

NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

JANUARY 1994

Recon Mission

Now that we have all survived the rigors of Christmas and New Year's Eve, thoughts must inevitably turn to the annual IPMS-Seattle Rite of Spring, otherwise known as the Region VII Convention.

As mentioned in the December newsletter, the 1994 Recon will be held at the Washington Guard Armory in the main cafeteria. We have also reserved an overflow room and our usual meeting area, which will act as the vendor room. There are still a couple of issues to be resolved, but given the cost difference between the Armory and hotel meeting space, the choice of location makes good sense.

The team in charge of organizing the event is essentially the same as the one that commanded the 1993 Recon. Terry and Jill Moore will handle model registration, Twyla Birkbeck and Keith Laird will take care of the entrance desk, Andrew Birkbeck will take the lead on judging issues, Nick Ferraiolo will be in charge of the vendor room, and I will be producing all the forms and table cards as well as managing the model room on the day of the event (along with Andrew). Each of us will need volunteer help

from the membership, though the biggest needs are in judging and in directing incoming entrants to the correct tables for their categories.

Judges are always in short supply. For all the moaning about the quality of judging at contests, things become noticeably quieter when the call for volunteer judges goes up. It's really not as bad as you expect. I can speak with some experience, having just put in my first judging job at the recent Vancouver show. You'll be hooked up with two other judges and set upon a range of categories. We'll try to give you categories that you have some experience in, though there is no guarantee of that. So much (like how many categories you will be responsible for and how many judges are on each team) depends on how many judges show up on the day of the event. Of course, you are expected to graciously bow out when your team comes to a category that you have entries in.

I will also need a few hearty souls to help direct entrants to the proper tables for their category. The categories will be colour-coded, like last year, and each traffic director will

have a schematic of how the tables are laid out. All you need to do is smile a lot and point.

On page 7 is a reduced copy of the event flier that has been passed out to many of the area hobby shops. I do hope it is legible! You'll notice that we have combined some categories, in an attempt to streamline the judging duties and minimize the overall cost to the club. As always, we will roll with the punches on the day of the Recon, and can split any category that has been heavily entered.

We also have a couple of special categories: Flights of Fancy and 1:72 SFTB P-51. The FoF category was featured at both the 1993 Recon and Vancouver Show, and is always good for a chuckle. The SFTB -- straight from the box -- category which we tried in 1993 (F-4 Phantoms) was something of a bust, drawing only four examples, though all four were well-made models. I hope we have better luck this time around, having chosen another perennial favorite, the P-51. You can use any kit of any mark, but the model must be 1:72 and be built straight from the box. The only allowed exception is the use of

aftermarket decals. Be advised that if there is no turnout for these special categories in 1994 they won't be back in 1995.

The key to success for a regional event like the 1994 Recon is promotion. To date we have asked members to deliver copies of our event fliers to area hobby shops, we have sent fliers to all IPMS groups in our region, and we have placed an event notice in *Fine Scale Modeler*. If you have any other suggestions on how to get the word out, or if you need additional copies of the flier, please contact either Andrew Birkbeck or myself. Since we have changed location from last year's show, it is essential that we get the word out to all interested parties.

The IPMS-Seattle Recon is an ideal place to show off our work to an audience much larger than the club itself. With good planning and a bit of luck (no late-season snowstorms, please) the 1994 Recon should be the solid success that the 1993 show was.



An *important* comment on newsletter submissions. I have been trying to get the letter in the mail around the 25th-27th of the month (with varying success). Given that it takes some time to do the actual production, I need the copy for anything that needs to go in a specific newsletter by the 15th of the previous month. In other words, if you want your notice in the March issue, get it to me

by February 15. Otherwise, it will probably slip to the following issue.



From the French modelling magazine *Replic* comes a report from the Tokyo show concerning new aircraft model releases. Most were items that had been previously announced, but there were a few new ones, at least to me.

If you get the quarterly brochure from Aviation Usk, you have probably seen most of the MPM entries. Their modelling output is a bit like my own: plenty of stuff in the queue, but actual finished product is hard to come by! Still, their line is already good and is constantly improving. They have embraced the multimedia approach, with each kit containing etched metal parts and a photo instrument panel. So here goes the announced program (which, if the past is any indication, will likely extend into 1995 and beyond):

Me-262 Mistel
Junkers W 34
Mitsubishi A7M2 Reppu
Sikorsky R5
Fw-189 V6
Bf-109F
Me-262 V1
Fw-190S
Bf-109 V1
Bf-109G-12
Fw-190 V1
Fw-190 V18
Fokker G-1
Kawasaki N1K1 Rex
Nakajima C6N1 Myrt
Northrop N3PB
Ryan XF2R Dark Shark
Ryan FR-1 Fireball
Northrop XP-56 1/2
McDonnell XF-85 Goblin
MiG-21F
Vought F8U Pirate
Sikorsky R4
Tupolev SB-2M
Zlin 128

Lots of early prototype versions of existing German fighters (including the tailsitter

Me-262), plus choice goodies like the XF-85 and Pirate. They seem to have a love for experimental prototypes of the 40s and 50s, a perfect type of plane for the short-run approach.

Condor, which recently released a very nice kit of the Me-163A, also has a long list of coming 1:72 releases. I have heard that they are associated with MPM, or are possibly an outgrowth of the parent company.

Heinkel He-178 (also in 1:48)
Two sets of German missiles
Junkers Ju-87A
Yak 11
Fw-189A/B
Sukhoi Su-22 Fitter
Vought Vindicator
Seversky P-35

And then there is Cooperativa, also apparently part of the burgeoning MPM empire.

Lavochkin LaGG-5
Blenheim Mk 1
Fairey Swordfish 1/3
Sukhoi Su-25UB/K
Sukhoi Su-9

While mentioning the already announced P-38s and P-61s, there was nothing new in the DML list.

Replic lists a couple of new Hasegawa 1:72 releases: a P-51K to go with the -D, an FM-2 to go with the announced Wildcat. In 1:48, their next WW2 subject will be a series of Ju-87s. Fujimi will apparently add a PR Mk9 to their already announced group of 1:72 Spitfires. But of course, there is the issue of price...



By now many of you will have seen issue 11 of *Military Model Preview* from Tacoma, and drooled over the Fujimi 1:72 Spitfire Mk 14. Except for

the elderly Frog kit, this is the first time a Griffon Spitfire has been done in this scale by one of the major kitmakers (Ventura, Aeroclub, and Czechmasters resins have had a go at it in other media). This is a Spitfire variant that many people have wanted to see for a long time, myself included. As you would expect from Fujimi, the kit looks wonderful in MMP's photo spread.

And then you get to the price: \$28. Quite enough to give even the veteran kitbuyer a sudden attack of wallet angina. A Minicraft B-29 costs \$29, the Hasegawa 1:48 P-38 costs \$30, and the upcoming Hasegawa MS-406 -- which is comparable in size to the Spit -- will be \$10. Even the new Hasegawa 1:48 scale Spitfire costs less. But Fujimi does have one thing the other companies lack: a disastrous distribution contract with MRC of New Jersey. These are the

people that kept Tamiya armor prices artificially high for years, and seem determined to do the same thing for Fujimi.

As modellers, what are our alternatives? Certainly we can just avoid the kit altogether. No one is forcing us to spend outrageous amounts of money for our hobby. Or you can get it from a mailorder discounter (where it will still be around \$21). Or, depending on what the UK price is, you might be wise to buy it from overseas and avoid the MRC markup altogether. At best, the process will be a hassle; at worst, highway robbery.

A final comment. Please note that the January meeting will be held on the 15th. As I understand it, this is the one date in 1994 where we won't

be meeting on the second Saturday of the month.

Kevin Callahan

And now, here is a short note from Scott Taylor:

Congratulations to Andrew Bertschi for knowing the most correct answers (7 plus the tiebreaker) on the November trivia quiz. For his efforts he won a Minicraft B-29. John Woodman was second (with 7 correct) and Lamar Fenstermaker was third (with 6). In the December trivia quiz, George Haase got the most correct (5), while Robert Allen, Andrew Bertschi, and Bill Osborn all tied for third with 4 correct. Prizes will be awarded at the January meeting. Once again, sharpen your pencils, bring along your thinking caps, and we can do it all again.

WW II GERMAN ANTI-TANK WEAPONS (part two)

BY LAMAR FENSTERMAKER

CONTINUED FROM THE NOVEMBER IPMS-SEATTLE NEWSLETTER!

Panzerfaust

This is one of the truly innovative anti-tank weapons

of the war. Developed in mid 1943, the weapon consists of a large shaped-charge warhead and a recoilless launcher that is thrown away after use. Penetration is from 140 mm to 200 mm at a 30 degree slope, more than enough to knock out any Allied tank. The only drawbacks are short range, accurate aiming difficulties,

and the back blast common to all recoilless guns.

Tamiya's German infantry weapons set (kit no. 35111) contains 8 in three different sizes, Italeri also makes Panzerfausts but they aren't nearly as good. Verlinden kit no. 545 at \$17.95 has one in 1:15, kit no. 443 has an SS

man with Panzerfaust for \$29.50 (also in 1:15) while kit no. 364 at \$19.95 has two 1:35 soldiers armed with Panzerfausts.

8.8 cm Raketenpanzerbuchse 54 "Panzerschrek"

This is the German version of the Bazooka and was developed from captured American weapons.

The best model of the 8.8 cm RPzB 43 was made by Historex, sold by the Squadron Shop and sadly is no longer available. All others are at best a distant second place, except for the Verlinden 1:15 scale version (kit no. 691 at \$17.95). Verlinden has also released the weapon with a prone operator (kit no. 824, price \$32.95), an excellent kit. You don't have to paint the eyes, since when firing a Panzerschrek one wears a gas mask. There is also a short version that has 145 mm cut off each end (8.8 cm RPzB 43/1).

8.8 cm Raketenwerfer 43 "Puppchen"

A 2.8 cm schwere Panzerbuchse 41 gun carriage with a smooth bore barrel firing the same round as the German Bazooka, but with almost twice the range. A late war idea with little production. Available from Hornet Models (kit no. GWH3) at about \$25.

7.92 mm Panzerbuchse 39

This is a 7.92 mm anti-tank rifle! During the 1920s and

early 1930s tank armor wasn't very thick, so a big cartridge and a steel centered bullet was all you needed to get penetration. Several countries made anti-tank rifles, but they were all obsolete by 1939, although some did serve on throughout the war.

Penetration is 25 mm at 300 meters and 30 degree slope, using tungsten carbide ammunition.

Tamiya's German infantry weapons set (kit no. 35111) contains a Pz B 39.

2 cm Panzerabwehrbuchse 785(s), (i) and (h)

The 2 cm PzB 785 is a semi-automatic 20 mm rifle with a 10 round magazine and a bipod for firing support. It's about 6 feet long and weighs close to 115 pounds. Developed in 1936, it was just too heavy to carry, so some had a simple carriage with small wheels. By 1936 standards the gun had OK performance, with most guns being exported to smaller countries. Some were used early in the war. Most pictures I've seen show paratroopers or North African service with the gun pintal mounted on some vehicle at the bipod attachment point.

Penetration is 22 mm at 100 meters and 30 degree slope, and 15 mm at 300 meters and 30 degree slope.

While I haven't seen a kit for this gun in many years, it's still my all-time favorite anti-tank gun. Over the years three

different manufactures made good models as one-piece kits. If you go for the weird it's worth looking for one.

2.5 cm PAK 112(f)

The standard French Army anti-tank gun in 1939, also used by the BEF in limited numbers. It was captured in great numbers during the Blitzkrieg and issued to the garrison and coast defense troops.

The projectile weighs 0.32 kg. Penetration is 50 mm at 600 meters and 0 degree slope.

Heller made a nice kit but it's out of production. It was also issued in some of the Heller French infantry mini diorama kits (which are also out of production but still fairly common), so you might find one there.

2.7 cm Stumpfistole

This weapon is a flare pistol with a shoulder stock. As I said before, Germans have some complicated ideas. They took a flare pistol and developed a shaped charge anti-tank round. The projectile looks like an goose egg on a stick (which fits into the barrel). As you would expect, the sturmpistole had short range, poor accuracy and a puny armor penetration. This is a simple conversion from the Tamiya infantry weapons set: add the shoulder stock from the anti-tank rifle to the flare pistol, and then find a goose egg to glue to the end of the barrel.

2.8 cm schwere Panzərbuchse 41

Smallest of the tapered-bore guns, it was approved for service in late 1940. The gun had both a normal infantry carriage and a special airborne carriage weighing about 50% less. The barrel tapers from 2.8 cm to 2 cm. and the gun used a tungsten carbide projectile. Since tungsten carbide is important for machine tools the gun quickly went out of service.

The projectile weighs 1.305 kg. Penetration is 94 mm at 100 meters and 0 degree slope, 66 mm at 500 meters and 0 degree slope, and 49 mm at 800 meters and 0 degree slope

Several models of this gun have been made over the years but the only one currently available is the Schmidt airborne version kit no. 2044 at about \$ 35.95. In the coming soon category is Kirin kit no. 21511 at \$ 22.50 in 1:15 scale.

3.7 cm PAK 35/36

This is the first of the real German anti-tank guns, coming into service in 1928. It was an excellent weapon in its day and was widely exported before the war. The gun was getting elderly by 1939 and was outclassed after 1941, but there were so many of the guns that they soldiered on till the end. The US Army bought several, so you wouldn't be stretching the truth too much to show the National Guard

pulling one around the USA with a Jeep.

The projectile weighs 0.68 kg. Penetration is 56 mm at 200 meters and 0 degree slope, and 48 mm at 500 meters and 0 degree slope.

The PAK 35/36 is available as Tamiya kit 35035 for \$5.50. This is a fairly old kit but still a good one. Included with the kit is a mounting to install the gun on a SDKFZ 251 half-track (use the same mount on a SDKFZ 250) and a Stielgranate 41 round. The Stielgranate 41 is a shaped charge on a stick (which fits down the barrel) fired with a blank cartridge. Penetration is 180 mm. The six fins are way too thick and the little bumps on the shaft are really holes. Cover the gun with a camouflage net and no one will know. But hide the gun real well, as this round had a maximum range of 400 yards!

For the 1:15 scale fan the Verlinden PAK 35/36 (kit no 684) is \$49.95.

This gun was mounted on almost anything that moved; my favorite is a captured Bren Carrier. You can mount it with the wheels in place, portee fashion, or without the wheels and lower gun carriage on some kind of pedestal. Just be sure to get enough clearance to fire over the sides.

If you are a Japanese army fan, conversion is really easy -- if you can find someone like me who has some of the old Historex French Line Infantrymen. Glue one of the

small uniform turnback stars in the middle of the gun shield about a millimeter below the top, and you're done.

3.7 cm PAK auf leichter Feldlafette

A big name for a PAK 35/36 converted for airborne use by making the top of the gun shield fold down. It's an easy conversion for a relatively unusual gun.

4 cm PAK 192(e)

This is the much (unfairly) maligned British 2 pounder. The gun entered service in 1938 and had good penetration for the time, but was cursed with a complicated all-around traverse carriage that was too heavy and took too long to dig in. The Germans picked up enough at Dunkirk and the western desert to issue the gun to coast defense and garrison units.

The projectile weighs 1 kg (2 pounds). Penetration is 60 mm at 183 meters, and 51 mm at 538 meters

For years this gun was the darling of English modeling magazines and there must be a dozen articles on how to scratchbuild it. Needless to say there are lots of good scale drawings. Hinchliffe makes it in 1:32.

4.2 cm PAK 41

This is one of the tapered bore guns (going from 4.2 cm to 2.8 cm) and was mounted on the PAK 35/36 gun carriage with a

Dave Gorsline has the following request for help from the club. He is looking for 1:72 decals for the Grumman F4F Wildcat. Preferably markings of a Wildcat ace. Also, he is looking for F4F cockpit decals. Finally, Dave asks for help in learning to use a scale ruler. Either bring the info to the next meeting or call Dave at (206) 653-0348. Thanks.

two layer spaced armor gun shield. Like all taper bore guns, it saw little service, mainly with the parachute corps in 1942-1943. The muzzle velocity of the PAK 41 was 4,101 feet per second, while the PAK 35/36 muzzle velocity was 2,625 feet per second.

The projectile weighs 0.336 kg. Penetration is 105 mm at 250 meters and 0 degree slope, 87 mm at 500 meters and 0 degree slope, and 60 mm at 1000 meters and 0 degree slope

This conversion is not too difficult but you will need two gun shields from the PAK 35/36 to make the spaced armor. File the detail off the outside of one and the inside of the other, generally making both thinner. Then narrow the inner shield by cutting it in half vertically, using slices of stretched sprue to space the two gun shields. Lengthen the barrel by a scale 665 mm with a very slight taper. Schmidt makes a conversion (kit no. 2042) for the Tamiya kit for about \$ 14.95

4.5 cm PAK 184 (r)

The Soviet Union was one of the many license builders of the PAK 35/36. They lengthened the barrel 381 mm and increased the bore to 45 mm.

The projectile weighs 1.43 kg. Penetration is 38 mm at 900 meters and 30 degree slope.

Another easy conversion for the 3.7 cm PAK 35/36:

lengthen the barrel and get a pair of Model A Ford wheels or the wheels from the new Italeri Soviet 120 mm mortar (kit no. 348 at \$7.75) That's all. Schmidt also makes a kit (no. 2102) at \$ 28.95. The German Army also used captured "wire wheel" versions.

4.7 cm PAK 36(t)

This was the standard Czech Army anti tank gun when Germany annexed the country in 1939. The gun was used mainly on self-propelled mountings, but a small number were issued to the troops unmodified.

The projectile weighs 1.64 kg. Penetration was not listed in any of my references.

Airmodel makes a conversion for the Panzer I (kit no. 1014 at \$ 40.95) and Schmidt makes a conversion for the French Renault R 35 (kit no. 2050 at about \$ 39.95). To make a non-motorized gun you would have to make the gun trails and find two wooden spoked wheels. This shouldn't be difficult, but it's a lot to pay for the parts of a gun that saw little service.

TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE
FEBRUARY 1994 ISSUE



Wes Moore sent in a note concerning the Boeing Management Association efforts to raise \$30,000 to transport a Czech MiG-21 to the US for display in the Museum of Flight. Due to space limitations, I will print

the flyer with full details in next month's newsletter, but here is the pertinent address and phone data:

Send checks payable to the MoF MiG-21 Project, 9404 E Marginal Way, Seattle, WA 98108. Or contact Event Coordinator Del Hoffman at (206) 266-2100.

Wes also enclosed a request for help from the membership in completing "one of those all-devouring modeling projects".

"Since we got this nifty Macintosh last spring, I have been building a database of ALL the World War II aircraft I can identify -- not only the combat aircraft (of which there are many compendia), but also the marginal and the mundane: trainers, transports, target tugs, etc.

"Since my aviation library is really pathetic, I am asking the membership for the loan of books to continue my research. I need to borrow two kinds of books: those that catalogue aircraft of a particular service or manufacturer (like the Putnam series) and those books which help tell one version from another (like the Squadron "In Action" books).

"I will try to make it to the next meeting to hand out lists of the aircraft I have so far, and the books I have consulted. Contributors will be offered the "first edition", either on disk for Lotus or Excel, or as hard copy. If I don't make it, my number is (206) 525-5040."

1994 Recon

Annual model contest and swap meet

hosted by IPMS-Seattle

Saturday, March 26, 1994
at the WA Guard Armory
located at 1601 W Armory Way
Seattle, WA
(please see map on reverse)

10.00am to 4.00pm
Registration closes at 1.00pm

Entry fees:
\$5.00 (unlimited model entries)
\$2.00 (walk-ins, no entries)
Juniors (16 and under) free

IPMS-Seattle invites you to our annual model contest and vendor swap meet. The event is being held at a new location this year; a map is included on the reverse of this sheet. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st-3rd in each category, with trophies for best in each class and various special awards. Please plan to leave your models on the tables until 4.00pm.

We hope to see you there!

For further information, call:
Andrew Birkbeck (206) 522-3539
Kevin Callahan (206) 941-2718

NEW RECON LOCATION!

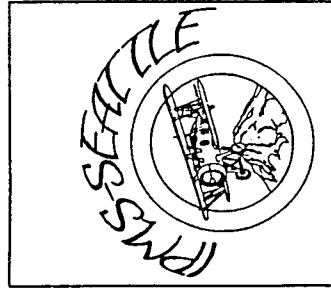
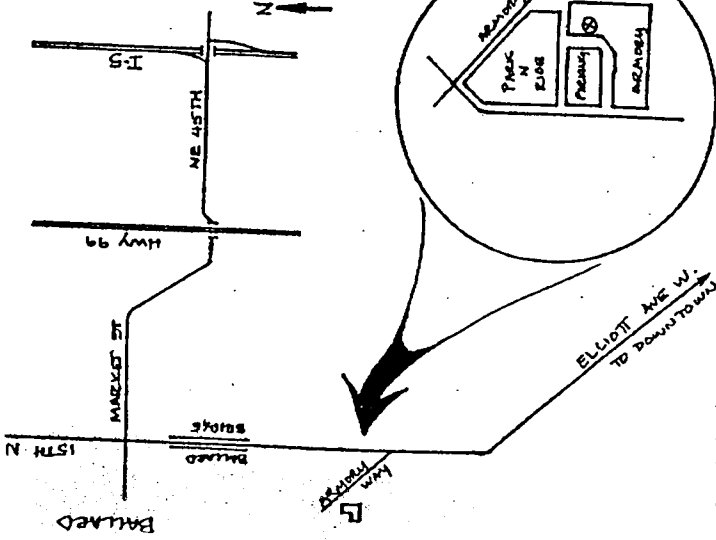
SATURDAY, MARCH 26
10.00am to 4.00pm

NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
Main cafeteria
1601 W Armory Way
Seattle, WA

From north or southbound I-5, take the NE 45th St exit. Drive west on 45th under Highway 99 (Aurora Ave) to Market Street. Continue west on Market to 15th Ave NW. Turn left and drive south on 15th Ave NW across the Ballard Bridge to Armory Way. Watch for signs!

If you are coming from South Seattle, take Hwy 99 onto the Alaska Way viaduct to Western Ave. Follow Western north to Elliott. Continue north on Elliott to Armory Way.

Please park in the Park and Ride lot next to the Armory.



Contest categories

AIRCRAFT

- 1 Biplanes (all scales)
- 2 Single-engine prop (1:72)
- 3 Multi-engine prop (1:72)
- 4 Single-engine jet (1:72)
- 5 Multi-engine jet (1:72)
- 6 Helicopters (1:72 and smaller)
- 7 Single-engine prop (1:48)
- 8 Multi-engine prop (1:48)
- 9 Single-engine jet (1:48)
- 10 Multi-engine jet (1:48)
- 11 Helicopters (1:48 and larger)
- 12 1:32 and larger (prop)
- 13 1:32 and larger (jet)
- 14 Airliners (all scales)
- 15 Civil sport racing airships (all scales)
- 16 Aircraft (1:100 and smaller)
- 17 Vacuumform and scratchbuilt (all scales)

ARMOR

- 18 Closed-top (pre-1945)
- 19 Closed-top (post-1945)
- 20 Open-top
- 21 Armored cars and halftracks
- 22 Softskins, artillery, missiles
- 23 1:72 and smaller (all types)

AUTOMOBILES

- 24 Factory stock
- 25 Competition (circle track)
- 26 Competition (straight track)
- 27 Hot rods
- 28 Motorcycles
- 29 Heavy commercial/emergency
- 30 1:32 and smaller (all types)
- 31 1:18 and larger (all types)

FIGURES

- 32 Up to and including 80mm
- 33 Larger than 80mm
- 34 Conventions and scratchbuilt
- 35 Science fiction/fantasy

SPACE AND SCIENCE FICTION

- 36 Real spacecraft and vehicles
- 37 Sci-fi and fantasy vehicles

SHIPS

- 38 Powered (1:401 and smaller)
- 39 Powered (1:400 and larger)
- 40 Ships (sailing, tube, other)

DIORAMAS

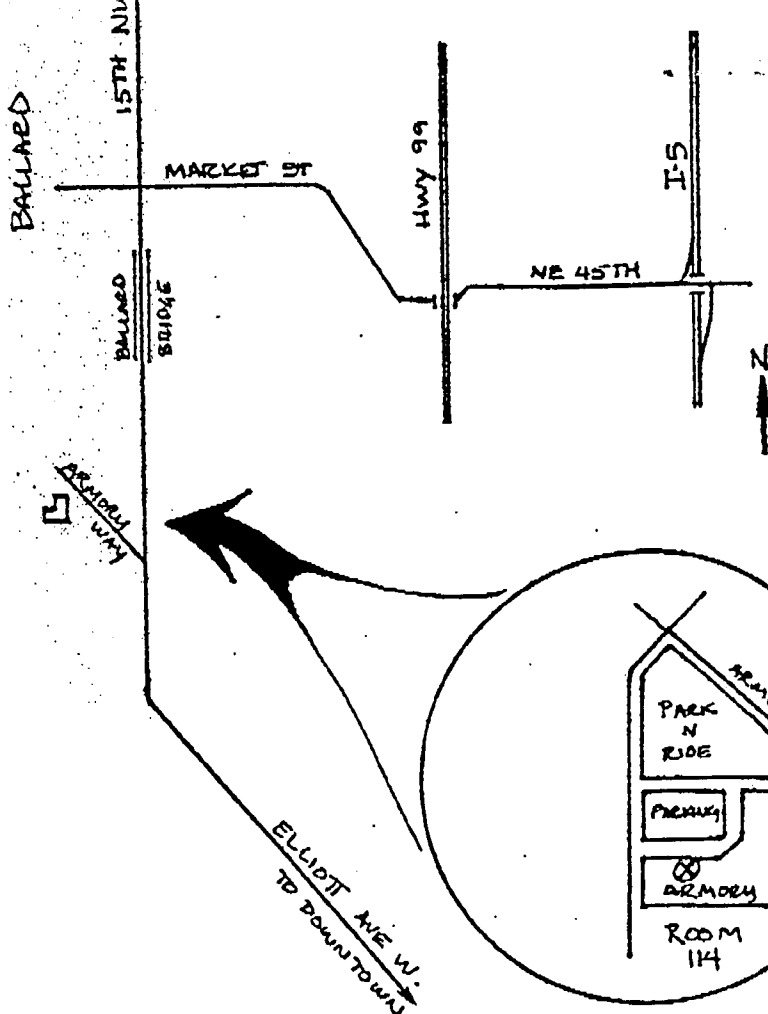
- 41 Aircraft
- 42 Armor
- 43 Automobiles
- 44 Ships
- 45 Figures

JUNIORS

- 46 Aircraft
- 47 Armor
- 48 Automobiles
- 49 Ships
- 50 Figures
- 51 Dinosaurs

OTHER (INCLUDING SPECIALS)

- 52 Dinosaurs
- 53 Collections (minimum five models)
- 54 Flights of fancy (all scales)
- 55 Best 1:72 P-51 Mustang (straight from box, except that aftermarket decals are allowed)



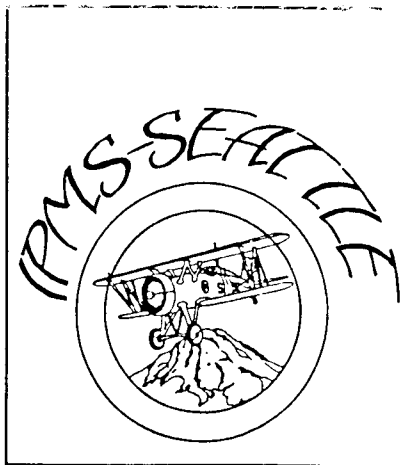
NEXT MEETING!!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 at 10.00am

NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
 Room 114
 1601 W. Armory Way
 Seattle, WA

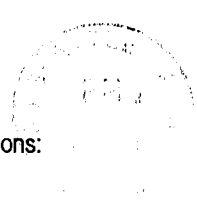
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Membership information:
 Andrew Birkbeck
 3209 NE 98th St.
 Seattle, WA 98115

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



NEXT MEETING: Saturday, January 15 at 10.00am.
 See the above map for meeting location.

William Holowchuk
 19627 - 133rd Dr SE
 Snohomish WA 98290

