

Pelikan



JULY 2016

DROPPINGS

Bringing more of the same old crap



Disney's
Star Wars Exhibit



Take Tour of
Ft. Moultrie

Assault Models'
Marine Machinegunner



Pelikan Model Club Florida's OLDEST IPMS Chapter (Est. 1970)



Welcome to the home page of the Pelikan Model Club located in Clearwater, Florida. The Pelikan Club is the oldest IPMS affiliated club in Florida, and we were the hosting club for the 2012 IPMS National Convention that was held at Walt Disney World over in Lake Buena Vista.

The Pelikan Model Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Armed Forces History Museum in Clearwater, Florida. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and typically adjourn around 9:00 PM.

After holding a short session discussing club business there is a 'show & tell' where members talk about models or modeling related items they've brought in to share with the rest of the club's members. Visitors are always welcome!



Armed Forces History Museum
2050 34th Way North • Largo, Florida 33771
Phone: (727) 539-8371

From Interstate I-275 Southbound
Take exit #31 (SR 688/Ulmerton Road). Drive west on SR 688 for 6.6 miles, passing Belcher Road. Turn right on 34th Way North. Citgo gas station will be at the corner of 34th Way North and Ulmerton Road (approximately 1/2 mile west of Belcher Road intersection). Follow this street to the cul de sac. The entrance to the museum will be at the end of the street.

From Interstate I-275 Northbound
Travel north on I-275, merge onto FL-686W, exit #30 toward Largo/Clearwater. Follow 686 north to the

merge ramp to SR 688 West (Ulmerton Road). Travel west for approximately 5 miles and turn right on 34th Way North. Citgo gas station will be at the corner of 34th Way North and Ulmerton Road (approximately 1/2 mile west of Belcher Road intersection). Follow this street to the cul de sac. The entrance to the museum will be at the end of the street.

From the Beaches
Take Ulmerton Road east past the Starkey Road intersection. Left hand turn lane at Citgo Gas Station has been closed. Take next possible U-turn and back track to Citgo Gas Station, turning right on 34th Way N. Follow this street to the cul de sac and the entrance to the museum.

PELIKAN DROPPINGS Issue #7

Letter from the prez.....3
A message from Mike Hanson

Club News.....4
What have you done for me lately?

In Coming.....5
The latest greatest to add to your wish list

Disney's Star Wars Exhibit.....10
Check out the Models that make the movie

Fort Moultrie.....14
Mike Hanson gives a tour of the historic fort

Marine Machingunner.....18
Assault Models' latest resin figure

Dauntless WalkAround.....22
Get up close and personal with a legend

Show & Tell.....24
What the Pelikans have been doing lately

On the Bench.....28
See where all the magic happens



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PELIKAN DROPPINGS

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The Prez Sez

I rarely missed Pelikan meetings. I was pretty regular, coming every month to both the Pelikan and the Tampa Bay Ship builders meetings. Then I was elected president of the Pelikan club, and I've missed three in a row! Please believe me when I say that the two situations are not related. Life has definitely been getting in the way lately.

How many of you have similar problems? I think we all enjoy our hobbies, but they are hobbies and as such simply have to be lower on the overall priority list than work, family, health, or any number of other things. In my case my responsibilities at work have increased, and when I'm not trying to get stuff done there, when I come home for the day I really don't have the mental energy to enjoy my hobbies. Likewise, we've been doing some remodeling of our home and that's meant that quite a bit of my hobby-related stuff is packed away. The remodeling involves adding a studio, so I have high hopes that I'll have some dedicated space soon.

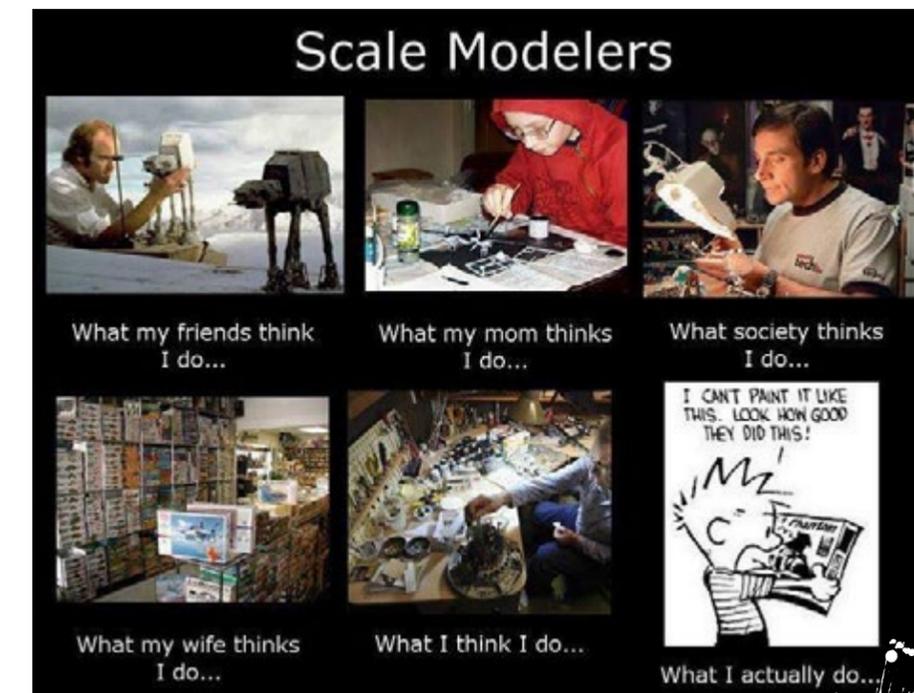
I have a dozen projects I'd like to start on rolling around in my head. I take some pleasure in thinking about how I would attack different problems. The IPMS Nationals is coming in just a few months, and I'm really hoping to have the space and time to finish a couple in-progress projects so I have something I can take with me.

Missing the meetings does bother me, though. Work is the primary reason, as I've been doing quite a bit of traveling as well as dealing with international counterparts (which leads to very odd hours). I have good intentions, though, and hope to be at the next one!

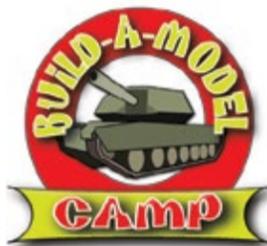
In the meantime, during my absence I know that we've discussed addendum and changes to the club's bylaws. This is important, so please think about them and offer any comments or feedback you may have.

See you at the next meeting! (I hope!)

Mike Hanson



Build a Model Camp



The focus of the Build a Model Camp will be to learn basic terms, programming, decorating and assembling a Level 1 “snap together” model. Activities will build upon the completion of a model and each camper will receive a certificate of completion. Parents are invited to attend and participate. Pelikan Model Club talks about the history of model building, different skill levels required

for different models, how to decorate your model and how to set up and show dioramas with your model. Make your child’s next birthday party a unique experience by having it during model camp!

2016 BUILD A MODEL CAMPS DATES

Saturday, July 9 (in conjunction with Ride Through History)

Saturday, August 6 (in conjunction with Ride Through History)

Sunday, September 18

Sunday, October 9

Build-A-Model Camp admission is **ONLY \$18**.

The camp package is valued at **over \$50** and includes:

- Tour of the museum
- Set of authentic military dog tags
- Ride on the motion theater simulator
- Scale model and supplies
- Certificate
- Parents are invited to sign up to join their child or they may tour the museum at a discounted rate of \$9.95.

Who: Ages 8 - Adult

Location: Armed Forces History Museum

2050 34th Way N., Largo, FL 33772

Time: 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Please register and prepay for the Build-A-Model camp by calling Kathy Weed at 727-539-8371 ext. 110 or via email: kathy@armedforcesmuseum.com

If you have any questions, or if you need assistance on the weekend, please call (727) 539-8371 and press 6 for the attendant who is also be able to assist you. Those who preregister will be given first preference for assistance. Volunteers are recruited to assist at the camp based on the number of preregistered campers.

<http://armedforcesmuseum.com/build-a-model-camp.html>



In Coming!

Here are some of the latest products to hit the shelves, just waiting to be added to your wish lists!

Curtiss P-40C (Hawk 81-A2) Fighter AVG

Manufacturer: Bronco

Kit# FB4006

Scale: 1:48

Injection moulded plastic, photo etch, decals for 6 AVG aircraft and fabric flag.

Price: USD \$49.39



SU-122 Soviet Self-Propelled Gun Early Prod.

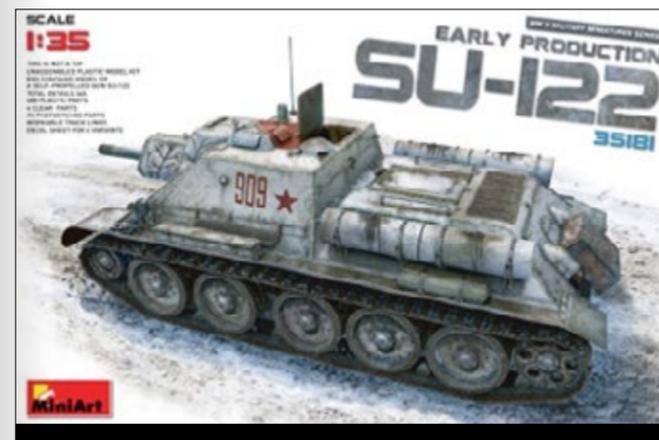
Manufacturer: MiniArt

Kit #35181

Scale: 1/35

Total Parts 565

This kit (35181) contains 565 (vs 836 in the full interior kit of this model) 488 Plastic Parts (vs 712 in the interior kit) 73 Photoetched Parts (vs 117 in the full interior kit) 4 Clear Plastic Parts (vs 7 in the full interior kit)



Pz. Kpfw II Ausf L Luchs

Manufacturer: Flyhawk Model

Kit#: FH3002S

Scale: 1/72

Includes: Plastic sprues (213pcs)

Resin x 1, Photoetch (44pcs),

Waterslide decals

Price: \$32.73



Lancia 037 Rally Grifone Limited Edition

Manufacturer: Hasegawa

Scale: 1/24

Kit#: 20277

151 pieces

Length: 6.5 in (166 mm)

Width: 3 in (75 mm)

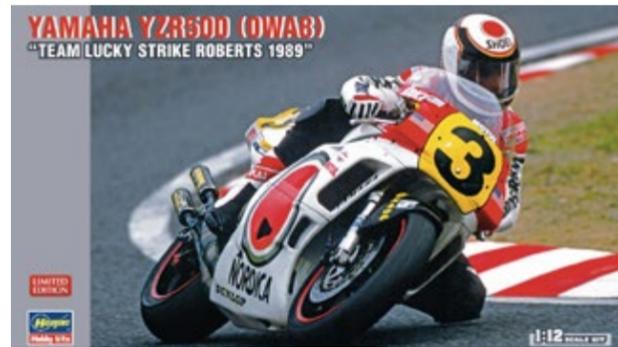
Age: 14+

Price: \$52.99

In Coming!

Yamaha YZR500 Team Lucky Strike Limited Edition

Manufacturer: Hasegawa
 Kit#: 21710
 Scale: 1/12
 Pieces: 167
 Length: 6.57 in (167 mm)
 Width: 2.05 in (52 mm)
 Age: 14+
 Price: \$64.99



Mi-24/35 Mk.III Superhind Limited Edition

Manufacturer: Hasegawa
 Kit#: 02209
 Scale: 1/72
 Pieces: 182
 Length: 9.7 in (246 mm)
 Width: 9.3 in (236 mm)
 Age: 14+
 Skill: 3

Star Destroyer

Manufacturer - Bandai
 Kit#: 001
 Scale - non-scale
 Availability - "Officially" only available in Japan - look for distributors on the Bandai Website



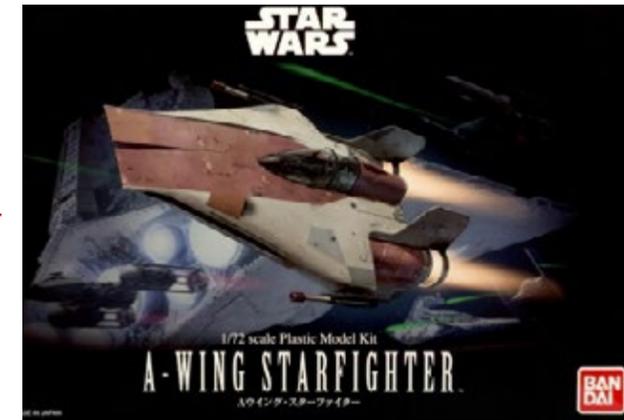
Type 69-II Iraqi Medium Tank

Manufacturer: Takom
 Kit#: 2054
 Scale: 1/35
 Plastic sprues, photo etched material
 Decals for 4 variants inside
 Available from Takom's Distributors Worldwide.

In Coming!

A-Wing Starfighter

Manufacturer - Bandai
 Kit: 0206320
 Scale - 1/72
 Availability - "Officially" only available in Japan - look for distributors on the Bandai Website



French Tank Crew, WWI. Big set

Manufacturer: Stalingrad Figures
 Kit#: 1120
 Scale: 1/35

Read 'n Reviewed: In Focus 1: Jagdpanzer 38

Published by Panzerwrecks
 By Lee Archer
 Colour artworks by Felipe Rodna
 No of Pages: 112
 No of Photos: 117/ Colour artworks: 7
 Format: Softcover Landscape 280x210mm
 ISBN: 978-1-908032-13-3
 price: \$31.23



German Rheinmetall Long Range Rocket

'Rheinbote' (Rh.Z.61/9) and launcher
 Manufacturer: Bronco Models
 Kit#: CB35048
 Scale: 1/35

In Coming!

Duckbills Pt II - for the US M4 Sherman Tank T62 Track Links

Manufacturer: Bronco Models
Kit#: AB3550
Scale: 1/35
216 parts in the kit



ADMIRAL SCHEER

Manufacturer: Italeri
Kit#: 508
Scale: 1/720
Model Dim.: 26,0 cm

IVECO HI-WAY 40th ANNIVERSARY

Manufacturer: Italeri
Kit#: 3919
Scale: 1/24
Model Dim.: 25,4 cm



H-34G.III/UH-34J

Manufacturer: Italeri
Kit#: 2712
Scale: 1/48
Model Dim.: 36,0 cm

A17 Vickers Tetrarch Light Tank MkI/ MkICS,

Manufacturer: Bronco Models
Kit#: CB-35210
Scale: 1/35
Three marking choices
Photo-etch parts included



2 figures sold together or separately from Alpine Miniatures
In this review:

SS MG Schutze KG Hansen

Kit#: 35211
Scale: 1/35
Sculpture by Taesung Harmms
Boxart by Dr Jin Kim

SS Grenadier KG Hansen

Kit#: 35212
Scale: 1/35
Sculpture by Taesung Harmms
Boxart by Dr Jin Kim

KG Hansen at Poteau Set #1

Kit#: 35213
Scale: 1/35
Sculpture by Taesung Harmms
Boxart by Dr Jin Kim

Review: WWII Soviet Fighter Pilot

Manufacturer: Qing Yi Miniatures.
Kit#: QY32006
Scale: 1/32 / 54mm resin figure
Sculpted by: Qing Yi
Boxart Painter: Zhao Yiding
Price: (USD)\$23.90





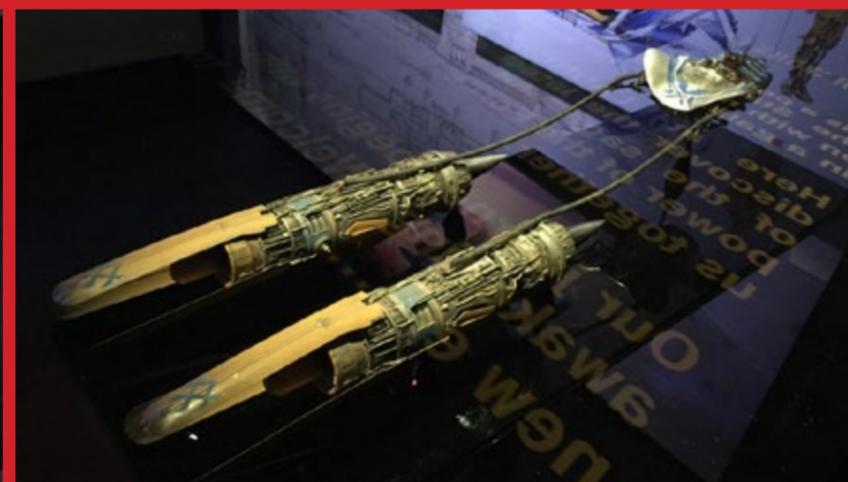
THERE'S A REALLY NICE STAR WARS EXHIBIT AT DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS, THAT SHOWS OFF A FEW OF THE SHOOTING MODELS FROM THE EARLY FILMS AND MAQUETTE MODELS FROM THE LATER FILMS (THESE WERE MODELS USED FOR REFERENCE FOR THE COMPUTER-BUILD DIGITAL MODELS). ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE SOME OF THE PROPS FROM THE LATEST 'THE FORCE AWAKENS' MOVIE.

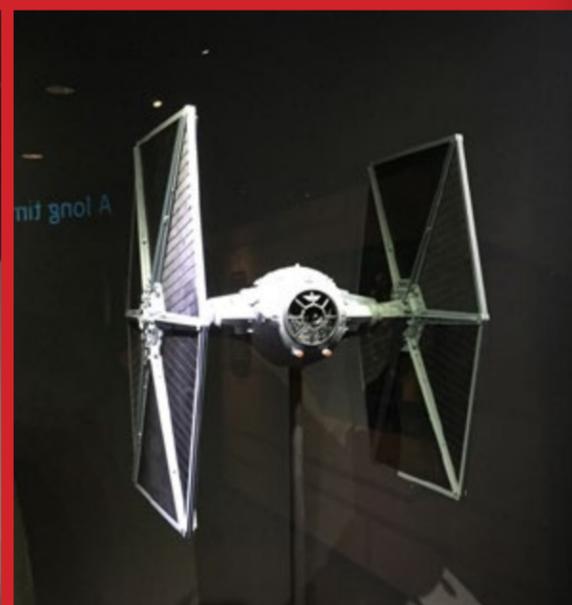
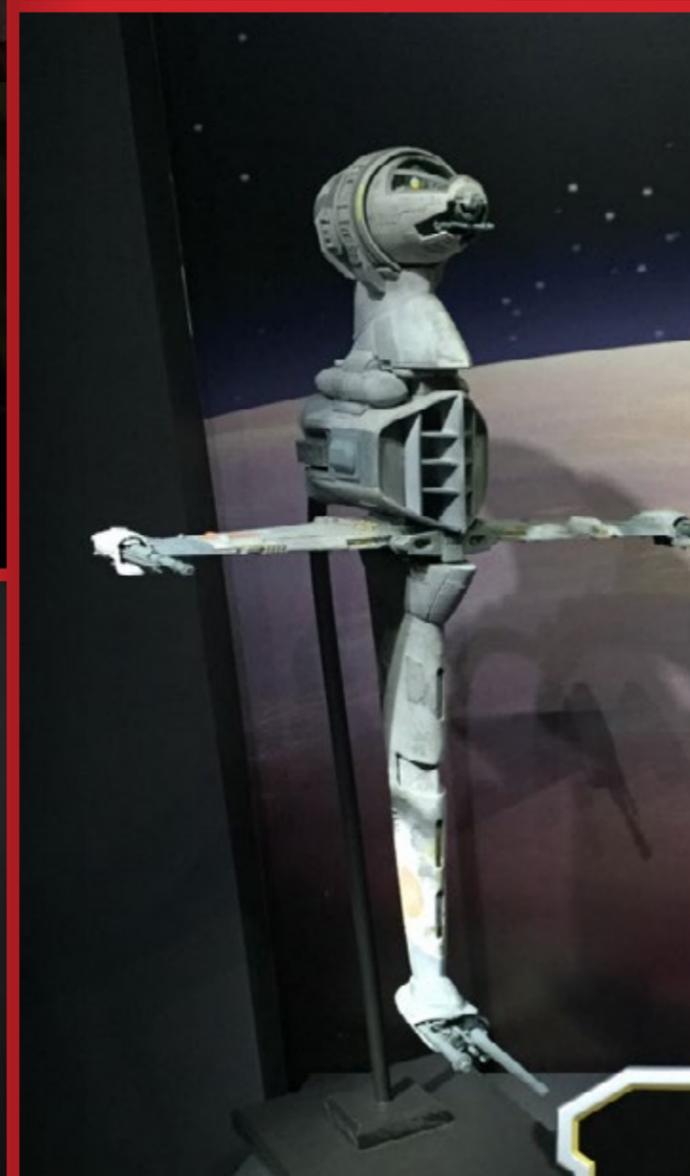
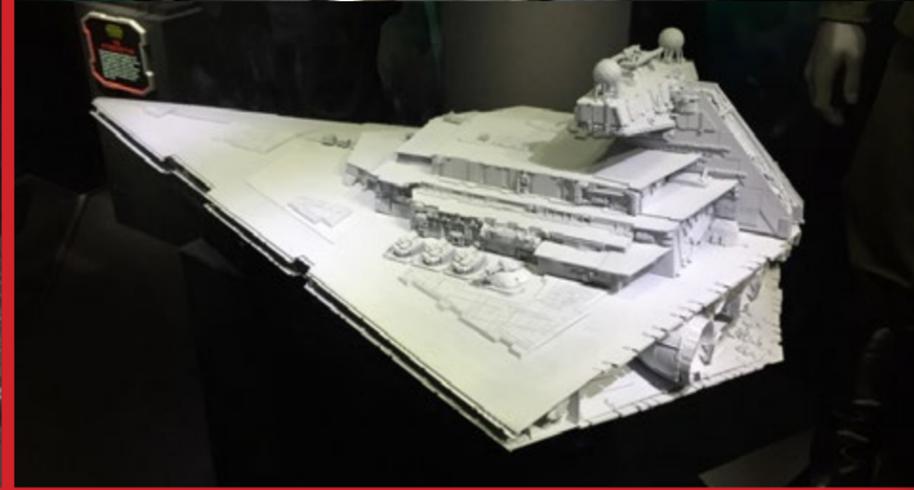
WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE PHOTOS OF THE OLDER SHOOTING MODELS, SEE HOW MANY PARTS YOU CAN SEE FROM MODEL KITS, LIKE LANDING GEAR, MACHINE GUNS, TRANSMISSIONS, ETC. OFTEN USED IN VERY UNIQUE WAYS. I COULD HAVE LOOKED AT THESE THINGS FOR HOURS!

SOME OF THEM ARE A BIT DARK; APOLOGIES, AS I ONLY HAD MY CELL PHONE CAMERA. NEXT TIME I GO I'LL TRY TO REMEMBER TAKE A BETTER CAMERA.

Disney's STAR WARS EXHIBIT

by Mike Hanson





FORT MOULTRIE



by Mike Hanson

My family and I make regular trips up to Charleston, SC. It's one of our favorite cities, and my wife goes up at least once a year for artist's seminars. That leaves plenty of time for my daughter and I to check out sites and places that I probably wouldn't see with my wife. On a recent visit I noted that Ft. Moultrie was close to the location of her latest seminar, so after dropping her off we went exploring.

Fort Moultrie is one of the oldest forts in the USA, dating back to the Revolutionary War. It was still under construction when nine British warships, under the command of Commodore Sir



Peter Parker, besieged the fort for nine hours. They were unsuccessful at that time and were forced to retire, thus preventing the British from occupying the city of Charleston. As a result of winning the battle, the fort was



named after the commander, Colonel William Moultrie. Alas, the British did finally take the city in 1780, and the fort was abandoned.

After the Revolutionary War, the



fort continued to deteriorate until little remained; then when war broke out between England and France the US Congress authorized rebuilding the fortifications to protect the US coast. For Moultrie was one of twenty new forts along the coast, and the new facility was completed in

1798. It quickly fell into disrepair and was destroyed by a hurricane in 1804.

The third Fort Moultrie was a brick fortification, finished in 1809. It didn't change much over the next fifty years. When South Carolina seceded, starting the

Civil War in 1860, the garrison at Fort Moultrie abandoned their post and moved to more secure quarters at Fort Sumter. Despite continued Union bombardment, the fort survived because of a layer of sand that protected the walls.

After the war the fort was modernized with new cannon and thick concrete magazines covered with a layer of soil. Beginning in 1885 Fort Moultrie became part of the Endicott system, a coastal defense program that modernized all of the USA's coastal forts. It involved building concrete and steel fortifications, larger weapons emplacements, and better armament.

As with all things, times change and technology had a big impact of coastal defenses. There was less danger from warships and increasing danger from aircraft and submarines. This caused much of the armament at the fort to become obsolete; the introduction of nuclear weapons



further changed how the military approached coastal defense. Today the fort is a historic site, no longer used as a military installation. It's been restored to show the various periods of history, and as you tour the

facility you can see each of the time periods noted above, from the original Revolutionary War to post-WWII coastal defense. Side note - Seminole Chief Osceola is buried at the fort.



SAVE the DATE

Pelikan MODEL CLUB

Pelican 17

Regional Scale Model Convention and Contest

www.pelikanclub.org/

Sat. May 20 - Sun. May 21, 2017
in our new venue -
The Minnreg Center in Largo, Florida.

With over 8,000 square feet of floor space - more than double the floor space of our last venue for Pelicon 2015.

Additional details to follow via e-mail and Facebook R-11 pages.

Contact Bart Cusumano for questions: bcusuman@tampabay.r.com



MARINE MACHINEGUNNER

by Robert Marquez

Assembly was a breeze, and there was no need to fill any gaps. You just need to be very careful removing the DELICATE parts from the casting blocks. My only knock on this kit, was that the barrel on the M-240 machine gun was slightly warped. Other than that, everything went together flawlessly. There was one feature I really appreciated was that one of the hands was molded separately. This made it so easy to make sure that he figure was firmly holding the weapon with both his hands (If you've ever tried assembling a figure holding a weapon with both his hands accurately, you'll know what I mean). I assembled the figure leaving the head off to make painting his face easier. Also, I left the casting block on the main figure, for easy of handling. In hind site, I wish I had added a sling to his weapon and or a belt of 7.62mm ammo.

Browsing the site Armorama.com, I like to check out the latest model releases. In their Review section, Mario Matijasic introduces us to a fairly new company, Assault Models out of Russia. They mainly do modern military figures (British and American) in resin. In this review, Mario goes over **Machine Gunner, USMC, Afghanistan 2012 (AM-35006)**. Click [here](#) for his full review. Anyway, I was so impressed with his review I just had to have it. As the review states, the pose is beautiful, casting is near perfection with tons of details all around, easy to assemble.

Now on to my favorite part, painting! I first started by priming this marine with Vallejo Grey Primer, spayed from my airbrush. I like to start any figure painting with the head. Another bonus with this kit is that the head and helmet are molded separately. For painting flesh I use Andrea Color Acrylic Flesh Set. It comes with 6 flesh tones, 2 base flesh colors, 2 highlight colors, and 2 shadow colors. For this figure, I started with the second base flesh color. It is a darker color, which would be more in line with a grunt that's been out in the sun. I apply 2-3 thin coats, so as to not obscure all that fine detail. Once, the flesh base-coat has dried. I like to run a light brown wash over the flesh areas. This gives a little more definition and gives a little tonal contrast. Next, probably the hardest part of figure painting — the eyes. A lot of time, especially if the figure is in an action pose, the figure is squinting. I can get away with just painting the slits of his eyes. I learned a quick and easy tip for painting eyes from [High Calibre TV](#) on YouTube. Basically, you sharpen a wooden BBQ skewer to a very fine point, dip it the paint, and then press the sharpened point into the area of the eye where you want the pupil to be. surprisingly, this worked like a charm!

Now, with the eyes all done, I went ahead and added the first highlights over the cheeks, chin, eyebrows, bags under the eyes, bridge of the nose and top of the nostrils. I followed that with a glaze of the second highlight color on the highest peaks of the nose, chin, and tops of ears. I then layed down a glaze of light shadows under the eyelids, sides of the nose, under the cheek bones, parts of the neck, under the chin, in the ear, and under the chin strap. After that, I took the dark shadow color and added it under the lower lip, under the eyelids, in the deepest shadows of the ears. Then, I took the base coat flesh color and thinned it down to make a filter, which I brushed over all the flesh areas.





This last step helps tie everything together. Now I need to walk away for a couple of days, so I can get a fresh set of eyes on him before I proceed. With a fresh set of eyes, I see that the face could use a little more contrast, so I add some more highlights to give his face more dimensionality,



This Marine is dressed in the desert version of the Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform (MCCUU). For this camouflage I used (Walmart acrylic craft paint) Apple Barrel Sandstone, Country Tan, Caramel Candy, and Vallejo German Cam. Medium Brown. I really like using the cheapo Walmart paints, once thinned down, and using two or three thin coats, it covers pretty good and dead flat. Plus at .50 -.99¢, compared to \$3+ and half the size for Vallejo, you can't beat that! I use the Apple Barrel Sandstone for the base coat. Then I would add each darker color in the digital acmo pattern. Also from [High Calibre TV](#) on YouTube, I learned a quick way to do the digital camo. Tear a small piece off of a cheap foam paint brush, dab it into the paint and randomly dab it onto the uniform. It's not the most accurate way to paint digital camo, but it is the quickest. Plus, in 1/35 scale, it doesn't look too bad. Unfortunately, I lost some of the more subtle shades of the digital camo, as I added shadows and highlights. For his kit, I mainly used different Vallejo paints I had on hand, mixed to give me the coyote color, seen on Marine gear. I also mixed up various shades of green for some of his other pouches, just to give a little more color variation. I then used Folk

Art brand (another Walmart craft paint) Gunmetal Gray acrylic paint, on the metallic parts of his weapons, and the exposed magazines on his chest pouch. After this dried, I gave it a couple of washes of blue and black acrylic paint. I followed that with a 70-30% mix of black and blue paint for the plastic parts of his weapons.

For the base, I used a plastic pedestal, I think came from the old Airfix plastic Napoleonic figures. To build the incline, I used bits of foamcore. To make the groundwork, I used MIG's Sub Sahara Dry Mud Rough Texture. Unfortunately, this mud is more rust colored, not suitable for Afghanistan. After adding a few stones, I took some various Apple Barrel paints to mix up an earth color to paint the groundwork. After the paint dried I added tufts of grass from a company called Silafor. Following this, I separated the marine from his molding block, drilled a hole in his foot, inserted a piece of wire from a small paperclip to attach him to the base. The final touch was to take some pastels, mix up several shades to match my ground work and dust the figure so that he blended in with the environment.

In conclusion, this figure was a real treat! I got to work on a figure of one of my favorite subjects, I got to try some new techniques and even won Second place for figures at the IPMS Space Coast Regional Model Contest.



SBD-3 DAUNTLESS



by Mike Hanson

WALK AROUND

This SBD-3 Dauntless is on display at the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Florida.

From the museum display placard:

Designed by noted Douglas Aircraft Company engineer Ed Heineman, the SBD "Dauntless" dive bomber was first ordered by the Navy in April, 1939. Coming of age at the pivotal Battle of Midway in June, 1942, in which it accounted for every hit on four Japanese carriers, the "Dauntless" would sink over 300,000 tons of enemy shipping by war's end and see service in hostile skies from Guadalcanal to Luzon. As tribute to its durability, less than a hundred would fall to enemy guns during its service with Navy and Marine Corps

squadrons. However, lady luck as abandoned the SBD through the passage of time for despite the fact that 5,321 were built, few survive today.

Manufacturer: Douglas Aircraft Company

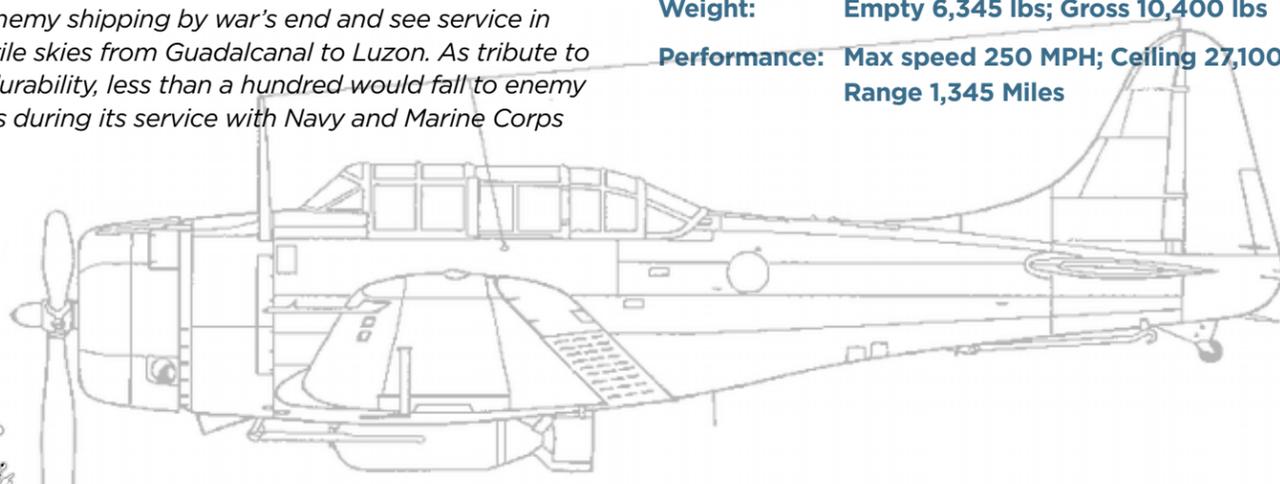
Type: Carrier-based Scout/Dive-bomber

Crew: Pilot and observer/rear gunner

Dimensions: Span 41'-6"; Length 32'-8"; Height 13'-7"

Weight: Empty 6,345 lbs; Gross 10,400 lbs

Performance: Max speed 250 MPH; Ceiling 27,100; Range 1,345 Miles



Photos by Mike Hanson

For more aircraft, armor, auto, and other walk-arounds, visit the Pelikan web site at www.pelikanclub.org.



SHOW N' TELL

APRIL

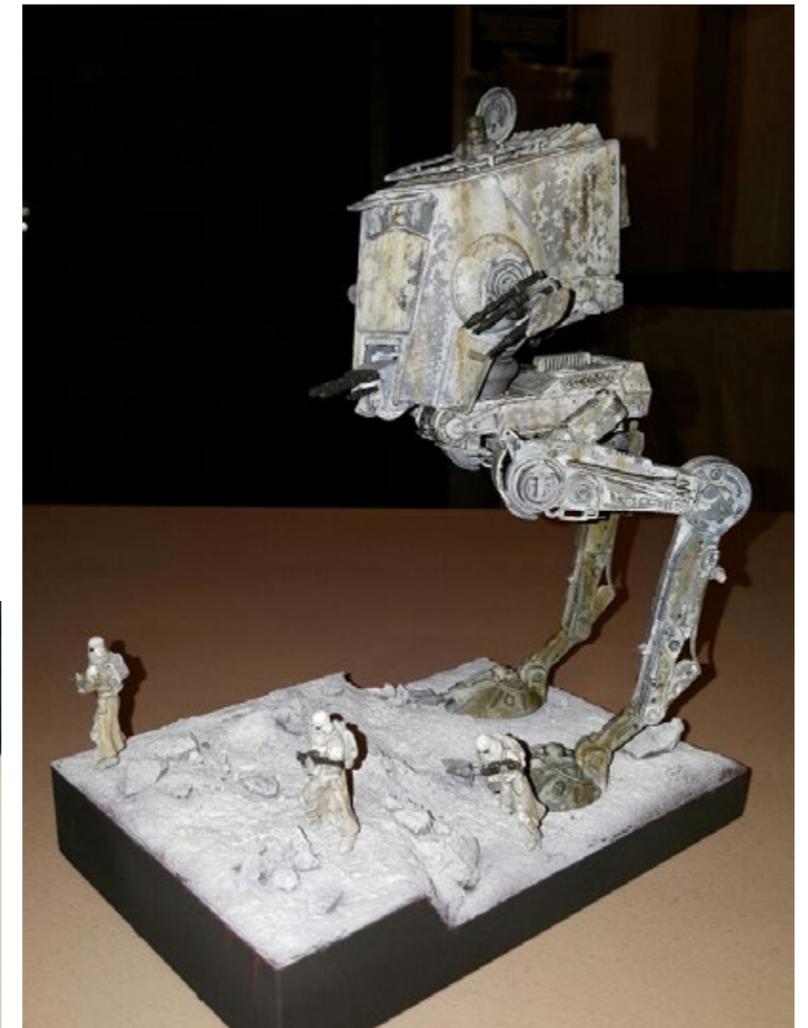


SHOW N' TELL

MAY



JUNE



H-21C VERTOL



WORKHORSE

First, let me say that the kit is misnamed, it should actually be the Piasecki H-21 Shawnee. Vertol bought Piasecki after the H-21 had already gone into production, and later Boeing merged with Vertol to become Boeing-Vertol. It's first flight was in April 1952, and it was retired from US Army service in 1967. It served in the Royal Canadian, Swedish, French, German and Japanese Air Forces also. During the Eisenhower administration the US Air Force used it in the Presidential Flight.

About the kit: it's molded in light gray plastic, with 64 parts making up the fuselage and rotor heads. There are five clear parts, two interior long clear parts with the side windows, two large door windows, and a large single nose piece. Decals consist of two versions, an US Army version and a Royal Canadian AF variant, actually very attractive, red over blue with a large white cheat line separating the two colors.

I bought the kit for about \$10 at a hobby shop in Vero Beach last year from someone's collection second hand. Unfortunately whoever had owned it prior had used white spray paint and I guess used the bottom of the box as a stand and wound up wiping out the decal sheet with paint. So that started an internet search for new decals. More on that in a minute.



Construction was straightforward, beginning with the cockpit. I added seatbelt decals and collective controls next to the seats as they were missing. The interior was painted with Model Master IJN Gray. I masked off the windows with blue drafting tape and trimmed them before gluing the strips in. (Too bad Eduard doesn't have a masking set for this.)

The rotors were counter rotating on the H-21, the forward set turning counter-clockwise and the aft set clockwise. Each set of rotors comprised 12 parts! You spend more time building those and lining them up than any other part of the kit. I set them aside for painting after assembling them completely.

As I said, there is no masking set so after gluing on the large nose piece I masked it off the old fashioned way, with a small ruler, an x-acto, and drafting tape. Deciding on a US Army bird, the kit was given an overall olive-drab paint job. I used the flat olive in the tiny Testor's bottle. Three coats of gloss later and she was ready for the decals.

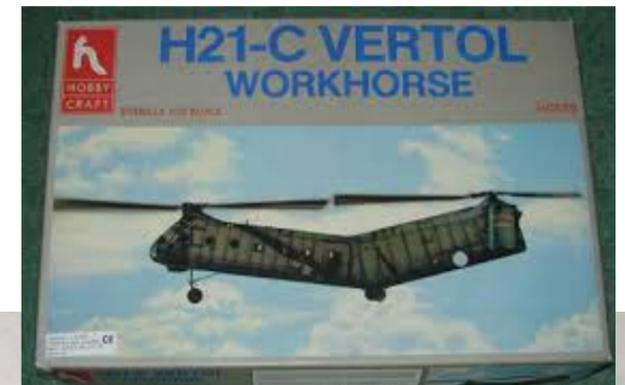
Since the kit decals had been ruined, I ordered a set from Rebel Alpha on eBay. I picked up Print Scale sheet 72-118. This will be the LAST time I use Print Scale decals! They are too thin and difficult

to use. They fold over on themselves, and seem to wrinkle and stretch when laying them down. I wound up using the serial number on the fins, and the "Army" title on the fuselage, and went to my spares sheet for the national insignia. I had used a Print Scale sheet on my Lysander last year and had the same problems.

Much investive later I had the decals on. After drying overnight, I added another coat of gloss (no flat -- Army helicopters were painted gloss olive drab [an oxymoron -- gloss drab]) and cleaned up the clear parts after removing tape and added the rotors.

All-in-all I'm happy with the results. The Hobby-Craft kit built up into a decent replica of the Army Shawnee, or as you may know it, the famous "Flying Banana". It won't win at a show, but it looks good on my shelf!

Keep modeling!
Karl



TAMIYA STUART M3



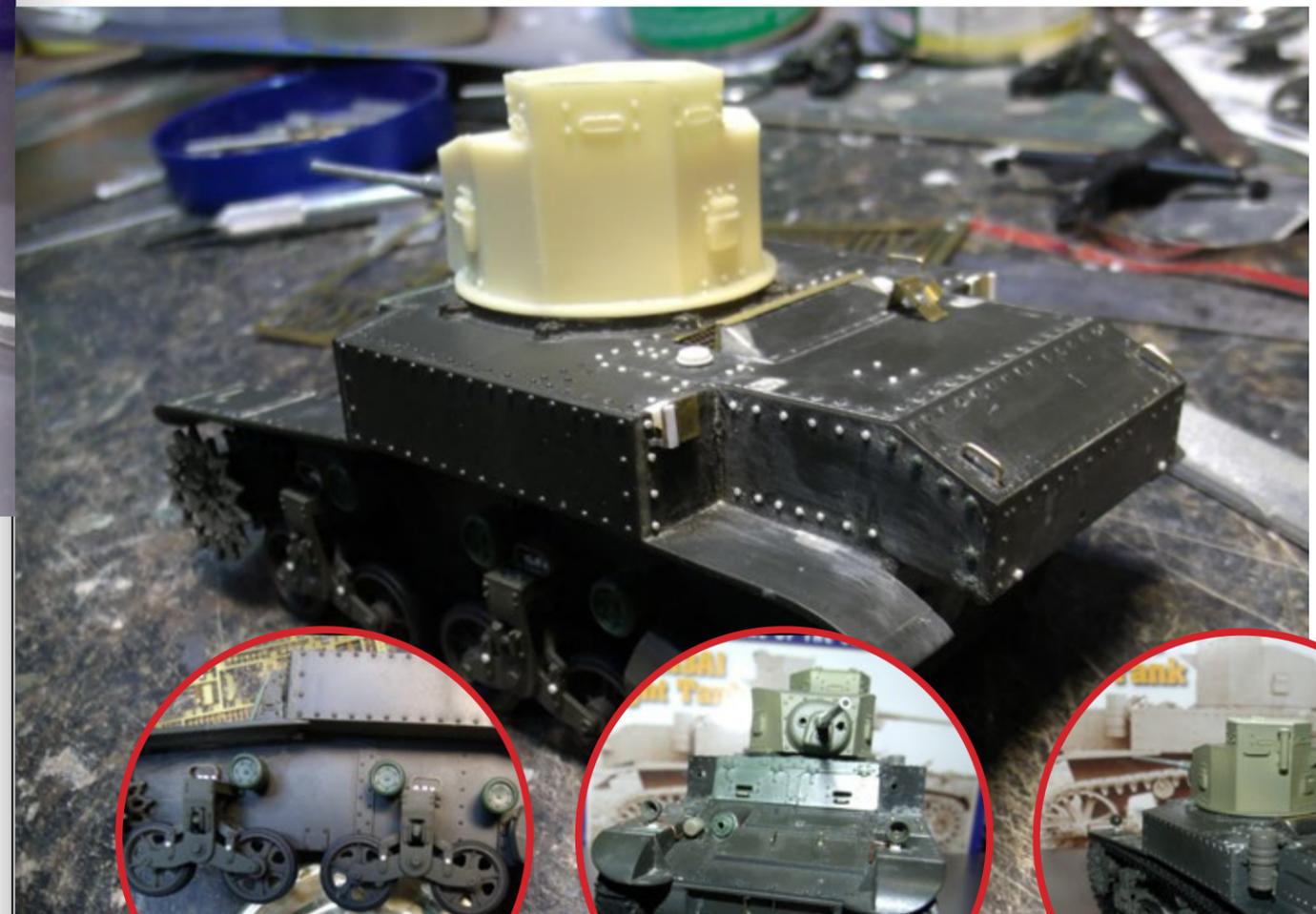
IN PROGRESS BUILD

I find that no matter what I build I can't do it out of the box. Probably due to rarely reading all the directions as a kid. Maybe it's something to do with wanting something different or special. Usually it's looking at what's in the box and seeing things that can be made to look more like pictures of the real subject. Sometimes it's just wanting to fool around with a new technique or material that hasn't gotten the better of me yet. Whatever the reason, it is impossible for me to open the box and just build the kit. I know I have a lot of kindred spirits out there. I am reasonably new to Armor modeling so nothing is out of bounds or cliché for me. I have liked the Stuart M3 since my Haunted Tank comic days. I saw the Tamiya M3 at a show for a bargain price and I was hooked. I was at the stage of a build

where ideas, aftermarket parts and the dream of the "best model ever built" meet the road. Maybe they could put a tube of perseverance in with every kit manufactured. I'm using the Verlinden M3 kit "Honey" turret. It is a solid chunk of resin. I do like the look of it better than the Academy version. I used the air filters and some of the PE from the same kit. I'm not sure how the extra rivets will turn out but I've used some made from stretched sprue, and some screw/bolts and the front driver's plate and guide rollers from the Academy M3 kit. The various handles are brass rod. Aftermarket barrel from Somewhere? I bought a bunch of the Aber .30 cal's for the MG's. (too much \$ invested at this point). The PE is more than I've ever attempted. I curse

the Eduard people out loud every time I think about it. I'm making that guy rich at the expense of my sanity. The front transmission housing was the part of the kit that bothered me the most at first. I had purchased the AFV VVSS suspension kit for another project and lo and behold it had a complete housing! a little grafting and cursing and I think it came out OK! The kit also has a bunch of cool stuff; a nice .30 cal for the external turret mount, some tools, siren, lights All kinds of little goodies. It only took a few months to understand what Vertical Volute Spring Suspension is. I digress. I did use the Tamiya road wheels, sprockets and suspension which needed a bit of detailing and

clean up but are really nice, especially for a kit of that age. Rubber band tracks are AFV. Larry W. told me about them and they'll be fine after a little shortening and look great. The Tamiya tracks are not even in the ball park and should be microwaved ala Bob Semler! As I said, the time between plan and fruition is (5) five different things. I hope to get some paint on this thing this weekend and get 'er done for the Modelpalooza contest. All in all a fun project even if I did place the bar a tad out of reach this time! Happy Modeling! Tom



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