

**IPMS FAME CITIES
NEWSLETTER**

AKRON/CANTON, OHIO

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 7

AUGUST, 2006



President

Al Imler (red-ripper11@hotmail.com)

Vice President

Ed Kinney (emkinney1@aol.com)

Secretary

Rick Slagle (IPMS34473@hotmail.com)

Treasurer

Joe Staudt (jstaudt@neo.rr.com)

Newsletter Editor/Chapter Contact

Bob Ulrich (bulrich@neo.rr.com)

For a summer month the July meeting drew a good turnout, and another nice group of models. After a month's absence President Al Imler returned, with a lot of business. As noted in the previous newsletter, we now have dates at the library for the balance of 2006. The dates are listed below for your convenience. Efforts to secure a different meeting venue are continuing, but no progress has been made as of this date.

Upcoming contests were also discussed, and again those details are listed elsewhere on this page. Our annual picnic date was set at the July meeting for Sunday, September 24. Details will be provided in the next newsletter.

After much discussion it was decided that the Group Build entry planned for the 2006 IPMS Nationals would not be taken this year due to the number of finished models being too few to successfully compete at that level. This did not meet with universal approval. A number of Fame Cities members plan to attend the Nationals, so we will be represented, and it is hoped that by next year's convention the Group Build will have grown to the point that it can be entered.

By the time you read this the 2006 Nationals will be history, and we can expect a report from our attendees at the August meeting. Scale Scribblings will, of course, cover our members' experiences as well.

Next meeting August 16

Green Public Library

ANNUAL PICNIC

September 24, 2006 at 1:00 PM, held at Ed Kinney's home as usual. Details in next month's newsletter.

2006 Contest Dates

September Picnic Contest - Build What You Don't Normally Build sponsored by Ed Kinney. Prizes are gift certificates to Amers Hobbies.

October Contest - Build Anything, but include at least two scratch built items. Sponsored by Amers Hobbies.

December Contest - National Guard and Reserves, sponsored by Ralph Nollen.

2006 Meeting Dates

September No Meeting at Library (Picnic)

October 11 (Note this is the second Wednesday)

November 15

December 20 (Christmas Party)

Inside

A first look at Hasegawa's new tool P-400 Airacobra kit.



Scale Scribblings

August 2006 Vol 2, Number 7

Models for July



Ralph Nollen



Andy Miday

Another good turnout of models in July. The abortive Group Build brought out several 1/32 Messerschmitts, but there was plenty of variety as well.



Jerry Royer



P-47 D - Ralph Nollen



Ed Kinney



Arado AR-234 - Steve Brooks



F-104A - Bob Ulrich



Nanchang CJ-6 - Steve Dottavio
There is a story that goes with this model.....



ME 110 - Jan Hubert (1/72)



Crusader MKII - John Shimek



M48 Patton - John Shimek - this is the same tank from last month, but on a new base.

Scale Scribblings

August 2006 Vol 2, Number 7

More July Models

Larry Davis brought a trifecta of car models. Keep in mind, Larry is also an aircraft modeler, and a master of Bare-Metal foil.....



Kudos to everyone who graced the tables with models. Fame Cities is consistently turning out a dazzling array of models each month, even in mid-summer. This is traditionally not a prolific time of year for model building. We clearly have a group of exceptional builder assembled here.



'32 Ford Street Rod



'67 Chevelle SS



'59 Chrysler Imperial

Works In Progress



KI-84 Frank (Tamiya) by Bill Weckel



ME-109 in Swiss markings by John Keller



Gary Wolfe's methodically progressing Yorktown

Scale Scribblings

mmmmm 2006 Vol 1, Number1

Hasegawa P-400 Airacobra An in-box review by Bob Ulrich

A few years ago Eduard released their quarter-scale P-39/P-400 kit series, and took the modeling world by storm. The Eduard Airacobra was a quantum improvement over the old (but not bad) Monogram kit. Although they suffered from slightly thick trailing edges on the flying surfaces, and a few other minor faults, the Eduard kits were marvelous, and nearly up to the standards of the best Japanese manufacturers. Thus, when Hasegawa recently announced a new-tool P-400 the universal reaction was Why? Having had an opportunity to examine the kit first hand I still can't really answer that question.



Hasegawa's new P-400 is clearly the first of a series, judging by the parts breakdown and the use of inserts for gun muzzles and the like. This should be less annoying than their previous P-40 kit series, if only because the differences between the various P-39 versions are less extensive than the differences between, say a P-40E and a P-40N.



The kit consists of 103 parts molded in Hasegawa light gray, 16 parts in clear, and a sprue of poly caps. Surface detail is crisp and sharp, and dry fitting of the fuselage and wings revealed no obvious fit problems. The clear parts are very well done (a Hasegawa trait), and also appear to fit very well. The fit of these parts is crucial, given the vast expanse of glass the P-39 had. Hasegawa followed Eduard's practice of molding both car doors entirely in clear. This allows the window area to be masked and the rest of the door painted with no need to fit a separate clear part. One of the few complaints about the Eduard kit was the fit of the doors in the closed position. Hasegawa appears to have done a little better in this area.

Cockpit detail is quite good, a bit better in some ways than Eduard's (which itself is pretty good). Sidewall detail, especially, is superior to the Eduard kit, and I appreciated the separate molding of the throttle quadrant. One real failing of the otherwise well done cockpit in Hasegawa's P-40 kits was the seat, which in 1:1 scale would have had sides made of about one inch plate. The P-400 seat is much better, and only needs belts to finish it off. Other detail areas are also nicely done, the wheel wells in particular being much more detailed than the Eduard offering, although the depth of the main gear wells looks a bit shallow. Interior ducting is provided for the air intake behind the engine, a nice touch. Both the six and twelve stack exhausts are provided, a sure sign of other versions to come. Landing gear is nicely done, and the main gear tires are flattened and molded in one piece. Stores include drop tanks and bombs.

Two sets of markings are included, a shark mouthed bird from Guadalcanal that is otherwise rather plain, and another shark mouthed plane from New Guinea, the famous Whal-Eye II. Instrument panel decals are included, along with bomb striping, walkways, and a full array of stencilling. My experience with recent Hasegawa decals has been pretty positive, but if you prefer there are plenty of aftermarket markings for Airacobras out there.

So what's the verdict? I Could probably have been happy with the Eduard kit and had Hasegawa do some more needed subject like a 50's jet or an F-22, but overall I like this kit. It compares very well with the Eduard kit, and at the discounted prices I've seen on the net it's a bargain.

