

SEPT 20 MEET

This month is a contest month. We expect to see a good turn out of models after last month's inspiring slide show of the National Contest models. We will also show a few more slides this month. Steve Gallacci will share some of his armor slides from his tour in Europe.

Seattle 81

Plans for our Regional in 81 are coming along nicely. Currently we are working on a two day affair for late June. We will be having tours, a speaker and the usual films and slides. We even have a novel recognition contest in the works. In order to finance this extravaganza we are putting together a chapter publication we hope to have ready by the end of this year. (Articles we have in preparation include the F-18, V-1, Chaparral Rocket Launcher, Newport Triplane and a cast of thousands.) We still have plenty of work to go around so if you want to help pull this off, get in touch with our very own Terry Moore.

The 'Boat' Floats

You might have seen in the papers that the Hughes Flying Boat was saved and won't be chopped into pieces after all. The parties concerned, Summa, the Wrather Corp., and the Aero Club of Southern California, signed a Letter of Intent in early August and are supposed to have signed a contract later that month. The plane was also nominated to the National Register in Washington D. C. All this should mean that the plane's safe now and we won't have to worry about someone whackin' it apart any more.

I've received thanks from the Committee to Save the Boat for the little bit I did and would like to pass it on to those of you who took the petitions out for signatures and mailed them in. It seems that all those petitions were what showed the Poo-bahs that people cared and the wheels actually began turning after they saw the wide interest being shown. So, thanks again for your help and keep in mind that the "Little Man" CAN accomplish things when he organizes! BH

Tips

Vacuformed Putty?

One of the least enjoyable aspects of model building is the endless sanding of putty, trying to make it look like smooth plastic. This is particularly difficult in conversion work when one is trying to make a major change in the kit's contours by scabbing on a hunks of foam, balsa or plastic. Invariably, after countless coats of putty when the last bubble and scratch are carefully smoothed away, one sands through the thin putty shell, exposing the underlying material and the process must begin again. There is a better way.

Consider making a radome. First carve the shape as best you can from whatever material you prefer to work with. I've found that structural urethane foam works well. Make it slightly undersize. When it's shaped to your satisfaction, coat it with putty, making sure that it adheres to the base material. Light sanding to restore the contours is all that is required. Don't worry about sanding through the putty. When the part is reasonably smooth but still slightly undersize, place it on your vacuform. Just before you suck the plastic sheet over it, coat the part liberally with liquid glue. (There is a slight potential fire hazard here, but I still have both my eyebrows, and with a little care so will you.) The hot plastic makes a fantastic bond with the softened putty. What you have now is a rigid plastic part that requires only a little light sanding and polishing before attaching it to your model.

One added benefit of this technique is that your putty job will not crack two months after you are done. It works very well for making new engine nacelles, recon noses, conversion canopy patterns and other simple lumps. GR

Instant Valve

I don't know how many of you may use the cyano-glues, and maybe it's only a few, but I know I got off by it because the stuff "set" in the spout and I had to throw away most of a tube of good glue. There just wasn't any way to get the rest of it past that rock-hard lump in the neck of the tube. After doing this a couple of times, I decided to let others use the stuff until someone came up with a better way to handle it. Now they've done it!

There are a couple of brands of cyano on the market now which have a little "valve" in the spout. This simple little doohickey keeps the spout closed off except for the instant the glue is applied. Since no air can get in, no lump can form. The brand I bought to check out was Loctite's GLUEMATIC. It was \$4.50 for 2 grams (.07 fl oz). It's not cheap, but I can USE IT ALL! That's a lot better bargain than spending a buck and throwing out 90 cents worth!! I've had this tube for a couple of months now, used it steadily, and there's still not even the beginnings of any "set-up" in the spout. (Modern Technology! Ain't it wonderful?) BH

K.C.C.

Since I have frequently been asked by fellow members to help them find old kits which are long out of production, I thought it might be of interest to all of you to hear about the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Scale Model Kit Collecting.

Kit collectors are not just a bunch of warped ex-modelers who have forgotten which end of an X-Acto knife is which. While some extreme collectors will faint at the thought of desecrating a kit by building it, and others fanatically horde piles of unbuildable kits by manufacturers with unpronounceable names, most are fairly normal modelers who have come to realize that the multi-lifetime supply of kits we all accumulate is another hobby in itself.

The pattern is fairly simple. You start by buying three kits for every one you build. Then you notice that kits aren't around forever, so you stock up on a few favorites. You might begin to buy kits that you're not really interested in right now - just in case. By now the stack of unbuilt kits has outgrown the closet and is filling utility shelves in the garage. Of course you're not a collector, you still intend to build them all. (Let's see, at a rate of N per year, I'd be 287. Hmmm.) Then one day, while staring at that wall of Bf-109s and F-4s, you realize that what you'd really like to build is the Aurora DH-2 like you saw at the last meeting or in a recent magazine article, but you haven't got one! Although you are sure you saw one in the shops a little while ago, you discover they haven't been on the shelves for YEARS. Ah! Maybe you can find some other modeler who has the kit and might be willing to sell or trade it for some of the kits you'll obviously never get around to building, but how? This is the domain of the SPESMKC.

The activities of the SPESMKC center around the Kit Collector's Clearinghouse, a bimonthly publication by the Director John Burns. The publication, which gives the group its more familiar and manageable title "KCC", is a small 16 page magazine full of the latest news and rumors of kit's issues, withdrawals and reissues, and the rise and demise of the companies that make them. The meat of each issue however, is the Wants & Disposal ads. Members may place a five line ad in each issue, and most do. Here you'll find kits of all descriptions changing hands. Offers are made for individual kits, kits are auctioned or offered for sale and entire collections are disposed of. With luck and persistence, you'll also find that DH-2.

How do you know if there's anything in your collection that others will want? The answer is the Collectors Value Guide. The Guide lists virtually all known out-of-production plastic kits (including vacs) and gives a rough fair-market value. A new edition of the Guide has just been prepared and updates are published KCC as new rarities are discovered, the stock of oldies dwindle and more kits are withdrawn from production.

The Guide makes fascinating reading, not only to see what gems you've got in your collection, but also to discover hundreds of kits that YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE. When that happens, you're hooked!

Subscriptions to KCC are \$6.00 per year and the Guide is \$9.00 (\$10.00 first class). The address is Kit Collectors Clearinghouse, 3213 Hardy Drive, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73034. GR

Bulletin Board

Dan Kehoe (746-9514) is rebuilding a Revell A-20 and need the pilot's and rear gunner's canopies, landing gear covers and propellers.

B C Byrne (827-7952) is working on a 1/48 Privateer and is looking for the Air Combat article "Scourge of the Pacific" in vol 8 #12 (Oct 72). He is also looking for details of the PB4Y's Enco waist turrets.

UMOI U! MƏN (OOPS!)

When I initiated this column, it was in response to comments I received that our "Rumormongers" column was causing some of our members to pester hobby shop owners about unreleased and possibly non-existent kits. As stated when it first appeared in February, I felt that "New in Town" would help off set this by letting our members know what new kits and books they would find in the shops should they visit them at the time of publication. In this regard I sought to list the in stock items which had arrived in the previous two weeks or so. Although it was frequently offered, information regarding items on order was always omitted.

Last month when the survey was taken, Campus Hobbies was sold out of the recently released Monogram B-36 and consequently it was not listed. That this, or any other item, is not mentioned does not imply that it is not carried by a shop. I sincerely apologize to Mrs. Danley and our membership for this misunderstanding. GR

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