



THE KOMET CHRONICLES

Newsletter of the Alexander Lippisch
Chapter of IPMS/USA

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2011 Nationals: What a Great Show

“Omaha by the Sea,” the name for the 2011 IPMS/USA Nationals, is now history but what a great show it was. The show was held in the LaVista Conference Center in LaVista, NE, just outside of Omaha. There was something for almost everyone: tours, lectures, vendors, “Make and Take,” and the model room. I attended a few of the lectures, which were well done and very informative. One I went to was “Armor of the Pacific War” and it covered both Allied and Japanese armor. Another was on the history of U.S. Navy ID Markings. I was able to get a copy of the PowerPoint presentation of this and would be happy to share it with anyone. The best thing about the show was our award winners. I think IPMS Alexander Lippisch made history, as we not only had one winner; we had 4 winners at Nationals! Two of our members, Dale Owens and Terry Williams, brought home multiple awards from Nationals. If

this isn't a testament to the quality of model builders we have in our club, I don't know what is. I want to congratulate all the winners at Nationals, but especially, those in our club – Dale Owens, Larry Clausen and Terry Williams. In this issue we have articles by the award winners describing their winning models and how they were built.

President's Report By Charlie Kucera

Omaha by the Sea, 2011; this was my second IPMS National convention. My first being last year's in Phoenix. Last year, 2000 models, 600 entrants. This year, there were 2476 models and 701 entrants. This year's show represented the very best of the Midwest region of the country, Region 5 in IPMS parlance. It confirmed my suspicions that this part of the US has the best modelers in the country. The models at this year's Nats were simply beautifully done; they were all nearly flawless.

There were 742 awards presented so the odds in winning were nearly one in four. Last year, they were one in three. Our chapter purchased an award package, we sponsored the 1/48 small jet category. The winners in category, #128-a were, 1st - Richard Van Zandt II of Olive Branch, MS, for his Me-262 a2A; 2nd - went to Al Grimm of McCordsville, TN for his captured ME-262; 3rd - was awarded to Andrew Albrecht of Grapevine, TX for his HE-162 A-2 Salamander.

The show was very well run, from sign-in to placing the models on the tables. That all went well; after that things went in different directions. First, models and categories were being moved all over the place and for seemingly no reason. I'm sure it made sense to the people who mattered but for some of us it was eliciting responses ranging from annoyance to confusion to total frustration. Some entrants demanded to know why their entries were changed. Here is an important tip from one who now knows better. When you place your models on the table, DO NOT place the containers they were packed in under the table. When they move models you need to remember where they were, to find your packing boxes. This problem is easily avoided by taking your boxes back to your hotel room. Live and learn.

Another important tip; do not try to pick up your models right after the show, whether you are staying for the awards banquet or not. Not good. Be prepared to stay until at least 2200 and then pick up your models and trophies, if you were so lucky, then face your multi-hour drive home.

It was expensive: entry fee was \$45 and just to get in the door it was \$10 a day. Hotel room, depending upon where you stayed, \$100+ per night, I split that with a roommate. Food and drinks, that really added up, Famous Dave's was really good, but it was nearly \$40, just for me. Then there are the vendors. Wow, cool stuff, way too much to see. Even in three days I didn't see it all. I wanted to look closely at Starfire decals but never had a chance. I purchased 26 kits, 11 were requests from

club members and the other 15 were for me.

My roommate for the trip, Jay Stevens, bought an estimated 60 kits. The total was vague due to the extreme density of the back of his pickup when we arrived at my place to unload. I know he had 8 bags with nearly 8 kits per bag, hence the estimated 60 kits. Jay was very pleased with the value of his dollars spent.

The social aspects really need to be addressed. For the most part, it was delightful. Thursday night was a shipbuilders' BBQ at Carl Musselman's home. Most of the Fleas in attendance went to this delightful event. Carl's model room walls are painted like the hull of a ship. Complete with draft measurements, boot topping and anti-fouling red below that. The next night was the feast at Famous Dave's. As soon as I walked in the place, the combination of salt, smoke and pork aromas were so wonderful I couldn't wait to dive into some ribs; they were fantastic. We were 9 for dinner that night, Terry, Scott, Tom, Bill, Larry, Jay, Ted, Dave and I. We had a splendid time. After which we went to a bar and hung out until 2300.

Saturday was the Region 5 business meeting; I'm glad I don't have to go to any more of those. We had drinks in the hotel after the meeting and as the show was winding down.

Overall, it was another life changing event for me. I set goals last year and I exceeded them. I completed models and entered them. There were only 7 Fleas who entered: Scott Raisbeck, Frank Miller, Terry Williams, Bill Kreuger, Dale Owens, Larry

Clausen and I. Jay Stevens took two, but they were damaged in transit. As far as I'm concerned, without sounding self-serving or indulging in self-aggrandizement, we were all winners. We set goals, we finished kits, we entered them, and some of us won awards, some of us didn't. That doesn't matter to me, if you build kits for the intended purpose of winning awards; you are crazier than I am.

Next year's National is in Orlando FL. I already know I have a conflict with the date and can't make it. However the year after that, in 2013 the Nationals are in Loveland CO; I'm going. I've got friends and relatives that live eight minutes from Loveland. I'm going to go and enter my best work. I'm going for the fun of it. I trust we will all try to remember, this is simply a hobby and it supposed to be fun.

Happy Modeling!

My 1932 Ford Hemi Highboy and 1/72 scale Jeep

By Dale Owens

My 1932 Ford Hemi Highboy placed 1st in the Automotive Custom category. This model was based from the out-of-production 1932 Ford Highboy model kit from Revell/Monogram. I sourced the engine, rear tires and wheels from the also out-of-production Chevy Willy's Coupe, as I was looking for the ultimate in obnoxiously oversized and supercharged engines. However, the engine was so dramatically larger that I had to remove the engine mounts and lengthen the

frame of the Ford a full 8mm, just to make it fit.

I then had to hack away most of the firewall, and even with this lengthening, the firewall had to wrap around more of the engine than was originally designed. Also, going for that 'in the weeds' look, I shortened the springs and mounts to the front axle and notched it up into the frame a bit. This brought the front end down about 2mm. The body was then 'channeled' onto the frame by about 4mm, and the rear wheel arches had to be severely cut down and grafted onto the frame to make the match with the body. This also required trimming the rear of the frame and relocating the gas tank. This created a low-slung stance. The radiator shroud had to be chopped a bit, so it could drop a matching 4mm, and the radiator had to be modified to match. This significant change also necessitated scratchbuilt coolant hoses, engine mounts, exhausts, and lengthening the rear axle by nearly 12mm.

The rear axle received the wide 'Mickey Thompson' treaded drag tires, and while I used the kit front tires, I stole a matching set of Halibrand wheels from a kit whose name has been lost to time. These wheels were intentionally larger than the kit ones, so I reamed out the tires to make them look lower profile. The inner wheel also came from a different kit.

All these changes also threw off the fit of the interior, so I very carefully cut the door and seat panels at their trim lines, and then shortened them and cleaned up their details. The floor received a coat of 'fuzz' to give it a carpeted look, and the dashboard was painted the same shade as the exterior -three coats of Boyd orange pearl over Testors gloss

orange, followed by four coats of clear gloss enamel, with polishing between each coat.

My 1/72 Jeep model was included with the Dragon boxing of a M4A1 Sherman. This model was built straight out of the box, and while this model was very easy to assemble and the fit was impeccable, the painting process was a bit more difficult. The finish was post-shaded in various shades of Olive drab, for that sun-faded look, and the model was coated in Future wax to apply decals - and lots of them. The 'license' numbers on the bumpers were provided in this kit as individual characters, all the way down to the hyphens. After what I thought was enough Future and a day of drying, I proceeded to apply an oil wash, which promptly ate away the paint! Thinking quickly, I determined all the damage was to the floor, so while it was still wet, I applied chalk pastels to build up a muddy appearance; another case of a 'happy accident!'

This model placed 2nd in the soft skin small scale vehicle category.



The “Cool Bus” and “Rommel’s Rod”

By Terry Williams

My third place winner (Automotive- Scratchbuilt and Conversions) was the wheel-stander, “Cool Bus,” which was completely built all from styrene plastic sheets and tubes. The engine was in the rear; paint was base coat clear coat school bus yellow.



My second place winner was “Rommel’s Rod” stuffed with two top fuel drag engines, rear wing and parachutes. Painted candy apple red

paint then clear coated. (Ed. Note, this won in the Automotive Customs category, Dale won 1st place and Terry won 2nd place).



Out of East Prussia

By Larry Clausen

This 1/35 scale diorama depicts a civilian evacuation from East Prussia on a cold, snowy day in January, 1945. Fleeing from the advancing Red Army, East Prussian civilians had been forced to remain in their homes until the last moment by the German authorities. Refugee trains made of old men, women, and children packed up a few possessions on wagons, carts or baby carriages, picked any road or path that was not under fire and walked out of East Prussia. Forced off main roads by the German military authorities, bombarded by Russian artillery and strafed by the Russian Air Force, 311,000 civilians died of shell fire, exposure and exhaustion. This diorama represents civilians caught up in the terror of war.

The wagons and horses are from Master Box and ESCI. The wagon cover was paint-soaked tissue paper dried over shaped plastic sticks. The figures are from Master Box and Preiser. The bicycles come from Tamiya. Foodstuffs and luggage come from Verlinden. All are painted with acrylics, mostly craft paints from Michael's, and marketed under the names Creamcoat, Folk art, and Americana.

The base is Styrofoam covered by gray-tinged (Tamiya) celluclay, and covered by Woodland Scenics snow. The snow drifts were carved Styrofoam half circles covered over with celluclay.

This diorama was a pleasure to build and is dedicated to the victims of this evacuation. It won 3rd place in the Diorama category (more than 5 figures).



Dragon's LVT-(A)1

By Bill Kreuger

This is the new Dragon kit that I purchased at Box-Kar Hobbies earlier in the spring. I built this kit pretty much straight out of the box, with the exception of the addition of the antenna. I actually finished most of this kit during our July build-a-thon at Steve Larson's house.

This kit almost fell together and was a real pleasure to build; it was extremely well-engineered. The only problem I had was with the fitting of the deck of the landing craft to the hull. There were small gaps on each side of the rear as well as at the front. I was able to fill these gaps with no problems.

I painted the model overall with Testors Model Master Acryl Intermediate Blue and used Model Master Acryl Grimy Black for the tiny road wheels, track, machine guns and main gun. I painted the interior a light gull grey, also Model Master Acryl. I used Steve Zaloga's book *The Armor of the Pacific War*, as a reference guide for the painting of this model. I also used various tips provided to me by other modelers in our club, including Dale Owens and Steve Allen, to do the weathering of the exterior (thanks guys). For this, I used primarily artist oils and Tamiya powders. I used Evergreen rod, very thin, for the antenna. The decals were great and I used decal setting solution to help them settle into their various cracks and crevices.

The model itself represents a unit that was used during the invasion of

Saipan in June 1944, from Company C of the 2nd Amphibious Tank Battalion, landing at "Yellow Beach," hence the two yellow stripes on the sides. This kit won 3rd place in OOB 1/72 Tracked, Allied category.



Our winners photographed at the August 11 meeting, Dale was unable to make it.

IPMS/USA Plastic Surgeons Win Big at Nationals

The IPMS Plastic Surgeons, from Des Moines, won big at the Omaha Nationals. According to my friend and

fellow librarian, Ross Petra, the Surgeons took home 15 awards as follows:

Greg Metge – 2nd place – Military Dioramas (Large), 2nd place – Military Dioramas (Small), 2nd place – Aircraft Dioramas (Large), 2nd place – OOB Triathlon, 3rd place OOB Submarines.

Joe Lotz: 1st place – OOB 1/72 Tracked, 3rd place – OOB 1/72 Wheeled, 3rd place – OOB 1/35 Softskins.

Ross Petra: 1st place – 1/72 Single engine jets, 3rd place – 1/35 Axis closed top.

Mike Seek: 3rd place – Submarines (Large pre-1946).

Rob Folden: 2nd place – Vacuum formed aircraft, 2nd place – OOB 1/72 Wheeled, 2nd place – Misc. dioramas, 2nd place – Sci-fi dioramas.

The Plastic Surgeons were also recognized at the Region 5 business meeting as the 2010 Region 5 Chapter of the Year. Congratulations Surgeons from the Fleas!

Club Events

September 1 – Club Meeting, 7 p.m. Iowa Masonic Library

September 15 – Business Meeting, 7 p.m. Charlie's house

September 17 – Club Build-a-thon

October 6 – Club Meeting, 7 p.m. Iowa Masonic Library

October 20 – Business Meeting, 7 p.m. Charlie's house

November 3 – Club Meeting, 7 p.m. Iowa Masonic Library

November 12 – Club Build-a-thon

November 17 – Business Meeting, 7 p.m. Charlie's house

December 1 – Club Meeting, Christmas Party and Elections, TBD.

Upcoming Events

September 10 – “Gateway to the West Contest and Swap Meet,” Eureka, MO – IPMS Gateway

September 24 – “Nordic-Con 2011,” Fridley, MN – IPMS Twin City Aero Historians

October 15 – “Glue Crew 2011 Model Contest and Swap Meet,” Wausau, WI – IPMS The Glue Crew

October 15 – “KC Con 2011,” Kansas City, MO – IPMS Great Plains

November 5 – “TigerCon 2011,” Columbia, MO IPMS Central MO Scale Modelers

November 12 – “IPMS ‘Butch’ O’Hare Chapter Open Model Contest,” Downers Grove, IL – IPMS “Butch” O’Hare

April 28, 2012 – “FleaCon VIII” (This is our show guys!)

Adult Building Class

Starting November 10, our club will be offering an Adult Building Class through Kirkwood Continuing Education. Thanks to Nate Pollock, this class will be offered as an adult ed. Class

and will be listed in the Fall 2011 Kirkwood Continuing Education course catalog. We will be following the Adult Building Class that has been a proven success through the IPMS/USA. The class will be offered over a six (6) week period, in November, December and January. If anyone is interested in helping to teach this class, please contact Nate at 319-551-6754 or natepollock@alliantenergy.com

And Finally...

As you may have seen above, listed in the "Upcoming Events" section, Fleacon VIII is official. We will be holding our 8th annual club show at the PS Air Hanger at the Eastern Iowa Airport on Saturday April 28, 2012. We will need lots of help in getting this show organized and ready. In the upcoming weeks and months, don't be surprised if you are asked to help with some aspect of the show; we will need everyone's help.