



PostStrike®

IPMS Ottawa Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

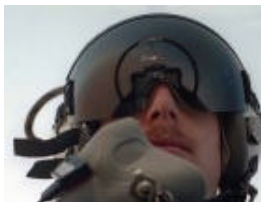
<i>Ralph Leonardo Memorial Contest</i>	<i>November</i>
<i>Open House</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Out of the Box Competition</i>	<i>December</i>
<i>Best of 2002</i>	<i>January 2003</i>
<i>CAPCON</i>	<i>September 2003</i>

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The Prez Sez

Paul Eastwood



Fall is here and with any luck we have seen the last of the summer heat. My airbrush should be able to spray paint instead of water. We are also in the midst of a series of shows all within driving distance of Ottawa. Last month saw the 23rd edition of Rocon in Rochester, and later in September we have Sycon on Oct.20, and Ajax on Oct. 27. Both are one-day shows, but are definitely worth attending. See the write up on Rocon 23 in this issue.

Tonight Roch Graveline is presenting a slide show on the Armour Museum in Australia. We also have the last AD Hoc contest of the year. I will be addressing the issue of club contests at the beginning of the meeting. We have our open house at the Museum of Science and Technology (date TBA), and following discussions with many club members, the following format will be adopted; club members are encouraged to display their models as a theme. The content of the theme will be up to the modeler or modelers involved (a theme can be entered as a group effort). We will have at least one table available as a 'Club Table' where members can display works that are not part of a theme. Two trophies will be presented: one for the best theme as chosen by the public, and a second as chosen by IPMS members. As far as building, an area may be set aside solely for working on kits, but this will not be a major focus. Building at the table will be accepted as long as the work area is small and does not detract from a theme. As debated last month, display is taking a back seat to having a day to work on kits. The format several years ago stressed presentation, and by returning to that notion will do more to promote the club. We will examine the idea of setting a specific group theme for future open houses.

Next month is the Ralph Leonardo Memorial contest, and is open to all 1/72nd scale aircraft. December is the annual Out Of The Box contest, open to any subject built without major modifications.

Happy modeling.

Rocon 23

Paul Eastwood

IPMS Rochester hosted ROCON 23 on September 22. The turnout was quite good with a variety of models representing all fields of interest. The location was the 40/8 club, a very intimate locale, which set the tone for a relaxed and enjoyable day.

Randy, Jamie and I traveled to Rochester on Saturday with a fully loaded PT Cruiser. The 4 1/2 hour drive served as good reconnaissance for future shows in Syracuse (October 20) and Buffalo (Bufcon on April 6) and NorEastCon (TBA). The Sunday show featured a well-rounded selection of kits with some excellent entries in all categories. The Aircraft category was perhaps the best represented with many fine pieces of work. A real standout for me was the large Sci-Fi figure category that featured a few phenomenal pieces. There were also a large number of Ship entries finished to quite a high standard. In fact, a ship entry, the 'Oregon', was voted "Judge's Best Of Show".

The main theme was titled 'Picture This', awarded to a kit accompanied by a photo of the actual subject. Randy received this award for his 1/48 Lancaster. The IPMS Ottawa contingent placed fairly well, winning several categories. One of the greatest aspects about traveling to various shows is the opportunity to meet other modelers. I met a number of IPMS Rochester members, as well as visitors from Buffalo and Toronto. There was a large contingent from Syracuse, who are looking forward to their upcoming show. Everyone we spoke to was friendly and seemed to genuinely appreciate our presence.

All in all it was a very enjoyable weekend. The show was extremely well organized and ran smoothly throughout the day. The awards presentation was especially well planned, and could serve as an example for many one-day shows. Hopefully ROCON 24 will not coincide with our Capcon next September 23. If it does not, I would highly recommend planning to attend next year.

Virginia Beach-A U.S. National Convention Report

Jamie Leggo

For the second time in six years Virginia Beach has played host to the prestigious IPMS USA National Convention. IPMS Tidewater, host chapter for the 1996 Nationals, stepped up to the plate to once again host this mammoth show, I say, arguably the world's largest--our colleagues in IPMS UK would probably dispute this claim. While the Brits, between all the 'club stands' for which they are famous, can probably lay claim to having more built models under one roof, the actual competition part of their annual affair is dwarfed by recent American efforts. If you have never attended a large American show, I really encourage you to make the effort, as it really is a humbling, mind-blowing, wallet-lightening experience!

I attended this year's Nationals with my ever-indulgent and show-rookie partner Johanne, Randy Lutz, along with his wife and fellow IPMS Canada National exec member Debbie, the vendor-revered Peter Steacy, (picture Norm walking into Cheers!), and the always-entertaining Sid Arnold rounded out the Ottawa contingent. Sid, who usually attends these shows as a vendor, went free of all such encumbrances this round. This gave him that much more time to be the butt of too many jokes, and a great opportunity to display his burnt-to-a-crisp, forgot-to-apply-sunscreen, feel-asleep-at-the beach-Thursday, hairy-black-lobster-for-the-rest-of-the-show-look. Remember Sid, we kid because we love!

Anyway, on to the show. Johanne and I arrived in VA. Beach about noon on Wednesday, and the convention had already been in full swing for almost 24 hours at this point. We could be forgiven for our late arrival, as we brave souls opted to drive the 14+ hours and carry a boatload of models (Randy's!) down for those folks who flew. How are the knuckles Deb?

The show was held, as last time, in a LARGE convention centre called the Pavilion situated a short walk from the beach for which the city is famous. This facility has everything you 'd ever want to host the perfect convention, except for a hotel! For this, you're in for another short walk/long drive, depending on how much you want to get 'bent over' on the price! The less said about the 'roach motels', flanking either side of the convention centre the better. Suffice to say that on top of paying a Manhattan-like price for your dump of a room, you'll also fork out the equivalent of a new Tamiya kit every night in taxes including a one-dollar 'occupancy' tax. I can hear the clerk now, "Oh, you wanted to actually stay in the room too..." Oh well, I didn't need that other kit anyway.

When we finally unloaded and checked the model and vendor rooms we were not disappointed. These were both large and well lit. This is pretty critical for the model room for obvious reasons. Walking into the Vendor's room reminds me of the line from The Blues Brothers where on entering the Palace Hotel Ballroom, one musician says to the other, "F%^\$&*ing barn, we'll never fill it!"

Va. Beach is unique in having sufficient space to fit all of the vendor's tables in one room, and just ask any vendor who's been relegated to an 'overflow' room how important that is. Everybody gets to work the same captive audience. This year's audience had a choice of some 329 tables to paw over, and truthfully I never saw all of the vendors when I was there. Sensory overload does kick in after a while, as in effect, you've just walked into that world's largest hobby shop. Some 38 tables filled by Meteor Productions alone, crowned the room. Say what you will about Dave Klaus (I know I have), but the man is a marketing genius, and knows how to dominate his market. He even had a real MiG 21 cockpit section for customers to sit in! Another vendor with parts of real airplanes gracing his table was the ever-popular and genial Jerry Crandall of Eagle Editions fame.

Jerry, as is his custom, brought along salvaged pieces of real Luftwaffe wrecks to display on his table alongside built up models of 109's. Neat! Jerry is a true 'mensch', and it's a pleasure buying excellent Luftwaffe product from him. This year was particularly easy if you had in your possession a new Hasegawa 1/32nd 109 kit as Eagle had a large selection of outstanding resin sets and decals for this gorgeous model. Pipe-fitter modellers take note, this scale IS going through a renaissance and I saw many products at the show that'll keep the big boys happy.

IPMS Ottawa

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IPMS Ottawa is the local chapter of *IPMS Canada*. Meetings are held at the Science and Technology Museum, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd., on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

Club Membership Information:

Dues are \$15.00 per year, which permits members to take part in club contests, events, and the Annual Member's Auction.

Post Strike is the official journal of the IPMS Ottawa Chapter. Articles may be copied and re-used provided credit is given to the original author and IPMS Ottawa. Contributions are welcome from any readers of *Post Strike*, not just club members. IPMS Ottawa does not pay for any submissions. No promise is made to publish any material and where necessary submissions will be edited. Submissions of articles, tips, terms, items needed, or questions for *Post Strike* can be dropped off at a meeting or sent to:

editor@ipmsottawa.ca

Visit our web page at:

www.ipmsottawa.ca

IPMS Canada

Club members are encouraged to become members of our national association and parent body, IPMS Canada. Memberships are \$24.00 Canadian per year and are available from:

IPMS Canada
PO Box 626, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5P7

Inquiries or submissions can be made via their Internet address:

mig@ipmscanada.com or visit their website at: www.ipmscanada.com

Virginia Beach Continued...

A quick run-down of some of the deals that I had to have is in order here: first off, on arrival I found out that I owed Randy \$50 (US!), as he was good enough to fork over this amount to Dave Klaus for all the resin he produces for the old Monogram Kingfisher. Don't know if this purchase falls into the 'deal' category, although Randy did get a couple of bucks off our stuff by 'whining' to the Meteor people over a customer service issue. Attaboy Randy, a deal from Klaus is as rare as hen's teeth!

As alluded to above I parted with some hard earned with Eagle Editions for several new resin bits for the 109 family as well as two sheets of decals for the same. Hey, if I'm not building in 48th, it's just as easy to not build in 32nd, right?

On to Richard Franks, who relieved me of many dollars for both parts in the SAMI Publications series 'Modellers Data-File' on the Spitfire. These are very good, especially from the modeller's perspective at illustrating all of the production differences throughout the Spitfire family. If the books have an Achilles heel, it is in the quality of some of the models contained within; in a word, these are awful! That, allied with their cover price may prove off-putting to a lot of potential buyers, but there is a lot of good info here to be had.

A kit purchase is an absolute must at any National, and the good folks from AMtech were there to help people in this endeavor. Offering maybe the best deal at the show, these guys were unloading large piles of their 48th Huckerbein and P-40 E's (with the corrected fuselage) for twenty and ten dollars respectively. Great value, and just in case you felt you didn't spend enough on the P-40 they very handily had displayed a pile of the new Cutting Edge cockpit set for this kit for the tidy sum of \$18.99!

The final deal falls into the 'cheap is good, free is better' category. This was in the form of a belated birthday present from Sid. He handed me a new tool called a "Hold and Fold", and as the name implies this gizmo is designed to do just that to pieces of photo-etch. This thing is fantastic and if, like me, you're not crazy about struggling to fold little boxes out of bits of brass you need to RUN to your nearest hobby shop and pester them into getting one of these for you. A good tool is worth its weight in gold, and this item is a great tool!

With new toys in hand it was time to check out the adjacent model room and the competition, always both an inspiring and depressing exercise. As was expected in the wake of September 11th, the numbers were down this year with some 678 registrants and 1750 plus models in attendance. Last time Virginia hosted in 1996 they set a new record, since eclipsed, of over 2000 models in the show. The norm for registrants over the last several Nationals is about 900. I was struck by the lesser number of entries that really made you say, "Wow", but any National still has a ton of really good models to drool over. One winner that does stand out in my mind was a DH-2 pusher built by a fellow Canadian. This category-winning model was obscenely well detailed and featured a wicker look-alike pilot's seat, woven by the builder from some 600 strands of nylon thread! The straightjacket comes off soon.

As it has been for the last several years the biggest single category was '1/48th Single Engine Prop WWII'. The show organizers are to be congratulated here for having the foresight to lay out several potential splits on the table ahead of time. This served to minimize the horrible 'musical chairs with models' that we witnessed last year in Chicago, where some splits got moved two or more times because of a simple lack of planning. The category ended up by being split 5 ways and each split had an average of almost 40 entries! Do the math; that's over 10 percent of all the entries in the show in one category, and the judges had to pick 3 winners out of each the 40. Having said that, I think Randy and I must be masochists for concentrating our efforts here!

A Summer Project

Roch Graveline

A couple of weekends ago we took my 12 years old nephew up to the cottage. One of the projects we had planned was to build a model. What he had was an Italerie 1/72 Marine A-4 Skyhawk.

Was it to scale?

Don't know.

Recessed panels?

Nope.

Fit?

So, so.

Were the markings and ordnance correct?

Doubtful.

Did we have fun?

Absolutely.

Start to finish, the build took 2.5 hours over a couple of days. As far as he was concerned the thing looked real cool. I think that every once in a while we should all go back to our roots, and build a model like we did when we were 12 years old, just to remind ourselves why we developed such a passion for this hobby. It's good for the soul, and if we help a kid to develop an interest in the hobby while were at it, all the better.

Virginia Beach Continued

Randy came out of the scrum with an Out Of the Box award for his Avenger in the USN split, as well as a well-deserved 1st for his outstanding P-51K in the USAAC/USAF split. His Lancaster took a 2nd in the 'Multi-Engine over 70' wingspan' category and finally his 401 squadron Spit Vb took home 'Best Canadian Subject' honours--more on this one later. Following the tactical axiom of Teddy Roosevelt, "hit 'em where they ain't", I won a 2nd for my Tamiya V-1 in the 'Unmanned Aerial Vehicles' category. Thanks for the hardware where lesson Randy!

The models were not the only attraction to be seen, as we were duly informed by our better halves, and that meant that Saturday was slated to be a day on the beach. Sid opted to limp down with us as he had a few square centimetres of skin left that didn't look pan-fried! We plunked ourselves down for a day of sun, surf, sand, and a very generous helping of people watching. Some of these were very generous as well, and made this author personally grateful for the "No Swearing, No Alcohol, and No Thong Bikinis", signs we saw posted! These sights were balanced out by several buff bodies visible as well as frequent F-14's and 18's flying overhead, NAS Oceana being right next door--beach with your own personal air show, what more could you want?

We dragged our sun-drenched bodies back to the fleabag in time to get ready for the awards banquet, and here's where things got tedious/annoying. I don't know why, but for some reason in this digital age the Yanks cannot seem to master the intricacies of a proper slide presentation to accompany the reading of the winners! Last year and the previous year's awards presentations were total cock-ups in this regard, and I guess they wanted to keep the streak alive. We in Ottawa, set the standard more than 10 years ago for honest to good slide shows that worked. Bill Devins and Arras Pappas had the unenviable task of presenting a lot of awards during a long banquet, all without the benefit of visual aids. Get it right boys!

One part of this presentation that didn't go according to (our) plan was the awarding of the IPMS Canada Sponsored 'Best Canadian Subject' award mentioned earlier. This award supposedly enjoys 'Grandfather' status as a perennial special at the US Nationals. As such, it is to be presented in the same manner as all the other regular specials (i.e.; Best Of's etc.) during the end of the banquet. The winner's name is called, a slide is shown of the winning subject, and the winner walks up to the podium to receive his/her award. This worked for every special apart from ours, as our award had been left beside the winning entry in the model room next door. Our winner got up when his name was called and proceeded half way down the aisle only to be told not to bother, as there was nothing at the front for him to collect! This moment was accompanied by half-hearted attempts at humor from the presenters to the effect that, "why don't you Canadians just have the award printed and presented to yourselves!" IPMS Canada was NOT amused, and we are currently exploring ways to spend our/your money to promote Canadian modelling to a more appreciative audience in our own Country.

This last note notwithstanding, the show was generally a great success and provided a good venue in which to make new friends, renew acquaintances with old, and put a face to the names of legions of fellow Internet lurkers. If you've never ventured out of the 'small pond' of Ottawa area modelling I encourage you to do so by attending a truly big event like the US Nationals.

The new Decal Bank

Bill Wilson

At last month's meeting, I took one of the Decal binders to create a new Club Decal Bank. As we all know, the decal manufacturers make their profits by selling sheets of decals containing four or five schemes for the same aircraft, which many of us will never use. We keep the sheet after building one aircraft but it will probably never be used again. The decal bank gives members a chance to get a scheme for an aircraft they may want and get rid of a sheet they have finished with. I had maintained one up to a year and a half ago, but had been misplaced and not seen since.

The new decal bank contains 14 decals at the moment and will operate under the same regime as the old one. If you want a scheme on one of the sheets, we ask that you bring in another to replace it. If you have a partially used sheet to donate, it will be thankfully received. This time I will include a "wants" sheet in the back where members can request a scheme and see if any member has one to trade with them.

This time I will keep a close eye on the bank and hope that members will find it useful.

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

Seth Wilson

Despite my utter failure to become a full-time contracted teacher, I was able to enjoy one of the hard earned perks of one--a summer vacation. Every Friday, I took my bin of modeling supplies and set up at the Hobby Centre and offered my services. At the height of the summer, I was working with about twelve kids and a few parents showing them some of the tools of the trade, some techniques and of course some free stuff. The main interest was the Games Workshop's line of Warhammer figures with some scale models interspersed here and there.

Now a lot of modelers would turn up their noses at this, but there is whole lot more involved. The figures required clean up, construction and all the same painting techniques that a Tamiya figure might require. The space vehicles which are required to do battle in the 40,000 Universe, also require a lot of the same techniques as a military vehicle from the 20th century. As I sat there building some of these vehicles, I had people come up and ask me about the M113 I was building, which in fact was a Warhammer Rhino. The boys at Games Workshop borrowed "liberally" from movies, TV and reality to create their product—I am surprised there aren't lawsuits pending.

Furthermore, after sitting in the Hobby Centre for a few hours each week and watching the kids/Mom dole out hundreds of dollars for this stuff, this is certainly a way the hobby of modeling will survive. And who knows, maybe at some point the kids might decide to look into what these space vehicles are based on and try building one of the real things.

YOUR THOUGHTS HERE...

The Post Strike is looking for a few good writers. If you hadn't noticed, there have been some missing PS over the past few months. Why? Because I've had only a few things to print! So write down some thoughts, some ideas or a review. I don't mind, just write it down!

The Swap meet

Need something? Got something? Let me know...

For Sale

-Complete set of Model Aircraft Monthly Vol. 1-9.

See Terry for details.

Tcj1965@hotmail.com

Need

-Looking for books and models of commercial aviation. Contact Janyce at

divcom@sympatico.ca

-Looking for a full scale model parrot, preferably Norwegian Blue. Contact Janyce at

divcom@sympatico.ca

Ferrari Challenge Series

Paul Eastwood

Several months ago, Terry Jones and I attended the Ferrari Challenge Series event at the race course in Mont Tremblant, PQ. The course itself is absolutely beautiful. Speedvision has broadcast several races from Tremblant, with drivers and announcers being unanimous in their praise of the facility. The day featured three races; the Vintage, Classic and Modena Challenge races. The Vintage and Classic races each featured three cars, while the Modena challenge had a full field of twenty cars. While the racing was very entertaining, the focus of the day had to be the concourse of new and old Ferraris (or is that Ferraræ?). A contingent of owners were encouraged to bring their vehicles from Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. We also had access to photograph the series Modenas and met several of the drivers. From a modelers' perspective, the opportunity to see and photograph these exotic cars was absolutely priceless. Combined with recent Tamiya releases of the Modena and Spider versions of the 360, and the automotive theme award at Capcon 2003 being best Ferrari, maybe a future modeling subject will be something in red.



One of the many races of the day. The Ferrari won this one...



A yellow Modena



Two kids(?) behind the wheel of their favorite cars.



An Alfa Romao, where Ferrari got his start.