



THE KOMET CHRONICLES

Newsletter of the Alexander Lippisch
Chapter of IPMS/USA

March-April 2010

Modeler's Spotlight

With this issue of the *Komet Chronicles* we are reviving another column from the older editions of the newsletter, the "Modeler's Spotlight." Each edition of the newsletter we will try to feature a member of our club and bring into focus their modeling interests as well as other activities they may be involved with. We will be featuring newer members of the club as a way of introducing them to some of the more veteran club members. We begin this edition with Dave Pennington.

Name: Dave Pennington

Where do you live?:
Cedar Rapids

How long have you been modeling?: I started at around 9 years old up to around 14. I started up again as an adult(?) about 17 years ago

What/who influenced you in the hobby? I didn't really have any, other than an interest in history. When I was 9 years old there was no internet or video games or any of these other technological marvels we have now. The closest we came then would have been the magic 8-ball. Every kid I knew had at least a passing interest in polystyrene.

What period and genre do you primarily work in? (i.e., modern aircraft, WWII aircraft, etc.):

Usually WWII aircraft. I do, however, go off the beaten path and build pre-war. The Korean War era is also something I'm getting into more these days

What scale(s)?: 1/48, a few in 1/32, I even have a few in 1/24. I've always stayed away from 1/72 thinking the fighters were too small to have a lot of detail. I've begun to rethink that after going through Charlie's stash a couple of times. There's too many cool

subjects that are only available in 1/72; several Japanese bombers, early variants of the B-17, Martin B-10, etc.

How long have you been a member of IPMS Alexander Lippisch?: 2 years and a few odd months

Any other hobbies/interests besides scale modeling?: I enjoy “classic” novels. Those being the books you always thought about reading but never did. It’s a really long list, though. Mark Twain, John Steinbeck, and Jack London are a few of my favorites. I like woodworking as well, but my enthusiasm far outpaces my abilities so anything I make has to be relatively simple. I made a large display case a few years back that, if anything else, serves its intended purpose. I’m toying with the idea of making another this summer if I can talk my wife into ceding another corner of the basement.

Anything else?: Maybe a word about the club. This is really an enjoyable group for me. The diversity of interests, and knowledge makes it interesting every time I attend a meeting. I always manage to learn something. Our interests don’t begin and end with modeling. We all seem to have an above average interest and

curiosity in history, and it’s rare to be a part of a group as knowledgeable as this one.

Editor’s comment: For an example of Dave’s work, check out the 2010 special edition from *FineScale Modeling* entitled *Great Scale Modeling*. In the section covering last year’s Region 5 contest in Madison, WI there is a photograph of Dave’s 1/48 scale B-24; way to go Dave!

Club Project

On Saturday January 30 Club president Charlie Kucera, Larry Martinson and Bill Kreuger showed up at the Robert Horsky Model Collection at the Eastern Iowa Airport terminal to continue work on cleaning the case and basic repair of the collection. We spent about 3 hours in the morning and were able to get a little more than two-thirds of the entire case cleaned and several models repaired. We also placed a small sign in the case indicating that our club is maintaining the collection. During the morning we had several people stop and ask questions, both about the club and scale modeling in general. Afterwards, about noon, we retired to one of the establishments at the airport terminal and enjoyed a few beers. We only have a little more than

one-third of the case yet to clean and a few more models to repair. We have not yet set a date for another work day.

Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting

We had several members show up to both the February and the March club meetings. At the February meeting, Steve Larson served as President pro-tem while Charlie was in Germany. Several club members had things to show for “Bring and Brag” and we continued discussion of the club show in May.

The March meeting was chaired by Charlie, as usual. Discussion of volunteer needs for the show was one of the hot topics. Please contact Steve Larson at 365-6846 if you would like to help out. We also discussed several upcoming events and then we adjourned for the “Bring and Brag” session.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was held at Charlie’s house on February 17 with several members in attendance. After a meal prepared by Charlie’s wife Deb (thank you) discussion was held on the club show and its related expenses. After adjournment, just about everyone went down to Charlie’s man-cave to fondle plastic. Charlie had some very “interesting” items to show us from his recent trip to Germany.

The March business meeting will be held at Charlie’s house on Wednesday March 24, instead of March 17. All members are welcome to attend.

What’s New at Box-Kar?

Please be sure to stop in to Box-Kar Hobbies on a regular basis. They always have something new on the shelves.

Club Events

Several events have been held lately. While not an “official” club event, we did have one member attend the “Hope it Don’t Snow” show in Rochester, MN on February 6. Bill Kreuger attended and brought back silver and bronze medals. He won a silver for his Trumpeter Char B-1 in 1/72 scale armor and a bronze for his J7W1 “Shinden” by Hasegawa in 1/48 scale aircraft. There were over 300 models on the tables and was a well-attended event.

On February 20 the club held a Build-a-thon at Klik’s. Several members of the club were in attendance and a great time was had by all. These events are held on a bi-monthly basis and all club members are welcome to attend.

Dues

Please remember that club dues are due. As Charlie reminded us at the March club

meeting, in order to get your discount at Box-Kar Hobbies, you need to be a member in good standing. Dues are \$25 per year for non-IPMS members and \$20 per year for IPMS members.

Show Calendar

March 20 – OmaCon 2010

Council Bluffs, IA
IPMS Ft. Crook

March 27 – 6th Annual Scale Model Show and Contest

Fairmont, MN
IPMS South Central Modelers of Minnesota

April 10 – Cabin Fever Classic

Fargo, ND
IPMS/Red River Scale Modelers

April 10 – Mad-City Contest

Madison, WI
IPMS Mad City

April 10 – Surgicon
West Des Moines, IA
IPMS Plastic Surgeons

April 17 – Model Fest 2010
Liberty, MO
IPMS West Central Missouri

May 1 – Fleacon - Plastic
Model Show and Contest
Cedar Rapids, IA
IPMS Alexander Lippisch

Upcoming Club Events

March 24 – Business Meeting

April 7 – Regular Meeting
(Kliks)

April 11 – Build-a-thon
(Kliks)

April 21 – Business Meeting

May 1 – Fleacon (see above)

May 5 – Regular Meeting
(Kliks)

May 19 – Business Meeting

The Book Report

by Bill Kreuger

A Dawn Like Thunder: the True Story of Torpedo Squadron Eight, by Robert J. Mrazek; New York: Little, Brown & Co., 2008, 526 p.

This is a great book! As the title implies, it follows the story of the ill-fated Torpedo Squadron 8 that was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Hornet* during the Battle of Midway in June 1942. The book begins by providing an overview of the main characters of the Squadron. These include the squadron leader, John Waldron, Swede Larson, and George “Tex” Gay as well as several other lesser known individuals. After introducing the pilots and crewmen, the book takes us to the deployment of the Squadron, both to the *Hornet* and to Midway. Using impeccable resources and research, including many hours of interviews with shipmates and surviving members of the squadron, Mrazek takes us through the entire Battle of Midway from the various cockpits of the aircraft of Torpedo 8. In reading this section, it seems unbelievable that the U.S. Navy was able to defeat the Japanese during this encounter. There were so many blunders made, and if John Waldron had lived it is quite possible he would

have been court-martialed for leading his squadron in a different direction than what was ordered.

The book then follows the exploits of the survivors as they went through the Guadalcanal campaign and then eventually the disbandment of the squadron. The final chapters and appendices touch on what happened to those squadron members after World War II.

This book is highly recommended for anyone with an interest in aviation history, U.S. naval history, and the history of the Pacific War.

Finally

Steve Smith has passed this information on for inclusion in the newsletter: “Alexis Park Inn and Suites in Iowa City holds an Aviation Movie night and flight simulator flying every Tuesday evening. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. with flying on the “Kiwi” flight simulator followed by an Aviation themed movie at 7:00 p.m. Food and drink is provided.”