

Jan 19 Meeting

Because none of the past monthly contest winners showed up last month the Model of the Year Contest will be held this month. Eligibility is kind of loose. Specifically any model that placed in a regular monthly contest is eligible, but since our record keeping got off to a shaky start, we will open the contest to any model build during 1979. Judging will be by popular vote. We have a nice plaque to give away so let's fill up the tables.

For our further entertainment, Terry Elmore will give a small airforces quiz. There will be questions on aircraft usage, aircraft identification and insignia recognition. Brush up, it's going to be tough, but there will be prizes.

Annual Dues

It's that time of year again, everyone's dues are due for 1980. Those of you who joined in the last half of 1979 need only pay \$1.00 (our computer knows who you are!) but the rest of us should kick in the usual \$2.00 to stay on the roster. Please be prompt, the bottom of the coffer is beginning to show.

New Administration

While we did have one suggestion from an anonymous English member to form a Constitutional Monarchy, the American way (Executive Dictatorship) did prevail last month as the attending constituency gave a half-hearted shrug to the unopposed election of Greg Reynolds (here, behind the typewriter) to the presidency. Bill Hawkins has been appointed to be our Membership Secretary and Treasurer. A new post has been created, Corresponding Secretary (for lack of a better title) in the person of Terry Elmore. It will be Terry's job to acquire for sale at the meetings IPMS chapter publications, decals and other obscure modeling goodies put out by our fellow enthusiasts around the world that don't find their way into the local model shops. We hope that this will encourage our younger members to become involved in IPMS and give our senior members an excuse to wander in more often.

We plan to continue the program started last year, that of bimonthly contests alternating with modeling demonstrations. (Suggestions and volunteers for these demonstrations are urgently solicited.) We encourage members to bring completed models at all times but further encourage members to display models in progress and to work on models at the meetings as a means to exchange tips and techniques. We hope to get the news out more regularly in the future, especially as support for it has increased (ie. input!), but we would like to remind members that News or not, we hold meetings every third Saturday at the Burbank Park, 12:00, unless otherwise notified. Mark your calendars now.

Rumormonger's Corner

HELLER: 1/72 T-28, F7U3-LD, Ouragan, Mystere IV, Aquilon (what?)
 ITALADRELL: 1/72 H-43 Husky
 FREISER: 1/32 Alpha Jet
 CROIX de SUD: 1/72 Fairry Albacore, Ta 154, Fw 187 (rumors for Croix de Sud get worse every time I hear one. Don't believe any of them beyond the IAR-80)
 HASEGAWA: 1/32 F-15
 KP: 1/72 Avia C-2 (Ar 96), MIG-21 (hooray!), Smolik S-16 (ugly Czech biplane), Yak-23
 MIKRO: 1/72 IL-2m3, PZL P-23 Los
 COMBAT MODELS: 1/32 Me 410, He 219, AM-1 Mauler, Ar 234, Ta 152. Whirlwind, Do 335, Heildiver, Vigilante, 1/48 FBV (These are big simple vacs with a few crude molded parts.)

Bulletin Board

Dennis Bright (827-7190) is looking for drawings or photos of the Spitfire Mk V cockpit. Anyone that knows where to find this information, please call.

Matt Hargreaves (246-0645) needs eight propellers from the Airfix B-29 kit. (It's that big wierd Northrup thing again!) Any spares?

Greg Reynolds (821-5875) wants to talk to anyone willing to sell or trade the Delta SM-55X or the Revell Great Eastern.

Ross Sharp (our member in England) is looking for a spare sheet of decals from the Frog P-40B Tomahawk. Call Greg Reynolds if you have some you'll part with.

Bob LaBouy (232-7784) has a display case for sale. It is 42" high 36" wide, 23" deep at the base and 14" deep at the top. It has two adjustable glass shelves plus felt lined floor.

FLASH:

Late News If you haven't already seen it, the newest 1/32 edifice, the F-18 Hornet, is out from Hasegawa and looks very impressive (and BIG!). Testor's reworked U-2C in 1/48 scale is also out and contains several major changes including the spine "hump", wing tanks and new intakes, and Micro Scale decals to complete several of these amazing a/c. Unfortunately, the extra time was not used to provide a few more details like gear wells and interior details. However the kit instructions are good and provide more information about the U-2 than many magazine articles including a very accurate drawing and paint scheme of the 3-tone gray U-2s based in England temporarily. Still appears to be a good kit of this mysterious "spy plane". ■

Reviews

SMDC V-1, 1/72

There is a new manufacturer in the marketplace. The Scale Model Development Company (SMDC) has entered the growing field of cottage industry kit producers. SMDC was formed a few years ago by McDonnell Douglas engineers Ron Downey and Bill Dresher. After designing and building their own injection molding machine, they have now marketed their first kit, a 1/72 Pieseler F1 103 A-1.

There have been a number of V-1 kits issued over the years: by Frog (1/72, included in the Spitfire and Ar 234 kits), Heller (1/72, actually the piloted Reichenberg), Hawk (1/48, long a collector's item) and Faller (1/100, issued with the V-2). Unfortunately, like many of their predecessors, these have all missed the mark. In this regard we welcome the SMDC V-1 not as just another V-1, but the only V-1 worth building.

The kit contains 8 injection molded parts for the bomb and another 11 parts for its TW 76 trailer. The kit is packaged as a "baggie", but all the parts are well protected by heavy spruce frames. The header card and enclosed addendum give a brief history, painting information, scale drawings, assembly instructions and references. The bomb faithfully reproduces the correct shapes and outlines as well as the small surface details like the arming wire conduit, access panels and attachment points. The wing is even marked to insure proper incidence when assembling.

On the negative side, the moldings are all a bit rough and require careful sanding to clean up surface blemishes and ragged edges. Many of the smaller parts, particularly the pulse jet inlet screen, may be easier to replace entirely.

On the whole, this is a highly successful first effort for SMDC, and well worth your effort to add this historic weapon to your collection. The V-1 is available for \$3.50 ppd. direct from SMDC, 7708 Nightingale Dr., Godfrey, IL 62035. ■

Monogram F-4 Phantom II (1/48 scale) The model makers at Monogram have finally fulfilled the wishes of the many quarter scale builders of modern aircraft, with their kit of the Air Force F-4C/D. This kit is beautiful, with precision design and molding, in fact the detail on surfaces, cockpit details and accuracy of design combine to make this one of the finest kits in any scale, comparing favorably with even the latest 1/32 nd scale kits. Even the decal sheet, often a weakness in many of Monogram's kits, is very good, down to access panel marking and NATO service markings, as well as markings for three camouflage phantoms, including one flown by Col. Robin Olds from Ubon RTAB and Capt. Steve Ritchie (who became one of the 5 "aces" of the SEA conflict). You have only to look at the exacting shapes and impressions of the cockpit side panels, dash instrumentation, the ECM pod, sparrow and sidewinder missile detail, the fuel store pods (including such detail as the explosive charges in the pylon) and the interior details on the wheel doors to see why this kit is worth more praise than I can cover in this brief note. In short, it's Phantastic!

Hasegawa KFIR C-2 (1/72 scale) While I can hardly call myself a Mirage nut, for the last two years, we have been fortunate to have Heller and more recently Airfix provide us with several kits of what has been billed as Europe's answer to America's best modern fighters. Now after a delay of over five years, a very nice kit has been built representing the least known and probably most deadly of the Mirage a/c -- the Israeli built KFIR. The kit is beautiful and, while the fuselage measures less than eight inches, the overall accuracy in size and shape is very detailed and accurate. All of the areas we have come to know as Hasegawa trademarks are evident; very crisp and thin canopy pieces, jewel-like surface details and sharp, thin edges. Even the small intake at the base of the horizontal stabilizer is molded into two divided chambers. In many areas of assembly, including the usually awkward air intakes ahead of the wings, there is little or no need to fill and sand prior to painting. One last quick note -- Lloyd Jones (Ex of Revell and now owner of Mail Call Models), has produced an excellent sheet of decals including the high Israeli wing and tail i.d. panel markings. Additionally Scale-Master (Lloyd's Co.) and MicroScale have produced several sheets of Israeli squadron and aircraft decals. ■

The Bulletin of the Russian Aviation Research Group

If you are interested in Russian and Eastern European aviation, past and present, and are looking for a good source of research and modeling information, I highly recommend that you subscribe to this publication, put out by the Russian Aviation Research Group (RARG) of Air Britain. This is not a new group nor a new publication (the most recent, Sept 79, is their 59th issue) but they are relatively unknown. The average issue is 60 to 70 pages of material largely copied from Russian, E. European and other magazines, such as the highly detailed a/c plans from the Russian Modelist-Konstruktor and the Monografies from the Czech LK. Also included are notices and reviews of new books and magazines in the field, aircraft registration sightings, original articles and English translations of other works, such as Vaclav Nemecek's book *Sovetska Letadla*.

As I already get many of the magazines from which the main body of copied material is taken, such of this is not new to me, but most of you interested in this area will save a great deal of time and money by subscribing to the *Bulletin*. Just a few issues can provide modeling subjects for a lifetime.

The *Bulletin* is available for £2.00 yearly (about \$4.40) directly from the editor: Nigel Eastaway, The Fox, Babers Green, Takely, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 6PB, England. (I love those English addresses!) ■