September 2013

THIS ISSUE

- Kit Review-1/48 P-80A-Shooting Star
- Seen on the Table

Volume 20 Number 9

■ P-80A Photo Essay





Next meeting date:

Monday, September 20th 7:30 pm to 10 pm

Levittown Public Library 1 Bluegrass Lane, Levittown, NY.

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Model. Photo: John Musolino



IN THE PILOT SEAT

Get those models ready that you have been building for we have a club contest this month! Yes I've been watching those models month after month displayed on the tables and now that summer vacations are over, it's time we do a little competing. The date is Monday September 16th.

Looking ahead to October, we will have our auction again for all. We are inviting the Suffolk club members as well, and send the word out to any modelers who wish to join in to buy or sell! There isn't any cost to people who want to sell their goods.

Well, the 1/32 scale HK Model kit of the B-17G is out and circulating the market. I missed the August meeting and haven't heard if anyone bought it and brought it to the meeting. I got a good look at it and it's huge! The kit comes with a wall mounting bracket for those builders who don't have a cabinet big enough. I can't imagine a B-24 Bomber if ever produced. A 1/48th scale is big enough for me! If you want this B-17 kit, consider calling Gene Bagnoli for the cheapest price anywhere.

It's firm that the IPMS 2015 Nationals will be held in Columbus, Ohio, same convention site of the previous Ohio Nats. I have to say, it was worth the trip. Roger and I drove to that Nats and once we parked the car, we didn't have to move it. We took the Dayton Air Museum trip via the bus. From what I was told, there were no other bidders for the 2015 Nationals.

A word about the show calendar and the fall shows due up. AMPS East is now called Armorcon in Danbury, CT, a two day show in a Crown Plaza Hotel. The Hudson Valley Historical Miniatures Group in Poughkeepsie, NY puts on a nice one day show. The LIARS and Miniatures clubs have their one day shows in November. All of the shows are a great place to mingle with peer modelers.

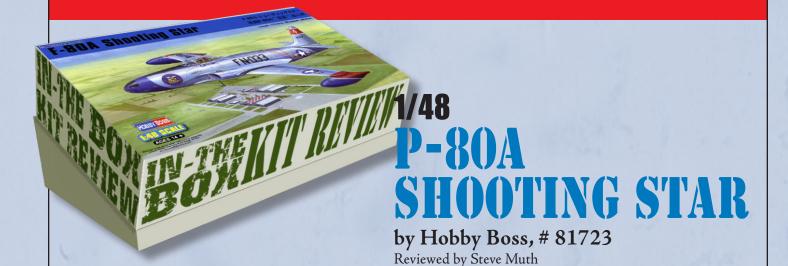
It appears that the American Airpower Museum will be sharing space at Bethpage Military Museum to display the military vehicles. No word when vehicles will be transported over to Bethpage, or how admission prices will be affected. We will be holding up printing flyers in any quantity until we see how this will impact our flyer advertising.

Please submit any kind of hobby reviews to Steve Muth, our newsletter editor. It could be about a kit, paint, magazine, accessories, or reference books. Steve is at most meetings and will be happy to advise or assist you organize it info. There is a form already on our website to help you get started if you haven't done this before. Steve also is publisher of a series of aircraft walk around photos that focus on cockpits, landing gear, wheel wells, etc. Speak to him about what he has to offer. I also would like to know what you want to see us provide for a hobby clinic. We are open for suggestions.

Keep building those models!

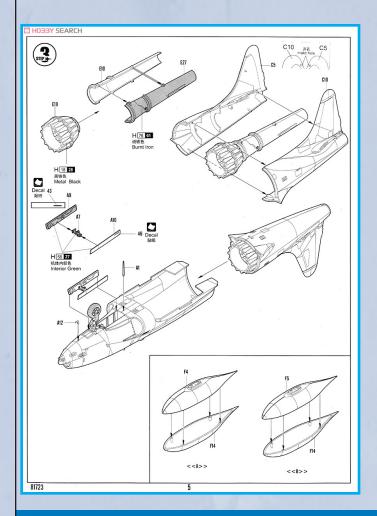






At last a new mold P-80! A P-80A no less. Whoda thunk! And, it is better than the venerable Monogram kit of the P-80C. It is not without its faults but it is good and only the sticklers will grumble a bit. But, first a bit of back ground.

The contract for Lockheed's XP-80 was approved by General Hap Arnold on June 23rd, 1943. It was to be powered by a British H-1 Goblin jet engine and was to have a



laminar flow wing. On November 8th, 1943 it was rolled out and trucked to Muroc Dry Lake Army Air Base and on the 9th the Goblin was fired up for the first time. It was accepted for flight on the 15th. Problems with delivery of the Whittle H-1 engine dictated a change to an improved version by General Electric, the I-40. It was slightly larger and this required a major redesign of the airframe. This new version was the XP-80A. It was flown on June 10th, 1944. With 1600 Lb more thrust it achieved a top speed of 561mph. Thirteen YP-80As were built and 2 went to Italy and 2 to England for service evaluation.

The production P-80A was essentially the same as the YP-80As. The GE I-40 engine was redesignated the J-33 and was manufactured by Allison. The early models were painted "Pearl Gray" (Some sources say ANA 512) and were puttied and sanded for a smooth gloss finish. This proved difficult to maintain and was dropped shortly In favor of a natural metal finish. Eventually 525 P-80A aircraft were built.

P-80A-1s retained the nosed landing light but the P-80A-5s had the landing light relocated from the nose to the nose landing gear strut and an automatic direction finder was fitted in the nose where the landing light had been. This is easily recognized because the cover on the nose is black. P-80A-1s had S/Ns in the range 44-84992 to 44-85336 while P-80A-5s had S/Ns in the range 44-85337 to 85491 and 45-8301 to 45-8363. All P-80A and B models had the canopy located 9 inches further back than the C models. The aft cockpit bulkhead was the in the same location for all models. This necessitated moving the cockpit forward 9 inches when an ejection seat was fitted on the C models and possibly on some As and Bs that were retrofitted with ejection seats... Fox 3 Studios made a conversion set for the conversion of the Monogram kit (From a C to an A or B) with instructions for the conversion.

continued on p 4

So, now to the kit. It is packaged in a sturdy top opening box with attractive art work. The 8 page instruction booklet is adequate with 10 assembly steps. However, the color information for the cockpit, landing gear and internals is missing. On the plus side there is a parts tree. There are decals for two aircraft, one set for an aircraft of the 56th FG and one set for an aircraft of the 61st FG. Registration looks good and they appear to be opaque. They are both natural metal machines. Stenciling and an instrument panel for one aircraft are provided. As an aside – Microscale has two sheets: #48-035 for "Rhapsody in Rivets" and 48-107 for "Maximum Goose" and Minimum Goose".

As far as the plastic goes, there are 7 clear parts, 98 dark gray styrene parts and one PE fret with 6 pieces for seat belts. Three different external tank types are provided and the breakdown of the parts indicates other variants will be produced (i.e. T-33 and P-80C. I'm not sure if a P-94A can utilize the basic parts but maybe). Mold quality is good with no flash or sink marks visible on my kit. All ejection pin marls are very subdued and in innocuous places. The Horizontal stabilizers and elevators are in two pieces

but are molded such that the aft join is

at the elevator hinge line so the

trailing edge is can be made

very sharp. None of

the control sur-

faces are

pose able. The Cockpit and wheel wells are well detailed. Paneling and rivet detail are nice but not overdone. Of course, if you choose to model a pearl gray bird you will have to sand and fill almost all of it. The landing gear struts are nicely done too. No ground crew or pilot figure is provided, nor is there a complete engine. Only the burner cans, turbine area and exhaust pipe are supplied. The fuselage splits aft the trailing edge of the wing. The wheels look good but better ones will probably be available on the aftermarket.

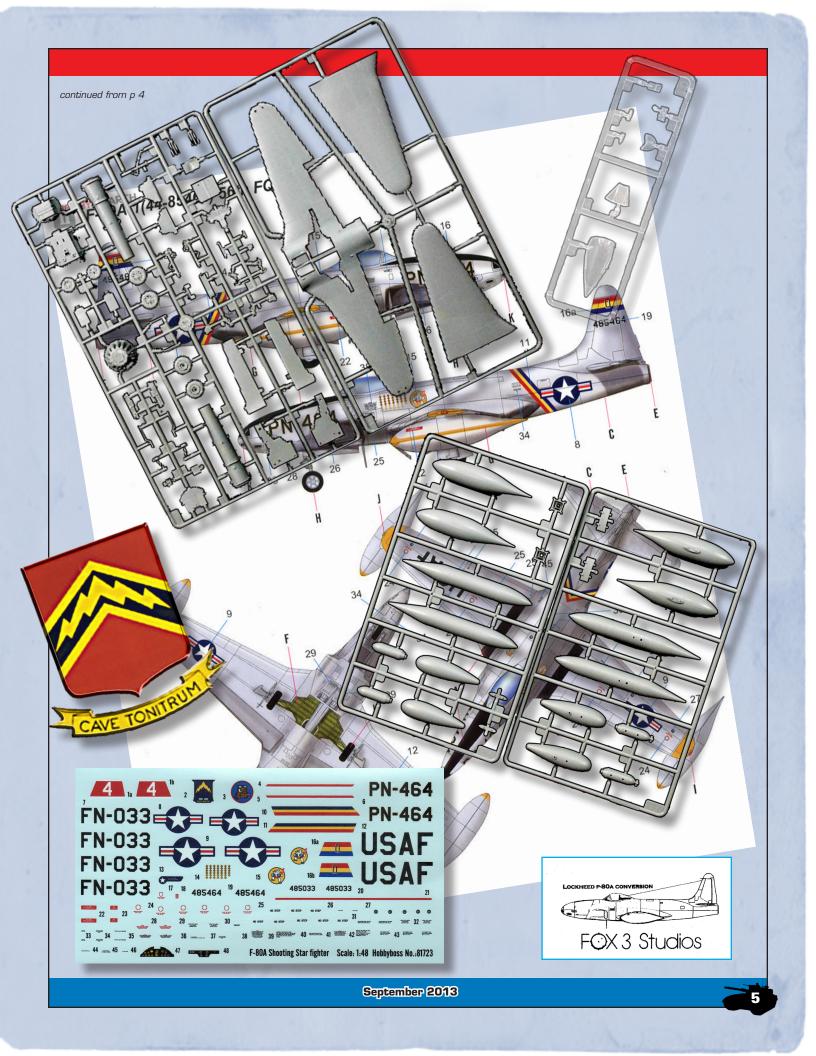
There are a few minor issues. Many P-80A-1s had the landing light fixed in the nose as did some P-80A-5s. Later models had a direction finder in that location with the landing lights fixed to the nose landing gear strut. Some early models were retrofitted with this arrangement. The DF equipped aircraft had a black radome in place of the clear landing light lens. The second issue is the seat. P-80As were built with standard seats, not ejection seats. Again, some P-80As may have been retrofitted with ejection seats but they

were not made that way. This retrofit necessitated moving the cockpit 9 inches forward to make room for the seat. Thus, in aircraft not fitted with an ejection seat the cockpit and canopy is/was 9" further back.

Personally, I can't comment on the fit but there is nothing apparent that would lead me to believe it won't be good. All in all, a good kit of a rare variant well worth the price.



September 2013



Seen on the Table AT THE AUGUST 19TH 2013 MEETING

All photos by Steve Muth unless otherwise noted.

There were 12 models on the table. They varied from a Model T chassis in work to a Prince of Wales battleship. There were planes, cars, a ship, and an APC in work. Scales varied from 1/10 to 1/72. Enjoy.



1/16 Model T chassis by Matt Kozerski



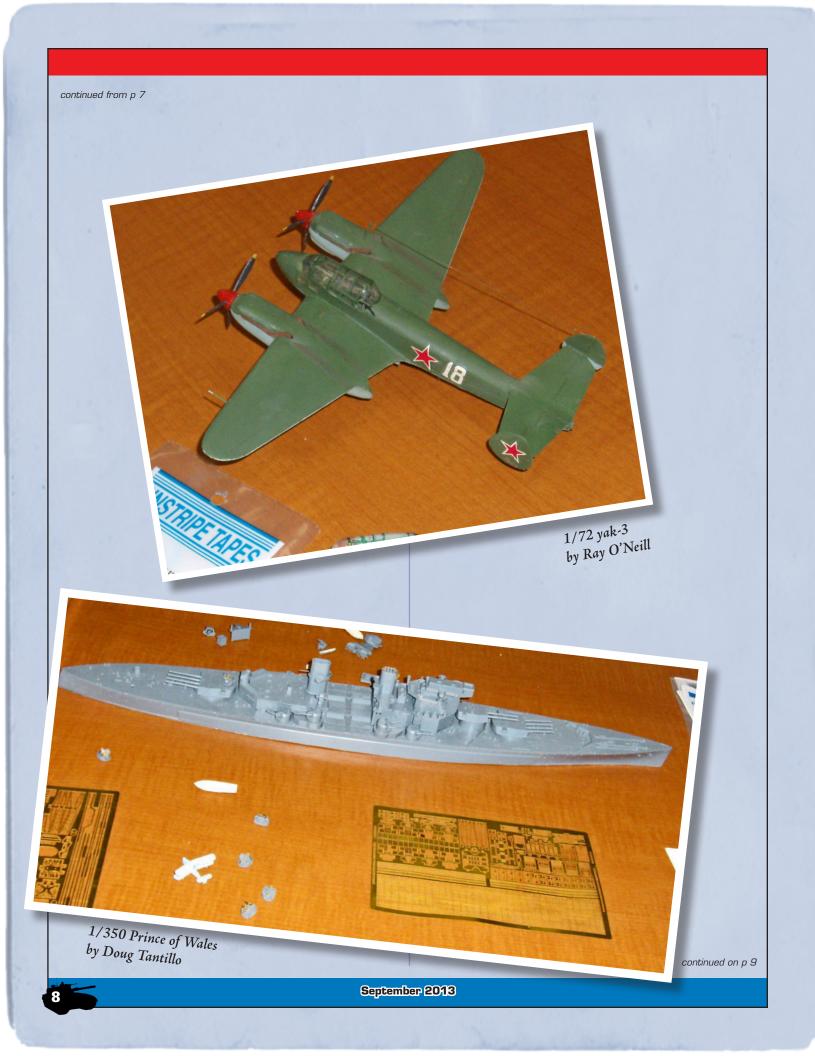
1/24 Plymouth Road Runner by Steve Martens



continued on p 7

September 2013





continued from p 8



A superb 1/10 Superbird by Eric Goldschrafe



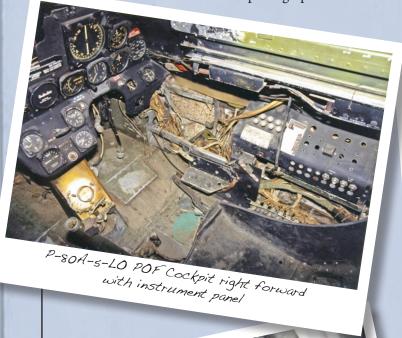


Photo Essay

By Steve Muth

P-80A SHOOTING STAR

Aimed at modelers and aviation enthusiasts, this photo essay focuses on the details and internal colors of the P-80A aircraft at Planes of Fame Air Museum at Chino, CA. Walk around photos and, where available, internal details are the main thrust of the images with an emphasis on cockpits and landing gear. All Photos by the author unless otherwise noted. The photographs were taken on January 25th, 1997 and April 23rd, 2008











P-80A-5-LO POF Cockpit floor



172. N2355 P-80A-5-LO POF Nose landing gear left



P-80A-5-LO POF Nose landing gear well forward



P-80A-5-LO POF Nose landing gear well roof

P-80A-5-LO POF Left main landing gear strut inboard



Show Calendar Listing for 2013-2014

See Bob DeMaio for details

1230 New Highway

Farmingdale, NY

Date	Event & Location	Website	Day
Sept. TBA	AMPSEAST 2012 Crown Plaza Danbury	www.militarymodelers.org	Fri-Sat
Oct. TBA	Model Fest '11 Knights of Columbus Hall 625 Bridgeport Avenue Milford, CT 0646	http://www.ipmsstratford.org/	Sun
Oct. 19	HVHMG Elks Lodge 29 Overocker Road Poughkeepsie	www.hvhmg.com	Sat
Nov. 9	LIARS Freeport, NY	http://www.wix.com/liarsmodelcarclub	Sat /liars
Nov. 16	Long Island Figure Show Freeport Recreation Center Merrick Rd.		Sat
	Freeport,	http://www.longislandmodelsoldiers.co	m
May 2 & 3 2014	Noreastcon 43 American Airpower Museum	http://www.lisms-ipms.org	Fri-Sat



Photo: John A. Musolino/ Model: Caterham Super 7 - 1/12 Scale by Michael Gondor

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MEMBER NOTES



From Freddie Seitz:

http://www.luckymodel.com/scale.aspx?item_no=MG-TS-008 Check out the link here "Tread Heads"

I'm noticing more and more WW I related kits being released from major mfgrs.... I know there is a lack of decent armor kits for the First World War, but I see a few more that are coming out that should be of interest to you. Emhar makes a couple of the English and German tanks and armored cars, and now this kit representing the French version, which was also supplied to American units in 1918. Ships categories are also stepping up and I have seen several German battleships and U-Boats. Some of the English ships have now been released in

their WWI configuration, HMS Warspite is one example, and in both 1:350th and 1:700th scales! Check your hobby shops or go online, you should be able to find SOMETHING to get working on....in other words......GET BUSY BUILDING FOLKS!!

That is all.... Freddie



From

I got this from long ago member Bruce Drummond

wondered if you want to link it on our websites or email it to the membership. I'm sure you'll enjoy the

hopefully inspiration to build! Fred and Hensley check out the C-47 paratroopers diorama!

http://www.sheperdpaine.com/gallery/

Sheperd Paine Gallery





IPMS APPLICATION

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