

The Trim Tab

January 2019 Volume 48 Issue 2



[IPMS Atlanta Website](http://www.ipms-atlanta.org)

IPMS Atlanta / *Scale Modelers*

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2019 IPMS/USA Nationals
Chattanooga
Aug 7-10, 2019

Now Less Than ...
8 Months Away!

Coming Events

PDK Airport Meeting -

This month's meeting will be **Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.** at Peachtree-Dekalb Airport (PDK). Turn from Clairmont onto Airport Rd. Go to the last left turn before reaching the speed bumps. The street will take you around the hanger and across the ramp. There is parking just past the ramp. Go in the glass door. Take the stairs to the left and go up to the second floor. The conference room is just down the hall.

HobbyTown USA,

4125 GA-20, BUFORD, GA

Model Building Clinic and Q&A-

Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019 1 p.m.

Club Build-Session-

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 1 p.m.



AtlantaCon 2019 - March 9, 2019

About two months remain! Check the IPMS Atlanta website for 2019 show forms and information ...

<https://www.ipms-atlanta.org/annual-contest>

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CALENDAR

Jan 11: ModelCon 2019 Chattanooga, TN	Mar 9: AtlantaCon 2019 Marietta, GA
Jan 16: PDK Airport Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm	Mar 20: PDK Airport Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm
Jan 26: HobbyTown Model Build Q&A 1-3 pm	Mar 30: HobbyTown Model Build Q&A 1-3 pm
Feb 2: HobbyTown Build Session 1-3 pm	Apr 6: HobbyTown Build Session 1-3 pm
Feb 9: JAXCON 2019 Jacksonville, FL	Apr 6: Phantom Phurball Show Anniston, AL
Feb 15-17: AMPS Contest & Exhibition Marietta, GA	Apr 17: PDK Airport Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm
Feb 20: PDK Airport Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm	Apr 27: HobbyTown Model Build Q&A 1-3 pm
Feb 23: HobbyTown Model Build Q&A 1-3 pm	
Mar 2: HobbyTown Build Session 1-3 pm	

December PDK Meeting Notes

A. Brief club business meeting ...

- IPMS Membership:** Dave reminded members to consider renewing/joining the IPMS national organization. IPMS membership is not mandatory for membership in the IPMS Atlanta club. National IPMS membership is, however, encouraged since that organization does provide valuable insurance coverage and free advertising for our annual AtlantaCon show held jointly with the Marietta Scale Modelers club. [Review IPMS membership benefits.](#)
- Local Club Dues:** Annual 2019 dues of \$10 will be payable to Art Murray no later than February.
- Club Christmas Party:** Dave and club members present all expressed their appreciation to Jim and Kim Elmore for hosting an excellent and enjoyable 2018 Christmas Party.

B. Members discussed a great group of models on the table this month.

C. "Thanks" to Jose Morales Jr.! Several months ago, when he and his wife were in Europe, Jose purchased samples of beaches famous in the WW II D-Day Invasion. He brought those samples back and shared them with club members. He recently returned from a trip to Puerto Rico and, once again, favored his model club friends with treasures from his trip. This time the trip treasure took the form of tasty Rum & Coke refreshments professionally prepared by Jose himself!

D. "Thank You" to Chris and Ellen Waggener for their presence and an excellent selection of cookies!

E. A huge "Thank You" goes to Art Murray who once again went way beyond the call of duty to bring in the remainder of the estate kits, tools, and miscellaneous items from a former modeler who has passed on to the *"great workshop where all the parts fit and there is no flash."*

Models for the Gwinnett Veterans Memorial Museum

<http://vetmemorialmuseum.tripod.com/index.html>

MiG-21, Bill Wofford, Complete

F-4, Brian Speer, Complete

MiG-17, Bill Johnston, Complete

B-58, Bill Easton, Complete

F/A 18, Jim Elmore, Complete

F-5, Jim Elmore, Complete

A-10, Brian Mason, Complete (Lost In Action)

F-117, Gale Brown, Complete

B-52, Ed Sveum, Complete

USS Skipjack, Dave Lockhart, Complete

F-105, Gale Brown/Bill Easton, Complete

F-100, Art Murray, In Process

A-10 (Replacement), Ed Hulsey, In Process

Berlin Airlift 3-Plane Set (1/144), Unassigned

A-4, Unassigned

A-6, Unassigned

F-106, Unassigned

F-86, Unassigned

OV-10, Unassigned

OV-1A, Unassigned

The Berlin Airlift 3-Plane Set:

The veterans at the museum are putting together a small glass-enclosed display where they would like to show the three model planes included in this very nice kit. The kit has been provided to the club in order to complete the builds on the three aircraft.

Ray Wheeler has already volunteered to build the C-54 (since it is the type of plane flown by his dad during the airlift.)

It appears the instructions and decal sheet lend themselves to being arranged to facilitate three separate builds to be underway at the same time. Work is being done to get the kit elements separated and bagged for the individual builds.

This is the Minicraft 1/144 kit #20004 if you want to take a look at it on [Scalemates](http://www.scalemates.com) . If you are an active member of the IPMS Atlanta club and would like to volunteer for one or both of the remaining models, please contact Bill Easton, weaston4@gmail.com .



HobbyTown USA®

<http://www.hobbytownduluth.com/>

Join IPMS Atlanta club members for model building and conversation first and last Saturdays of each month at HobbyTown!

Reminder: Model Kit Boxtops Needed!

Jim Elmore is collecting small to medium sized model kit box tops to use in a poster display supporting the Eggleston Hospital project.

Please contact Jim and let him know if you have one or more boxtops you could pass along to him. All greatly appreciated!

On the Table in December ...



Dave Lockhart

1:48

Tamiya

F4U-1A

Paint: Ammo by Mig.

Jose Morales Jr.

1:48

Tamiya

Fieseler Storch

Paint: Vallejo Acrylics

Rommel's personal plane in North Africa. Jose said it was a "two-day speed build out-of-the-box."

(i.e. Rather than the three or four days he might normally spend!).





1:1200

Scratch built

Hermes Class Fast Packet

Paint: Tamiya

Two Builds from Jim Elmore ...

28mm (1/56)

Games Workshop and Reaper

Halfling Griffon Rider

Paint: Reaper

Kit bash of two gaming figures.





Don Gustke

1:35

Tamiya

**British Quad Gun Tractor &
25 Pound Field Gun**

Paint: Model Master & Tamiya

These units were used by British & Canadian forces in 1940 to fight Rommel in the North African desert.

Dana Hebert

1:35

Dragon

Tiger I (Late Production)

Paint: Three-color camo scheme.
Acrylics with a Testors Dullcoat
finish.

Play-Doh was used in the build to
mask-off completed camo areas
during painting.





Chris & Ellen Waggener

Scale = 1.5 lbs.!

Crafty Kit Model

**Ginger Bread Truck
Built for the
Roswell Fire Department**

Santa's Elves indicated, "Virtually all of the kit build is edible!"

Bill Wofford

1/144

Anigrand Resin Kit

Kalinin K-7

Paint: De-canted Krylon
Aluminum with 25% laquer
thinner mix.

Testors Flat Enamel was also
used.



December Model of the Month

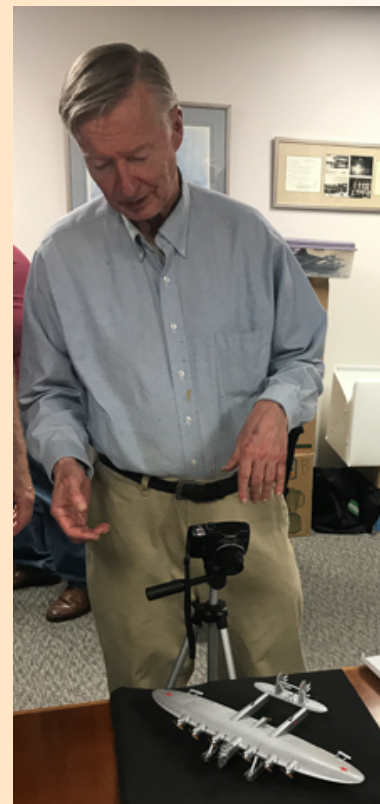
... another Tie!!

Congratulations
Dana and Bill!

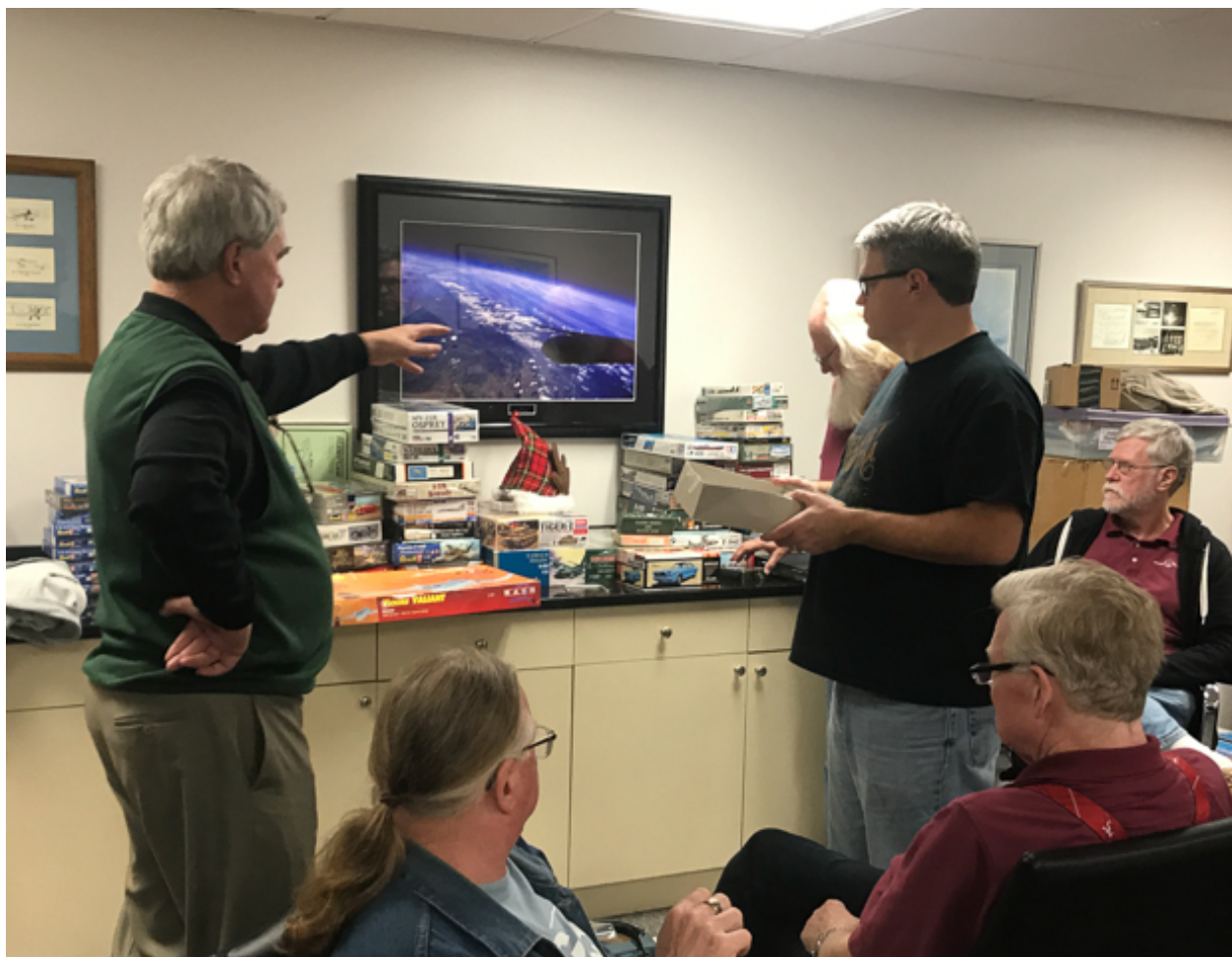


Dragon 1/35
Tiger I (Late Production)
Built by:
Dana Hebert

Anigrand Resin 1/144
Kalinin K-7
Built by:
Bill Wofford



ESTATE RAFFLE PART TWO!



The counter and floor of the EPPS Conference Room were covered with kits, tools, and various other modeling materials brought in for the November and December meetings by Art Murray (and trucked-up the stairs with help from hearty club members) then setup for a multi-round free raffle to find new homes for all the items.

As many know, there is a tremendous amount of work involved in acquiring, transporting, organizing, and reducing items from an estate down to those that can be dispersed to modelers to put them to further use. The club expresses its heartfelt thanks to Art and the other club members who have been actively involved in these types of tasks that benefit the family of a deceased modeler, our club members, other modelers, and the hobby in general.

At the December meeting, thanks also go to Lane Royal, who shifted his monthly raffle duties to help Art handle the free raffle.

(Note: The beauty of this raffle was that, even for someone with bad raffle luck like mine, everyone was a winner of something since all the tickets were drawn each time!)

Notes from the Workbench - January 2019

Dave Lockhart



"New Year's Resolutions"

In looking back at my 2018 New Year's Resolutions I didn't do that bad:

- Build More Models
 - I actually had a good year in building; I built 7 models which is pretty good for me. Considering I travel a lot I was fairly happy with this. As I am driving more than flying, I have a tool box with modeling stuff and have been working on armor models on the road, it's better than sitting at the bar all night. Cheaper too!
- Get Better at Weathering
 - I don't think I've gotten my airplane model weathering down but I'm trying. I think I'll be happy with just a little weathering. I did build a tank this year (first one in 50 years) and was pretty pleased with the weathering. Thank God for YouTube and Ammo Mig products.
- Build A Car Model
 - Not last year. I did have a nice Italeri Fit 806 that was given to me years ago. It was very nice kit. Big too. I thought it would find a much better home with Joe Scavotto. There are just some models that belong with the master builders. I built a tank instead - that's sort of a car???
- Go to more shows
 - As I get only so many hall passes from she who must be obeyed I can't go to as many shows as I'd like. My three are AtlantaCon, ModelCon and the Nationals. I did get to Anniston this past year. Only a couple of years to retirement and maybe then more shows.

I think for 2019 I'm not going to make any resolutions. Between being a chapter president and the IPMS DLC I've got my hands full. I've got 4-5 models in the cue. Actually, going to start working on my Constitution (my wife won't believe this) and I have another large project I'm starting to plan.

Either way, it is always a good year when one can be on the bench.

Happy modeling

Dave

Sprue Snippings ...

If you run across a source that you think might be helpful to others for their modeling reference, or just for general interest, please pass it along. For this month ...

Hearty "Congratulations!"
to
Ray and Sue Wheeler
who recently celebrated their
50th Wedding Anniversary!

Two more links this month courtesy of Bill Wofford:

1) Bill referred to this one as, "a seemingly endless stream of mostly aircraft photos updated daily"

<http://retrowar.tumblr.com/>

2) This one was, "a web site dedicated to spy submarines from around the world"

http://www.hisutton.com/Covert_Shores_Articles.html

Jim Pernikoff Note: *Jim mentioned in his Kit Review article this month that he is going to be undergoing some eye surgery in the next couple of months.*

His articles provide valuable insight into publication content which can help enrich the modeling experience. "Thank You," Jim for your time and expertise provided through your articles in the TrimTab Newsletter. We anticipate many more!

Best wishes for a successful surgery and speedy recovery!

For future newsletters ...

Club members have expressed an interest in seeing pictures of other modelers' home **display cases/shelves** as well as pictures of **modeling workshop setups**.

The newsletter will make space available for your photos, and include any descriptive comments you might want to send along to provide other modelers with ideas and insights about your display and workshop areas.

Please email digital photos and comments to weaston4@gmail.com.

PDK Monthly Meeting ...

Thanks to Jose Morales Jr. libations from his recent trip to Puerto Rico were provided! In addition, thanks to Art Murray the remaining estate kits and tools were provided for a free raffle. Chris and Ellen Waggener provided club members with cookies. And a selection of excellent models were brought to the table for review and discussion! *(The December meeting alone was worth every penny of 2018 club dues!!)*



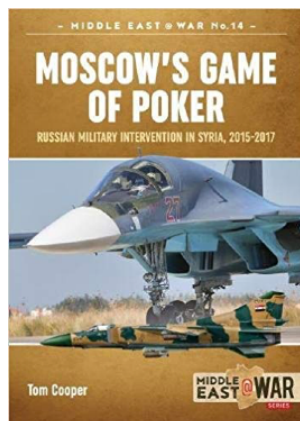
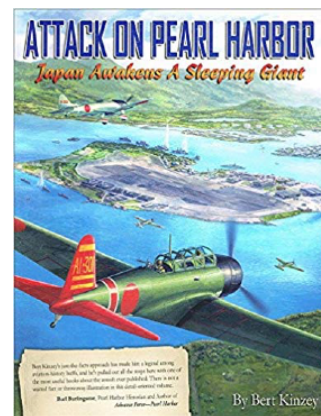
Note: Bill is NOT picking his nose!

JIM'S PRINTED MATTERS

by Jim Pernikoff

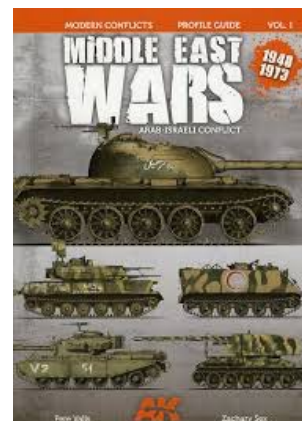
Not surprisingly for after Christmas, the pickings are a little bit lean this month, but that leaves more space for my other articles!

Attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan Awakens a Sleeping Giant, from **Detail & Scale**, can be thought of as Bert Kinzey's *third* edition on the topic. In 2001 came the 48-page booklet that came packaged with a Revell kit, and in 2010 came the first edition of this book, an 80-page book sold in the USS Arizona Memorial's gift shop. Now Bert has reissued the book in vastly expanded form, to no less than 180 pages! There is much new data, particularly regarding those ships that have largely been ignored by other books, such as the ones in the East Loch and Middle Loch of the harbor, as well as the Submarine Base. The air attack itself has been subdivided into its various components. Of course, there is stuff here for the plastic modeler readership. Virtually every part of the book has been revised or expanded, so even if you have the earlier edition, you need to seek this one out.



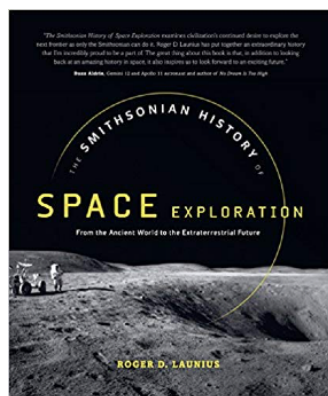
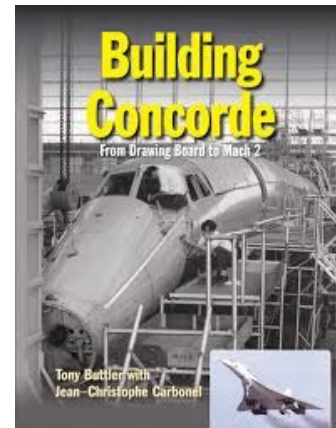
A very topical book is **Moscow's Game of Poker, Russian Military Intervention in Syria, 2015-2017**, which is #15 in the excellent *Middle East@War* series from **Helion**. The political reasons for Russia's involvement (and how Iran has been mixed in with that), the makeup of the Russian forces, and all significant military actions are all described in good detail, accompanied by many photos and tables. While the photos are all in black & white, there are 7 pages of color side-views of Russian aircraft and a page showing the layout of their SAM battalions. The possible future of Moscow's involvement concludes the narrative. There is no index but no fewer than 8 pages of notes, so the book has obviously been well-researched. If you want color schemes of current Russian aircraft that have actually seen combat, this is a good place to look.

On the heels of last month's new series introduction from Guideline, this month I present another fairly new series in a similar vein called *Modern Conflicts - Profile Guide* from **AK-Interactive**. The first issue is on **Middle East Wars 1948-1973**, and unlike Guideline's book, this one is almost exclusively a book of color profiles of vehicles from all combatants, in large size, two to a page, following an introductory chapter. Vehicles are shown by country, with a separate chapter of British and French vehicles from the Suez campaign of 1956. There is actually very little here from 1948-49; most of the subjects are from the 1956, 1967 and 1973 conflicts. To ensure the vehicles are shown as large as possible, the long guns are broken off where appropriate and shown in separate views, and the captions give additional color details. If you want to build vehicles from these conflicts, there are plenty of choices here for you.



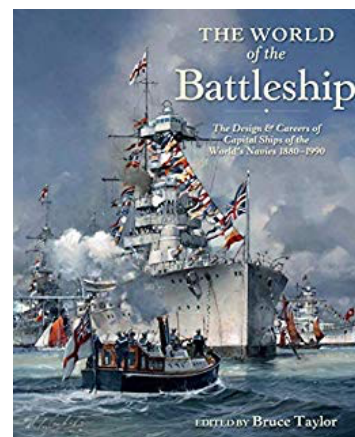
JIM'S PRINTED MATTERS - Continued

Building Concorde, *From Drawing Board to Mach 2*, from Crecy Publishing, is a misnamed book; *Designing Concorde* would have been more appropriate, since the bulk of the book details the iterative design process from both the British and French that led to their joint venture. Many of the early designs looked nothing like the final product, but by the time the BAC 223 and the Sud Super Caravelle were on the board, their similarity was striking. Fittingly the book has two authors, with Tony Buttler the prime and J.C. Carbonel describing the French part of the effort. How the two countries got together on this is told in detail, and only toward the end of the book is the actual construction, flight test and entry into service. To make the story complete, there are chapters on the American and Soviet SST programs. You won't find too much here on the Concorde's service history, since that is much better served by other books. There is a bibliography and a fairly basic index. This is a rather different look at one of the most iconic airliners ever built, and a good companion to whatever Concorde books you may already own.



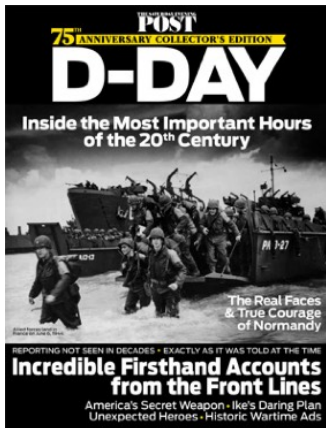
The Smithsonian History of Space Exploration, *From the Ancient World to the Extraterrestrial Future*, is the epitome of what can be called a “coffee-table” book. Big and bold, this describes in a multitude of brief articles man’s involvement in space. People, equipment, missions and ideas are all covered for both manned and unmanned missions, accompanied by photos from the Smithsonian’s vast collection. Future concepts like space elevators and interstellar travel are included as well. The topics are not covered very deeply and you probably won’t learn much that is new, but this is a nice book to sit down and go through with the kids. An extensive bibliography and index are included. I’ve seen this one in stores, so go find a copy and give it a look.

The World of the Battleship, *The Design & Careers of Capital Ships From the World’s Navies 1880-1990*, from Naval Institute Press, is a distinctly different look at a familiar topic. Instead of a normal chronological telling of the story of the life of the genre, this book has biographies (for want of a better term) of 21 battleships, each representing one of the 21 navies that fielded such ships in the mentioned time period. (There is a little cheating going on, since a few of the included ships are actually armored cruisers, a type not usually included in discussions of battlewagons.) The ships were supposedly chosen due to import to the using nation, and each chapter is written by a naval history expert from that country. While the usual suspects are here - included ships include *Hood*, *Missouri*, *Scharnhorst*, *Nagato* and *Littorio* - there are many ships here I had never heard of, and you probably won’t have, either. Of course, some of the countries aren’t ones you may associate with battleships, such as Chile or Finland. Each ship is described in



JIM'S PRINTED MATTERS - Continued

significant detail, from conception to final demise, and much insight is provided on the navies and the men who operated these ships. About the only thing I wish they would have included is a plan and side view drawing of each ship. If you dig battleships, and even if you have other books on the topic, this one is different enough to warrant consideration.



A new year means new anniversaries. Last year the British kept us well-reminded about the centenary of the RAF, but the first shot at one of this year's major anniversaries comes from an American publisher, the **Saturday Evening Post**. Their special-issue magazine, **75th Anniversary Collector's Edition: D-Day, Inside the Most Important Hours of the 20th Century**, has the advantage of timeliness, since nearly all of the included articles are in-period, most taken from issues of the Post in 1943 (*before* the invasion) and 1944, with a few from the 1950s in the form of retrospectives, while the participants were still very much alive. The articles cover all the invasion beaches as well as Pointe du Hoc. Also included are some Norman Rockwell paintings and some galleries of magazine ads of the day, which are always fun to see. There are also essays from then-active-duty servicemen on *What I am Fighting For*.

Regardless of whatever publications are yet to come this year about D-Day, this one should remain one of the best, and is highly recommended.

Mortons Media of the U.K. has produced two excellent series of bookazines that, in essence, collide with their latest issue. One series has had four issues on Luftwaffe secret aircraft designs, the other has had five issues on colors and markings including the recently reviewed *Luftwaffe Bombers*. The new issue is called **Luftwaffe: Secret Project Profiles**, which is a color and markings book of projects that, for the most part, never left the drawing board, so these are hypothetical. That may seem rather silly, since even if the war had continued, most of these would still have never been built. But "Luftwaffe '46" is a popular genre, so a book like this is neither unexpected nor unwelcome. And there are some kits out there of included aircraft. So you simply have to decide whether you want to spend your money on "what-if" colors and markings.



JIM'S PRINTED MATTERS - Addendum

Kit Review – Squadron's 1/72 Quick Kits, Part 1

About a year ago, I did an in-the-box review of the 1/72 *Quick Kit* from Squadron of the F4F-3 Wildcat. I said at the time that when I got back into modeling, which I had planned doing after retirement, it would be the first kit that I build. That is still the plan, but it's on hold for now until I get surgery to replace the lens in my right eye, which should happen in the next 60 days. (Right now my right eye is nearly useless for reading or other close-up work, like typing this column, and on days when my left eye is tired I can barely read anything.)

But since I am still recovering from the flood I had here in September, setting up a workshop to do airbrushing is still out of the question, so the natural choice is a kit that requires no painting, and that is where these *Quick Kits* come in handy. I had bought the F-86 at the same time as the Wildcat, so I decided to go ahead and buy the other six kits in the series. There is no indication that Squadron is likely to add any more - I wish they would, perhaps a Bf 109, a Zero, a MiG-15? - since they've been pushing these quite heavily in recent flyers, though not at discounted prices, so I don't know what they have in mind.

These kits are all modifications to Hobby Boss *Easy Assembly* kits; the only changes from those are: only one color choice, and the parts are all painted and decaled on the sprue to match that, and any multi-part canopy option has been deleted. These kits all feature a one-piece fuselage (a neat feat of tooling!) and a one piece wing, so gap filling should not be needed. Naturally cockpit detail is almost non-existent, but that is still better than a pilot's head molded into fuselage halves! The accuracy of the kits varies but all are at least acceptable, and the standard of the painting and decaling is superb, especially on difficult parts like the canopy frames. I have to believe these are finished by machines, but how the Chinese achieve such precision is remarkable.

This month I am giving you a rundown of the eight kits in the box. After I start building in a month or two, I'll follow up with another part to this multi-kit review. Below are the kits in order by Squadron item number; the item numbers of the Hobby Boss kits that they are based on are in parentheses:

SQ-7001 F4U-4 Corsair (80218) - VMF-323, USS Sicily, Dennis Hallquist, 1951, 41 parts + canopy. The parts count is increased by the presence of 8 underwing rockets with integral pylons but separate tail fins, and a forward antenna mast that would be needed for an F4U-1 but not a -4. The kit also includes two drop tanks for mounting under the inner wings. The wheel wells are a rather yellowish rendition of zinc chromate but I'm not going to change it. Stripes on the tail hook are missing but I'm not going to change that either.

SQ-7002 P-47D Thunderbolt (80257) - 513th F.S., 406th F.G., 9th A.F., Howard Park, 1945, 36 parts+ canopy.

Maj. Park's "Big Ass Bird II" is one of the more colorful "jugs" (and is still around, now painted as "Tarheel Hal"). The kit has an option for either 500 lb bombs or drop tanks on the wing pylons and a flatter style of drop tank under the fuselage. There are D-Day stripes under the fuselage but not the wing, but I've seen other illustrations of the aircraft that back that up. The left wing pitot tube is missing but all the other important stuff is there.

SQ-7003 P-51D Mustang (80230) - 45th F.S., 15th F.G., 20th A.F., Robert Moore, 1945, 19 parts + canopy.

JIM'S PRINTED MATTERS - Addendum Continued

Maj. Moore's "Stinger VII" is rather basic, not even including drop tanks that this airplane would have used for escorting B-29s from Iwo Jima. It does offer an option of shrouded or unshrouded exhaust stacks, which is rather strange since only one would be correct; photos indicate the shrouded ones are the way to go. Again the pitot tube, this time underwing, is missing, but otherwise it's a decent Mustang.

SQ-7004 F4F-3 Wildcat (80219) - VF-41, USS Ranger, Charlie Shields, 1941, 15 parts + 2 clear. This is in the delightful pre-war colors with chrome yellow wings and "neutrality stars" on the fuselage. The landing gear is simplified but still looks effective. The second clear part is for the belly windows that some early Wildcats had. And this time the pitot tube is included, and there is no wing-fold seam to fill as there is on the Hasegawa kit.

SQ-7005 P-40B/C Warhawk (80209) - 3rd P.S., AVG, Charles Older, 1942, 19 parts + canopy. Chuck Older's #68 is one of the best-known Flying Tigers; the "B/C" in the kit name is a legacy of the regular kit, but technically this is a Hawk 81A-2. The undernose scoop is a separate part, split along the color demarcation line, so the sharkmouth is split; it will be interesting to see if it lines up on assembly. All the other pertinent markings: kill markings, Hell's Angels logo and the famous Disney tiger, look just fine.

SQ-7006 F-86F-30 Sabre (80258) - 334th F.S., 4th F.W., 5th A.F., James Jabara, 1953, 26 parts + canopy.

The plane of the 2nd ranking U.S. ace in Korea is nicely done, with two underwing tanks that include the side braces, and this time there is at least an ejection seat and stick in the cockpit! Oddly the cover art implies an open-airbrake option, but that is not available. The kill markings and "fighting cock" emblem are well done. However the instructions do not remind the builder to add weight in the nose!

SQ-7007 Fw 190A-8 (80244) - 5/JG300, Ernst Schröder, 1944, 29 parts + canopy.

The parts count is inflated by the apparent inclusion on the sprue of four gun barrels for the wings, but the gun barrels are already integrally molded, and the four parts are not shown on the instructions. There is a drop tank and the kit is pretty well detailed, with a cockpit tub and even the pilot's step! The spinner has its spiral, but of course there is a missing marking, as the swastikas obviously had to be omitted. (On the original kit's decal sheet, they were included as two pieces, the typical modern approach to get around the prohibitions.) So to be perfectly accurate, a trip to the spare decals box will be needed.

SQ-7008 Spitfire Mk VB (80212) - 303 (Polish) Squadron, Jan Zumbach, 1942, 24 parts + canopy.

In some ways this is the weakest kit in the lineup. The propeller blades are ridiculously narrow, and not only is the pitot tube missing (again) but so are the landing gear doors! All the photos of Sqdn. Ldr. Zumbach's aircraft show landing gear doors, so I don't know what Hobby Boss was thinking. (Their kit is missing them as well.) The canopy seems too wide, but the markings are excellent, including the pilot's personal Donald Duck emblem. The bottom line is that it still looks like a Spitfire.

So, that's what the eight kits look like in the box. It will be interesting how close the finished products will look compared to the same models built and painted by a master modeler. I'll let you know how they come out.

JIM'S PRINTED MATTERS - Addendum Continued



Publishers Survey - SAM Publications & Valiant Wings***By Jim Pernikoff***

This month I bring you two British publishers that have one thing in common: the modeler who became a publisher, Richard A. Franks.

Franks had been a contributor to Alan Hall's *Scale Aircraft Modelling* magazine when he and some cohorts decided that the magazine was a bit too dowdy and had too much black-&-white content and thought they could do better. So they set up a new house in 1995, **SAM Publications**, to publish *Scale Aviation Modeller*, a slick competitor to Hall's magazine with everything in color. (How they got away with the similar title without litigation is beyond me; that could not have happened in this country.) Hall had to redesign his publication to compete, and today the two magazines continue to both thrive, so each obviously has its own adherents.

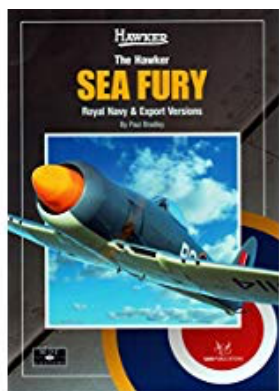
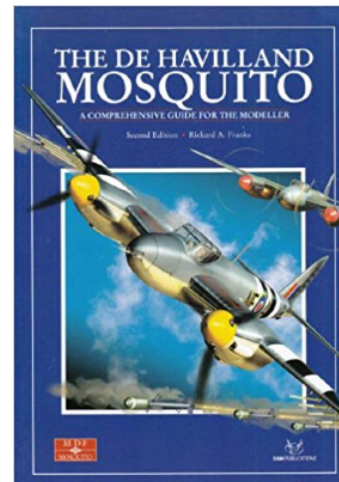
Hall had begun publishing books to augment his magazine in the form of the series *Warpaint* and *Combat Colours* (see my *Guideline Publications* checklists in an earlier newsletter), but Franks thought something bigger and better was needed. This would be a book that would provide everything possible for a modeler to build a model of a famous warplane in one volume, from "soup to nuts", and the result in 1998 was the first *Modellers Datafile* (MDF), on the Mosquito. The series took off with more volumes on WW2 aircraft, though eventually modern jets would be covered as well. These books typically contained the following:

- A history of the aircraft variants, with info on the fortunes of war that required these changes, often accompanied by small isometric drawings of specific aircraft features, similar to the drawings included in many Squadron In Action books.
- A detailed color & markings section, not only with the inevitable color side-views, but plan views showing standard camouflage patterns in detail along with info on the sizes and placement of insignias and lettering. Foreign usage would be covered, but perhaps not in as much detail.
- A series of small isometric line drawings of the aircraft, showing each variant and sub-variant, with each drawing highlighting only the changes in each drawing from what came before. These eventually disappeared from the MDFs, which may be one reason I'm discussing two publishers here!
- A large section of detail photos of aircraft features taken of various museum aircraft, along with diagrams taken from the original technical manuals. This often extended to 50 pages or more!
- In some books, info on the various engines used in different variants, a section with specification tables of every variant, production lists showing breakdown by factory, and squadron lists for each variant.
- Reviews of available kits in the major scales, featuring newer kits but often including older ones as well.
- A series of kit builds, sometimes of multiple variants in one scale, other times including all the major scales.
- Complete lists of all the known kits, accessories and decals ever issued for the subject aircraft, along with a complete bibliography of all known books and magazine articles ever published on the type.

Publishers Survey - SAM Publications & Valiant Wings
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- A set of foldout drawings showing three views of selected variants, typically in 1/48 and 1/72 scales.

There was so much information in these books that for certain aircraft, like the Spitfire, Bf 109 and Mustang, two books were needed. Updated editions of a few of these have been issued, and for some reason these were given new numbers in the series; for instance the original Mosquito book was #1 but the updated book is #20; I guess they wanted to make sure for people not to confuse the two different editions. The updated books generally are direct copies of the originals, with an additional chapter reviewing new kits issued since the prior edition, often with additional kit builds as well. Since the additions are not folded into the original text, they are not as convenient as they could be. But the MDF series is still doing quite well, though some of the books published after Franks' departure have gotten less than stellar reviews. The recent emphasis has been on postwar U.S. Navy aircraft.



Naturally there was a desire for a companion series that would include less detail on aircraft which seemed to merit less, and in 2004 the *Aviation Guide* series was introduced with a rather different look than the MDF series. It was eventually decided to relaunch the series in 2014 as *MDF Scaled-Down*, which was similar in scope but more closely resembled the MDF series. The basic idea is the same, but some of the features listed above would be omitted if not deemed necessary for the smaller books. This series is also doing quite well at present.

In 2010, SAM decided to expand with two new series: *MDF Extra* would feature multiple aircraft grouped by function, while *ADF Extra* would do the same for military vehicles. Each would eventually wind up with only one title published in each, though the second announced MDF Extra title would reappear in the Scaled-Down series. Another series called *Air Wars*, dealing with the aircraft of particular conflicts, also had an early end, with only two volumes in print, though another one ended up at a different publisher.

Significantly, it was about time that Franks left SAM, perhaps over philosophical differences over the direction the company was headed, and he established **Valiant Wings Publishing** to carry on his ideas on modeling books. The books would be similar in format to the SAM series.

Airframe & Miniature is the flagship series, essentially identical in concept to the MDF series, with extensive coverage of the featured aircraft, including content similar to what is listed above. One difference is that updated editions are not renumbered but retain the same number as the original.

This time there are two smaller series: *Airframe Album* could be thought of as an “intermediate” series, whereas *Airframe Detail* is the “basic” one. All three series serve the same basic function, with the level of content simply



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diminishing, with the page count, as the subject aircraft required.

The *Airframe Extra* series could be thought of as the follow-on to the abortive *Air Wars* series started by SAM, with each book combining a nice history of the title campaign with color side-views and assorted kit builds in the major scales. I particularly like the balance in these between history and modeling.



Valiant Wings has also started an *Airframe Constructor Series* in conjunction with Zoukei-Mura Models, with books designed to help modelers to specifically build models made from their kits. I don't know if these books might be useful to modelers building other kits of the same aircraft; I would expect that they would only be of limited value. If anyone disagrees, please let me know.

There may be other series listed on both of the attached checklists; I am not familiar with those series so I will not comment on them. If you are familiar with them, please feel free to add your own comments in the newsletter.

Incidentally, I met Mr. Franks at an IPMS Nationals a few years ago, so there is a possibility that he might make an appearance at the Chattanooga Nationals in August. You might want to meet the man who has effectively launched at least a half-dozen book series, all directed toward modelers!

To review and print/utilize the publication information Jim has organized for you, please open the PDF attachments labeled ...

"SAM Publications and Valiant Wings Publications"

Scale Modeler's Brag Sheet

Fill out and bring with your model to the club meeting.



Model Subject: _____

Kit Used: _____

Scale: _____

Add-ons: _____

Paints: _____

Special Techniques: _____

Any Historical/Background Information: _____

Modeler's Name: _____

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