



December Meeting

December 19, 2020



The business end of Dennis Korn's muzzle loading 68 pound carronade as if seen by an enemy vessel. The gun was displayed of a section of deck that Dennis scaled out and corrected the deck planking size scaled from photos of the actual gun. Well done rivet counter! More on page 5.

December's meeting was lightly attended but still brought together friends and gave us a chance to see some builds and discuss models.

In all, Marshall Smith, Chuck Colucci, Jeff Maples, Dennis Korn and Alan Welch were present.

Jeff brought his 1/72 Stuka by Zvesda in RLM 70 and 71 topside and RLM 65 undersurfaces. Jeff explained a new technique of "painting" canopy braces of which the Stuka is amply equipped. Instead of masking and spraying on the plastic, Jeff, instead, sprayed two pieces of clear decal receiver which was then sealed with a clear coat. After drying they were sliced into appropriate widths and applied in place with liberal uses of Microsol, Microset and Solvaset. It

was a beautiful result. (see pics on page 5)

Another Zvesda model was brought by Alan, this time of the Tsarist battleship, Borodino in 1/350 scale. Kit additions were wood deck from Artwox, photo etch detailing from White Ensign and Black Cat figures painted to look like Russian sailors pre-Tsushima. They seriously enhanced the final product. The kit is still a WIP.

Although still a work in progress it was far enough along that Alan thought he should bring in "something" as he had not completed anything in, like, forever. (Pics are on page 5)

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Events

See full information on our website.

39th Annual Smoky Mtn Model-Con

Presented by

The Knoxville Scale Modelers Assoc.



**I WANT YOU
TO COME TO THE SHOW**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS & IDEAS:

WWW.KNOXVILLESCALEMODELERS.COM

**SATURDAY, March 6
2021**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC

HIGH SCHOOL

9245 FOX LONAS RD. NW,

KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

MODEL CONTEST

Aircraft, autos, armor,
dioramas, fantasy, figures, sci-
fi, ships, and more on display.

Contest entry forms &
judging info available
on our website.

HOBBY VENDORS

RAFFLE DRAW with great
prizes

Contestant Admission:
Adults - \$10.00 for first 3
models and \$1.00 for each
additional model.
Under 18s - FREE

General Admission:
Adults - \$5.00
Under 18s - FREE

SEE OVER FOR SHOW
CONTACT INFORMATION
AND DIRECTIONS.

New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

Meets at the VFW hall, 3850 Butler Rd, New Bern, NC the second Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon.

For up to date info on their meeting: <https://www.facebook.com/nbmmgnc>

Wilmington, NC Plastic Modelers

Please check their facebook page for meeting info for meetings, normally the first Saturday of every <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117277425006833>

Jacksonville NC Plastic Modelers

will meet January 20 at 7:00 pm at The Hobby Chest, 345 Western Blvd, Jacksonville, NC. The Hobby Chest carries a great selection of hobby kits and supplies and is a grand center for tabletop gaming activities. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1319666224752922>

IPMS Eagle Squadron General

meeting 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at the

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Mini Reviews

Another look at one of the many small specialty companies that are enhancing our hobby -ed.

Model Monkey opened in August, 2015 in eastern North Carolina, USA and since our first day in business, we've been bringing exceptionally accurate and highly detailed 3D-printed products to scale modelers world-wide.

Model Monkey is a family-run, veteran-owned business offering 3D-printed products in different materials. We do our best to ensure a permanent variety of excellent models is available. Presently, we offer over 2500 products for advanced scale modelers. We offer nameplates for over 1500 modeling subjects including space shuttle orbiters, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, armored vehicles, ships, boats, submarines and science fiction spaceships.

Nearly all of our models are 3D-printed by us in our own workshop in gray resin. Nameplates are 3D-printed in your choice of various real metals or inexpensive, paintable white acrylic plastic. Our gray resin scale models are 3D-printed on our own 3D printers in our workshop in North Carolina, USA using high-end, state-of-the-art 3D-printing technology. Metal and acrylic plastic nameplates, models that are too big for our own 3D printers, and designs that are not suitable for our own 3D printers, are sold by another 3D-printing company called Shapeways (click here). Shapeways prints large Model Monkey designs and nameplates at Shapeways' factories in New York, USA, and Eindhoven, Netherlands, or by Shapeways' partners world-wide.

The gray resin we use to 3D-print our models in-house is an acrylate-

based plastic chemically similar to Plexiglas. Unlike the kind of material used by many hobby and school 3D-printers, gray resin is not nylon. Grey resin models are produced using a different technology than that used by other 3D-printing companies like Shapeways.

Our models are created one layer at a time by hardening liquid gray resin with a laser emitting ultraviolet light. It normally takes several hours to print a typical model. Gray resin is chemically different from polystyrene plastic found in injection-molded plastic kits. Gray resin is also more brittle than polystyrene. ■

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American Legion post 116 and an Informal Build Night, Hangar 18 Hobbies the last Wednesday of each month a from 6pm-8pm. Hangar 18 has a wonderful meeting space..
<https://www.facebook.com/IPMSEagleSquadron>

Carolina Maritime Model Society
Next meeting will be Saturday, January 23, 2:00 pm, at the North Carolina Maritime Museum, 315 Front St., Beaufort, NC. This group builds ships and boats and the museum is a great meeting space.
<https://www.facebook.com/CMMSNC> ■

Why Gamers survive pandemics better than model builders.

The barbarian clumsily wiped the blood from his axe on the slashed body of one of the dead Orcs, then turned to the wizard. "What have we, spell-man?" was the inevitable question. For beyond victory, and life, there was always the question of loot.

The spell caster stood motionless, then closed his eyes. Muttering semi-heard phrases in a language no one else understood he then added a few hand gestures, too quick to follow. Then he slowly spread his hands out, palms downward, and gently rocked back and forth. From somewhere deep inside him the words slowly formed . . .

The old man leaned for a few moments on his staff as he collected his breath. Then, looking around spoke. "The dagger on the old one, a plus to hit . . . the black boots on this one, they give extra speed, just as you thought, Grimmel." At the mention of his name the barbarian grunted assent. Toth, the magic user, gestured toward another body, "AH, and that ring, there, some protection against disease." He grinned, looking at another body,

"That green cloak will aid in hiding, all in all a decent haul."

"A ring of protection for disease, I'd like that very much" spoke the monk. "As would we all." replied the wizard, "But we will choose as we always have . . . by lot."

Anyone who has ever played an RPG will be familiar with scenes like this, in the aftermath of a battle the looting of the bodies. That ring points out a critical point as to why gamers are better positioned to survive this pandemic that are model builders. Gamers know that the ring just found will impart some resistance to illnesses. It maybe only 10%, but that is 10% better than no protection at all and they will wear it until they find something better. And then they will pass that ring on to another party member who can benefit from it.

In gaming, every little bit can save your life at some point and that is knowledge we could all benefit from. For instance, wearing a mask at

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Workbench

USS Montrose

The Kit

When I was about twelve I built Revell's USS Montrose. It ended up an unpainted glue bomb but I didn't care because it had all those neat landing craft and I really enjoyed having it on my shelf for as long as it lasted. But I always wanted to build it again . . . but right this time.

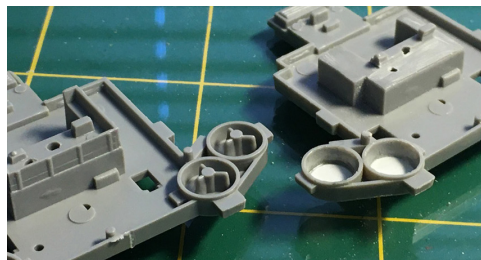
I recently got the opportunity thanks to the generosity of Jim Gower who gifted me with not one, but two kits. I was delighted, and the delight lasted right through opening the boxes and seeing the scope of the project ahead of me.

The kits were two different re-issues and right away I noticed it was marketed as two different scales. One box was marked 1:376 and the other 1:400. Same kit, exactly . . . marketing!

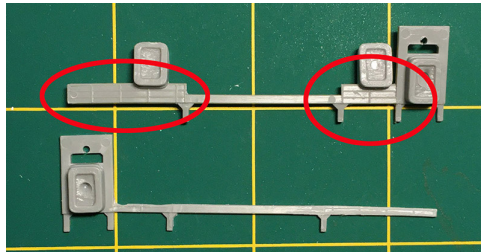
The kit itself has good points and points not so good. The molding is fairly crisp and the flash index is low, strong points for a mold dating back to 1956. Some of the detail is lovely, the hull sides and main decks have plate seams molded in, something I wish more modern kits had. It also had cargo nets molded in on the sides . . . not so good.

Almost everything fit together very well and many parts even had unusual shaped pins and receiver holes so to avoid mounting a mast in backwards for instance. Unfortunately, each superstructure deck was divided at the mid wall point so the seams ran right through the many portholes on each deck. ah well.

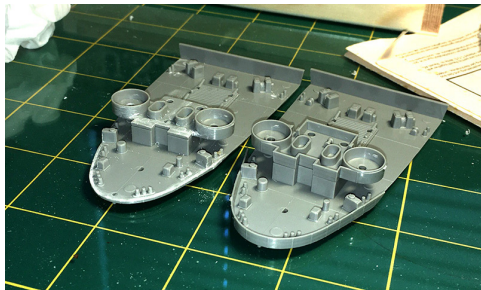
The negatives continue with the fact she is not molded as waterline nor full hull but sort of in between. The



The crude Oerlikons needing to be replaced and some tubs and cabins ready for new guns and railings.



Some of the details needing revision. Railings replaced & better life rafts to be glued on top of crude kit details.



The fantail and after deck house really needed work on the railings. PE added immeasurably to the look.



Here are some of the marines and navy crew I painted for the project. It seemed I always needed more.

railings, which were standard for the time, being solid plastic and the upper decks looked about a scale 3 foot thick both of which were problematical. Many deck details are crude and molded onto the deck. More negatives were the armament. The 20mm Oerlikons were molded inside their tubs and were nothing more than a capital "Y" shape and the 40mm and the 5 inch gun were very sub-standard. If I were going to bring the build up to near current standards I was going to have to do a lot of toss & replace.

The Build

So I started with what railings I felt were removable. I clipped off what I could with nippers and #11 blades in areas I could replace with PE railings. At the same time I removed all the cable reels from the deck. (Having a second un-built kit I could use that for accurate placement of 3-D parts)

Then I attacked the gun tubs. The 20mm guns had to go so they were crudely chopped out and the tub was drilled and reamed out so I could use plastic sheet to build new floors to them. About a dozen stairs also got the deep six I could install new ones.

Armament, cable reels, life rafts, 20mm, 40mm twins and quad, and the five inch all came from Black Cat Models, (BCM), and turned out superb. I also used Mark 51 tubs from Model Monkey to house BCM's directors and, in some cases, the crewman for them as well as the

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Workbench

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searchlight tubs on the stack which Revell had omitted. And speaking of crew, I use BCM's sailors and gun crews for the naval personnel and their soldiers for Marines.

I wanted to show the ship as it might have looked in the midst of a training exercise. The final touches were PE from Rainbow for cargo blocks and a fine mesh from Eduard for replacement cargo netting, both worked out fine. I also used Am-traks and a DUKW from AFV Club for deck cargo. Rigging is stretched sprue and EZLine. Paints were from Scale Colors.

I'm happy with the way she turned out, I think she represents a class of ships, almost 200 in number, that did a superb job and should be remembered and honored for the work they did. They were not glamorous like a can or a carrier, but they, too, were also essential for winning the war. ■

-Alan Welch

For the history of the Montrose here are some helpful links:

<http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/03/03212.htm>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Montrose_\(APA-212\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Montrose_(APA-212))

<https://marines.togetherweserved.com/usmc/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=PublicUnitProfile&type=Unit&ID=8202>

Digital Model Making

OK, we build in plastic, (well, ok mostly), but movie makers are now building digitally . . . literally. Go here to see how "Hollywood" builds ships and scene for movies. ■

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzY7LPwHMos>



The guns and crews from BCM really dress up the stern as do the life rafts I glued on top of the kit parts.



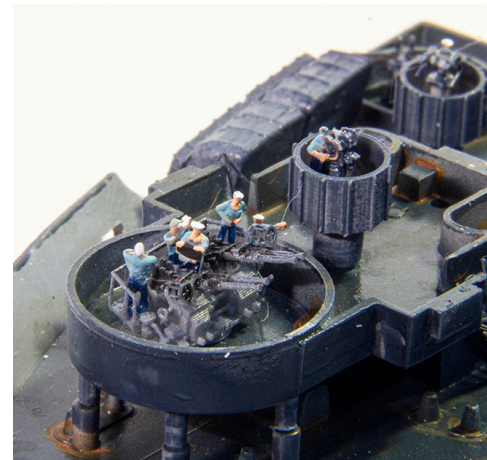
"HERE COME THE MARINES!" you can almost hear it looking at the additional figures that were added.

Tips and Things

As if photo etch was not pain-in-the-butt enough already, many model builders rail against the added expense of buying yet another "expensive specialised tool" just to bend the ^&%#%\$^&# stuff.

Well, true enough. Benders for PE can go from inexpensive to stupid but here is a tip. You can actually build one for yourself. (after all we ARE model builders, right?) Here are two tips submitted from David Hamilton, a model building friend in Australia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fgh6TrRxFVk>



The 40mm quad on the bow with her Mk 51 gun director are head and shoulders better than the kit bits.



The cargo nets are unpainted brass here but they sure seem ready for Marines to start loading the LCVPs, one of which is being launched by the deck crew at left.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbMH5AUdi-k>

DID YOU KNOW, that if you fill seams with Vallejo's white putty you can remove a lot of it with a cotton swab damp with alcohol? In addition to being easy it also preserves any surface detail which sanding that area would remove.

And in case no one has heard Eduard Models suffered a major fire in their storage facility this past week. Mercifully, no injuries were sustained but much stock has been lost which will result in additional shipping delays on top of what Covid has imposed.

DAMN YOU 2020! ■

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Star of the show was Dennis Korn who brought in two finished builds and a stack of books he gave away.

First completed build was a 68 pounder carronade from HMS Victory. It was a short range, murderous muzzle loader mounted on a section of wooden deck behind a gunwale. Dennis bought the Italian mixed-media Ammtua kit, (It's either in 1/17 or 1/20 scale depending on the language of the instructions chosen), off ebay and allowed that the age and obscurity of the kit allowed for making many "corrections".

Also by Dennis was a Luftwaffe "fuel bowser" in 1/48 scale from Italeri. The Opel "Blitz" tank wagon was presented by Italeri as belonging to an unknown unit at St. Malo in the Summer of 1940.

Its interesting to see a ground vehicle in 1/48 instead of 1/35 or 1/32. Should be a welcome addition to a quarter inch build or dio. ■

Pandemic

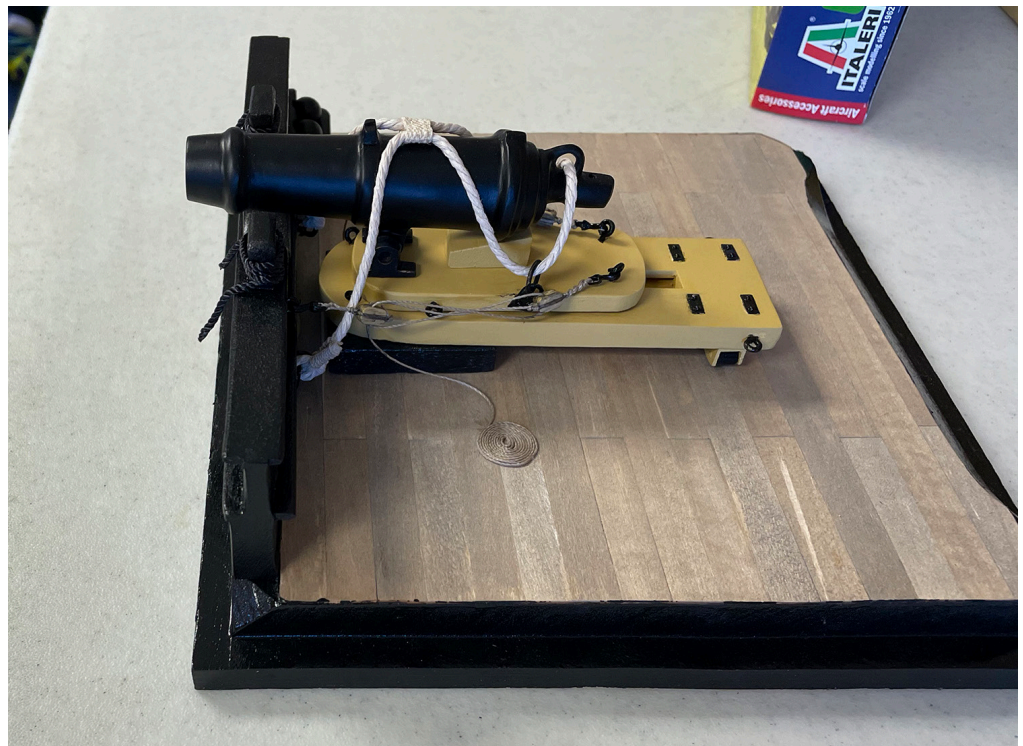
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meetings. It seems to work for Australia which has not recorded a new case of Covid in days.

I bring this up for a very good reason. None of us are children. In addition to our age, our medical conditions also work against us. As we look around our meetings we notice empty seats, members who, for reasons of health safety, can no longer come in contact with friends and fellow builders. Staying away is better than contracting this damned disease. The sooner we get a handle on it the sooner our meetings, and lives will return to normal. So wear the damned mask.

It's the right thing to do. ■

-Alan Welch



A side view of Dennis' magnificent killer. The deck work is evident here along with some of the scratch built corrective details. And the sailor in me notices the deck line was perfectly flaked ready to pass inspection. Dennis said one of the issues he had was the "correct" color of the gun carriage as the tint changed between the several research photos he used.

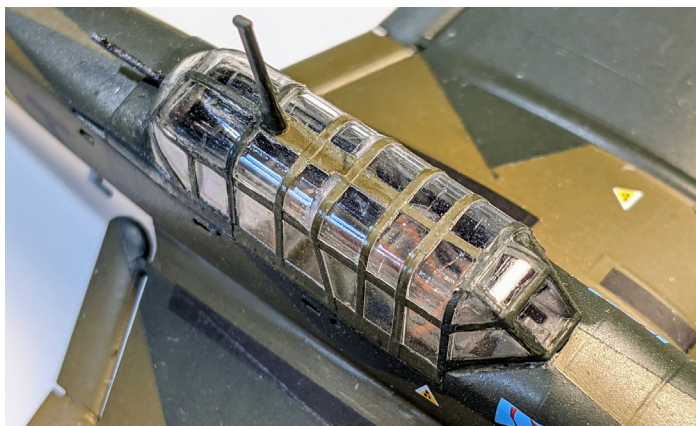


The fuel bowser and box art are shown here. Dennis did a bit of weathering which, considering the speed of advance and difficulty the truck would have in keeping up with its unit in 1940 would be expected.

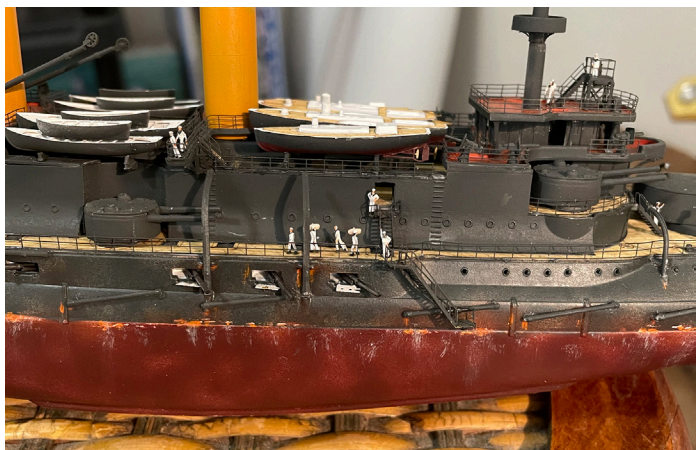


(Left)
From directly overhead the JU-87b looks far less angular and a good bit sleeker. Just ignore the tail braces and fixed gear please.

(Right)
Apparently this month's selection of builds was a collection of opportunities to fix issues. Looks like our builders succeeded on just about every level.



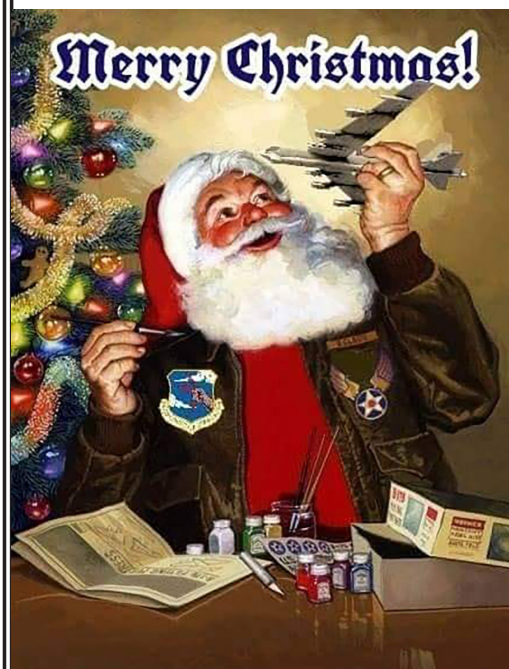
(Left)
A close up view of Jeff's frame work on his Stuka. I have to admit, it's certainly stellar looking.



(Left)
New crew members reporting aboard Alan's BB Borodino. The wooden deck, photo etch, and crew really add life to the build.

Wishing you all the best this unusual Christmas Season. And a special Christmas wish to you all.

*Please go here:
<http://alanwelch.weebly.com/christmas>*



Don't forget, next month's meeting will be Saturday, January 16, 12:00 noon till 2:00 pm and all members are requested to bring some builds please.



(Above)
Imposing view of the pre-dreadnaught, displaying the weathering. It's a WIP so that excuses the fact of no anchors or rigging. (That's his excuse and he's sticking to it.)