

THE LONG ISLAND SCALE MODEL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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November 2007

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The Prez Sez - Howie Belkin

Thanx to **Matt's** DVD production of our RepLIcon show, Mosquitocon, and my (Howie's) 2007 IPMS National Convention shots for the excellent slideshow last month. With an assist by **Bob**, the gremlins were kept at bay so after a short delay the show went on.

This month's meeting is November 27th – out last formal meeting and contest of the year, featuring an extra theme award “It's not my kind of model”. This award will be for a type of model you usually don't build – if you're known as an a/c builder and bring in an outstanding figure or armor builder and bring in an a/c – you've got a shot at this month's theme award! Please lend **Fred** a hand judging. We also will hear **John Musolino** speak of his USAF service, complete with his excellent photos. There will be our Show and Tell, raffle, coffee and donuts as usual, of course. There'll be a break in the schedule to announce our raffle winners.

This is your last chance to bring something in for Iraq for it to arrive in 2007. Please bring in unbuilt, complete models, model supplies (yes, glue, paint, paint brushes) and sundry CARE pkg items for our troops in Iraq like tooth brushes, toothpaste, candy Kool-Aid packets, etc. **Fred** received an excellent thanks, in addition to the one presented by **Richie Marotta**, now on display in the AAP Museum. The folks there already received the pkg he sent out last month, which in addition to your contributions, included some real nice stuff from **Frank DeSisto**, a great friend living in the city of **Brooklyn**. See **Fred** for this next pkg and throw in a prayer for his son's safe return.

Thanx again to **Gerard Street Antiques, Matt Stahl, Steve Andreano, Roger Carrano, John Lam, Rich Marotta, Freddie Seitz, my son, Justin, and myself** for schlepping our new showcase: Grosse Tante Bertha – that's “Big Aunt Bertha” – to the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale (AAM). In fact, it couldn't have been done without **John's wife Kitty Law**, lending moral support! And of course, thanks to **Gary Lewi** (for) giving our case its new home in AAM and all of you who helped fill it. As I write, the Cradle (CAM) is moving and preparing their case for our display and thanx to you all for making that happen as well. Matt and I recce CAM on open cockpit weekend and in addition to taking care

of business, got to try on an Avenger and an F-14 to name just two of the aircraft opened up to visitors. I hope this is the first of many such occasions at CAM and that the AAM will follow suit. Do you know somebody debating whether they should join our club? Ask them if they would like to display their models in a world class museum?! Or try on a real airplane for size. Just a couple of membership benefits.

Final arrangements are being made with **Delmonico's** for a return of our year end pizza party. Details will follow – please let me know if you can come, home many in your party and that Mon night 12/10 was OK for you. We need a definite head count at the club meeting. It is FREE to you and your immediate family (thanx to profits from RepLICon). Like last year, bring a wrapped 'up to \$10 grab bag gift' for another anonymous LISMS member if you want to participate in it. We will also award those of you who helped in the museum displays, and a few of you who have earned an award in the eyes of your fellow club members. I've said it before and say it again – you guys make me proud, stepping up when volunteers are asked for and for your generosity and participation!

I'm also writing prior to the "Freeport Figure Show" but appreciate your help if you participated in running the LISMS table or helped judge the plastic model categories. I was unable to attend the LIARS Model Car Show but hope it was a big success. If you can make it, **Dec. 15th** is our sponsor **Marx-Man's** own "**New Yorker**" show at the Adria Hotel in Bayside.

Our Newsletter editor Steve Muth has a policy of running exclusive submissions so you won't see the reviews I do for IPMSUSA.org here but FYI I just finished a review of the new 1/72 Tamiya Ju 87B-2/R-2 Stuka finished in the desert scheme with the cartoon crow insignia on a green splotch over sand camo scheme. I think Steve will allow me to quote: "I painted my model with enamels, using Freeman's Facial peel off Mask (Cucumber) to mask the green spots, before spraying my desert sand. This product was recommended by our Long Island chapter (LISMS) member Seamus Boughe during a clinic he gave. You get a lifetime supply in a store's beauty supply department for less than you pay for a modeler's equivalent. Just don't leave it on too long before you remove it or you'll need to soak it in water to get it off (don't ask how I know)...." I've since learned that certain pkgs of Special K cereal have coupons for a free Freeman's product if you want to take cheap to the extreme! BTW, if you're not a member of IPMS-USA, why aren't you?

We're also still nailing down a meeting place for 2008 and it appears we have a couple of options thanx to a couple of you who did some serious recce for us but truth be told, for something this important, not many of you did make that effort to talk to your library or VFW etc. FYI, once again IPMS comes to the rescue as through them we have a major insurance policy that some places now require and it costs us zilch, nada, not a penny. We haven't signed a contract yet so you can still look into a possible meeting place and get back to me on the double.

Welcome to two Hobby Shops who have paid to run their business cards with us and have supported us in the past: Alsand's (Alan and Sandy) in Deer Park just east of Rte 231 and Hurricane (Russ and Jerry) in Centereach, just east of the Smithaven Mall. They're both worth a trip from anywhere and like all our supporters, are invited to submit hobby or shop news to our editor or webmaster for mention to you. While Alsand's is on line at www.alsandmdseco.com (with only part of the inventory), Hurricane can be reached by phone or email at RCRuss78@aol.com. As with all our supporters they'll offer you a discount if you spend some money – understandably it's hard for a shop to commit to a blanket discount then cheap Howie walks in and spends \$10 and wants a 20% discount – ain't gonna Happen! Tell them you're from the club and make a decent purchase and let us know about your experience and we'll tell the world. I hadn't been in Alsand's in a while and I was really impressed by how they've filled their shop with more and more plastic "stuff" to make a plastic modeler happy. In fact they had just returned from the big Chicago Hobby Trade Show, probably the only shop owners on LI who made the trek – and rubbed shoulders with the movers and shakers of the industry. Maybe that's why Alsand's has a big leg up over most others in stocking the newest of what's new already in their store. In fact Sandy mentioned to me to look out for their Black

Friday super sale, the Friday after thanksgiving (11/22) for unbelievable deals. In a time when new businesses close their doors during the first couple of years in business, Alsand's has truly "...grown to become a full service hobby shop specializing in... various scales.... Kits... supplies (including Vallejo paints and tools), reference books... (even airbrushes and resin casting products to make your own molds and parts. They're open evenings all week and long hours during the weekend. It ain't just a Toy Soldier shop any more!

Don't blow off Hurricane Hobbies either, because they've been around a loooong time but haven't remained static as their static display plastic models and supplies have taken over more and more of their store! Maybe because co-owner Jerry is also a plastic model builder (took home a first place at last year's RepLlcon!) and brother Russ knows his stuff as well. In fact Jerry's been running his own version of "Make n Take" teaching modelers how to build models. It's hard to please everyone all the time but Hurricane's got a pretty nice selection of car, aircraft and armor models, but you might have to ask to see all those accessories that push a model over the top as a lot of small stuff is neatly stashed behind the counter. That's one of the things Alsand's and Hurricane share in common: Neat! Not only do they have a lot of "stuff" but the stores are 'neat' so you can easily find what you're looking for. Plus they're 'neat' in the adjective 'cool' meaning of the word as well!! If you're of the mind that 'there's no good hobby shops anymore' you've got to open your eyes and get off your butt! Both Alsand's and Hurricane are as good or better than the hobby shops of my youth, and I can't express enough how lucky we are to have them and our other hobby shops fairly close to home. Talk to modelers elsewhere in the country and you'll learn that most have no shops within 100 miles and many of those shops aren't worth a trip if they were next door, or are cookie cutter chain stores that just don't have what we want. In most cases, if one of our local shops doesn't have what you want they'll get it, quickly. If you want to have a hobby shop where you can go and look and touch and see models or the supplies you've heard about, then turn off the naysayers and pay our supporters a visit! This last month of the year is crucial as most shops will look at their sales and determine how to make 2008 more successful. So make believe you're the President (of the nation, not LISMS) and spend money like never before!

The holidays are coming and **Lou**, among others, indicated it would be a great idea to send holiday cards to our servicemen and women recovering from grievous physical and mental wounds. Instead of "lip service", actually do something. Regardless of politics, if you would like to see the USA win, then you should do this. Because there are %^(*@\$^ people who DON'T want us to win, you can no longer send even a card to an anonymous "Recovering Soldier" or similar title to any of our facilities. Instead of sending an "Any Wounded Soldier" letter or package to Walter Reed etc., please make a donation to one of the more than 300 nonprofit organizations helping out troops and their families listed on [www.americasupportsyou](http://www.americasupportsyou.mil).mil. Anonymous pkgs aren't accepted due to the decision by 2001's Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Transportation Policy. Neither is the U.S. Postal Service. Organizations that offer means of showing your support for our troops or assist wounded service members and their families include:

<http://www.usocares.org/>

<http://www.redcross.org><<http://redcross.org>>

<http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/>

Or visit your local military installation, the local National Guard or Military Reserve Unit or VA hospital or nursing home to show your support to our returning troops and families. Walter Reed etc. will continue to deliver all mail that is addressed to specific individuals. The outpouring of encouragement from the general public, corporate America, and civic groups throughout the past year has been incredible. Our warriors in Transition are amazed at the thanks and support they receive from their countrymen. (I may have a couple of names/addresses for you shortly – **Howie**)

Don't forget to wear something red this Friday – and every Friday until the troops all come home, and send a deafening message that every red-blooded American supports our servicemen and women.

The Kit

Body:

The body is good, but not up to current Tamiya kit standards. This kit only set me back \$13.95 at Bayshore Hobby, which is about 1/3 the price of the new Tamiya releases. There was no warpage, but a few sink marks here and there, which were filed in with Mr. Surfacer 500 putty. Most of the work required is to the hood. The body was primed with Tamiya primer, then Model Master non-buffing Aluminum paint. After four coats of Tamiya clear coat, the body was polished out with 3000 to 12000 micro-mesh grit wet and dry paper and a coat of model wax. Two separate trees of clear styrene are provided for the glass up front and back along with side windows and front and back lights. No mask is provided for the windshields.

One plus is that the body is it is all molded in one piece, so you don't have to glue on the front and rear ends as most other kits. A rear spoiler is also provided which I deleted from my kit build and simply filled in the two mounting holes.

Engine:

The engine represented in this kit is a 4.6L SOHC V8 motor with a manual gearbox that is comprised of 22 parts in gray styrene; six steps are required to assemble this GT motor. A separate dual exhaust system is nicely reproduced as a single part, some clean up will be required on the mold seams. The battery, windshield washer, radiator overflow and power steering reservoirs are molded into the engine compartment. Air Filter intake is provided as a separate part. The serpentine drive belt arraignment matches perfectly with the real 4.6 V8 engine. Decals are included for the radiator shroud and underside of hood. Overall this kit has a very nice representation of the 300 horsepower motor.

Chassis:

The Suspension is nicely represented with the larger front and rear stabilizer/sway bars found on the GT's. Front independent suspension and rear control arms and axel are nicely recreated. Front and rear disk brakes assemblies are included. The chassis has molded in fuel line, fuel filter, brake lines, and fuel tank. With my next build of this kit, I will lower both the front and rear suspension, since I feel that the car sits too high once fully assembled.

Wheels and Tires:

The kit includes the 17" wheel and tire combination. These are found on the chrome tree, the production GT had an option for these wheels to be machined aluminum, so you will need to spray a coat of clear Dullcote to simulate the same finish. I tried this first, but unfortunately some of the Dullcote came off during mounting the tires, so removed all the chrome and repainted with Model Masters Metalizer paint. I really wish this kit had the 18" optional wheels used on the 2007 model year.

Decals:

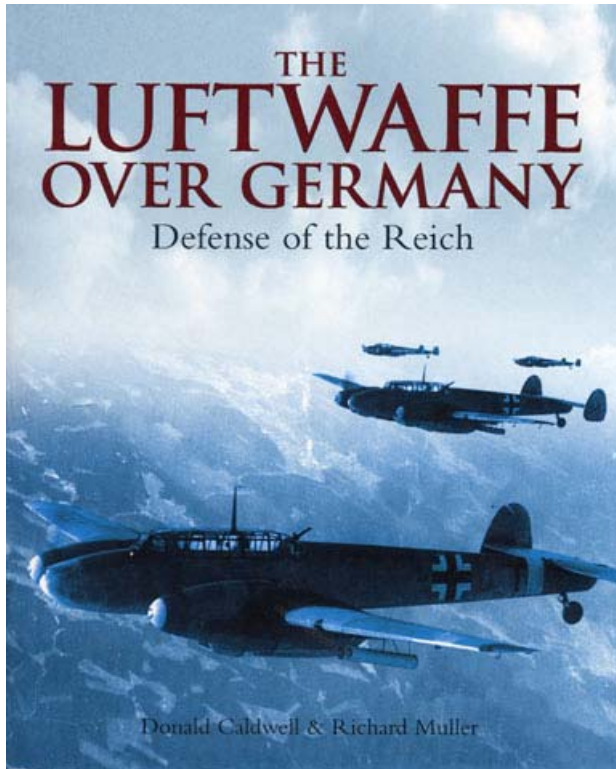
The decals are crisp and in register and go on with no problem. Options for four different instrument clusters are provided as well as all the decals for the engine compartment. The racing strips are either dark black or silver on the sheet and I decided not to use them since the gap was too wide between the strips after looking at the real cars out on the street.

Conclusion:

All parts trees came wrapped separately, but the chrome parts weren't up to Tamiya standards. Some parts had minor fit problems during the final assemble, so dry-fit the body pieces and main interior/chassis components before gluing the parts together. The directions were incorrect during step two. Missing is the installation of the engine into the chassis. No parts were found damaged or loose from the parts trees. The kit has 105 parts total, which took me about 25 hours to build. I would recommend this kit.

BOOK REVIEW

The Luftwaffe Over Germany – Defense of The Reich” by Donald Caldwell & Richard Muller, Greenhill Books, London - MBI Publishing, St. Paul, 2007, 336 pages, 186 B&W photos, ~\$50.00



This is a fascinating treatise on the organization and effectiveness of the Luftwaffe Day Fighter Command (DVL) from its formation in 1914 through the end of the Second World War, with the emphasis on the period of WW II.

The authors look at the command and control, organization, technological development and the German war economy and then explore the detrimental affect of the Luftwaffe theory and doctrine on the German air arm's ability to defend the homeland once the allied Combined Bomber Offensive began in earnest. They reveal how both sides misinterpreted the results of the early engagements and flavor the chronological discussion with revealing key day by day engagements right up to the end of the conflict. All the while, describing the response and counter responses of both sides. The book spends considerable time examining the changes in organizational changes in the

Luftwaffe and in how politics pervaded almost every aspect of the Luftwaffe air campaign.

The book is very readable and gives fascinating insight to how the air war was viewed and fought on each side. Although having over 186 photographs, it is not a picture book. Most of the photos are small and not very crisp but many are new to this reviewer. The book is published on good quality opaque paper. I am sure it will be a reference book for air war historians.

It will not be everybody's cup of tea but if you like military history or command, control and tactics of air war, this book is for you. It is well researched, fully annotated and has four pages listing published sources. A quality work.

Models Wanted/Trade

From Howie Belkin – My friend Mike ctiger101@aol.com wrote: "I have the following old kits I want to trade for.....although I could sell them, I mainly want the old 1/72 ESCI/Aurora M-4 Sherman kit with the engine.... The older plastic seems to be better to work with than the re-packaged Italeri version...." If you can help or are interested, please contact him.

List – 1/72
ESCI Panzer IV (bagged)
ESCI Bofors and Morris Tractor
ERTL 155 mm Gun Carriage (2)
ESCI Churchill IV (2)
ESCI 25 lber ... Bishop
ESCI Panzer III
ESCI Stug III
ESCI Wespe
Aurora/ESCI M3 Scout Car
Dragon Panzer IV/E

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOBBY SHOP

We all buy mail order sometimes – we don't want to wait for an accessory or exotic kit only available overseas or direct from the manufacturer like Model Design Construction. BUT, we also like to have a place where we can see the product with our own eyes before laying out the cash. We also like to talk to others, like ourselves, and to knowledgeable shopkeepers.


The following Hobby Shops have supported us and are supporting us by paying for ad space here and on our web. Some have also donated raffle prizes for our meetings and our annual RepLIcon. **We owe it to them to patronize their store** even if we could buy the item for a slightly lower price mail order or on the web. And don't forget to mention that you are a member of the LISMS and appreciate his or her support. Everybody likes a thank you.

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TO:

Our November meeting will be at the Levittown Library on November 27th at 8:00PM. There will be the last contest of the year. Bring something! The extra theme award will be “It’s not my kind of model”. John M will tell of his USAF service...

There will also be the usual coffee and doughnuts, show and tell, Raffle, etc.