

Chapter Contacts

Please forward to your members!

SPRUE



EXAMINER



Austin editor Ben Morton has again included me on his meeting reminder note, about their November meeting to be at Austin's Old Quarry Branch Library on Thursday, November 17th at 7 PM. Ben ended his note with "See you all there!"

But as much as I'd like to attend the meeting, it's a really tough commute from here at Indian Trail in the Charlotte 'burbs. Google Maps just gave me a driving time to the library of "only" 1,192 miles and 18 hours, 2 minutes via Birmingham and Shreveport, or alternately 1,222 miles and 18 hours, 17 minutes via Baton Rouge and Houston. (And North Carolina to central Texas is only half way across this great country of ours! Another proof, as if I didn't need it, of just how big this country is. Just try driving across it.....)

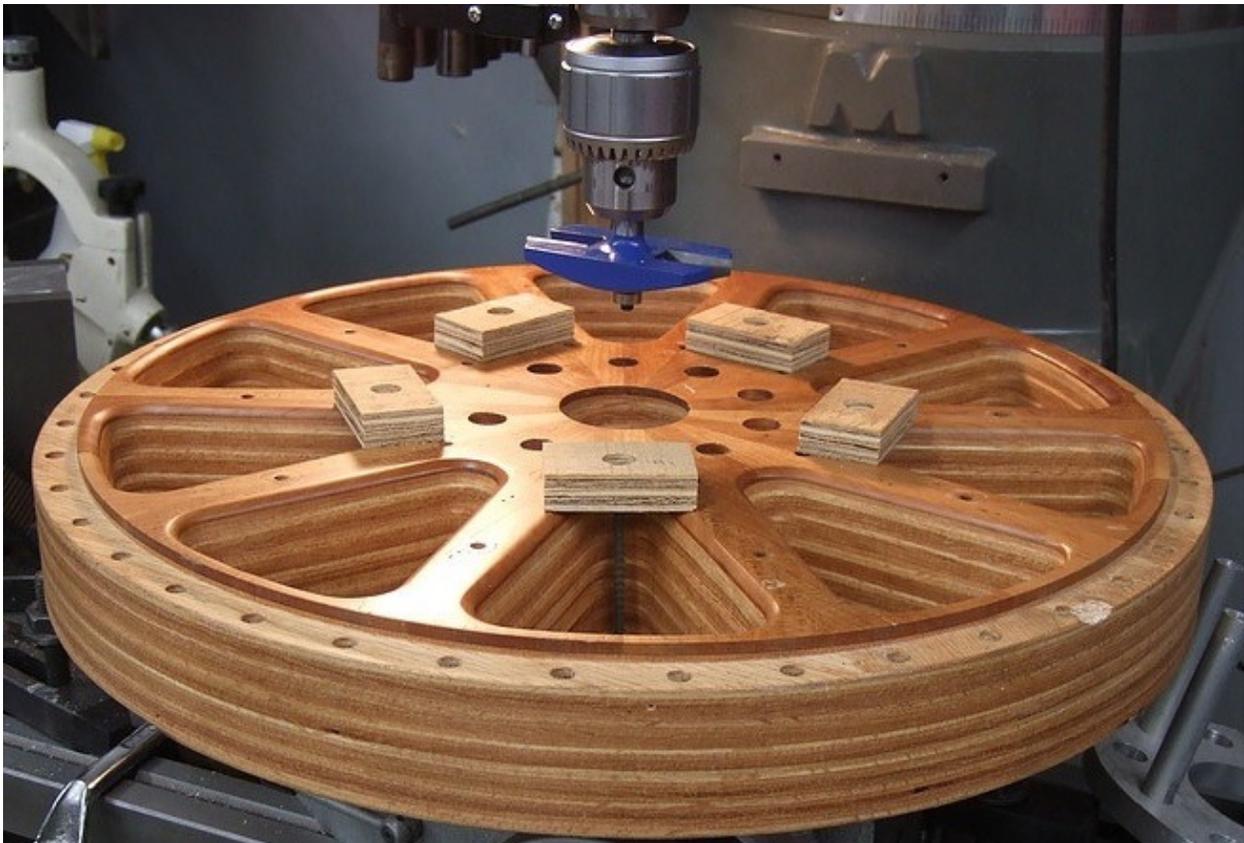
To get there I'd better end this and get in the Red Rocket NOW (Oh-Dark Hundred Wednesday morning) for a realistic hope of getting to the meeting by Thursday evening. It would be more fun than the routine doctor's lab appointment I have at 0730. Oh, well....

But more important than all this useless palaver, Ben included this link to his latest Sprue Examiner for November!

<http://austinsms.org/news/2016/November2016.pdf>

Like all other Austin SMS newsletters since the year 2000, this one is always available via their website at www.austinsms.org.

Ben always manages to have enough interesting stuff to be reading it for like, well, about forever! For example, in Jean-Michel D'Aubigne's regular compilation of interesting web sites, I could have studied for hours just on a report suggested by Tim Robb on "The Splinter", the world's first **WOODEN** "supercar". Yeah, that's right, WOOD. (So, the engine is metal. Cut 'em a little slack, O.K.?) It's an engineering thesis project done right here at North Carolina State University. The woodwork is so pretty I would expect to see it in an ART museum!



To whet appetites for a 1/48th scale B-36 (see "Old Rumors/New Kits", below), there is the clip of recalled reservist Jimmy Stewart getting his once-around-the-traffic-pattern dollar ride in a B-36for twenty-four hours. The movie is the classic *Strategic Air Command*. Harry Morgan (think Col. Potter in M*A*S*H) is his flight engineer. The scene is one of the most awesome aerial shots ever made for the big screen, sixty years before Computer Generated Imagery!

In the same website feature, your son will likely be fascinated by the time-lapse construction **of a Death Star ...in LEGO!** (Maybe not: he would probably want the Lego set....) Then there is the eerie but very sad photo feature of abandoned aircraft around the world....



Moving right alongnewsletter reports on military museums are always interesting; this month Ted Andreas Jr. reports to the Sprue Examiner on the **1st Cavalry Museum** at Fort Hood TX. A great report; besides Ted's photo and info are a lot more is available by just Googling "1st Cavalry Museum images".



An example is thee photos to be found is this great detail shot of the Sikorsky CH-54 Tarhe. And from my own photos is this 1968 shot taken at Cu Chi, of a CH-54 on another routine mission of moving “stuff” from one place to another



The Sikorsky designation for this rather ungainly looking but supremely useful helicopter was the S-64 Skycrane. But in looking up the info, I found that nearly a quarter-century ago the type certificate and production rights were acquired by Erickson of the Portland Oregon area, who continue to built new S-64 Aircranes and remanufacture older airframes. The type is mostly used world-wide in civilian fire fighting and logging applications.



So much to read, and I haven't yet gotten to the always interesting monthly "Old Rumors/New Kits" feature! For starters, can you believe a 1/32nd kit ...of the Messerschmitt Me 323 "Gigant"? And it's for real, already listed online, from MPM/HpH, and for only \$994.95. Dollars. And of course the persistent talk of a 1/48th B-36!

My calculator says that works out to a wing span of over five FEET, and almost eight inches! Or one meter, 72 centimeters! With the aforementioned B*I*G B-36, you'll need at least FOUR bank loans: two for the kits, the third to build the extension on your house. And the fourth, for your divorce lawyer.

This newsletter just keeps going on, and on, and on with the most interesting stuff! And now, I add my own commentary that was started before the blockbuster from Austin arrived.....



Now for what I had started before I even received the Austin newsletter...

One of the fun things resulting from adding my commentary to the “forwards” of these chapter newsletters, is the always-interesting tidbits of information that sometimes get returned. For example, recently I mentioned U.S. military field equipment seen at a re-enactor event. Mack Cobb of the Marietta chapter emailed to express surprise that the “re-enactors” did NOT have another very essential piece of field equipment: the “Lister Bag” used to purify, hold, and dispense drinkable water. (Actually, there may have been one at the event, and I just missed it...)



Just about anybody who has ever gone on involuntary camping trips anywhere with our mutual Uncle Sam, will recognize the standard water purifying-dispensing device seen in the above picture. Hung from a tripod or any other convenient place, the rubberized canvas bag would be filled with water, the proper amount of a chlorine solution added, the cover installed, and after a waiting period drinkable water (I never have figured out where that word “potable” came from) could be drawn from any of several little push-button faucets around the base.

Mark’s note naturally led to some surfing of the internet about “lister bags”. I learned that the name for this field-use device should properly be “Lyster Bag”, since they were introduced to the American army by Army surgeon Dr. William John LYSTER in 1917. Very early in the 20th century, Doctor Lyster had become

interested in public health concerns, especially MILITARY health concerns under field conditions. The impetus for Dr. Lyster's studies and research had likely been the appalling losses to disease, not combat, suffered by the American Army during the 1898 Spanish-American war. Two hundred and eighty total American Army deaths had occurred due to combat action, while 2883 men ...TEN times as many ...had lost their lives to disease during this very brief war! (<http://www.spanamwar.com/casualties.htm>)

Doctor Lyster's bags have been seen in every American war since, including Vietnam



.....until modern technology replaced them in our most recent desert combats.

You can even buy your very own Lister bag at this on-line link..... <http://www.armynavysales.com/products/u.s.-canvas-36-gallon-water-lyster-bag> By the way, Mack also

mentioned that his nickname when in a Ft. Benning training company had been “Lister Bag” because *“with my body in fatigues, I looked like a walking lister bag...”*

So, if you’ve gotten this far, I have to shut this down now to go to be poked and prodded at the doctor’s office. I’d much rather talk more about Lister/Lyster bags, or the Austin newsletter, or just about anything else, but...



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