



"STICKY FINGERS"

Magazine

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Issue 55 January 2009

Happy New Year

Peters Prattling	1
Next month – Annual General Meeting (AGM)	1
Trucks and Tracks Show.....	1
Aerospace Modeler Magazine	1
Forthcoming Shows in 2009.....	2
Robins Ruminations.....	2
Wrighty's Talking Point No 7.....	4
Modelling Rooms	4
Red Flag Update	6

Peters Prattling

Next month – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Or “Bunfight at the Hornchurch corral”

Yes it's your chance to volunteer for something or if you don't like the way the current incumbents have been running the show now's your chance to do something about it. Failing that tells us how well we've been doing and we may stay on. Thinking caps on for suggestions of subjects that we can fill up our meetings with.

Trucks and Tracks Show

I've received an invite from the show for our club. Are we interested in attending? It's on 28th February & 1st March

Dartmoor Military Models



I've been advised by John from Dartmoor that their prices have been reduced due to the VAT reduction and they are also offering a 10% discount for IPMS members.

Retail Price.	Discount Price.
£ 7.49	£ 6.60
£ 6.99	£ 6.15
£ 4.99	£ 4.40

Their product range can be seen at this web site.

<http://www.dartmoormilitarymodels.com/home.html>

Aerospace Modeler Magazine

Yes another “freebie”, I could get used to this! I've been sent a copy of this magazine, produced in the USA on a quarterly basis. It's now available in the UK via ADH Publishing, who also produce Tamiya Model Magazine.

I found it to be a really interesting read and many of the reviews and articles were in a style where I thought the writer had really put some thought from a modelling perspective on how the kit fitted or compared to other kits or plans. How many times have you read a review of a kit and come away with the impression that the modeller really built the kit? Much of the time it's just the standard “I started with the cockpit” phrases. I given it to Robin to have a read of but hopefully he'll bring it along for you to have a look at tonight.

More details here:-

<http://www.aerospacemodeler.co.uk/>



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Forthcoming Shows in 2009

Shows with highlight have been booked for us to attend. If you wish to attend any of the shows with the club stand please let me know so I can attempt to book space for the club.

2009	
1st February (Sunday)	Milton Keynes. Stantonbury Leisure Centre, MK14 6BN – We've been invited so I've asked for 2 tables in the same spot as last year.
14 th February (Saturday)	Yeovilton
15 th February (Sunday)	IPMS Wakefield - Huddersfield Sports Centre, Southgate, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD1 1TW
22 nd February (Sunday)	South Cheshire Militaire, Oakley Centre, Crewe
28 th February & 1 st March (Saturday & Sunday)	Trucks 'n' Tracks. Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Kent
7 th March (Saturday)	Somerset Show
8 th March (Sunday)	Northern Show (South Shields)
14 th March (Saturday)	Peterborough Model Show
14th & 15th March (Saturday & Sunday)	Southern Expo Model show – Hornchurch Sports Centre
4 th April (Saturday)	IPMS Abindon
5 th April (Sunday)	Shropshire Model Show – RAF Museum Cosford
19 th April (Sunday)	Hinkley Model Show
18 th & 19 th April (Saturday & Sunday)	Shepton Mallet
25 th & 26 th April (Saturday & Sunday)	Scottish Nationals, Perth
10 th May (Sunday)	IPMS Gloucester
30 th May (Saturday)	IPMS Salisbury. Wyvern College Sports Hall, Church Road, Leverstock, Salisbury SP1 1RE
31st May (Sunday)	IPMS Barnet Show at the RAF Museum Hendon I've requested space for this one.
28 th June (Sunday)	IPMS Coventry and Warwickshire
2 nd or 9 th August	Automodellismo 2009 , Donnington Museum
23 rd August (Sunday)	IPMS Avon
5 th September (Saturday)	IPMS West Cornwall
20 th September (Sunday)	IPMS Fenland. Spalding Grammar School, Priory Road, Spalding PE11 2XH Sutton Coldfield show
27 th September (Sunday)	IPMS Brampton – to be confirmed
7th & 8th November (Saturday & Sunday)	Scale Modelworld ("The Nationals"), International Centre, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4JH

Peter

Robins Ruminations

A belated Happy New Year to all the membership of I.P.M.S. Hornchurch, let us all hope that it will be a peaceful and "uneventful" year for us all in these troubled times. It is sometimes difficult trying to find something up-beat to put in an article when every newspaper or news program is so full of doom and gloom on the domestic and international front. However I must look on the bright side of things or at least as bright as they can be I guess.

A few things have recently happened that has made me think that things aren't all bad or as bad perhaps as they could be. During a lunch-break at work a few people, myself included, were generally bemoaning our lot at work as most people do about this and that. When we got up to return to work one of our group pointed at the television in the corner and said "well, at least we aren't there". It was film of bombs dropping on buildings in Gaza City; it put



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our "problems" a little more in perspective. The second was a phone call from a club member with an enquiry about tonight's Modeller of the Year competition. We got around to chatting on other modelling matters and came to the agreement that although prices were inevitably going to rise due to the fall in value of the Pound, to use an old phrase "we've never had it so good". Not since the glory days of Airfix have we been treated to the sheer number and diverse subjects being released in all scales and media. It is truly becoming difficult to think of a subject that has not been or is intended to be kitted by some manufacturer somewhere. Let's face it, a few years ago who would have thought that you would have seen a T.S.R. 2 in 72nd and now 48th scale, now with resin aftermarket parts, etched brass and more decal options than you could shake a stick at? Would anybody have predicted a 72nd Nimrod, 48th Canberra or 32nd Junkers 88? The number of large scale ships now being issued by manufactures is quite amazing, and so are some of the subjects. Even the armour modellers are now getting stuck for a choice of subject with even prototype and limited issued subjects being kitted and covered by aftermarket suppliers. So our chosen hobby, far from dying as predicted a few years ago by industry experts, is enjoying a real and sustained renaissance.

Lastly was something that somebody said on the lunchtime show on Radio 2 made me smile and puts all the doom and gloom merchants seen on T.V., read in print and heard on the radio in their correct light and position. It went something like "All the city and Government experts are predicting all sorts of things. If they are really such experts in financial matters, how did we get into this mess and why didn't they see it coming until it bit them on the bum?" So I will take a hopeful outlook and say if they didn't see it coming, perhaps they are as much in the dark about it as we are and are overestimating how bad things are. Well you've got to look on the bright side of life, cue the Monty Pythons music!

For once Santa didn't put anything plastic in my sack at Christmas; however I did get a rather nice book, the history of JG 300, part 1. I already had part 2 and had resisted from reading it until I had the first part of the unit's history. So not much modelling has been done over the intervening period as I have been "busy" reading these two books.

Southern Expo is beginning to come to life again, as it does at this time of year. Peter and I are going over all last year's records and notes to make sure that nothing has been missed or forgotten. I am now busy chasing the last few traders for their cheques and generally making sure that the financial side of things are in place to pay the bills. Peter is still sorting out and fending off enquiries from trader's for space and will soon start his Chinese puzzle of attempting to fit all the clubs and traders in their desired, possible or respective places. If last year was anything to go by, that puzzle will not be finally resolved until around 16:00 on the Friday afternoon that we set up Expo!

My official hat is now on.

Tonight is the Modeller of the Year competition with our friends from Southend kindly visiting us to do a bit of impartial judging. Good luck to all those taking part in tonight competition and a big thank you for the judges for turning out tonight.

Due to the change around in the clubs "year", next month is the A.G.M. So if anybody has anything at all they wish to raise, query or generally get it off their chests, even get rid of your useless committee, please tell Peter, Bob or myself and we'll get it written into the next issue of Sticky Fingers ready for everybody to discuss. The next club meet will also be when we decide the next year's calendar of events, so please give this matter some thought and have some suggestions ready please.

Also for next month, please remember to bring along your Airfix model or models, finished or not, so we can see how large or small the display on the Hornchurch's club stand will be. This will help in sorting out how much room will be left for our other models. If anybody has any old Airfix header papers or old boxes could they please bring those along as it may be possible to incorporate them in the display.

Robin



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Wrighty's Talking Point No 7

Modelling Rooms

Congratulations to Robin on his interesting story of how he achieved a dedicated modelling space and desk after only 10 years of constant struggle against domesticity. He certainly has produced some super models during that time so watch out now he has the "ideal" setup for a clean sweep of the trophies.

Really though it made me feel how fortunate I am to have a fully dedicated model room with desk by the window, a bookcase with model display case on top, also an old sideboard, which doubles as a filling cabinet of reference materials which contains kits, modelling and art materials. The walls are decorated with various military pictures and some of my own paintings.

I was wondering how many other club members have some form of permanent modelling area (cue Kylie Mynogue "I should be so lucky!") from some. Obviously having sufficient space in your home is a major requirement, but then you need to be somewhat handy at woodwork and design to utilize any area available. I have made 4 display cases, 2 of which have bookshelf space.

Having achieved the above, the next requirement is an understanding wife (or partner). Having had mine for 47 years, that is taken for granted (but not your wife I would hope – Ed!) We also have the capacity of a spare reception room, in which I have filled 2 display cases, one on either side of the chimney breast in the alcoves. These to house my collection of 1/72nd scale models and books. My wife also has a display cabinet containing her crockery, photos and dolls, we tend to call it the "museum", but it also provides a dining room which will draw plenty of conversation from guests. The dining table can be placed in front of the window for use of the laptop computer or for when I wish to follow my other hobby of colour painting.



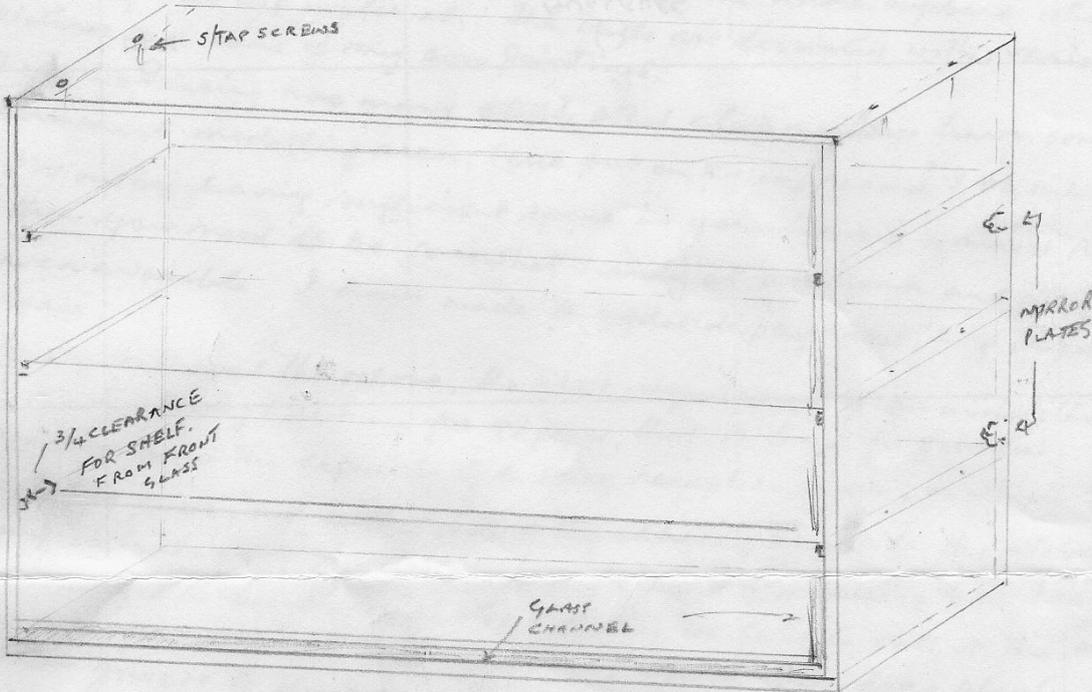
In case you may be daunted at the thought of making a large display case I suggest a simple wall mounted frame cabinet as an easy start. I used this principle for a 24"x16"x6" with 4 shelves to contain 32 die cast 1/18th superbikes (see photo), though it could also be suited to 1/72nd scale AFVs, figures or 1/44th scale figures, the choice is yours.



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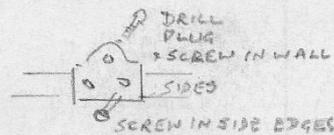
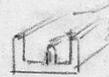
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FRAME TYPE WALL MOUNTED DISPLAY CASE

1. FRAME FROM 6" WIDE CONTI-BOARD (HOMEBASE), NOTE THE TOP & BOTTOM OVERLAP THE SIDES (SO REDUCE THE SIDES BY THE THICKNESS OF THE CONTIBOARD).
2. DRILL THE BOTTOM BOARD WITH 2 HOLES EACH END, THEN THE SAME WITH THE TOP BOARD. (SO THE HOLES MEET THE CENTRE OF THE SIDE PANELS)
3. SET UP SIDES ON BOTTOM PANEL WITH SET SQUARE, THEN A SLIVER OF BOSTIK TO JOINING FACE AND SCREW HOME SELF TAPPING SCREWS.
4. SHELF BEARERS ARE FROM 1/2 SQ BEADING, DECIDE ON YOUR SHELF LAYOUT (I.E. 4 EQUAL OR 1 LARGE / 2 SMALL ETC) DRILL AND SCREW BEARERS TO SIDE PANELS PRIOR TO STAGE 3
5. YOU CAN NOW MEASURE FOR GLASS SHELVES, NOTE THAT GLASS EDGES SHOULD BE DRESSED SMOOTH ATX GLASS SHOP TO DO THIS (ALSO ALLOW 3/4" CLEARANCE)
6. YOU NOW NEED SOME PLASTIC CHANNEL FOR THE FRONT GLASS, THIS IS GLUED LEVEL WITH THE FRONT & SIDES OF THE DISPLAY CASE
7. WHEN DRY SLIP THE FRONT GLASS PANEL INTO THE 3 CHANNEL LOCATIONS. THE CASE IS THEN SECURED TO THE WALL WITH 4 MIRROR PLATES
8. NOW SET UP YOUR DISPLAY, DROP IN THE FRONT GLASS AND SECURE THE PORTABLE TOP LID WITH ST SCREWS.

THIS IS FOR A 24" X 16" CASE, YOU COULD DECIDE YOUR OWN SIZES PREFERABLY, SMALLER AS WEIGHT IS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION.





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Red Flag Update

Following on from Talking Point 5 & 6, we had reached a point where the World banking crisis had arrived and was likely to throw a cloak of despondency over the major powers futures with regard to air and sea power, as to whether the development previously discussed hardware of the future could be sustained in the bleak financial future. Therefore the review of what we and others have at present now takes on a more pertinent role. Most of what's available now was covered in Talking Points 4 to 6. So next comes the results of the latest tests. This is best judged by looking at the annual "Red Flag" exercises at Nellis AFB in Nevada USA.

Operating from 22/07/08 to 21/08/08 this was attended by the hosts USA (F-15 & F-16s), Turkey (AF-16 Gruppens), Brazil (F-5 Tigers), France (Rafales), South Korea (F-15K Eagles) and India (Su-30MKIs), plus Sweden in the later stages.

Brazilian F-5s were upgraded machines but their country was very interested in the performances of the other participants, as they look to find a replacement for their F-5s, they would select what impressed them most.

The Indian Air Force were more interested in how their Russian built Su-30s performed against the USAF's F-15C Eagles, F-15E Strike Eagles & F-16s in defensive & ground attack with simulated air to ground missile attacks and various other strategies. The IAF seemed well satisfied and claims they learnt valuable lessons. Presumably the USAF were equally pleased also, to learn more about this (possible aggressor?) within the next few years.

Swedens later involvement with their JAS-39 Grippens played a major role doing composite air support of various roles and bombing with GBU-12 laser bombs and traditional ordnance on the bomb ranges. Presumably the Turkish F-16s also participated.

The Korean F-15K Strike Eagles and French Rafales joined the US forces as "Red Force", presumably to further extend the testing against the Russian/Indian Su-30s (Blue Force) even further against Western types.

It should be noted that in mid-2007 the IAF Su-30MKIs came to England and took part in exercises against and in conjunction with the Eurofighter Typhoon. So largely in all existing Western types have "had a go" at this (possible) opponent. The reports vary from good to indifferent depending on who is writing them. However I selected this one published in Jan 2009 Air Forces Monthly:-

The basis of the letter on the Su-30MKI is its performance in Red Flag in response to a leaked video on YouTube backed by wild claims of a US F-15 pilot. It states that no thrust vectoring or 1v1s were undertaken at Nellis AFB. The 1v1s were prior to Red Flag at Mountain Home AFB where no Su-30s were ever vulnerable let alone shot down in exercise here. The letter goes on to say all exercises were ACMI (Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation) and recorded. Therefore detailed data on whether thrust vectoring was important or not could be analysed and compared to the F-22 Raptor. His claim is the US fail to mention this as they possibly would be seen as inferior by it. The Su-30 radar was claimed to be superior to the F-15 & F-16, a point accepted by the US but inferior to the F-22. However the F-22 was not present at Red Flag and the writer claims the Su-30 radar was only used in training mode, thus downplaying its performance. (It should be noted that this radar was not used and kept secret when the Su-30s visited England for operations with the Eurofighter Typhoons, so one thinks it must be a bit special! AFW)

He goes on to excuse some problems encountered with the Su-30s on communications due to language accents, inefficient equipment and poor air control (well maybe) but his final words are very true:-

"The true lesson for the USAF should be, do not field low value legacy equipment against the Su-30MKI; it is understood that the kill rate at Mountain Home AFB was 21 to 1 in favour of the Su-30.

P. Singh, Editor Vaval India."

Even if this claim was reduced by 50% the resultant 10 to 1 claim seems a little too much to ignore does it not? Even with aging equipment (F-15s) the answer seems to be more F-22s as quick as possible please, but with only 1 group only 2/3rds equipped and a 2nd group forming only in autumn 2008 you can see where the world cash crisis could have an effect on this strategy.

Alan