebecca Garrett) 2ND: Space Marine 1 (Brian Hansen) 3RD: Space Marine 2 (Brian Hansen)

(J5) SHIPS 1ST: Japanese sub (Daniel Gorsline) No other entries

(J6) MISCELLANEOUS 1ST: Samurai (Daniel Gorsline) 2ND: Civil War (Joshua Thorardson) No other entries

BEST IN SHOW (POPULAR CHOICE) Maple Creek dio (Warren Jones)



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NEXT MEETING: Saturday, August 12 at 10.00am The map will return next issue!

> James J Schubert 230 173rd PI NE Bellevue, WA 98008