

**IPMS FAME CITIES
NEWSLETTER**

AKRON/CANTON, OHIO

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Next meeting January 18

Green Public Library

December Contest

National Guard and Reserves

Lots of news this month. I sincerely hope that all of you had a safe and joyful holiday season, and that you can all stick to that diet you started on January 2.

The December meeting was very well attended (free pizza had nothing to do with that, though), and a (partially) new slate of officers was elected. Our new President is Al Imler, our new Vice -President is Ed Kinney, and Joe Staudt and Rick Slagle will continue as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Thanks to Steve Dottavio and John Noack for their service in 2005.

One issue discussed at the meeting was the possible loss of our library meeting room due to scheduling conflicts. I am pleased to report that this has been resolved, to our benefit. Outgoing President Steve Dottavio went directly to the library manager and secured firm dates on our usual third Wednesday through the month of June 2006. This is very good news, and we thank Steve for his efforts.

December was also a contest month, and a full report will be found elsewhere in this newsletter. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in the new year.

Our traditional December National Guard and Reserves contest, sponsored by Ralph Nollen, was well supported and brought out some fine models. First Place went to Andy Miday's 1/32 scale F-4G, converted from the Tamiya kit. Yours truly took Second Place with a 1/48 scale F-106A, built from the Monogram kit. Third Place was awarded to Jerry Royer's Ohio Air Guard F-84G, built from the Revell-Monogram kit. The winners received beautiful plaques from sponsor Ralph Nollen, and as usual competition was stiff. A number of members have expressed an interest in sponsoring future contests, with some intriguing themes, so there is more contest fun coming in 2006.



Second Prize winner F-106A of the Michigan ANG by Bob Ulrich



First and Second Place winners Andy Miday and Bob Ulrich with sponsor Ralph Nollen. Third Place winner Jerry Royer could not be present.



Andy's First Prize winning Idaho ANG F-4G



This Ohio ANG F-84G took Third for Jerry Royer

December Meeting and Christmas Party



Rick Slagle brought this Hummer



Mark Smith's F-18 Hornet



Ken Patterson's Me-109. Ken's attempt to pass this off as being from the Munich Air National Guard was unsuccessful.

There were lots of models on the table in December, both contest entries and non-contest items. Due to camera malfunction (actually an operator malfunction - low batteries) I once again had to call on Ken Patterson to document things - thanks Ken! The December meeting also saw the election by acclamation of Al Imler as President, Ed Kinney as Vice-President, Rick Slagle as Secretary and Joe Staudt as Treasurer. Congratulations to all, and Thanks to Steve Dottavio and John Noack for their efforts in 2005. They leave the chapter in good hands.

The large turnout of members also enjoyed pizza and drinks courtesy of the club, as well as a large selection of cookies, pies and other goodies brought in by the membership. Thanks to all, and to Joe Staudt for picking up the pizza. After stuffing ourselves we enjoyed conversation and fellowship, a fitting end to our year.



Jamie again - of course.



F-86 by Gary Raymond



An interesting work by
Ron Von Kaenal



These trucks from the November meeting were also by Ron - my apologies to Ron for the lack of credit in last month's newsletter.



A work in progress by Jamie Rahmoeller



Steve Reisch's F-89 Scorpion

Tamiya P-47M

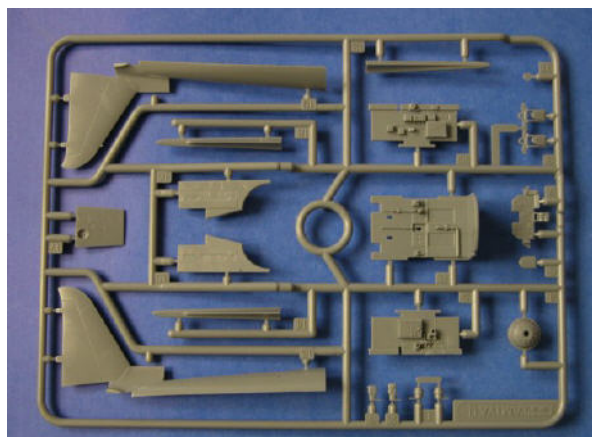
First Look - In Box Review



When Tamiya released their 1/48 scale Thunderbolts, it was obvious from the parts breakdown that they had plans to kit the later bubbletop versions (the -D-30 at a minimum). These versions featured a revised cockpit and other detail differences from the earlier marks. The late block D models were followed by the P-47M, which was fitted with an immensely powerful Pratt and Whitney engine developing 2800 horsepower, making it the hottest of the Thunderbolt series. Other late block and 'M' version differences included dive brakes under the wings, which necessitated relocating the landing light, and the addition of a strake or fin extension to the vertical tail to address the loss of high speed stability incurred when the rear fuselage was cut down to accommodate the bubble canopy.

From the modeling perspective, the most visible changes are the flat cockpit floor, as opposed to the corrugated floor of earlier versions; a different instrument panel and revised arrangement of sidewall equipment; the vertical fin extension (which came in different configurations, making the modeler's task more challenging); the dive brakes; and a radically reshaped engine front reduction gear housing.

The promise of later Thunderbolt versions from Tamiya has been realized in a big way with the release of the P-47M. This kit not only allows the 'M' to be modeled, but also any late block 'D', since all of the parts from the original bubbletop release are still included. In this sense, the kit is a real bargain, opening up many options to the modeler. One example is the famous 'TarHeel Hal', a stunningly colorful late 'D' which sported the fin extension but had the earlier engine front. The parts in this kit can mixed and matched to accurately produce this and other very colorful late war Thunderbolts. As a note, Lifelike decals from Japan has a sheet featuring full markings for 'TarHeel Hal', and yes, I will be building it.



All of the new parts are located on a single sprue, which is simply added to the kit while all the original sprues are retained. All three of the fin extension variations are included, but my references indicate that very few 'M' models were fitted with the blunt ended extension common to the later P-47N, and that piece is not used on the aircraft for which markings are provided in this kit. Could there be a P-47N in Tamiya's future? The cockpit changes are pretty faithfully reproduced, but it appears that Tamiya used the same aircraft for reference which is pictured in the Detail and Scale book, since the right sidewall has the oxygen regulator but no hose! This oversight can be easily rectified, but it shows that even Tamiya is prone to errors. The more rounded engine reduction gear housing is nicely done, and revised magneto housings are provided. Tamiya even went so far as to mold new rudder pedals, which are correct but difficult to see on the completed model.

Markings for two birds from the 56th Fighter Group (the P-47M's only operator) are provided, with some striking nose art which will interest many modelers. These aircraft also feature the dark blue or black camouflage of late war Thunderbolts. Aftermarket sheets offer alternatives to the kit markings, including some aces birds, and as mentioned, markings for late block P-47D's also are readily available.

Based on the earlier releases in this series, construction should present no problems. I am very impressed with Tamiya's decision to include all the sprues from their earlier kit, which gives the modeler a lot of options. Highly recommended.

