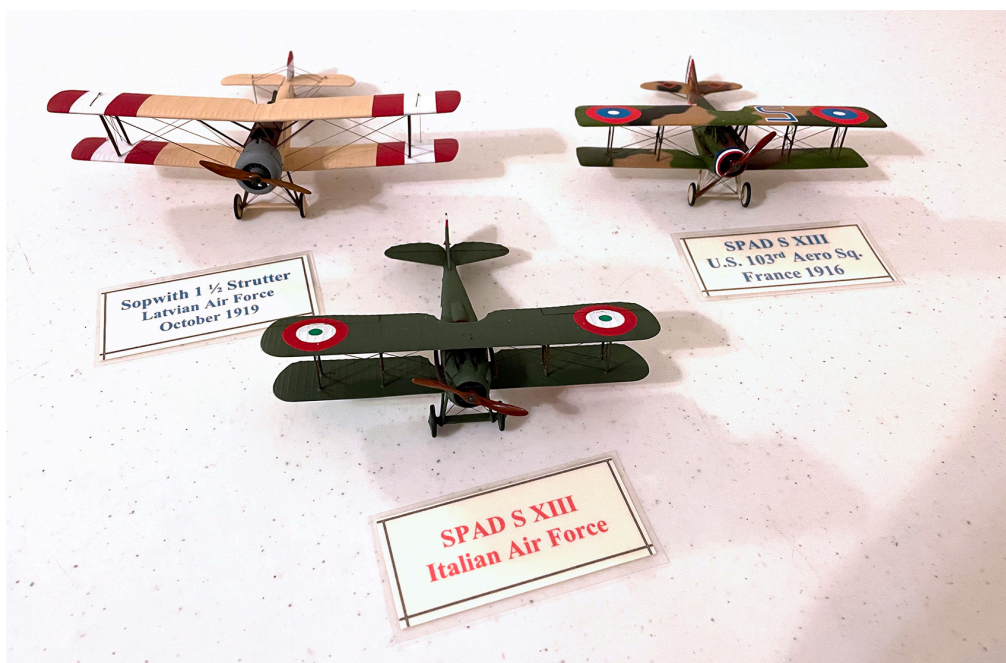




FEBRUARY MEETING

February 20, 2021



Chuck Colucci brought in his usual plethora of finished builds including these three beautiful 1/72 WW I aircraft. A Sopwith 1&1/2 Strutter in Latvian service and two Spad XIII's, one in Italian livery and the in other U.S.A.A.C. colors. More builds on page 5.

Our second meeting for the year found us moved to the BIG room due to a conflict with a pool tourney. No big deal, just different.

The Down East Con was discussed and some details were worked out. We are all still hoping the Covid situation will allow us to proceed as planned. David Mohr brought in materials he has been kindly storing for us since the last con in 2018. The Treasurers report was given by Jim Herriott and more dues were collected for the year. That brought the old business segment to an end and we could get down to the reason for the meeting **new builds!**

Mark Gray overwhelmed us with his finished 1/48th B-1B Lancer, it

needed a table all to it's own self.

Dennis Korn brought in an unbuilt model to donate to the DownEast Con raffle.

Jeff Maples displayed his Bristol Blenheim and recounted his adventures with building it, see article beginning on page 3 for the full story.

David Stiteler brought in the subject of his series "Confessions of a Closet Modeler, the Revell 1/48 B-17G he is "making" for a friend. Chapter two of the saga also starts on page 3.

Which brings us to Chuck's models. In addition to the three aircraft he finished he also built a Hanomag Sd.Kfz. 251 in *(continued on page 4)*

EVENTS

Contact and meeting info on regional model building groups and info on upcoming cons and other events.

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 Thursday of every <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117277425006833>

Jacksonville NC Plastic Modelers
meet every third Wednesday 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 American Legion Post 116 in Fuquay Varina and an Informal Build Night, Hangar 18 Hobbies in Cary the last Wednesday of each month from 6pm-8pm. <https://www.facebook.com/IPMSEagleSquadron>

Carolina Maritime Model Society
Next meeting will be Saturday, January 2, 2:00 pm, at the North Carolina Maritime Museum, 315 Front St., Beaufort, NC. This group builds ships *(continued on page 2)*

EVENTS


(continued from page 1)

and boats and the museum is a great meeting space.

<https://www.facebook.com/CMMSNC> ■

We have received word this show has unfortunately been cancelled.

39th Annual Smoky Mtn Model-Con
Presented by
The Knoxville Scale Modelers Assoc.



**SA^TURDAY, 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 DRAWING with great
prizes.

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

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS & IDEAS:
WWW.KNOXVILLESCALEMODELERS.COM

**SEE OVER FOR SHOW
CONTACT INFORMATION
AND DIRECTIONS.**

**National Capital
Model Soldier Society**

59th Annual Show
Virtual
March 13, 2021



Enter FREE by February 21

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- ☞ Online Gallery of Your Entries ☞
- ☞ Raffles ☞
- ☞ Awards ☞
- ☞ Modeling Seminars ☞

For details
visit our
website at **NCMSSClub.org**

South Carolina Mega Show

June 18/19, 2021

No art yet but details are on our web-
site. www.ecpm.com

Down East Con

July 10, 2021

No art yet but details are on our web-
site. www.ecpm.com ■

BLOODY BLenheim

-by Jeff Maples

A SAGA OF BLOOD, TOIL, TEARS AND SUPER GLUE



The kit is the Airfix Blenheim MK 1 in a scale of 1:72. Normally, I don't build in 1:72; however, many years back, I decided to build the 'A List' of those planes used by the British and Germans in the Battle of Britain. The 1:72 bombers sit very nicely on my shelf.

My Blenheim kit got started when I discovered that Alan Welch, myself, and a mutual friend of ours, Ibra Tayyeb (IPMS Raleigh Eagle Squadron builder) all had the Airfix Blenheim kit. So, this screamed Group Build to me.

I've always enjoyed building Airfix kits and was excited to start this one, too. However, the Airfix design of the Blenheim kits has a flaw (in my opinion) that I will address shortly.

Airfix decided to start with assembling the fuselage, wings, and wheel wells. No problems here as it is all a straightforward build. This completed steps 1-7. Steps 8-13 had me building with the cockpit. I airbrushed the interior with MIG's A.MIG 219 British Interior Green along with leather browns and black for details.

The next steps (14-19) are the assembly of the 5-piece nose section. 2 of the 5 pieces are the port and starboard lower nose sections, and 3 of the 5 pieces are the canopy. You may have already deduced that this is where the design flaw starts (but does not end).

Step 20 would have the builder simply (read with *extreme* sarcasm) attach the completed nose section to the completed fuselage. Here, my friends can be your downfall (ask Alan).

As Rod Serling (a fellow model-builder) would say, 'Imagine, if you will'... the nose section is now fully constructed, and the BACK end (Tab A) of that construction forms a circle. The balance of the plane is the constructed fuselage and wings. The FRONT end (Slot B) of that fuselage also forms a circle.

In a perfect world (and as per the printed instructions), the circle formed by the nose section (Tab A) will perfectly fit the circle formed by the fuselage (Slot B) ...not so much. To make this connection even more fun, the outside of the nose section

(continued on page 3)

BLOODY BLENHEIM

(continued from page 2)

has a tiny bit of the wing-root. So, not only do Tab A and Slot B need to fit perfectly, but the nose section also has to align with the wing.

Are we having fun yet? Alan was having similar issues so according to the two of us, the answer would be resounding NO!

So, with Alan's caution, I didn't glue my nose pieces together in one fell swoop. The interior was all painted, but with tape, tacky glue, spit, and gum, I did about a thousand dry fits.

As I got pieces to align properly during this process, I would slowly drop a little thin glue here and there to hold the nose section in place with the fuselage.

Before using a clear glue to attach the three-part canopy, I had a brilliant idea (also, read with *extreme* sarcasm)...if one coat of Future on the canopy is

good, then two coats would be great, but three coats will be amazing! Wrong! Later, you will see why.

The canopy has now been glued into position on the fuselage (pewh). Steps 21-45 complete all the steps to a finished model. So, as not to bore you with detail, this would include the control surfaces, landing gear, flaps, engines/cowlings/prop, and bombs.

Before priming, I cut my own canopy

masks and applied them to both the nose section canopy and the top-gunner canopy. This, along with 3 layers of Future, will come back to bite me in my tail section. I used Vallejo Primer and Model Air Colors for the entire kit. Vallejo sells a set entitled RAF Colors Special "Battle of Britain". I won't list all 8 colors, but the set would include all the colors I need for my British BoB kits.

After the primer, I masked for the spraying of Dark Earth and Dark Green. These two colors (in camo fashion) wrap around the upper half of the Blenheim from bow to stern. The entire lower section is solid black

(The Blenheim was a night bomber, hence the black bottom). A solid coat of gloss varnish is applied for the decals.

Let's skip to the fun part where we take off the canopy masking to see the beautiful job we did keeping our canopy frames so nice, clean, and straight. To my horror, when I peeled off my

masks, they did a horrible job blocking any of the paint I sprayed. Dark Green and Earth had dripped all over the canopy.

No problem. I'll just clean it off with a little Windex. Well, that just caused the Future to haze. No problem. I'll just scrape the paint off. Well, that caused scratches. No problem. I'll just fill the scratches in with more Future. Well, now the Future is so thick it's cracking. No problem. I'll

(continued on page 6)

CONFESSIONS OF A CLOSET MODELER, PART 2

-By David Stiteler

After long contemplation, meditation, analysis of all available information, and a flip of a coin, I chose to start with the project that I probably should have worked on the entire time after my retirement...the 1/48th scale Monogram B-17G. This is the model a former co-worker asked me to build for him that his father had started, and never finished because he passed away. My friend knows nothing about model building and had no intentions to start. When he found out I did build models, he asked, and with zero hesitation I excepted. Oops. I failed to mention at the time that I had not actually built anything in quite a while, but I saw how important it was to him to see this finished in honor of his father. So, I dived right in.

Now, fast forward about 6 years. As you can see, not much was done when I got the kit, and after receiving it, not much if anything was done since. My hope is by now there will be some good before and after shots to take in for your viewing pleasure, starting with the cockpit.

This is where some of us get ourselves into trouble, so to speak. Remember, currently I was more of a collector than a builder and now I was going to complicate this even more than it already was. We have all seen the articles in modeling magazines and probably participated in conversations of subject accuracy and realism verses artistic license and the modelers desired effect. Getting caught up in this stigma forced me to search and gather all the available reference material on the subject, a particular B-17, and then research some more. I became a researcher

(continued on page 5)



Here is the finished product, shown first so it can be admired as a well and truly finished build



1/32 Monogram B1- B Lancer

I built this model around 10 years ago and was an easy build. I put about 25 hours into the construction and the kit lived up to the Monogram reputation for good, solid kits. The only real problem was the weight and I had to keep that in mind during assembly as some of the seams, especially in the fuselage would crack open easily. The reason appeared to be the plastic was a bit thin. I did reinforce some of the seams with strips cut from sheet styrene.

There is good detail in the cockpit and crew rest/working area but none of it could be seen, especially as the windows were all tinted. Since I

wasn't building it as a contest model anyway, this didn't matter.

I replaced the kit landing gear with aftermarket metal gear as the kit gear seemed to be way too weak. I added Cutting Edge afterburner cans and a Sniper pod from a 48 scale F-15E. The tail decals I took from my decal stash, as strangely the correct decals aren't included in the kit.

Other than that no other aftermarket was added. And this model takes a lot of paint. Just make sure you have the space for this in your "showroom" as it does take up a lot of room, ■

-Mark Grey

TURNING TIDE

Since our interest is in models here's a nifty little youtube video about two guys making an epic war movie in their kitchen. (OK, not really IN their kitchen, but it does feature models heavily.)

Set in Scotland during the Blitz it details what happens when a young Scottish boy encounters a shot down Luftwaffe crewman.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlnLPMPdUk0>

And here is a link to the finished product:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eYOZNjUqp4&t=0s>

Both videos are worth watching. ■
-ed.



MEETING

(continued from page 1)

early war grey camo. This one was representing the initial push into Russia and was in his standard 1/35 scale.

And Alan Welch brought in a partially built Tamiya 1/350 USS Fletcher. Alan has not finished any models lately being too caught up in his 1:1 scale house rebuild, but he promises that is coming to an end very soon and he can turn back to the important scales.

It was another good meeting where builds are concerned. ■

GROUP BUILDS

- by Jeff Maples

As I left the VFW building at February's meeting, a fellow ECPM member mentioned how they wished there was someone they could build models with. To socialize in the same room with a fellow model builder who understands your stories of building successes and/or failures. To hold two fiddly bits together while you apply the super glue. To ask him (or her), "does this horizontal stabilizer look straight to you?"

Fortunately, I have a buddy that fits that bill...fellow ECPM member Mr. Mark Gray. We are the Group Build Guild of 2. Mark (a fellow Wilmington resident) and I have been building models together for 2 years now every Friday evening from.

Fellow members, according to our published schedule, (on the website), February was supposed to be an extended group build meeting. So what happened? Why have we drifted away from this? The next scheduled group build meeting is June so I propose we all participate. Let's get social.

CLOSET MODELER

(continued from page 3)

more than a modeler. I have reading material, photos, downloads, and uploads coming out of my ears, and not one bit of glue or paint spread or sprayed. This has continued for six years! We will get back to this line of thought later.

I decided to do one thing differently that I previously said I would not do. As I work on this B-17, I am also going to work on a less relevant kit at the same time to try and hone those dormant skills I once had. I cannot remember when I last held an airbrush and did some masking on a small scale. In all the years I was modeling, I never had to utter those words I hoped I never would have to



Go ahead, build it, they said. It'll be fun, they said. It all seemed so simple.

say and am constantly saying now, "Where are my damn glasses?". Boy, has time changed things. It is amazing just how small even for 48th scale some of these parts are. It was never an issue before. Getting older sucks! But I feel the old passion starting to come back.

When I mentioned to my wife that I decided to work on the two mod-



"Step into my parlor." said the spider to the fly . . .

els at the same time, I got the Spock response that I am so used to getting. That one raised eyebrow said it all, so now she is the one to keep me accountable. Good grief! Anyway, I have the model, some of the paint, glue, the decals we decided on, and all the reference materials anyone could dream of having. Time to get to work.

(continued on page 6)



(above) Chuck's Sd.Kfz. 251. appears ready to drive across the steppes in it's stylish grey paint.

(below) Mr Mark Grey's large B-1B Lancer with a Mountain Dew for size comparison.



(above) Some of the extras David Stiteler has amassed for his B-17 build, collector's items now Squadron is gone.

(below) Jim, Marshall, and Jeff all stylishly wearing their protective masks as good citizens should.



BLOODY BLenheim

(continued from page 2)

just pick away the cracked Future and hand brush a new layer of Future on. Well... I think you see the pattern of my Major Fails.

I have ruined my Blenheim, and it is going in the garbage. Ibra and Alan will be the only two builders in the group that will complete their Blenheim.



... the horror, the horror ... too much Future, too much fiddling, too much, too much ...

Then a light appeared in the distance.

Alan had decided by step 20 (remember the Tab A into Slot B fiasco?) to turn around from his workbench, pull down another kit from his stash, turn back to face his workbench, and with an outstretched arm push off everything Blenheim related into the garbage only to start building his next favorite battleship kit. So, when I called Alan to bitch about this, he responded, 'You can have my canopy, Jeff.'

Saved!

With a sanding disc on my Dremel, I cutaway Alan's unpainted canopy, cut off my destroyed canopy, and bought/applied Edward's masking set for the Blenheim Mark 1.

Before gluing the new canopy to the model, I very lightly airbrushed the dark green and dark earth to match

the model. I could see from the inside of the canopy that the masks worked great. I was so happy. I white-glued the canopy on, and, of course, I had to use putty to fill in the gaps from the Dremel cutting. In this case, I used Vallejo's acrylic putty, which, when first applied, can be wiped smooth with your fingertip. Lastly, I hand-

Painted the puttied gaps with the colors matching the surrounding areas.

Wow. What a wild ride this one

was. And, yes, this was a very successful group build.

We three did complete Benhims. Ibra finished his RAF Church Fenton Blenheim Mk1, which is painted all black (top and bottom). And Alan and I share this Blenheim Mk 1.

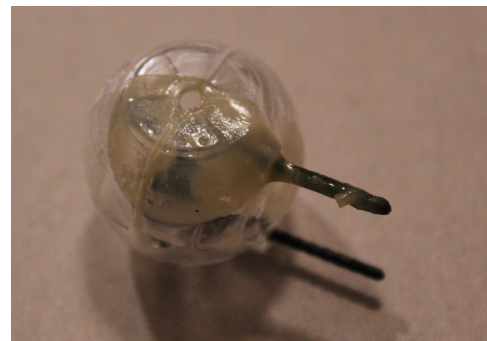
It was flown by Squad Leader Arthur Stewart King Scarf, the recipient of the Victorian Cross. On Dec 9, 1941, Scarf was the only bomber to take off from his Malaysia base while it was being attacked by enemy aircraft. His lone Blenheim successfully got to his bombing site where he completed his bombing run only to be riddled with bullets upon his return to Malaysia. He crash landed, without causing any injury to his crew, however he was so injured that he died two days later in the hospital.

Arthur was a true hero, and Alan is not so bad. ■

-Jeff Maples

CLOSET MODELER

(continued from page 5)



Here is where the real trouble starts, something, glue or maybe paint, had exploded in the kit and this is result.

It has been quite some time since I opened the box and checked out what I must deal with. I forgot all about the True Details kits to liven up the bird some that I acquired. Collectors' items now. I also forgot about the need for another B-17G kit, due to the blemish on the belly gun pod from either glue or paint, or both that seemed to explode in the box. As far as I can tell some other parts may be damaged as well, and there might be some missing. So, another kit for parts is a must, much to my wife's displeasure. I have an idea with whatever is left.

Until I can acquire a donor kit, my first decision is to decide what to do with the cockpit section. This has been started and I need to either rework it some to improve it or use the True Details cockpit. I am inclined to do whatever I can to improve what has been started. His father had a vision and I believe that is important to preserve. The after-market cockpit can wait for my project. The same goes for the bombardiers' station since that has also been started. Unfortunately, I found that some of the parts are damaged beyond repair. Hobby Lobby to the rescue!

to be continued - David Stiteler

Don't forget, next month's meeting will be Saturday, March 20, 12:00 noon till 2:00 pm and all members are urged to bring some new or old builds please.