



The Scribed Line



Newsletter for the

Oregon Historical Modelers Society (OHMS)

September 2006

Volume 2006/Issue 9



Display Table

Ruud Vander Salm brought in his 1/72 Hasegawa F-104G nearing completion and Tony Roberts brought in his collection of 1/72 decals and accessories for his soon to be built Jaguar and future Tornado builds. He also brought in the resin cockpit destined to be used in his 1/72 Airfix TSR-2.



August Contest Table

The contest table from the August 2006 meeting shows another nice collection of models. See Page 3 for more details about the models.

Message from the President

Airfix Means Fond Memories

By Tony Roberts

There is sad news from England that kit manufacturer Airfix have gone into Administration. This means that an individual or group of people have been placed in charge of the company to figure out the best way to handle the debts, cash flow problems, payment to creditors etc. On the BBC website they have announced that 31 people have been laid off out of a workforce of 41 mainly from the shipping and packing departments and the future for Airfix, Humbrol and Heller appears to be very bleak.

This news really is very sad, yet seems indicative of the times we live in. On CNN this morning they discussed what type of laptop school children should have for when school starts. We seem to be too damn sophisticated for our own good these days!

Airfix kits were the first kits I built. A new kit every Saturday, purchased from the Model Aerodrome shop in Birmingham, or Perry's Models and building and having it finished in one evening are some of my happiest

childhood memories. Sitting at the table with my Dad, who would explain the history of the subject I was building and who would help with the "fiddly bits" provided a pleasure that lasts to today. In fact, building Airfix kits and the interest in aircraft that it caused, led directly to me joining the Royal Air Force. I remember thinking when I got up close and personal to a Sea Vixen in technical training just how dirty and smelly they were, yet it was easier to get parts to line up, compared to the model I had sitting on my shelf at home!

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Airfix Remembrance Continued from Page 1

There are people who sneer or cringe at the mention of Airfix kits....I once heard someone who was asking for donations for their club event say "and no Airfix or Matchbox kits." Well he has his wish now. Airfix have gone the way of so many other manufacturers and I suspect, given the lack of interest in the hobby by the "younger generations" they will not be the last.

Their quality may have left a lot to be desired, but where else could you get a Hampden bomber, or the HMS Nelson, or more recently Wallace and Grommit and the TSR-2? As starter kits they were great. But, when you look at the latest Trumpeter, or Tamiya kit it is perhaps easy to see why Airfix have struggled over the past few years.

I think to honor Airfix, on the next Saturday afternoon, I'm going to put newspaper on the dining room table, put on my Benny Hill tapes and build an Airfix kit in one evening.....just like I did 40 years ago and you know what....I'll have more fun doing that than piling all the after market stuff into the latest Tamiya or Hasegawa kit now gives me....

Thank you Airfix, for all the great kits and great memories.

Our September show is now upon us. We need your support, your models on the tables on the 16th. There just might be an "Airfix award" to be picked up as well!

Please, support your show and lets help spread the enthusiasm and joy of our hobby. Our Make N Take will once again be a wonderful opportunity to give children a glimpse of what this hobby can offer.

Upcoming Events

- September 5th – OHMS Build Night
- **September 16th – IPMS Region 7 Convention in McMinnville at the Evergreen Aviation Museum.**
- September 19th - OHMS monthly meeting. Monthly contest. 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- October 3rd – OHMS Build Night
- October 7th – IPMS Vancouver BC Fall Show, Barnaby, Vancouver BC.
- October 17th – OHMS monthly meeting. Monthly contest. 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- November 7th – OHMS Build Night
- November 21st – OHMS monthly meeting. Monthly contest. 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

August 15, 2006 Meeting Notes

- Meeting kicked off by President Tony Roberts at 7:30 pm.
- Guests:
 - John Spiva, visiting friend of Bruce Craig's. Bruce built the '36 Dodge Pick-Up that Bruce brought in for the night for John.
 - Shawn Clark – Car modeler who does 1/24 and 1/25 scale muscle cars and other custom cars.
- Show info from Brian Yee:
 - Almost all of the vendor tables reserved
 - Museum meeting went well. We have the same area reserved as last year. Planning seems to be progressing well. See as many bodies as we can get on Friday before the show and for teardown after the show on Saturday. Again we will have pizza for the teardown crew following the show.
- Described the models until 8:30. Took a break until 9:15 pm. Came back to finish off the meeting by 9:30 pm.

Ride To Show Wanted

Alexander Anderson is seeking transportation to and from the Evergreen Aviation Museum on Friday Sept. 15 and Saturday Sept 16 for the Show.

Alexander is willing to assist with set-up and take down of the show. He will assist with gasoline expenses for his ride. On the show day he will need room for one or two models to enter in the show as well.

Anyone able to assist may contact Alexander at (503) 646-0324. Please leave full name and telephone number and be sure to identify yourself as calling from OHMS.

IPMS/USA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

IPMS#: _____ Name: _____
(Leave Blank)

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature (required by _____)

- Adult: **\$25** Junior (17 years old or younger): **\$12**
 Trade Member: **\$25** Canada & Mexico: **\$30** Other Foreign: **\$32**
 Family (Adult dues plus \$5, one set of magazines, # of membership cards required: _____)
 If recommended by an IPMS Member, _____
 list his/her name and member number: _____ (name) _____ (IPMS #)

IPMS/USA

P.O. Box 2475

Website: www.ipmsusa.org

North Canton, OH 44720-2475

August Meeting Pictures



1st: Bob Windus' 1/48 Tamiya F4F/4 Wildcat. The model is loaded with Aries interior and many other enhancements. Markings are for a USMC aircraft flown by Marion Carl at Guadalcanal.



2nd: Dave Sherrill 1/48 Tamiya FW-190 A3 also loaded with enhancements.



3rd Tie: Dick Henderson's 1/48 Czech Model JRF Goose in markings for a TV model of the "Cutters Goose" from the 1982-83 TV Show "Tales of the Gold Monkey" (More details about Dick's model on Page 4)



3rd Tie: Bruce Craig's 1/25th SpecCast '36 Dodge Pick-Up. The model began life as a die cast metal kit, but Bruce highly enhanced the model with a full interior and great paint job.



Larry Randel brought in a group of three Hasegawa A-4 Skyhawks all in US Navy schemes from the '60's. From top in picture is an A-4B, A-4C, and A-4F. Decals are all kit decals.



Display: Ruud Vander Salm brought in his 1/72 Hasegawa F-104G nearing completion as what else but a Dutch Starfighter.



Tony Roberts brought in the resin cockpit destined to be used in his 1/72 Airfix TSR-2

(All photos by Larry Randel)



Cutter's Goose

By Dick Henderson

The kit was built to represent the Grumman G-21 "Cutter's Goose" from the 1982-83 TV Show "Tales of the Gold Monkey"

Model:	Czech Model JRF Goose
Decals:	Draw Decal: 48-Goose-11
Paint:	Testors Model Master
Extras:	Windows: Clear styrene sheet stock Canopy Mask: EZ Mask Corners and Sheet Stock Testors OV-10A props
Modifications	Removed the door between the cockpit and passenger compartment. Enlarged rear door window Enlarged rear escape hatch window on the right side of the aircraft. Opened rear door Replaced props with correct 3 blade version
	Mixed equal parts of Model Master "British Crimson" and "International Orange" for near correct cowl color to match the side decal.
Comments:	This was a very difficult build for me. I'm sure this particular kit was the last one from a limited run mold because nothing fit. I had to test fit and rework almost every part. The decals were pretty good, but I tried to overcoat them with lacquer thinner instead of Future, which does not work. I had to reorder the decals and try to get the remains of the old ones removed before reapplication of the new decals. This is not a contest winner but I'm glad to have finally finished it.

Tip of the Month

(Additional Details)

Dick Henderson wanted to add additional information for his mail order find from a couple months ago—large sized, reasonably priced sanding and polishing strips. The strips can be ordered from Scientific Instrument Services, Inc.

Here are the links to the web site for the sanding pads:

<http://www.sisweb.com/>

is the link to the home page of the manufacturer.

http://www.sisweb.com/micromesh/mmr_pads.htm#2x2

is the link to the micro mesh pads.

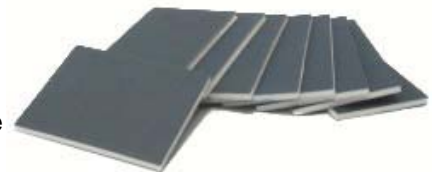
The conversion from their grit size to the standard sizes is on this page:

<http://www.sisweb.com/micromesh/conversion.htm>

Additional description (from the web page)

Micro-Mesh Regular (silicone carbide grit with standard backing) - The standard grade of Micro-Mesh used for the majority of operations on plastics, paints, wood and most metals and polymers.

It is used to produce a uniformly smooth surface and bring the surface to a high gloss finish. Available in grades 1500 to 12000 (30 to 2 microns), and in pad sizes of 2" x 2" and 3" x 4".



Micro-Mesh may cost more than ordinary sandpaper, but it produces finishes 10 to 20 times finer.

OHMS Info:

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"The Scribed Line" is a monthly publication of the Oregon Historical Modelers Society (OHMS) and is intended to inform the membership of club events, discuss club business and promote the hobby of model building. OHMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to having fun and serving the modeling community in Portland, Oregon. OHMS is a chartered chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society, (IPMS). Material may be reproduced, but proper credit is requested.

Mail concerning this issue should be directed to:

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Interview with Mr. Ho Long Hua, Managing Director Trumpeter Model Manufacturing Company

By IPMS PHILIPPINES BERT ANIDO

In July 2006, Mr. Ho Long Hua, Managing Director of Trumpeter Models of China took time out from his busy schedule and granted officers and members of IPMS Philippines BA an interview. (Reprinted courtesy IPMS Philippines)

Before answering questions, Mr. Ho gave a detailed history of how Trumpeter came about. The poignant narration describes China before the modern era, a time of transition from the old ways to the market-economy of present-day China.

The story starts at the time of the Cultural Revolution in the '60s and '70s. Mr. Ho grew up in Zhejiang Province. It was here that Mr. Ho learned his mould-making talents. During those days, apprenticeship was still observed and accepted in China. There was a strict "master-student" relationship; the "master" being in the same stature as that of a father. So, at the age of 17, Mr. Ho became a mould-making understudy, a three-year process. The average monthly salary for the student was 17.50 yuan (approximately US\$ 2.19 per month). In addition to apprenticeship, the student is expected to do housework service to the master's household.

Once completed, the apprentice is free to seek his own fortune. This arrangement is compulsory during the 4.5 year apprenticeship program, with very few exceptions, one of which is if the student gets married during the last year-and-a-half, in which case he is no longer obligated to repay the master. Interestingly, Mr. Ho belonged to the last group of apprentices because the national government reinstated education soon after.

Mr. Ho married at the age of 28 and since he loved the tooling business so much, opened his own mould-making factory in 1991 with two other partners. Since the two other partners were in the business of real estate and only Mr. Ho possessed the technical knowledge, management of the factory was entrusted to Mr. Ho.

Moulds were made for home appliances such as rice cookers, hot water bottles, room air conditioner parts, etc. The business arrangement was usually on a 30-30-40 basis; 30% paid upon placing the order for the mould, 30% upon delivery of the finished mould to the client, and the balance of 40% depending on the ability of the client to make money from the products the mould produces.

As his business was mould-making, a time came when some clients asked him to produce moulds that would eventually be used to make plastic injection kits. Mr. Ho had no knowledge of the plastic scale modeling business

and had no idea how those moulds were to be used. His curiosity increased when the demand for such moulds grew, so he decided to investigate the business.

In July 1998, Mr. Ho visited the Chinese Air Force Museum in Beijing and saw the MiG-15s. This struck his interest and he started taking pictures and measurements of the aircraft. He obtained knowledge about the model kit manufacturing business and even visited Sichuan Province to consult with the retired Engineer-Designer of the Chinese versions of the MiG-15 and 17. Mr. Ho made the moulds for the MiG-15 and these became the first two models (Kit #s 02203 and 02204). Trumpeter Model of China was born!

In the beginning minimal product and subject research was done, until an American modeler who obtained a couple of the MiG-15s wrote him with encouraging observations. In the letter, the American gave constructive comments about the kits & suggested improvements. He mentioned the company had good potential and recommended that they undertake research prior to producing the actual kit. Finally, the American suggested the A-10 as the next subject, which became the product that made the modeling world stand up and take notice of the name Trumpeter.

Originally, Mr. Ho wanted to concentrate on the domestic market but soon discovered that the local market demand was for motorized toys. After the release of the MiG 15 and MiG-17, Trumpeter started looking overseas.

Today, 80% of Trumpeter kit production is exported. The company currently has around 500 employees. Mr. Ho knows the costs involved in creating moulds, which is his main advantage. Trumpeter's operations are fully integrated, from Research and Development, to mould-making, to plastic-injection, through to packaging. Mr. Ho personally decides what models to develop next and his unique ability to come up with subjects that the modeling world has long been waiting for continues to surprise many.

In such a short time since its inception, Trumpeter, under the guidance of Mr. Ho, has contributed tremendously in the revival of plastic scale modeling and have been releasing kits that many consider as milestones. They have satisfied the need for larger scales and a definite improvement can be seen in every new release. Mr. Ho has been instrumental in ensuring that their kits provide more value for money by adding photo-etch, film, resin and white metal parts in many of their kits, thereby establishing Trumpeter as the first mainstream producer to include these aftermarket parts in mass produced kits. Mr. Ho is not only an astute businessman; he also knows what the modeling world wants and is willing to deliver it.

It goes without saying that more surprises are in store for us from Trumpeter in the coming years.

Airfix, Britain's model-maker, comes to a sticky end

By Ben Fenton

(From the London Daily Telegraph, Sept 1, 2006)

The engine is on fire, the nose is pointing straight down and, wouldn't you know it, the canopy is covered in glue: after 54 years, Airfix was crashing and burning yesterday.

In a moment poignant to several generations of paint-covered schoolboys and their long-suffering mothers, the company responsible for more arguments over the proper use of a kitchen table than any other has gone into administration.

A dispute with the management of the company in France which holds the moulds for its hundreds of different models has meant that efforts by brand owners Humbrol to restructure their debt foundered.

The company went into administration late on September 30 and 31 of its 41 staff, based in Hull, were sacked.

The administrators say they are hopeful of selling the brand and the moulds.

If they do, Airfix may pull out of its dive but, for the moment, the company seems doomed.

"It's a great shame, because after years of producing rather poor models, I think they had been putting out some good stuff recently," said Brian Lay, the secretary of the Association of London Modellers.

"But the real pity of it is that it was Airfix who brought the kids into the hobby and without new blood, I don't know how much longer it will all survive."

Airfix experts blamed its failure on the changing habits of the young.

Jeremy Brook, the editor of *Constant Scale*, the journal of the Airfix Collectors Club, said: "It's really not as popular a hobby as it used to be and a lot of children today obviously are more likely to play with their PlayStations or whatever."

"Although having said that, I had heard that sales were beginning to pick up before they had this dispute over the moulds."

For those whose pocket money used to be index-linked to the price of a Folland Gnat (1:72 scale model of the Red Arrows display jet), it was a moving thought that there might not be any more Airfix kits around.

"It helped perpetuate the memory of the RAF in the war and of some very brave men," said Bill Bond, the founder of the Battle of Britain Historical Society.

"For people of my generation, it was our closest experience of Spitfires, wasn't it, but interest in airplane modeling has been gradually diminishing."

Perhaps it is not surprising to find Airfix shot down in flames by a generation for whom the word *dope* has a meaning entirely distinct from the sticky substance that their forebears manipulated into impossibly small crevices to hold together the wings of a Fairey Battle. However, there are still thousands of paint-fingered, glue-covered adolescents wandering the kitchens of Britain, many of them customers of the Games Workshop, which has combined the continuing love of construction with the relatively modern taste for fantasy worlds.

"The problem for Airfix was that their toys didn't really do anything," said Robin Dews, the general manager of Games Workshop's Warhammer World. "I mean, after you'd lovingly put them together and painted them and then looked at them for a few minutes, there wasn't much you could do except, if you were like me and my mates, stick a banger in the tanks on Bonfire Night or tie your planes to a tree in the garden and shoot at it with an air rifle."

ben.fenton@telegraph.co.uk

Quick Facts about Airfix:

- The earliest recorded plastic kit of a military model was a fleet submarine by the Varney company in about 1942.
- The first Airfix kit was a 1:72 scale model of the Golden Hind, Sir Francis Drake's ship, produced in 1952.
- A Spitfire was the firm's first aiplane kit, in 1955, but collectors have been arguing ever since about which of the dozens of different "marks" of RJ Mitchell's famous design the blue plastic kit was supposed to be.
- In the past 51 years, the company has made about 850 different models, but the Spitfire was the top seller.
- At its peak in the 1960s, Airfix sold 350,000 Spitfires a year, about 80,000 Hurricanes and 60,000 Lancasters.
- An estimated 30,000 adults in the UK make Airfix kits.

Movie News:

Peter Jackson to remake 'Dam Busters'

"Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson will remake "The Dam Busters," a classic 1954 British war film, Universal Pictures announced in early September.

Jackson will produce the film to be called "Dambusters." It will be directed by Christian Rivers, who won a 2006 Academy Award for his animation work on Jackson's version of "King Kong."

Widely considered one of the most daring missions in aerial military history, "Dambusters" follows Operation Chastise, a top-secret 1943 RAF mission which aimed to destroy dams in the Ruhr Valley that were believed to be the key to the Nazi steel industry.

Jackson said he planned to use state-of-the-art computer generated visual effects to give new life to the adventures of the 617 Squadron, a specially chosen group of pilots from Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

The revolutionary "bouncing" bomb designed by genius engineer Barnes Wallis had to be dropped from very close range at low altitude. The airmen were trained for the single, specific mission, and the potential for success was small.

No planned release date for the movie was announced.

Show Raffle Prizes Wanted

By Tony Roberts

On September 16th the club membership will be putting on the Regional Convention in McMinnville. I want to take the chance to appeal to you all to help make this years raffle a big success.

For that to happen we need kits, after market items, decals; any model related items as donations for the raffle. These items should be in good condition and complete, they should also be the kind of item you would like to win.

Most people who attend a show remember two things: parking and the raffle. The first one is already taken care of, given the size of the museum parking lot (but won't it be good if it is full to overflowing on the day).

The raffle is totally within our control, so I am urging every member of the club to make at least one donation to the raffle. We will provide one raffle ticket to each person entering kits and additional tickets will be available at \$1

each from the raffle prize area. Numbers will be drawn throughout the day and posted on a board, so people can claim the prizes, at the time, or as they are passing the raffle area.

Contact Jon Lange at 503-803-5490 to make a donation. Your donation can be made before the show, or bring it to the show on September 16th. If you like, bring your raffle donations to the August meeting and we will collect them for the show then.

Wanted: A few good judges

Volunteers to help judge for the RECON are needed. To sign up, contact Mike Howard at 360-573-1001 or call Tony Roberts at 503-282-2790. We will also have a sign up sheet at the next meeting.

Set-up / Break Down Help Needed for Show

On Friday September 15th at 4:30 pm we will start the set up of tables for the Saturday show at the museum. Your help is needed to get the tables and linens onto the museum floor.

As well as the tables there will be a host of other jobs that will need to be completed before the doors open to the vendors and the visitors to the show.

Contact Tony Roberts, Larry Randel or Brian Yee (503-636-7946) for details.

Looking for volunteers to help with "ushering" duties for the RECON

By Mike Howard

We'll need at least 3 people to help out with contestants after they've completed the initial registration process. The volunteers should be somewhat familiar with the many different modeling categories and also enjoy helping out other modelers. The task consists of helping contestants double-check their registration forms and assist in signing them up for any of the Special Categories that they're qualified for (lists will be posted at the tables).

Once that is complete, the next step will be to help the contestant locate the correct table for their entries and possibly make some decisions regarding eligibility for particular categories.

Please contact me, Mike Howard (e-mail - mhoward417@comcast.net or home phone - 360-573-1001), or any of the other contest organizers to volunteer.

OHMS Newsletter

September 2006 OHMS General Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 19, 2006, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Where: Bridgetown Hobbies, 3350 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR

Planned Activities:

- Monthly Model Display, Discussion, and Contest
- Forums and Discussions.

OHMS "Build Night" October 3rd 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Bridgetown Hobbies

OHMS/IPMS
c/o Larry Randel
10835 NW Brooks Rd
Portland, OR 97231



The Meeting after this Month: October 2006 OHMS Meeting

When: October 17th, 2006, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Where: Bridgetown Hobbies, 3350 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR

Planned Activities:

- Monthly Model Display, Discussion, and Contest
- Forums and discussions

Visit the OHMS Web page at: <www.geocities.com/ipmsoregon/>