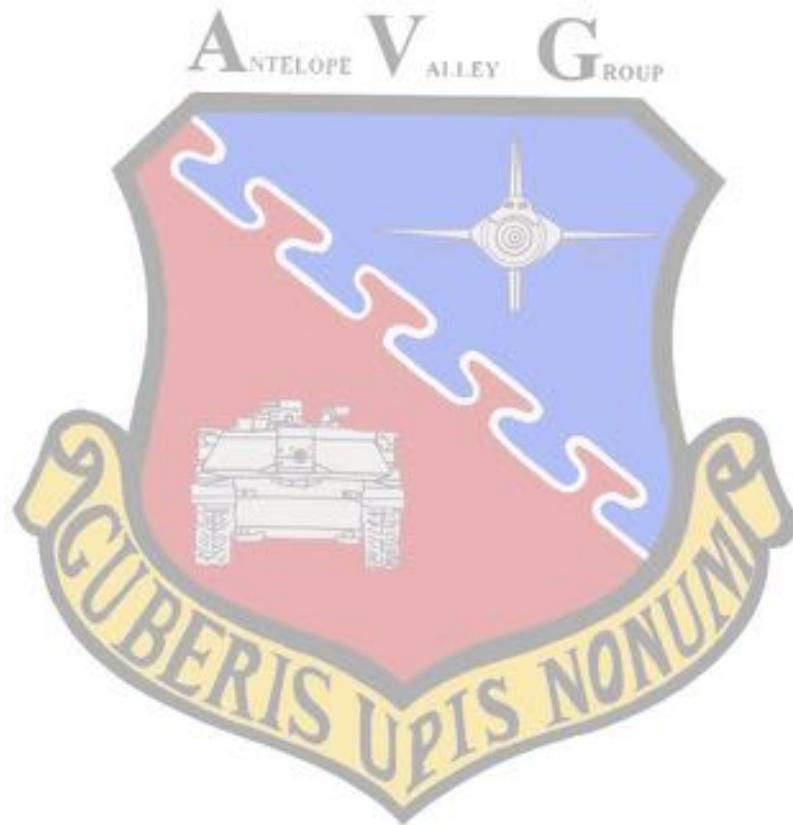


The Smoking Hole

A Publication of the Antelope Valley Group IPMS

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Secretary

Matt Graham

flighttester64@gmail.com

Club News and Business

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 18 2020, 1:00 PM AT ROSAMOND LIBRARY

December Meeting General Meeting Notes:

December's meeting was our traditional pot-luck and gift exchange

Happy New Year

Hard to believe another year has come and gone. And we are now in the year 2020 (if I knew I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself...)

It was another good year for the AVG. We had another great Desert Classic. We had, as always, some really amazing builds from club members. We gained some new club members, and, unfortunately, bid farewell to long-time member Rick for a well-deserved retirement.



December's meeting was the usual festive occasion. There was too much food and some really nice kits for the gift exchange. Two lucky members received new Tamiya P-38's!

So here's a hearty 'Thank You!' to all the members for making the AVG the great organization it is and here's to a great 2020!

In-House Contest "Red"

We held our final in-club contest of the year, "Red" – anything red in color, with red in the name or associated with a Communist country or regime. Had some great (and fun) entries. And our winner is:



Tracy Ackret, with his Tamiya Fiat Abarth. This was an especially poignant entry, as it was a retro-replica of his late wife Debbie's 2013 Fiat Abarth. Tracy's become quite an accomplished auto modeler and congrats on his well-deserved win!

In-House Contests for 2020

A reminder that we decided to continue with quarterly in-house contests for 2020. We'll decide on the themes at this month's meeting. Here's a reminder of some of the proposed themes:

Niilo had a number of good suggestions:

"Jurassic Plastic" – Same rules as always , May want to adjust the mold time frame to allow more options.

"One of a Kind" – A model of any kind that represents the advancement of technology in the Air, on or under the Sea, on Land, or in Space (including figures) from the 1850's to the Present.

"Your Professional or Personal Experience" – A model of any kind that represent something you worked on, lived in, or experienced firsthand.

"Toward the Future" – A model of any kind that represent what we might see in future years again in the Air, on or under the Sea, on Land, or in Space (including figures).

"From the Past" – A model of any kind that represents a Historical event in peace time or in time of war.

"Something New" – A model of any kind that takes you out of your comfort zone. It can be a model type change or a degree of difficulty change.

" A Gift" – The specific model that you received at the 2019 Christmas gift exchange. If you received other than a model in the exchange it should be some model that you received as a gift from someone over the holidays.

A couple of other suggestions:

"Same Kit" - Everyone builds the same kit. We've done this quite successfully in the past (with the Revell Rafale and the Tamiya Corsair).

A variation on "A Gift" - sort of a 'challenge' build; a club member provides a kit to another member and challenges him to complete it. It could be a real dog of a kit. Cool idea, but I'm concerned it could lead to a lot of frustration and a low completion rate.

Rowdy suggested a "30th Anniversary of 'Hunt for Red October' - something related to the film (or perhaps Tom Clancy novels (or movie adaptations)).

And my suggestion: "Here, Kitty, Kitty" - We considered this once as a Desert Classic theme. Anything cat related (a Grumman Panther, a Mercury Cougar, the USS Tigerfish, etc.)

2020 Club Dues

Yes, it's that time again. Dues are due (doobie, doobie, do). One-time good deal at \$36. What a bargain. Can't even get much Starbucks for that.

IPMS Membership Sponsorship

Since the club is in good financial shape following the contest, 'short-timer' VP Jim suggested that we resurrect an AVG tradition of sponsoring the national IPMS membership of one on our new club members. Everyone agreed that to be an excellent idea.

New Member

Speaking of new members, we had a new attendee in December, Revel Walker. Revel heard about the club from Mike V. (but we won't hold that against him). Revel likes anime subjects and scratchbuilding. He brought a pretty neat subject to display (see his Show and Tell entry). Welcome Revel!

2020 Meeting Schedule

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
18 Jan	Member Dues Collected	Steve/Mike -Main Jim- Drinks Jay - Chips		
15 Feb				
21 Mar				
18 Apr				
16May				
20 June				
18 July				
15 Aug				
19 Sept				
17 Oct				
31 Oct (tentative)	2020 Desert Classic			
21 Nov	2021 Club Officer Nominations			
19 Dec	Gift Exchange	Everyone!		

Club Demos

Let me know if you would like to give a demo and I'll put you on the calendar

Kit Reviews

Two new reviews, one from Tracy and one from me.

1/48 Modelsvit Bf.109C-3



Everyone is probably pretty familiar with the Bf.109 series. The Jumo-engined Bf.109C was a follow-on model the 109B used during the Spanish Civil War and was the first 109 with strengthened wing to allow installation of wing-mounted guns. The C-3 model was the first with wing-mounted MGFF cannons. Only a small number (58 total) C-models were constructed.

Tracy surprised everyone by bringing in a Bf.109 kit for review! I, for one, was shocked. Shocked, I tell you.

This new kit is from the Ukrainian manufacturer Modelsvit, who is producing a series of early Bf.109 variants. Previously, the early Bf.109's have been represented in 1/48th by the (somewhat inaccurate) Hobbycraft kit and the much better (and sought-after) Classic Airframes C/D (of which Tracy brought an example for comparison).

Tracy was generally impressed with the overall quality of the kit, especially as it is basically a limited-run kit. The kit includes a photo-etch fret and vinyl canopy and wheel masks. Marking are included for 2 Luftwaffe examples in RLM 70/71 camouflage. The kit displays very fine surface detail (approaching that of Eduard). Tracy's only real complaint was with respect to the quality of the canopies. The kit includes both an open and closed canopy, but Tracy was not happy with the clarity of the parts which seem to have fine lines visible in the surface.





Overall, Tracy was quite pleased to have well-done new kit of the early Bf.109, for a price lower than what the Classic Airframes kit has been selling for recently.

1/48 AMP Kaman HOK-1/HUK-1



Charles Kaman had been impressed by the efficient intermeshing rotor designs of German engineer Anton Flettner and designed and produced a small intermeshing rotor helicopter designed for agricultural use (Kaman would later hire Flettner as his chief engineer when Flettner was brought to the United States under "Operation Paperclip"). Kaman recognized that the market for commercial agricultural aircraft was limited and he would need to secure military orders if his company was to survive. The Kaman K-600 was the winning design in a Marine Corps competition for a light reconnaissance helicopter. Able to carry a pilot and 3 passengers, or 2 casualty litters, the K-600 was powered by a 600hp Pratt and Whitney R1340 radial. Eight-one were produced as HOK-1's for the Marines, followed by a further 24 as HUK-1 utility helicopters for the Navy. Eighteen similar HH-43A's (with re-designed tail surfaces) were procured by the U.S. Air Force as airfield crash rescue aircraft.

Kaman did much experimentation with turbine engines in helicopters, flying the first turbine powered helicopter in the United States, and also the first twin-turbine helicopter. Kaman installed a Lycoming T-53 (used in the UH-1) in a HOK, but no orders for a turbine HOK emerged from the Marines. It did, however, catch the attention of the Air Force, which cancelled their order for a further 34 HH-43A's and placed an order for a slightly enlarged K-600 with the T-53 engine. This became the HH-43B, with 200 built. The HH-43B was the primary base crash rescue

aircraft for the Air Force until replaced by the HH-1H Huey beginning in the late 1970's. The HH-43 became famous as the "Pedro" in Vietnam, and 42 airframes were produce (or re-engined) with a larger T53 as the HH-43F.

Although very slow in forward flight (the HOK cruised at about 70 knots), the Kaman "Synchro-copter" design was extremely efficient in a hover, and surplus HH-43's became popular as 'flying cranes' and (coming full circle to the original Kaman design), agricultural aircraft. This led Kaman to produce a specialized, single seat helicopter optimized for load carrying based on the HH-43 called the K-Max in the 1990's and 2000's. A number of these aircraft were produced as brand-new airframes, and several were used by the Navy under contract to provide ship-to-ship 'vertrep' service.

The K-600 has been poorly represented in modelling. The only real mainstream kit is the old 1/32 Hawk HH-43B from the mid '60's that has been re-released numerous times in Testors boxes. The only kits of the piston-engine variants I'm aware of are a horrendous 1/72 limited-run HOK from Merlin Models (you'd be better off starting with a bar of soap...) and a 1/48th-ish HOK originally released in the early 1950's by Helicopters for Industry, and later by Aurora. This is real time-warp Jurassic Plastic, with giant rivets, approximate shapes and clunky details. This kit demands stupid money from collectors.

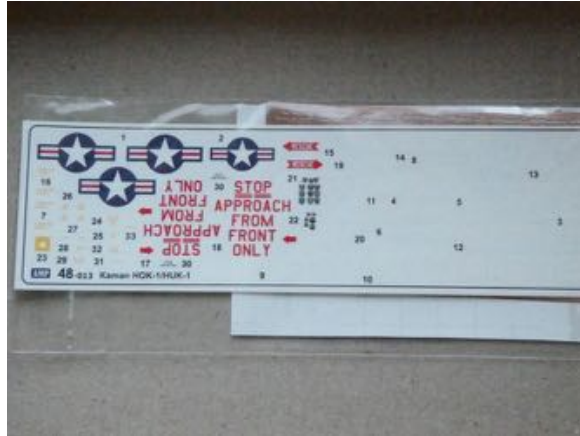
So I was surprised and delighted when AMP Models announced plans to produce a new 1/48th HOK. AMP is an off-shoot of the Mikro-Mir from the Ukraine (best known for their 1/350th submarines and weird Soviet prototype aircraft kits). AMP is producing some interesting subjects, such as a series of 1/48th 1930's air racers and 1950's helicopters.



The kit is molded in gray styrene, with very fine surface detail, reminiscent of Eduard. It's multi-media, with some resin components, a photo-etch sheet and vinyl masks. The molding and presentation is so similar to Tracy's Modelsvit Bf.109 that I wonder if they are not actually produced by the same manufacturer.



The model has some really neat features. The rotor blades are pre-molded with the proper static droop. The radial engine is a very prominent and visible feature of the HOK, and AMP has done a great job here. AMP uses resin components to depict the finer engine components, such as the intake and exhaust manifolds and accessory case, which would not have been as detailed if rendered in plastic.



The decals depict a Marine HOK in Field Green and a Navy HUK in Dark Sea Blue. The decals look okay – they're not Cartograf. Will be interesting to see how well they work.

My kit suffered a quality control issue. The photo etch sheet was only partly etched. An e-mail to AMP's e-mail address on the box brought an immediate response with an apology and the information that a new sheet had just been dispatched. Great customer service!

I haven't seen this kit available in the U.S. yet. I got mine directly from the Ukraine. It's not terribly cheap, at \$34, but considering the level of detail and the subject, I think it's worth it. Looking forward to building this one!

Member Show and Tell



Name:

Tracy Ackeret

Time To Build:

20 hours

Kit & Scale:

Tamiya Fiat Abarth

1/24th scale

Aftermarket Items:

None

Paints Used:

Dupli-color Classic White exterior,
with Mig Ammo and Alclad for
other parts

Comments:

Built in honor of my late Debbie to
replicate her 2013 Fiat Abarth.
Bought off Graveyard for way too
much money.



Jim Abercromby

Time To Build:

Kit & Scale:

Ral Partha Elmister

28mm

Aftermarket Items:

Paints Used:

Humbrol, Vallejo and Andrea

Comments:

Originally painted with Humbrol.
Then repainted with Vallejo and
Andrea paint.



Name:

Revel Walker

Time To Build:

On-going since September 2019

Kit & Scale:

Original, cast urethane and white metal

1/24th scale

Aftermarket Items:

MSG parts from Kotobukya

Paints Used:

Tamiya Dark Yellow and Dark Brown

Comments:

Resin kit based on 1980's Votoms anime series



Name:

Mike Otis

Time To Build:

1 month

Kit & Scale:

Trumpeter M983
HEMTT tractor

1/35th scale

Aftermarket Items:

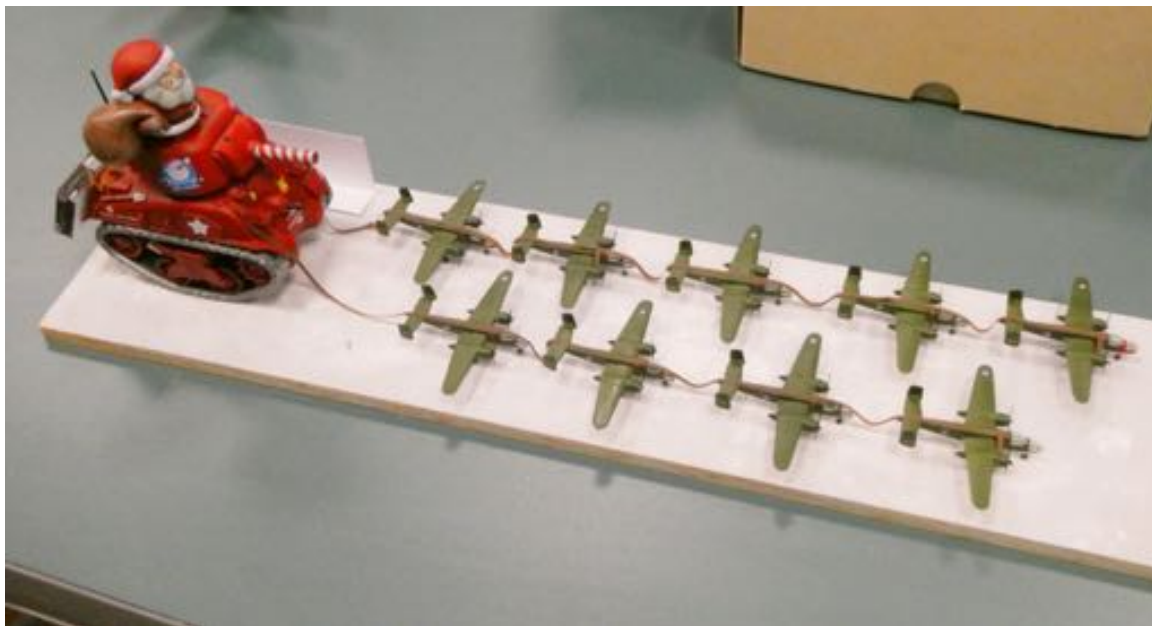
None

Paints Used:

Tamiya NATO Green, NATO Brown,
NATO Black. Mig pigments for
weathering.

Comments:

Good fitting, nicely detailed kit.
Soft vinyl tires were tricky.



Name:

Mike Steinke

Time To Build:

1 month, 20 hours

Kit & Scale:

“Santanklause and his 8 Little Raiders”. Meng Sherman Tank and Trumpeter B-25’s

1/60th and 1/350th scale

Aftermarket Items:

Base made of wood and baking soda.

Reins made with masking tape cut into strips

Paints Used:

Tamiya, Citadel

Comments:

Still needs an elf to direct take-off



Name:

Niilo Lund

Time To Build:

60 hours over 4 months

Kit & Scale:

Testors Travel Aire Mystery Ship

1/48th scale

Aftermarket Items:

Picture hanging 6-strand separated and used 2 strands twisted and achieved the support cable size to provide airframe and wing and horizontal strength

Paints Used:

Testors rattle can Red for wings and fuselage and horizontal.
Testors Aluminum, Gray and Flat Black for engine and cowling.
Testors Aluminum, Flat White and Flat Black for pilot.
Sharpie black for design detail and striping (paint pen).
Sharpie red for touch-up (paint pen)

	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Reasonable build, minimum sanding and filing.</p> <p>Difficult painting task due to scalloping and fuselage striping.</p> <p>Decals reasonable using Pledge/water mix (1:10) for base with follow up sealing with Microseal.</p> <p>Cable supports were challenging but chose this option over stretched sprue, fishing line, and thread for appearance. Like the instructions said it was hard to keep line straight. Two pieces used for wing cables and one piece used for horizontal support.</p> <p>Interesting build and challenges, must have patience.</p>
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Name:

David Newman

Time To Build:

30 hours

Kit & Scale:

Eastern Express An-12

1/144th scale

Aftermarket Items:

Tail gun modified for civil use.
Custom Alps-printed decals

Paints Used:

Testors Model Master, Gunze for
some details

Comments:

CAVOK markings



Name:

DJ "Rowdy" Yates

Time To Build:

Kit & Scale:

Bandai 'Das Raumbot'! (Modified UX-01 Dimensional Submarine)

1/725-ish scale

Aftermarket Items:

Paints Used:

Tamiya

Comments:

This is my modified Bandai UX-01 kit...

"Das Raumbot" = "The Spaceboat" (Pretty much a Spacegoing U-Boat...)

The paint scheme & weathering was based off a WWII German Type VII U-Boat. The Deck Cannons were salvaged from a Bandai 1:144 scale Y-wing, and modified. (The cannon's mount is a cut & filed paperclip, fitting it required some very tedious drilling & filing of both

the Sub, and the Cannon itself...)
The Sub's stand is a slightly modified Bandai Star Wars stand. (As the black paint I used - an acrylic based paint, besides Tamiya - had a reaction with the original stand that came with the kit.) The Star Wars stand also has a ball joint, so it is somewhat poseable. The kit is originally a Bandai model of the UX-01 Dimensional Submarine from the Starblazers 2199/Spacebattleship Yamato Anime series. The UX-01 itself, was based off of a few German U-boat designs, along with influences from IJN Submarines, most notably I-400. (One of the largest Submarines of WWII.)



Name:

DJ "Rowdy" Yates

Time To Build:

Kit & Scale:

OKB Grigorov Soviet Navy Project
641 - "Foxtrot" Class
Submarine Soviet Pacific Fleet, c.
1970's/Early 1980's.

1/700th scale

Aftermarket Items:

Paints Used:

Tamiya

Comments:

This is a 1:700 scale OKB Grigorov resin kit. I've seen several of these built, but most did not turn out well, and were inaccurate (not

because of the kit, but because the modelers apparently did not look at reference photos, profiles/plans, etc. when they built thiers?), and I wanted to do as good a job as possible. Although it has a low parts count, it was anything BUT easy to build & paint! (Overall, it is a fairly decent kit, but some details could be better...) Might go over it again with a different brand on clear coat, since the "satin" coat didn't exactly dry satin... (Possibly because of the resin? Which was a bitch to paint, even though it was soaked & prepped in everything but acid!) The base is hand finished, done in a light oak stain, with a Cold War Era Soviet Red Star pin added. The weathering is accurate (although it may not show up well in the photos), it was based on reference from the Soviet Navy, as well as Indian and Ukrainian ships. (India's subs were fairly well maintained, and were retired in 2010. The Ukrainian sub U-01 'Zaporizhzhia' - Ukraine's only operational submarine - was surrendered to Russian Naval Forces in 2014, ironically under a Soviet Naval flag.) There is some rust, as well as the "scum line", and

algae buildup under the waterline. (Which is most noticeable on the lower bow sonar window, which would have been bare metal.) The model represents a Soviet Navy 641 boat on patrol in the Pacific around the 1970's/early 1980's. Recently, I had worked to save the 'Scorpion' - Foxtrot Class B-427, in Long Beach, with the help of a handful of US Navy, Soviet/Russian Navy, and International Submarine Veterans & Fans. The Soviet medals I had on display were donated by a few friends behind the 'Iron Curtain', who were former Soviet Navy Submarine Fleet Officers. (One of which was awarded to those who served aboard the 627A - November Class Sub K-118 in 1966/67.)

Due to my short attention span and poor note-taking skills, I inadvertently credited Rowdy's Kilo sub build from October to Robby. Mea culpa. Here's the right info.



Name:

DJ "Rowdy" Yates

Time To Build:

Kit & Scale:

Trumpeter Soviet Navy Project 877 - 'Kilo' Class Submarine (early 1980's)

1/144th scale

Aftermarket Items:

Paints Used:

Tamiya

Comments:

Soviet Navy Project 877 'Paltus' ('Палтус' = 'Halibut') - NATO name 'Kilo' Class Submarine. These diesel-electric attack submarines are mainly intended for anti-shipping and anti-submarine operations in relatively shallow waters. Though they are

more than capable of operating in the open ocean, and can be deployed for up to 45+ days with a crew compliment of 52. Original Project 877 boats are equipped with Rubikon MGK-400 sonar system (NATO "Shark Gill"), which includes a mine detection and avoidance sonar MG-519 Arfa (with NATO "Mouse Roar"). There is an improved Project 636 "Kilo" currently in production.

This is the Trumpeter 1:144 kit, built as a waterline model. The kit was fairly straightforward, but not without some difficulties... Also the Periscopes, Comms Antennas, and Snorkel are made out of a flexible rubber/resin, it took about an hour with the blowdrier to straighten them out. Painting & weathering was kept light, as this would have been a fairly new boat. Decals were spares, the Soviet Red Stars were from a 1:35 Allied Tank kit, and the lettering was from a 1:72 Panther kit. I added the decals based on some black & white photos from the early 80's. (I was told by a few Russian sources both were spot on for the time period. Also the Soviet Navy had a habit of

changing the numbers & markings on thier diesel subs, to confuse NATO & Western observers...) The water & waves are a mix of paint, model railroad water, and silicone cocking. It works, but is a method I will more than likely not try again. The base is pink insulation foam. (I still have to purchase a frame for it.) The sub was painted with Tamiya paints, and detailed with Tamiya rust & Future for the ballast tank drainage, and waves breaking. The water was several different blue & green paints mixed as I went along to match some photos I have of the 877's on patrol in the Pacific. My Kilo Class took 3rd in the Submarines Category in the 2019 Desert Classic.

Calendar

1/25/2020	Sprue Fest	Brookhurst Hobbies 12188 Brookhurst St. Garden Grove, CA
2/15/2020	IPMS Silverwings Sacramento Silvercon 2020	Town & Country Lutheran Church 4049 Marconi Ave. Sacramento CA
3/1/2020	Valley Con 2020	Pasadena Convention Center 300 E. Green St. Pasadena, CA
3/21/2020	50 Years of Modeling Excellence	Fresno EAA Chapter, Hangar 379 4344 W. Spaatz Ave. Fresno, CA
4/18/2020	Silicon Valley Classic VII	Napredak Hall 770 Montague Expressway San Jose, CA
4/25/2020	Best of the West	East Side Cannery Resort & Casino 5255 Boulder Hwy. Las Vegas, NV
7/29 – 8/1/2020	IPMS/USA National Convention	Embassy Suites and San Marcos Conference Center 1011 E McCarty Ln. San Marcos, TX
11/3/2020	IPMS Reno “High Rollers” 21 st Invitational Contest & Swap Meer	BPOE Lodge 597 597 Kumle Ln. Reno, NV

From the Oval Office – Notes From the Prez

“Inspiration”

I want to talk about inspiration: what is it that drives us--that drives ME--to first take up our hobby, and then continue to build upon the basic skills. For most of us, I'm sure, the first inspiration is stories. Historical stories, stories of great discoveries, or epic battles, or smaller struggles on a more basic or individual level. Fantasy stories about characters who are brave, powerful, wise, engaged by other characters with opposing, possibly overwhelming, strengths placed against them. Stories about vehicles whose performance or appearance or just extraordinary workmanship that we admire. We either begin from those stories with an image we want to recreate in 3-dimensional replica, or we see, in kit form, a representation of something that fires our imagination, driving us to reproduce that character, that vehicle, that construction, and either learn more about the story behind it, or to create our own story for it. As modelers, we enjoy the process of assembling and constructing our pieces. We spend hours after applying just the right finish, then devising the best way to display our work. All of that effort is in pursuit of visually telling or retelling a story, whether it is an actual story from the news or from history, or from the pages of legends or novels or even the sports section. How we assemble our creations, and how we finish them, are driven by the choices we make in pursuit of portraying our chosen story. Are we showing a subject fresh from the factory or showroom floor, or are we showing the effects of a struggle or conflict? If we are depicting use, how much use, and how vigorous, are we seeking to portray? How can we bring that story to the viewer in such a way that the narrative becomes almost self-explanatory, even to someone unfamiliar with our subject?

As scale modelers, this sort of portrayal soon becomes a source of great satisfaction. Not only to ourselves as modelers, but also as observers and consumers of stories shared by others. We want to know more about our friends' projects, and their stories, and how exactly were they able to get that Formula 1 car or lowrider to such an extensive depth and complexity of luster. How did they get that Ork to demonstrate differences in damaged clothing, whether it's plate armor, or plasteel, or simple torn cloth? And HOW DID YOU MAKE THE END OF HIS CIGAR APPEAR TO GLOW? How can you take a kit of an idealized depiction of a tank, or a fighter plane, or a ship, and depict the results of specific actions upon it--how do you make ordinary plastic look like freshly-varnished or aged and neglected wood? How do you make ordinary plastic look like armored steel, dented and scorched? And how, for crying out loud, do you make ordinary plastic RUSTY? How do you make a section of plastic smaller than a fingernail look like a panel many yards across, with paint aging and fading unevenly the way it does in the real world?

For me, these are just some of the many questions I bring with me when I come to our monthly meeting, or when I attend a scale model show. The sense of wonder that learning their answers brings, keeps me coming back for more.

Happy modeling, everyone!

Oops. Glued my knife to the workbench again.