



IPMS

Seattle Chapter News 11-80

NOV 15 MEET

This month is your last chance to become eligible for the Model of the Year contest in December. All previously placing models will be invited back and a trophy will be awarded by popular vote. Don't miss out, bring them in now!

With this issue of the News, we are introducing our new Chapter logo. This was designed for us by member Steve Gallacci for our upcoming Regional. However, barring any violent reactions by the membership, we have (autocratically) decided to retire our old logo forthwith. Thanks, Steve!

Can-Am

There has been a change in the date of this year's Can-Am, as announced at the last meeting. We have been advised that it will now be Saturday December 13 at the Eastbarne Community Centre, Edmunds St, in Burnaby. We hope that we will have received more information by this month's meeting.

Three from Heller

SAAB J-21A

Svenska Aeroplan AB has produced quite a number of exotic designs over the years, among them the twin boom single engine pusher J-21A, produced in 1946. This aircraft is made even more interesting by the subsequent change to a jet powerplant for the J-21R.

Molded in olive drab plastic, this kit is yet another example of Heller's high quality. The parts are thin with sharp edges and are both sink and flash free. Heller has done an excellent job of designing this kit. The single piece lower wing half guarantees the proper dihedral, the divided canopy captures the bulged side panels correctly and the booms lock positively into the wing. Also notable is the neatly done cockpit assembly.

Not all is well however. The boom fairings on the upper wing surface should be quite blunt, not coming to a point at the leading edge. The booms also look a bit shallow in the wheel well area. Some minor short-comings include the misplaced wingroot intake splitters, shallow exhaust stack detail, the "hand carved" fabric surfaces and the omission of the landing lights at the end of the booms.

The decals show Heller's usual tendency for bright heavy inks. The markings are about as colorful as the J-21s ever got: for the 1st Sqdn of F9 and the 2nd Sqdn of F6.

DH VAMPIRE FB.5

The only Vampire kits in 1/72 that I can remember heretofore are the old Airfix and Frog offerings which were not well received even in their day. In this light, the Heller kit (and its companion French version, the Mistral) is a great step forward. However, compared to this latest batch of Heller releases, it's a disappointment. The quality of surface detail varies greatly, from the fine raised lines on the nose, to the heavy inspection panels under the wings. The inscribed lines around the control surfaces are shallow and erratic. The fit of the parts is also a bit below par in the boom attachment area and that inexplicably separate trailing edge bit. The canopy is a bit undersized, both too low and too narrow to cover the cockpit opening fully. The worst problem is the narrowness of the nose when viewed in the plan view. That's going to take a bit of putty to flesh out.

The kit is not without merit however. Most of the parts fit very well. The landing gear and instrument panel are nicely sculpted and wheel well details are molded in.

Decals (which look significantly better than usual) are for the RAF's 112th Sqdn bearing a "shark-mouth" and France's 4^e E.C. Lafayette.

SA ALOUETTE III

Of the three, the Alouette III is the most welcome. While this helicopter has seen enormously widespread civil and military service, it has not previously been offered in 1/72. We are fortunate indeed that Heller has chosen to do it yet again, as their line already included the Alouette in 1/50 and 1/85 years ago.

Despite the vivid color (shades of Matchbox!) and a bewilderment of numerous small "fiddle bits", it is a first rate kit. The molding is flawless and surface detail subtle and spare. The bounty of small parts, though occasionally heavy due to molding limitations, provide plenty of detail in the cockpit and rotor hub. Study of the instructions is imperative. Only the engine looks odd, being devoid of all but simple snape. The kit provides engines for the SA 316 and SA 319.

The most commendable feature of the kit is the way Heller molded the cockpit glazing in three sections; front and sides. Since the clear parts also include unglazed portions of fuselage, many seams can be filled and sanded without worry. Unfortunately, the parting line is necessarily complex and does not fit well. It is strongly recommended that the doors be cut off and attached in an open position, thereby avoiding the problem entirely.

The only real disappointment is the decals. Surely with all the Alouettes in service in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa, Heller could have found far more colorful markings than the two plain French schemes given.

Romanian Alouette

Four colors of "flame shaped" stripes on the top & sides: sand, dark brown, dark green & light green (like zinc chromate). Underside of the pod is light blue. Tail rotor tips are red-white-red. Yellow "DANGER" warning on tail fins. "11" is white. Romanian star is red with yellow outline and ring with blue center. (Stoppel #18)

Info: Philippe van May.

Seattle 81

Plans for our Regional Convention are coming along smoothly (but perhaps a bit behind schedule!). Many details of course remain to be worked out, but we can, at least outline where we are so far.

The site is the Seattle-North Holiday Inn (I-5 & 128th south of Everett, 20 min from downtown Seattle) and it will be the 13th and 14th of June. One important feature of this facility is an exquisite theater which we plan to use heavily. We intend to have a number of speakers dealing with a variety of topics, throughout the day, interspersed with films and slides. The basic schedule is to begin early Saturday with registration, films and the first speaker before the tour(s) leave shortly after Noon. Tours under investigation are Boeing Everett or (and?) Whidbey Island NAS. A wives' tour is also in the mill. For those that wish to stay behind the theater activity will continue (another speaker?) while the display hall is closed for judging. After the tours return, our last speaker, dinner and a no-host cocktail party with our guest speakers at large. For anyone not thoroughly exhausted, a feature length film ends a long day. Our answer to the tedious and interminable Awards Banquet followed by the strip-the-display-hall stampede is the Awards Brunch, at a reasonable hour Sunday forenoon. (The rates are very reasonable.) Small plaques will be awarded in the individual categories as well as overall trophies in divisions (aircraft, armor, novice, etc.) in addition to the time honored Best in Show and Judges Award.

We will have this tied down more firmly in a few weeks and be able to give specifics then, but in the meantime, if you have any suggestions or want to help us fumble along, give our Convention Chairman, Terry Moore (362-4009) a call.

New in Town

CAMPUS HOBBIES: is having a 20% sale on vacs and 15% on cook games. Heller 1/72 Saab J-21, J-29, Mistral SE-535, Vampire, Helldiver, 1/24 Porsche 917 K, 1/43 BMW 630 CS; ESCI 1/48 Bell 205, UH-1D; MPC Snowspeeder; Skywaves whole line; Waldron Model Products whole line (fine etched metal parts for a/c detailing); Shep Paine's "How to Build Dioramas"; Microscale 1/72 Bf-110, F-102 (two sheets), P-39 (inc. P-400).

AMERICAN EAGLES: Fujimi 1/72 F6F-5, P-47D; Heller 1/72 Helldiver, Arago 196A, Ar-96, Saab J-21; Italeri 1/72 B-25H, F-16A/B, 1/35 M-32 Recovery Vehicle, Sdkfz 234/2, GMC water Truck, Zundapp KS 750, Zundapp & BMW, several new accessory sets; Skywave 1/700 Gato class subs, Panzer div. w/ Ju-87, -88; Tsukuda 1/700 4 plane sets K1-61/Ki-100/Ki-45/Ki-43, P-51D/P-40E/P-38/P-47D, Me-163/Me-109E/Me-262/Fw-190A; Nichimo 1/35 Tiger II Porsche, Pz IV/F2 (reissue); Nitto 1/35 LVT(A)5 Alligator, Sdkfz 251/1 Rocket, M4 1stcn tractor (reissue); Hasegawa 1/144 F-14, F-15, 1/140 F-16, 1/160 F-18, 1/48 Ki-44 Kate; ESCI 1/48 F-5E Swiss Tiger, Jaguar GR.1, Navy Phantom, F-4E, Mirage 5, F-5E.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE: Heller 1/72 Saab J-21, Mistral SE-535 CM 107 Fouga Magister, Helldiver, Alouette III, Vampire 1/400 M 24 Minesweeper, Z 31 Destroyer; Italeri 1/72 B-25H, F-16A/B; 1/35 GMC Water Truck, 2 Harley Motorcycles, accessories: Command Post, First Aid Station, Check Point, Observation Post; Nichimo 1/35 Tiger II King, Tiger II Porsche, Panther G, Elefont, PzKpfw IV/F2 ESCI Mirage 5, Fowler Midway Airlines DC 9; ATP the new Alaska Airlines Eskimo scheme.

Information for publication should reach the editor before the second Saturday of the month, phone or write: Greg Reynolds, 12819 98th PL NE, Seattle, WA 98033

