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April News

The April meeting was held Monday, April 27 at the Perry Township Police Station. The March minutes were read and the officer's reports accepted. Treasurer Larry MacMillan reports \$1426.82 in our checking account and \$20.00 in the cash box. These totals do not reflect the cost of our IPMS Nationals trophy package, which has been paid.

After some deliberation it was decided to hold the May meeting on the 25th, even though this is Memorial Day. With no alternative to meeting on the fourth Monday of the month due to room availability we had little choice. The annual kit auction was also discussed, and the date has been set for Sunday July 19 at 1:00 PM at the home of MJ Kinney. MJ has graciously (as always) offered the use of her home to us. More information will be provided as the date nears.

www.famecities.com

Next meeting

May 25, 2015

Perry Township Police Station

AFV Club F-5E Review

Page 5



Under old business, Fame Cities has been re chartered with IPMS USA for 2015. A short report on the recent Region 4 convention in Dayton was presented by the members who attended.

In new business, we welcomed a new attendee, Chris Vandegriff of Portage Lakes. Chris builds aircraft and has recently returned to the hobby. During a discussion of the Stark Model show at Tuslaw High School it was noted that a member of the Mansfield chapter proposed a joint swap meet between our clubs. President John Shimek has the contact information and will pursue this idea.

After our usual discussion of model industry news, show and tell of the models on the tables was held, followed by voting on the theme contest.

Models on the Tables - April



Lindberg F-86A 1/48th Scale
Revell F-86D 1/48th Scale
Larry Davis



Heller F-86F 1/72nd Scale
AFV Club F-5E 1/48th Scale
Bob Ulrich



Italeri JU-52 3/M e59 1/72nd Scale
Italeri ME 110G-4 1/72nd Scale
Al Hubert



Polar Lights Grandpa Munster
Monogram P-51D 1/48th Scale
Tim Ries



Model Collect T-72M ERA 1/72nd Scale
Hasegawa T-76 1/72nd Scale
John Shimek

April Theme Contest Winners "Your First and Your Last"

First Place

Al Hubert

Italeri JU-52 3/M e59

Italeri ME-110G-4



Second Place

Bob Ulrich

Heller F-86F

AFV Club F-5E



Third Place

Larry Davis

Lindberg F-86A

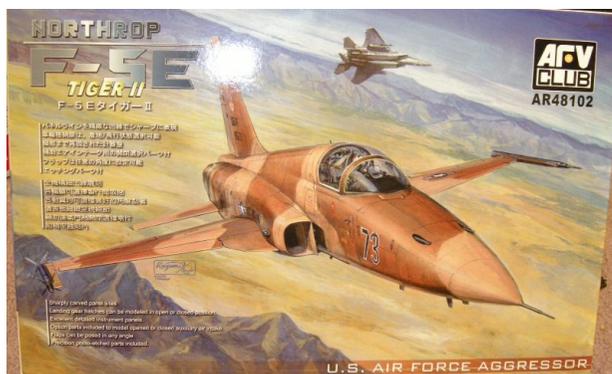
Revell F-86D



MODELER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

Updated through May 1, 2015

<i>Dave Ball</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Dave Blankenship</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Chuck Burkett</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Larry Davis</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Steve Dottavio</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Chip Eaton</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>John Exton</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Mark Gamble</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Al Hubert</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Glen Klieber</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Mike Leach</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Larry MacMillan</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Andy Miday</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Ryan Newall</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Ralph Nollan</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Ken Patterson</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Jim Reisch</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Steve Reisch</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Tim Ries</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>John Shimek</i>	<i>85</i>
<i>Rick Slagle</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Joe Staudt</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Bob Ulrich</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Jim Weaver</i>	<i>3</i>



Build Review

AFV Club F-5E

The Northrop F-5E is a widely used light supersonic fighter that was distributed worldwide by the US to allies in the Cold War who could not afford more advanced (and expensive) aircraft. It was also the adversary plane of choice for Top Gun and Air Force aggressor units as a Mig-21 simulator. The F-5E actually was superior to the Mig in close maneuvering combat, providing a tougher opponent for training purposes.

Monogram produced a 1/48 F-5E years ago, with the usual, for the time, raised panel lines and rough fit, but good detail. The market needed a state of the art F-5E, and AFV Club responded with a line of kits including both the single seat F-5E and twin seat F-5F. With a multitude of US aggressor schemes and a plethora of foreign schemes there are choices to appeal to any modeler of quarter scale jets.

Construction begins with the cockpit tub, which consists of eleven pieces, a four piece ejection seat, and three pieces depicting the complex canopy operating mechanism for both open and closed canopies. This latter is simplified and could benefit from some extra detailing, but looks pretty good as is. Otherwise the pit is well appointed with raised detail on the consoles and instrument panel. The seat isn't bad, but I chose a Quickboost resin seat simply to avoid having to conjure up the belts. The completed cockpit goes into a forward fuselage section split vertically in two with a separate bottom section incorporating the nose gear well. AFV Club strangely chose to provide the port gun bay cover as a separate piece, without including any gun bay interior detail. This was maddeningly the only part of the forward fuselage assembly that did not fit perfectly. It wasn't terrible but did require some fiddling.

The aft fuselage is a bit intimidating as it is broken down into eleven parts. This type of breakdown scares me unless the box says Tamiya on it. I was pleasantly surprised to find that with care it all goes together nearly perfectly. Note that the engine cooling louvers are provided in both the open and closed condition - unless the engine is running these are always closed so choose accordingly. The intakes are somewhat disappointing as there is no detail whatsoever past the intake ramp - not even a blocking plate. I used resin FOD covers from Steel Beach which fit well and neatly solved the problem. The only major problem I found concerns the exhaust assembly. There is a T-shaped cover piece that attaches to the rear fuselage, and the afterburner cans are supposed to fit in the space under the top bar of the T and next to the vertical bar on each side. They don't. They don't even come especially close. I had to hog out the vertical bar of the T significantly to get the cans in place.

The rest just falls together. The wings have all movable surfaces separate, including the leading edge flaps. Again, fit of these parts is good. Landing gear is pretty well detailed and the wells have minimal detailing. Speedbrakes can be posed open. Stores and pylons are provided including centerline and wing drop tanks, Sidewinder missiles and an ACM telemetry pod for your aggressor bird. Markings for the Malaysian Air Force, the Singapore Air force, a US Navy aggressor and a USAF aggressor are provided.



Overall, this is a really nice little kit of a popular airplane that assembles well (except for that afterburner section),

and is a fine alternative to the dated Monogram kit. If you're ambitious, Aires offers a cockpit, gun bay interior and other goodies, but out of the box it will look good on the shelf.



- Bob Ulrich