



BITS & PIECES NEWSLETTER
MAY 2014

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT!

IPMS ATLANTA CONTEST

Once again, IPMS Atlanta treated the area to an excellent event at the Lockheed Union Hall in Marietta. GMM was in attendance though not in the numbers we have experienced in the past. We missed Leo Dashievskiy if only because there was another Russian (from Moscow) in attendance. Chris Fontentot was noticeably absent because there was little to compete with his skill in the Figures category and I certainly missed Paul Cohen gnashing his teeth in the Naval category! But, the peripatetic Philip Hui is still alive and building crazy small models!

On the other hand, ACME, the automotive-only IPMS came in force with some seriously competitive examples of the modeler's art! I'll offer a few comments on some of the models as I go. Please enjoy!

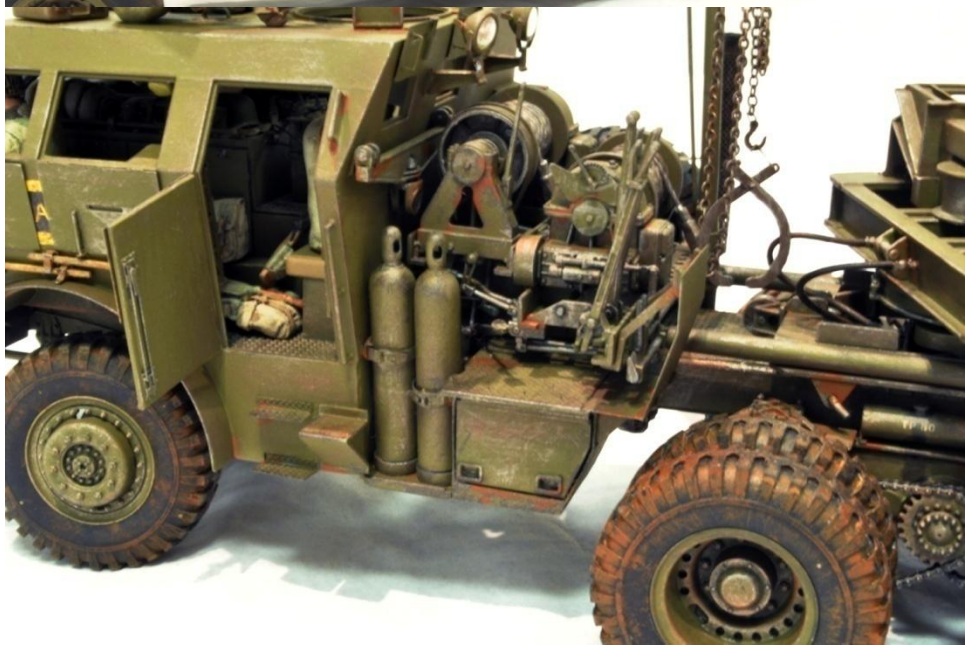


GMM's resident creator of the insanely detailed small models inspects his Bren carrier for the Editor's camera. The Bren is a kit with extra details too small for even the Editor to capture with his basic camera equipment. The gun is completely scratchbuilt!



So much detail, your Editor had to make a composite of three shots to capture all the detail!



















This Me 509 was nicely done without an abundance of shaded panel lines.



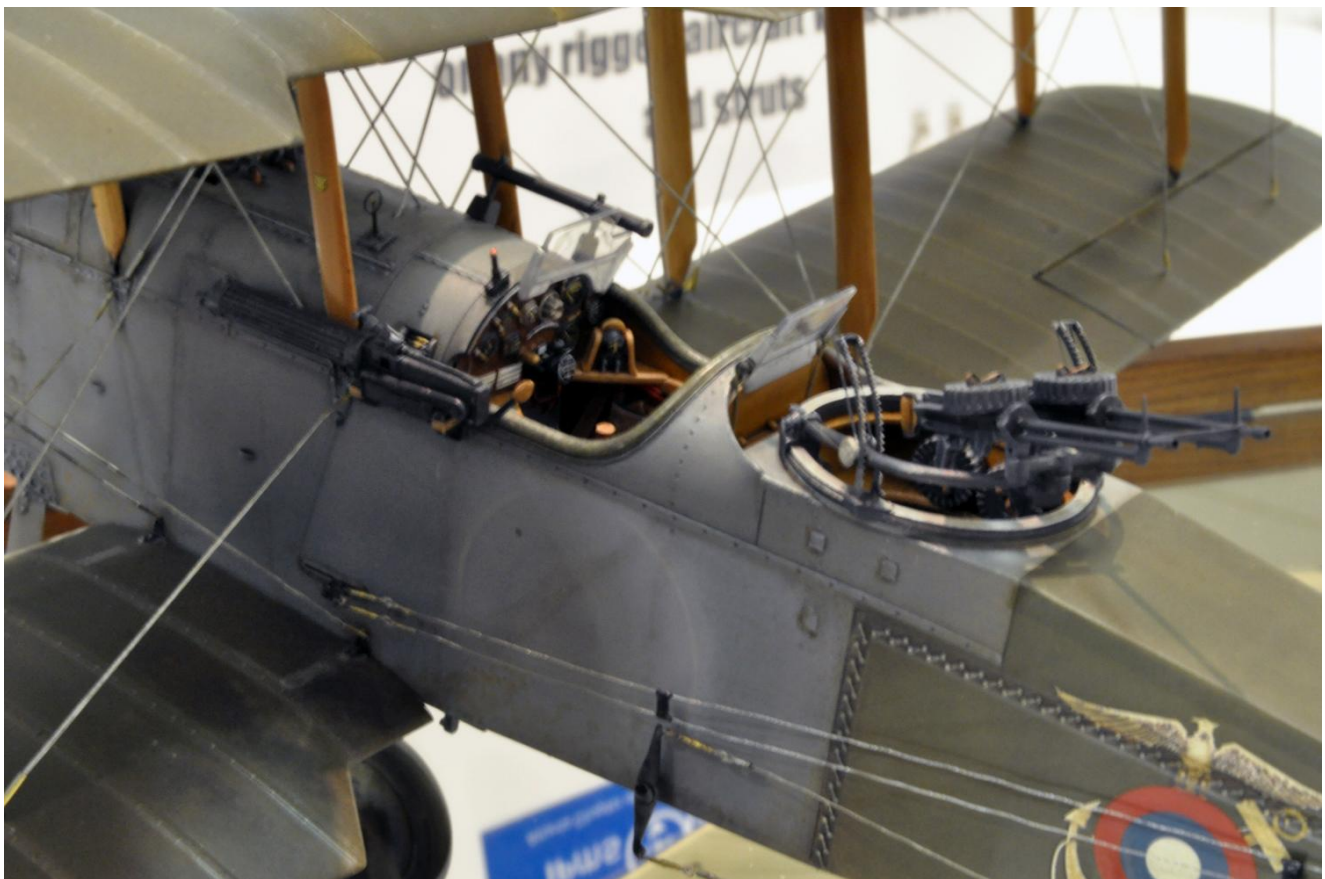
Perry Downen did some extra work to make his Me 410 look even better than it did at the club meeting! His panel line detailing was restrained giving the model a very appealing look!

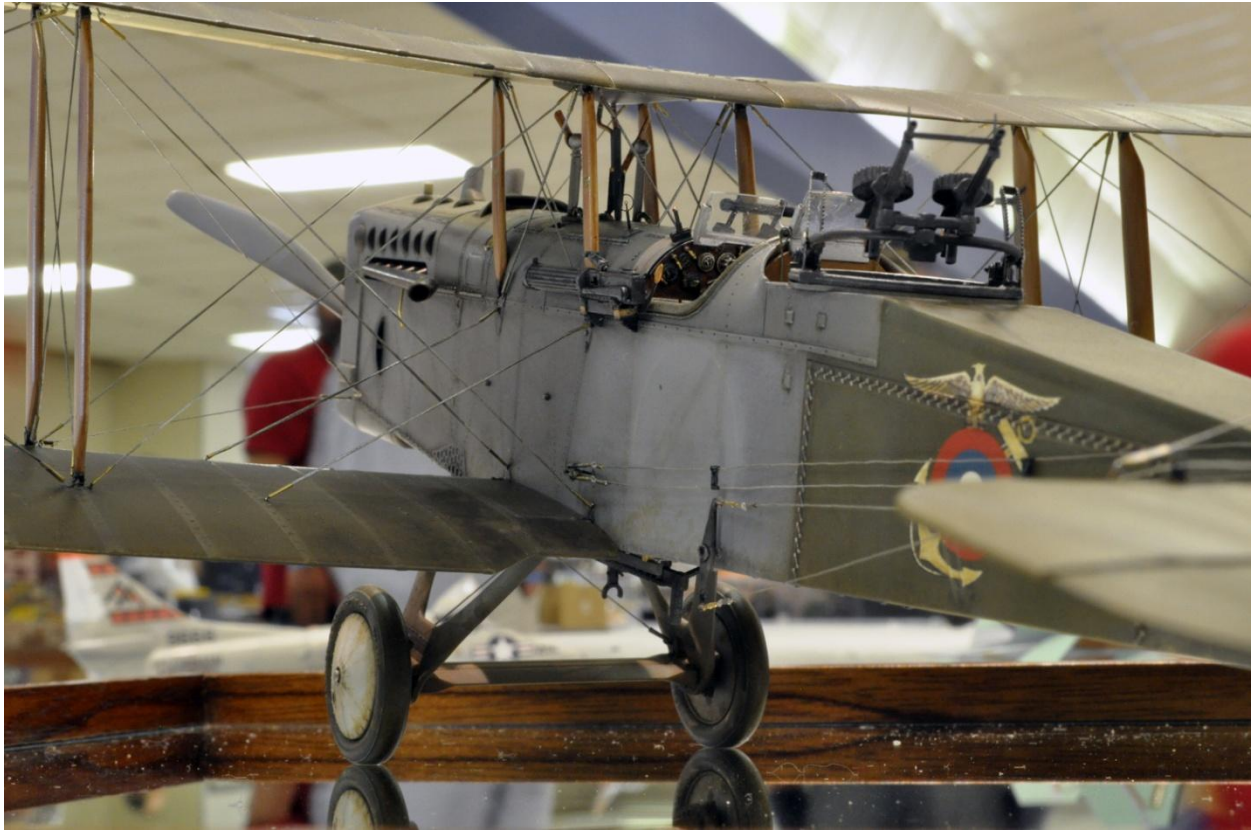


Perry placed 3rd with this one and also with a Hanriot HD.1, and a '40 Ford as driven by Fonty Flock circa 1946



This was the Best Aircraft, the Wingnut Wings DH-9 Ninak, with scale turnbuckles and an excellent paint job!







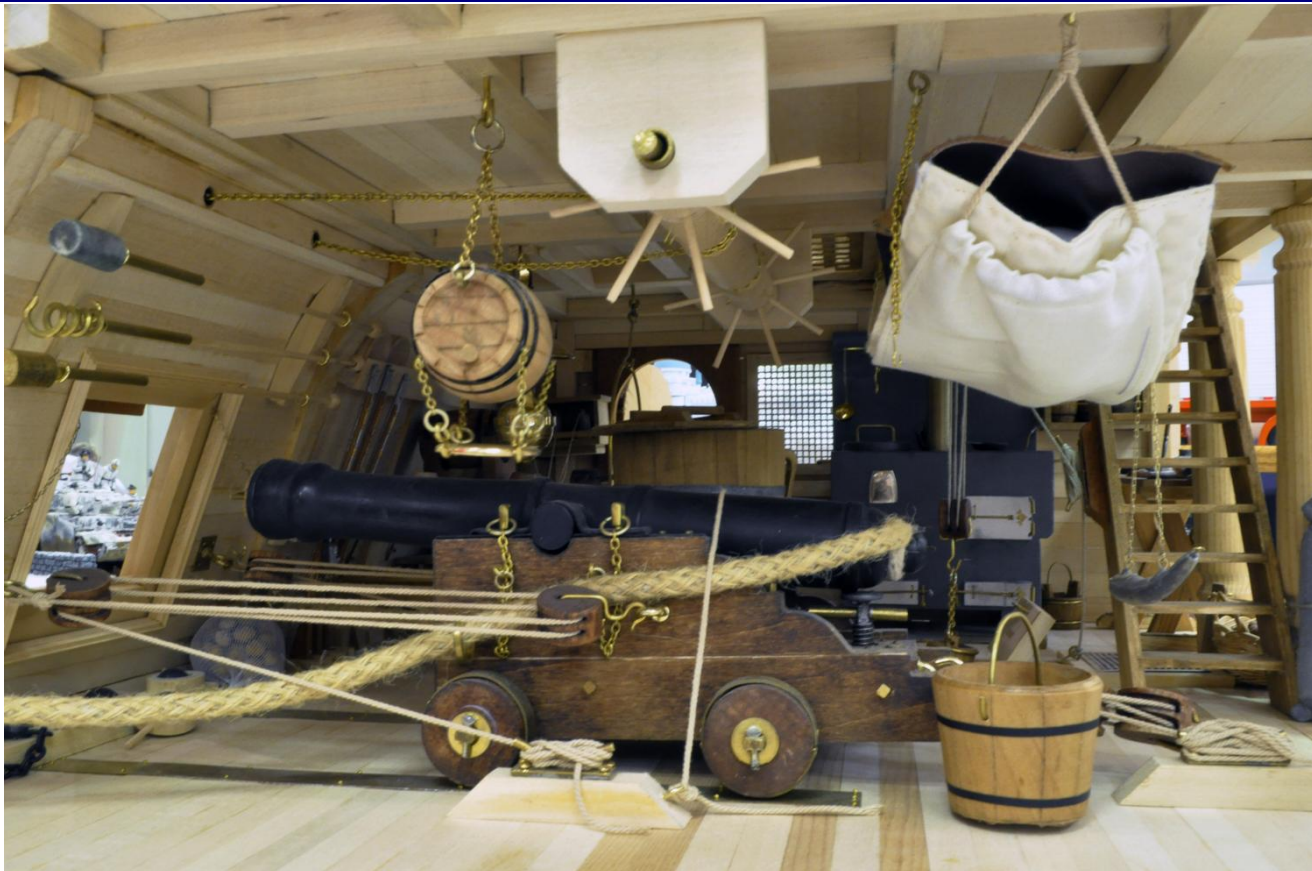
This Sox & Martin sported a flawless paint job. In the next photo, you can see the unblemished reflection of the lights above.





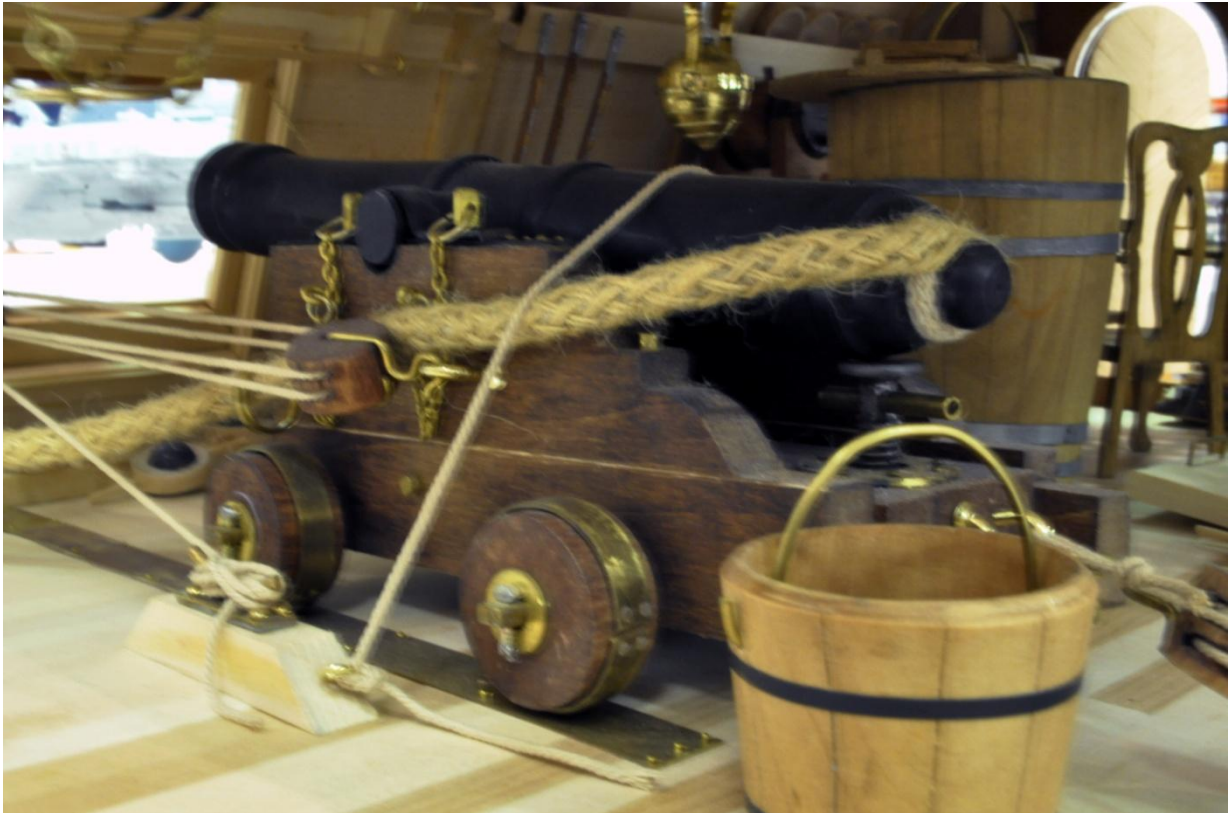


One of the standout artists of the show was former Russian, now American citizen, Vladimir Mirinov, with his completely scratchbuilt Napoleon guns, caissons, and Napoleonic-era ship cross section. All of his models featured working elements. All the hinges work, the guns traverse and elevate; one of them even fires! About the only things that were not scratchbuilt were the figures and horses.





Yes, the working lantern is scratch built!



Your B&P Editor, right, enjoys Vladimir's explanation and demonstration of the models' working features.



Yet another example of a flawless paint job. The following photo shows the perfectly smooth reflection of the lights above.

Anything less than this level of perfection doesn't even merit a second glance from the judges. In fact, when I judge cars, that's the first thing I look for, moving on to the next if I find a flaw.





Sad to say, but without Chris Fontenot's participation, there was little competition in the figure field. This was one of the best.



Every GMM gathering means an excellent lunch outing! BTW, Jack Bruno must be under the table, thus explaining your Editor's joyous visage!



Modeling the big beasts is always a difficult proposition for the modeler as there are many things that can go wrong and often do. From afar, this is a great looking interpretation of the Spruce Goose with a well-designed color scheme.



Lucey Goosey had no surface imperfections or panel lines. It was a smooth surface, and the modeler expertly brought some differentiation in the paint scheme with the deft application of slightly different color variations that show better in person than in photographs, but you can still see them if you look closely.



And, then there's this to ruin the whole thing!



GMM President, Perry Downen, getting down to the nitty gritty on the model!





Perry marveled at the crisp application of the canopy with a complete absence of joints...just like the real thing. He learned that the modeler glued, puttied and sanded the whole canopy starting with a heavy grit, say around 300 (pretty rough for plastic), then working the whole area down to 12,000 grit using Micro-Mesh sanding pads

(http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_1_10?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=micro%20mesh%20sanding%20pads&prefix=micro+mesh%20Caps%2C131)

Using masks, either commercial or homemade, the modeler painted the canopy frames on the model.





Here's a rather clever interpretation of the P-39; a navalized version the modeler called a SeaCobra. Note the tailhook! P-39s were feared for their nasty predilection to "dutch roll." Without going into a lengthy discussion, I'll tell you the DR is the scariest thing I ever encountered in my flying career. Hanging on its hook, I can only imagine what a terror a Navy P-39 might have been.



Here's Perry's Moth again!







Three more examples of pristine finishes!



Here's Moebius' excellent Plymouth Belvedere with an incredible paint job...but, wait for it, wait for it...



Someone forgot the obvious mold seam line! OOOPS!



Once again, from afar, the Duisenberg looks fabulous! But, upon slightly closer inspection, the paint job is just a bit too rough.





This HemiCuda and the Daytona Firebird had pristine paint jobs, and the engine bay detailing made them look almost real. But, the absence of surface detailing such as the darkening of panel lines and joints took away from the presentation. Gloss finishes are actually quite easy to do. It's the surface detailing that can be really hard to pull off.



There were several aspects of this Vette that caught my eye, not the least of which being the perfectly executed paint job. The modeler happened by and shared his techniques.

1. The Corvette logo is NOT photoetch. That is molded on the kit. Preserving that detail is virtually impossible with a multi-layered finish. Here's the technique:
 - a. Start with a thin primer, Tamiya and Mr Surfacer make some excellent primers for this purpose. DO NOT use a high-solids, sandable primer or else you will lose the detail. Of course, the primer must be polished, but you'll be using better than 1000 grit to work out any surface imperfections.
 - b. The modeler used a one coat application of automotive "single-stage." This is professional level paint, and it ain't cheap! I purchased a pint of PPG and it cost \$55 just for the paint and activator. As a modeler, you need a bit of instruction on how to use this paint.

- c. After the paint cured, the modeler polished out the paint job with Micro-Mesh working it down to 12,000 (yes, that's twelve thousand) grit.
- d. The Logo: and this is where the genius comes in. Using Gold Size (<http://shop.hobbylobby.com/products/japan-gold-size-840561/>) the modeler carefully applied the liquid to the lettering. Then, he pressed silver leaf (http://www.amazon.com/Speedball-Mona-Composition-Silver-Sheet/dp/B000XAKTM6/ref=sr_1_1?s=arts-crafts&ie=UTF8&qid=1399843153&sr=1-1&keywords=silver+leaf) onto the dried adhesive. The leaf is so fine that it pulls away from anything to which it is not glued. You can finish removing any excess with a soft brush.





The tire rims were another bit of creative genius. Using acrylic paint (not enamel...won't stick to poly tires), the modeler painted a generous amount on a piece of plastic. Quickly, while the paint was wet, he merely set the tire face down in the paint and pulled it up. What remained was a perfect paint circle!



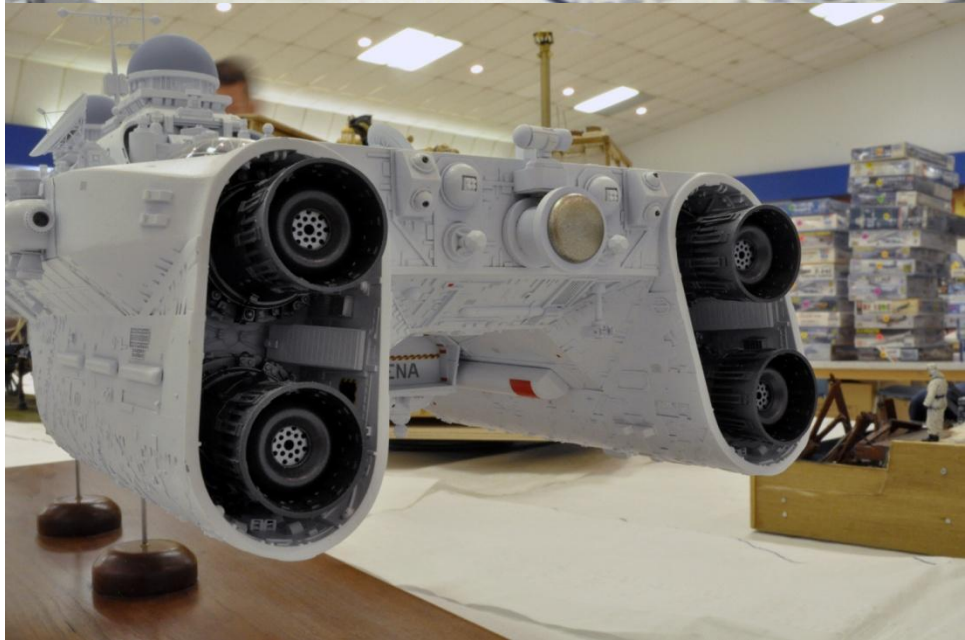
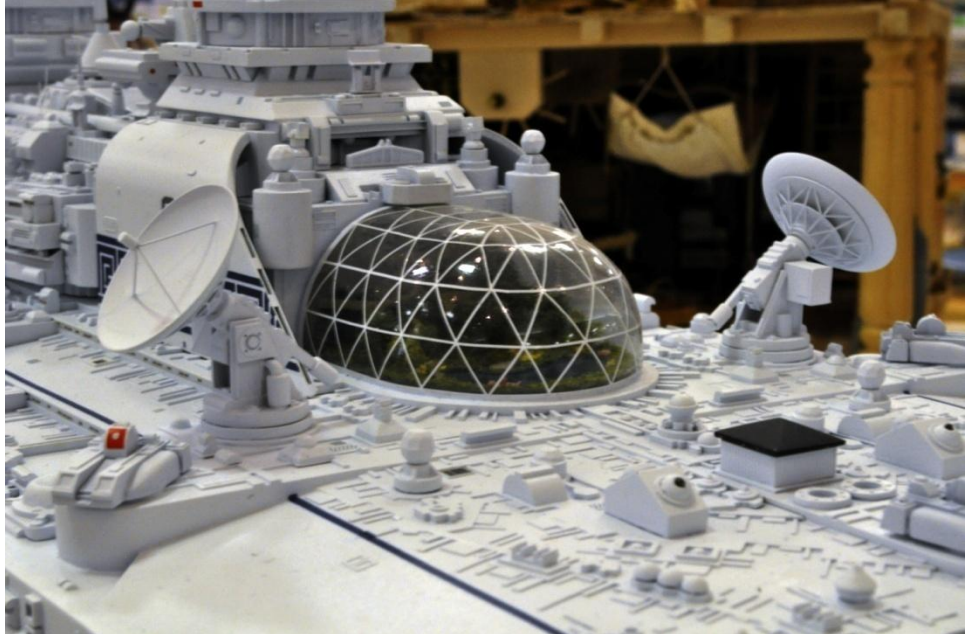
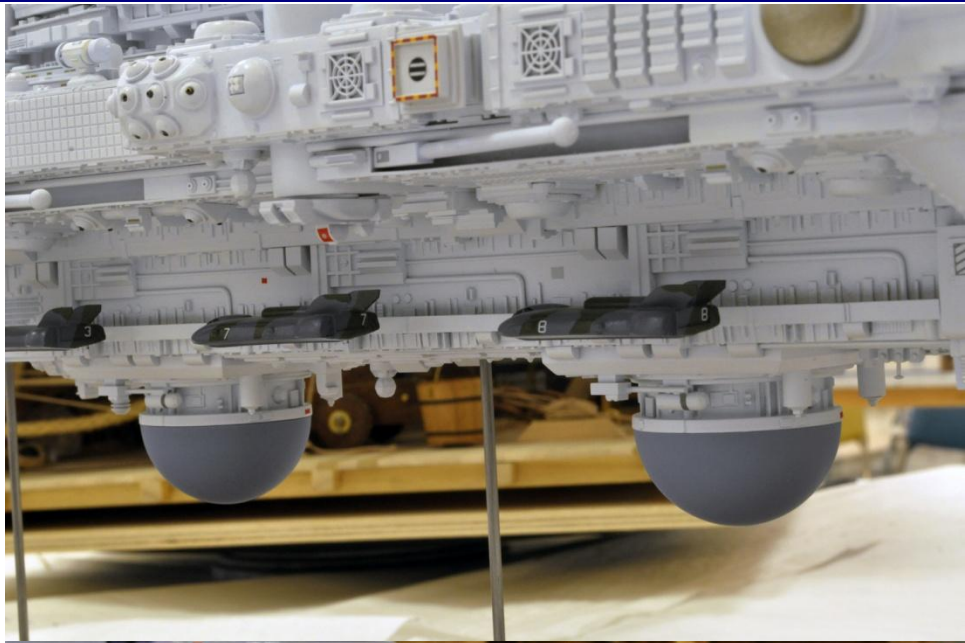
I noticed he used a section of mylar for the sideview mirror.



This is a scratchbuilt star cruiser, very large, vaguely reminiscent of the Valley Forge from the movie, *Silent Running*, with its biodome.



It was beautifully executed, but WHITE! I thought it could have used just a bit of counter shading to make the details pop out.









James Moody is a well-known artist and commission modeler from the Greenville-Spartanburg, SC area who brought his beautifully rendered up-armored M-60. Another modeler and I were marveling at the realistic dusting on the model with James came over to accept some well-earned praise. James explained that he added highly thinned "Sand" colored acrylic starting from the tracks and moving up just the way real dust would move. The judges thought he did a good job, too, because he placed 1st in his category.



GMM President, Perry Downen, was kind enough to supply a number of photos for this contest coverage. Your Editor had some fun with a couple by adding a bit of HDR "spice" to them!





GMM's James McWhorter gave a new definition to bases for figures with his entry! Very inventive, indeed!



Steve Hall placed second with his sub.



"That's all Folks!"