

# Chapter Contacts

Please forward to your members!

## SPRUE



## EXAMINER



Ben Morton has sent us his June issue of the Austin newsletter which you can open by clicking on this link.

<http://austinsms.org/news/2016/June2016.pdf>

This newsletter and back issues all the way back to 2001 may also be found on the Austin SMS website. So if you've been cast adrift in your space suit from the International Space Station, or are floating around on an ice floe somewhere in the Arctic; and you REALLY need a modeling fix, you'll find far more good reading material at this next link. It'll keep you going until your rescue ship arrives. Even if it's a canoe. Click HERE: <http://www.austinsms.org/newsletter.php>

**Now, about what's inside!** Ben starts things off with his own kit-bashing project of a two figures appropriate to the **Fallout 4** video game. He used "subassemblies" from such wide-ranging sources as WWII German ski troops and USN Seals ....refined with such odd parts box fidgets as *Die Beule* (the bulge) from a BF 109 kit. He did a fine job, indeed!



**Ben admits to being an unabashed enthusiastic game player, and describes the Fallout 4 game as allowing all sorts of opportunities to either destroy (or be destroyed by) post-apocalyptic “giant,**

carnivorous mutated rats”, feral ghouls, and other delightful combatants.

It’s obvious that I’m of the wrong generation to start this sort of combat.\* Whatever happened to the old pinball machines, anyway?

**Moving right along** ...Mike Lamm reviews 1/35th German paratrooper figures from “Master Box”, a Ukrainian company, which is followed by Rick Cotton’s trip report on visiting “The Gray Lady” ...the USS Lexington (CV-16), the last WWII Essex-class carrier that served so long as the Navy’s Florida-based training carrier. Now a Corpus Christi museum ship, she evidently has many more spaces open for exploration than most museum ships, so Rick advises to be in shape ...it’s a B\*I\*G ship with a lot of up and down ...and bring your walking shoes!

Be sure to check out Jean - Michel D ’ Aubigne’s regular “Web at Night” featuring listing many interesting websites, as well as Frank Seibert’s regular column. Even I seem to have become a regular contributor, without contributing anything. (Huh?) At least, I’m credited with a number of factoids (“Fred’s Fun Facts”), of which until reading them here I had no prior knowledge. Ain’t the internet great!

After the “Model of the Month” feature which has far too many members’ models to list here, there is the newsletter feature which you have probably already visited: Austin’s monthly **Old Rumors/New Kits** report of available new goodies! My long-time (not polite to say “old”) friend, ex-Journal editor, and “Brown Water Navy” veteran friend, David Von Almen, will be excited about a whole new line of Vietnam Riverine craft. They’re all 1/35th scale multi-media kits.

The prices just might cool some ardor and make for difficult choices, however: delivering the whole fleet will take a Congressional appropriation.

I'm sure you've heard the admonition to "Be Alert!"? But does the world need more lerts? Well, maybe not lerts, but Randy Bumgardner reports that Eduard and Sword are sending us more Bf 109's and Spitfires!

OK, OK, so it was a lame joke, whatever; I was just trying to break that news to you easy!

At the other end of the spectrum from Messerschmitt's and Spitfires, Randy also reported in interesting 1/32nd resin X-1A/B from Fisher Model and Pattern.



That name was another small company I was NOT familiar with ....any more it seem there are more I DON'T know of, than those I do ....but the internet revealed Fisher to be a fascinating small (three person) operation that has been providing unusual kits for many years ...learn more here <http://fishermodels.indiemade.com/content/about-us-0> .... and oh by the way, they're in Paradise. (Really! it's a small town in Northern California...)

Finally (and you thought I'd never say that!) today I happened to find myself outside a suburban Charlotte Sports Bar named "Mookies" ....really, that's the name of the place, and I promise that we were just there for lunch! Anyway, that's where I learned that the "Dukes of Hazard" **General Lee LIVES!**

It's a C7 (seventh generation) Corvette in that always-popular color called **Torch Red** (aka "arrest-me-red") ....the same color as my C5 'vette but my Torch Red bullet remains just as Bowling Green delivered it. (Maybe a bit dirtier ...at my age, I have a hard time washing it as often as it deserves; what with it starting out at waist level and going down .....WAY down ....from there.)



**Anyway, I didn't meet the owner of this General Lee, but just couldn't resist taking these iPhone snapshots when we left Mookies. He obviously has added an expression of free speech that in today's screwed up world others might find offensive enough to do something really, really stupid ....and very expensive. Gee, and that would REALLY be a shame.....**





IPMS 6390

\* About video “combat” games: I’m reminded of a story told by my now-retired Army Ranger son-in-law. On a visit his home town (Orlando) after several tours in various corners of the Big Sand Box plus a round in the Balkans, he found himself open-mouth-flabbergasted in not knowing quite how to respond to his never-served younger brother. The latter had just excitedly described HIS latest video game by saying “...and when you get killed, the controller vibrates in your hand!”

Ron couldn’t find words to break the news, that’s not quite how it works in real combat.....

He did have one other tour of “occupation duty”, with the post-Katrina peacekeeping in New Orleans with the 82nd Airborne. Not much funny happened there either, but his best story was about



**calling his wife (my daughter) telling her not to panic when their next credit card bill arrived with several hundred dollars charged to a Louisiana Pizza Hut. Sometimes when the Big Green Machine's logistics system breaks down, the First Sergeant just does what he has to do, to feed his troops!**