



THE KOMET CHRONICLES

Newsletter of the Alexander Lippisch
Chapter of IPMS/USA

April-May 2010

Modeler's Spotlight

It's time again for another one of our club members to step forward into the Modeler's Spotlight. In this edition of the Chronicles we are featuring Steve Smith.

Name: Steve Smith

Where do you live?: Coralville

How long have you been modeling?:
On and off since 1966

What/who influenced you in the hobby?: I've been influenced by the club members, an outstanding group of modelers. They have been a terrific source of inspiration and guidance.

What period and genre do you primarily work in? (i.e., modern aircraft, WWII aircraft, etc.): I seem to limit myself to whatever comes along, Sci-Fi (models from the movies or TV shows are on the workbench right now), Aircraft (anything with wings or rotor blades) are my main interests. I've got a few submarine models and a few armor kits waiting in the wings. I'm also trying to learn some basic electronics as I'm going to try to light a few of my sci-fi kits soon. That ought to be fun!

What scale(s): Whatever they come in, mostly 1/48 or 1/72. It just depends on what the kit is.

How long have you been a member of IPMS Alexander Lippisch?: About a year and a half.

Any other hobbies/interests besides scale modeling?: As anyone who knows me will tell you, I love aviation and space! I've been an amateur astronomer since I was 10 years old. I've been a part of couple of Astronomy clubs and have closely followed the space program since the Gemini days. I'll be starting flight training later this year, something I've been looking forward to for a long time. Other passions include simulator flying, which includes on-line flying as well as driving my Mustang during the warm months. I also enjoy camping with my wife and daughter when weather permits. I'm also going to try to get back to aviation art, something I haven't done for a while.

Anything else?: I'm impressed with the skill level and knowledge of the group members. Everyone is friendly and helpful as well. It's a wonderfully

diverse group that shares the same passion, building scale models.

Ed. note: Below is an example of Steve's work:



This is the gold medal he received at Surgicon for his Star Wars Speeder Bike on April 10 at West Des Moines. This was Steve's first gold medal; way to go Steve!

Road Trips

Recently, several Fleas have taken to the road and to model shows in various parts of Region 5. Here is Charlie's report of a trip to Fairmont, MN on March 27:

I wanted to give you a report of our recent club field trip to the show at Fairmont MN.

The Fleas took to the road and won big, really big. Members Scott Raisbeck, Dave Seimer, Dan Good, driver Steve Larson and navigator Charlie Kucera, took off at the crack of dawn Saturday morning. Bound for the snowy and ice bound lakes of our northern neighbor, Minnesota. Driver and crew members were grateful for Larson's Garmen, without it, there is little doubt they would have ever made it to the show.

On to the winning report. First, member Dan Good did not enter anything in the show, I bet he will next year, our members did very well. New member Scott Raisbeck won Best of Show with his duel figure display of Spider man and the Green Goblin. Wow! Congratulations, way to go Scott. Steve Larson won a Gold for his Rommel's Rod, that was supposed to be a six hour build Steve! Great job on your first Gold. Dave Siemer won a Gold and a Silver for his 1/72 scale armor. It was that muddy windshield, Dave, way to go, super job. Lastly Charlie Kucera won 2 Golds and 2 Silvers.

The show was a fine event, smaller than most, but still with 33 entrants and about 120 models it was very well run. There were only a few vendors, but there was enough to pique our interest. At least 10 kits found their way to new homes in Iowa stashes.

Lunch was a fine affair, almost too fine. Thank goodness Scott stayed behind to hang out at the show. The other guys and Dave Seimer's Dad, overstayed the lunch break and missed the award ceremony! So Scott collected all of the awards for us. Hey, thanks

Scott. No, the driver was not drinking, not a drop.

The return trip was uneventful, save the sparkling conversation and genuine concerns about crossing into Iowa with all that Minnesotan Gold. Heck Raisbeck's Trophy alone was like 10 pounds. Man that thing is cool.

Two other road trips took place on April 10th when five Fleas went to Madison, Wisconsin for the 15th annual IPMS Mad-City contest and three Fleas went to Surgicon put on by the IPMS Plastic Surgeons. Charlie had this to report about the road trip to Madison:

Five of us went to the Madison show this last weekend, and we were skunked. We had a great time, but no heavy metal came home with us. The car load was driven by Scott Raisbeck, passengers were, Adam Raisbeck, Dave Siemer, Mark Flickenger and Charlie Kucera. The gang visited two hobby stores, visited with the show vendors and cleaned the motel bar out of a couple beer brands.

Two new vendors were secured for the show, Warpigs and Jeff Herne, and John with tons of cool aftermarket details and aircraft kits. John is from the Czech Republic, which is why I can't remember his last name. He's a super guy though.

At Surgicon, Steve Smith, Larry Lahs and Bill Kreuger came home with lots of hardware. Among them they won 3 gold, 1

silver and 5 bronze awards. There were over 160 models entered in the contest and the judging was based upon a point system, where each model was judged on its own merits. Each model was judged by three different judges.

The show itself was very well run, there were lots of vendors and the raffle was well stocked. I think each of us came home with something we won at the raffle. We also just had a great time visiting with other modelers and our friends in the Plastic Surgeons. Here are a couple of pictures showing some of our awards:



This is Steve Smith's Tie-Fighter which won a bronze award at Surgicon. His gold award was pictured earlier.



Here are Bill Kreuger's award winners including: 2 gold medals (1/35 scale M4A2 Sherman, 1/72 scale French Char B-1); 1 silver medal (1/48 scale Japanese Shinden); 2 bronze medals (1/72 scale Hawker Hurricane and 1/72 scale M4A4 Sherman).

Club Project

There is nothing new to report on the Club project at the Eastern Iowa Airport. We had tentatively set another work day for April 17 but that date will not work out. We only have about one-third of the Horsky Collection left to clean and/or repair. Hopefully we will get a new date set and finish up the work. When this is completed we will have a club photograph taken and hopefully sent into the *IPMS Journal*.

Meeting Notes

Business Meeting

The March business meeting was held at Charlie's house on Wednesday March 24. After another delicious meal prepared by Charlie's wife Deb the meeting began promptly at 7 p.m. Several members were in attendance and the main topic of discussion was the upcoming model contest as well as other upcoming events. After the meeting we adjourned to Charlie's basement to see his new purchases. The next business meeting will be Wednesday April 21 at Charlie's house. All members are welcome to attend.

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting was held at Klik's on Wednesday April 7 with several members in attendance. Again, the main topic of discussion was the last minute details for our show. It looks like we are pretty well covered but please check with Steve Larson if you have not yet signed up for anything.

After the meeting, we had a great “Bring and Brag” session. Some of those who attended the Fairmont, MN show had their models with them as well as their awards. The Spiderman/Green Goblin model by Scott Raisbeck that took “Best of Show” at Fairmont was just awesome. His award was pretty nice too.

The next regular meeting is on Wednesday May 5 at Kliks.

New at Box-Kar

Here is Charlie’s report on what’s new at Box-Kar Hobbies:

New at Box-Kar this month, a whole new line of 1/72nd scale armour kits are on the way. Maco, the kits looked great on line, can't wait to see them. The new models include the German sWS und das sWS mit 3.7 cm kanone. Very nice detail, and not overpriced. Also, the restocking continues of the reissued Airfix kits, relive the excitement of your youth, build an Airfix kit today! The Edvaurd Weekend editions are a great value, there new one the shelves.

Included are the FW-190 A5 the Avia something or other, the Bell P-400, and others. Ships, new ships in new scales. The CNG Virginia in 1/700 Dragon, the Midway, CV-41 in 1/700 by Arii, and the whole line of AFV 1/350 scale U and I boats! Sci-fi kits, and tons of new car kits are also on the shelf at you local and favorite hobby store, Box-Kar Hobbies. Come on down and cheer up Charlie

with a visit, he needs it the show pressure is starting to take hold.

Show Calendar

April 17: Liberty, MO: IPMS/West Central Missouri presents Model Fest 2010.

May 1: **Cedar Rapids, IA: Alexander Lippisch Chapter presents “Fleacon: the Power of 10” at the PS Air Hanger at the Eastern Iowa Airport, 3411 Beech Way SW.**

June 18-19: Portage, IN: IPMS/Duneland presents the Region 5 Convention at the Willowcreek Middle School, 5962 Central Ave. Contact is Bryan Warchus at 219-929-6868 or e-mail at bryan@ipmsduneland.com.

August 4-7: Phoenix, AZ: IPMS National Convention at the Phoenix Convention Center. For additional information see: www.ipmsusa2010.org or “IPMS 2010” on Facebook.

Club Events

April 21: April Business Meeting at Charlie’s house, 7 p.m.

May 1: Fleacon, see above under “Show Calendar.”

May 5: May monthly meeting at Kliks, 7 p.m.

May 19: May business meeting at Charlie’s house, 7 p.m.

June 2: June monthly meeting at Kliks, 7 p.m.

June 12: Build-a-thon at Kliks, 10 a.m.

And Finally...

This is from Steve Smith:

Hey Guys

Tell Charlie to order one of these for your next project! The Tamiya Electric Handy Drill will drill through wood or plastic. I’ve talked with several modelers and they love it. And the best part is IT’S A KIT! Yep it’s a drill you have to assemble. How cool is that! At around \$20.00 it’s next on my tool list.

From Hobbylink Japan it’s part number tam74041

I’ve attached an image of the tool in case you want to drop it in the article.

