



MARCH MEETING

March 20, 2021



(above) Box art for Jeff's Beechcraft, his build article starts on page 2

Down East Con

July 10, 2021

Our event has succumbed to Covid restrictions. We will be advised on future plans ASAP. ■

The club was apprised of the restrictions surrounding the DownEastCon and why the organizing committee chose to postpone it for another year.

Jim Harriet provided a Treasurer's report – the club currently has \$3,730.03 in its account. We had members pay their dues during the meeting which will increase this amount prior to next month's report.

We were pleased to welcome Steve Kasza as our guest. Steve was an ECPM member of several years back and has stayed remarkably busy over

the years. He professionally builds over 100 kits a year, both for manufacturers and for private buyers. You can see Steve from Tuesday-Sunday evenings on Twitch TV (warduck-miniatures - Twitch) as he has his own model building channel. Steve's also a wealth of industry news. The latest online model warehouse is Sprue Bothers (Sprue Brothers Models LLC Home Page) whose operations, along with a remarkable collection of kits, are expanding.

Alan Welch

Due to circumstances beyond Alan's control he's built NOTHING for over 6 months. (**SLACKER!**) Seriously, constructing the addition to the house has dominated life for him
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EVENTS

Contact and meeting info on regional model building groups and info on upcoming cons and other events.

New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.
Meets at the VFW hall, 3850 Butler Rd, New Bern, NC the second Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon. For up to date info on their meeting: <https://www.facebook.com/nbmmgnc>

Wilmington, NC Plastic Modelers
Please check their facebook page for meeting info for meetings, normally the first Thursday of every month. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117277425006833>

Jacksonville NC Plastic Modelers
meet every third Wednesday at 7:00 pm at The Hobby Chest, 345 Western Blvd, Jacksonville, NC. The Hobby Chest carries a great selection of hobby kits and supplies and is a grand center for tabletop gaming activities. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1319666224752922>

IPMS Eagle Squadron General meeting 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at the American Legion Post 116 in Fuquay Varina and an Informal Build Night, Hangar 18 Hobbies in Cary the last Wednesday of each month from 6pm-8pm. <https://www.facebook.com/IPMSEagleSquadron>

Carolina Maritime Model Society
Next meeting will be Saturday, January 2, 2:00 pm, at the North Carolina Maritime Museum, 315 Front St., Beaufort, NC. This group builds ships
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EVENTS

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and boats and the museum is a great meeting space.

<https://www.facebook.com/CMMSNC> ■

CON ROUNDUP

The following two cons are still on so let's keep our fingers crossed that conditions continue to improve and we can join with other model builders and enjoy our hobby

If anyone hears news of upcoming cons please contact us so we can include the news in our publication.



Mini 20 CON 21
CONTEST AND SWAP MEET

May 16, 2021
Noon until 4pm

Hangar 18 Hobbies (Kroger Plaza)
112 Kilmayne Dr. • Cary, NC 27511

Sponsored By: **HANGAR 18 HOBBIES** **IPMS Eagle Squadron** **MODALS FOR TROOPS**

This year we're going to try something a little bit different.

While COVID has certainly made a mess of things over the last year, we've decided to host a tailgate swap meet that will feature a smaller mini-contest! Come out and join us on May 16—Bring kits you want to sell or trade, pick a parking spot, and set up your tailgate table.

⚠️ This will be a social distancing event and face masks will be required to participate.

www.ipmseaglesquadron.org/minicon-2021

THE JMSDF BEECHCRAFT MODEL 18

- a rose by any other name

-by Jeff Maples



(above) This is Jeff's build of the JMSDF Beechcraft-18. Of particular interest is the insignia red . . . that color is vitally important to the build as is detailed in the article starting below.

First I'd like to make a shout out to our fellow ECPM member, Jay Roig, for giving me this model. Jay has decided to stop building airplane models and stick with ships. He didn't say, but I'm guessing it's because canopies are such a pain to mask AND there are no canopies on ships. I don't blame Jay, but I'm just not as smart as him. So, I gladly grabbed the freebie.

The kit is a PM Models 1/72 SNB-4/5 Benibato. I love the English translations of Japanese names for their aircraft. Benibato means 'Colored Dove.' Beautiful.

My interest in the kit was not the fact that the Japanese used the Benibato in the mid-1950's for (get ready for a mouth full) the 'Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force - Naval Air Training Squadron'. However, I knew the aircraft to be the American-built Beechcraft Model 18 (BM18) or otherwise known as the 'Twin Beech'. I have a history with the BM18.

As a kid (16yo) I worked at Colts Neck Airport in Colts Neck, NJ. We called the airport a Cow Path because the 2 runways were grass/mud and surrounded by cornfields. Every summer a Twin Beech, which was adapted into a crop duster, would be tied down on the field to take care of the local Garden State produce farms.

Now, the Model 18 was developed in the late 1930s and my dust cropper looked like it was the first one out of the Wichita, Kansas, factory in 1937. If it was ever painted, you couldn't tell due to the low maintenance and dirt. That, still, did not deter me from wanting to go up in this historic plane. Alas, this would never happen. The summer I finally got my Multi-Engine pilot's license the Beechcraft did not return. Sad.

My original intent was to build the kit in tribute to my The-Beechcraft-that-got-away. But when attending the IPMS Raleigh club meeting a
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20/20 VISION
RECONNAISSANCE THROUGH TIME

9am - 6pm Saturday, June 19, 2021

SC NG Armory & SC Military Museum
1225 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201



(Above) Here is the other side of Jeff's Beech build looking remarkably similar to the starboard side only different.

few months ago I found out they were doing a Group Build with the theme Rescue Vehicles. Ambulance, firetrucks, Coast Guard, etc. As they put it "Anything with white, red, and/or orange". Wait! I have a kit that fits that exact description. The PM Models 1/72 SNB-4/5 Benibato. Change of plans.

This is a very straight-forward kit. It only has about 25 pieces plus a small clear sprue. As simple as the kit is, I could have built it as I always do... glue, putty, sand, paint, decal, done. However, I wanted to try a different building/painting method on the Benibato because also on the bench is a Sud Aviation SE 210 La Caravelle (airliner from the early 1960s).

There are many differences between the two airplanes but as a modeler here was my 'dang it' moment. The BM18 holds 8 passengers...with 10 windows plus the front to mask before the last step of painting. Not a problem. The Caravelle holds 90

passengers...that's (you guessed it) 30 windows + cockpit glass to mask before painting. *Now* a problem.

The alternative method was found in the Fine Scale Modeler's 'Modeling Airliners' book by Aaron Skinner. Aaron explains a method he uses on airliners to avoid window masking.

1. He sprays the exterior of both halves of the unglued fuselage with (let's say) white, bare metal belly, and gloss final coat.
2. He glues in the windows into the fuselage interior.
3. He glues the painted fuselage halves together.
4. Lightly sands/putty/sands smooth the all-round seam.
5. He masks the outside edges of the seam (1/8"-1/4" gap) with tape and covers the rest of the fuselage to pro-

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CONFESSIONS OF A CLOSET MODELER, PART 3

-By David Stiteler

Confessions of a Closet Modeler
By David Stiteler

Last month I had stated, "Hobby Lobby to the rescue." Well, that did not happen, they let me down. Actually, I let myself down knowing that they had a B-17 in stock when I was last there, and I did not think at the time to buy it and I did not leave straight from the meeting and go back to get it right then and there. When I did get back to the store on Monday morning, it was gone. Uh oh, I've got a problem. The problem got worse when going to Jacksonville, then calling Greenville and Wilmington, Hobby Lobby did not have one in stock! Why does this always happen to me? It was like some dark shadow was messing with me and gobbling up all the 1/48 scale B-17 kits just to keep one that I needed from me.

It took about 4 days, lots of coffee and donuts and a bit of luck burning up minutes on the phone when I was finally located one in an obscure hobby shop/lawn equipment store in Raleigh. With more coffee and donuts, jump in the truck and two hours later I had that elusive little... model in my hands. Try explaining the logic for that little junket to the wife sometime. The eye roll said it all. Meanwhile, back at the home-front;

I was remembering when we built our house in Oklahoma. I customized an upstairs room just for my hobbies. The closet ran the length of the room, which is where most of the models I had was stored, with room on the outside wall of the closet for a built-in spray booth. It had plenty of light and was ducked outside using a plain bathroom ceiling vent fan.

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MEETING

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but he DID bring in his “in progress” Trumpeter 1942 USS San Francisco. This heavy cruiser was the flagship of the U.S. fleet which confronted the Imperial Japanese Navy November 13, 1942 and suffered accordingly. She lasted throughout the war to become the second most decorated ship in the United States Navy.

The model is going together nicely and is being enhanced but White Ensign, (back in business again) photo etch, deck details and crew by Black Cat Models, and armament by BCM and Veteran Models.

Alan recently realized, he currently has one completed ship, (USS Laffey), and two WIPs, (San Francisco and Fletcher) who were present in that barroom brawl off Guadalcanal November 13, 1942. Can you say he’s fixated?

Jeffrey Maples

Jeff brought a beautiful 1/72 kit manufactured in Turkey. PM’s Model of the the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Forces SNB-4/5 Benibato was well done in its insignia-red and white livery. The model sparked a lot of conversation as several members of the club knew the model by its many names C-45 Expedito, AT-7 Navigator, and AT-11 (SNB-1) Kansan, and the Beechcraft Model 18.

Jeff went on to say that the kit was a lot like early American plastic kits from Aurora and Monogram. The instruction set was on one side and the painting instructions were on the other.

As this aircraft had been used as a spray-plane, the club had a good laugh over the eradication measures taken to rid Florida of its fruit fly

problem using this aircraft. A discussion ensued as to whether this was the famous “Songbird” used in the television series “Sky King”. A little research shows that it was a Cessna T-50 not the Model 18.

Mark Gray

Mark brought in an absolutely perfect 1/35 Scale M2 Bradley. This model won third place in its category at the IPMS Nationals. There were many terrific and creative features on this model – realistic camouflage tarp made from toilet paper, antenna made from fiber optic cable, and a fully accurate 1985 paint scheme. The interior had been done as well – the cardboard box of MRE’s in the crew cabin was a real treat. Mark mentioned that he had painted the Bradley in acrylic. The reason was obvious once the story was related. He had won the Fine Scale Modelers Sweepstakes and ended up with over \$700 dollars’ worth of paint and modeling accessories. The lion’s share of his haul from Kalmbach Publishing, was Tamiya Acrylic Paints.

David Stiteler

David gave us a preview of his next submission to the newsletter. He has been working on a 1/48 scale B-17 for a friend on Kansas City. Due to a series of unfortunate events, the build is stalled. His friend was not concerned as he forwarded another model for David to build in his spare time – which is a bit out of his wheelhouse. David received a Warhammer 40000 Citadel to Space Marine Stalker to build along with the B-17. Give one is a 20th Century model and the other is a 41st Century Model, they should make a good pairing. David will also be spending a his hard earned cash at the Hobby Chest in Jacksonville, NC purchasing the authentic Warhammer Paints (<https://citadelcolour.com/>). The adventure continues. ■

-Mark Sandvigen

CLOSET MODELER

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Shelves was built into the wall for organizing my Model Master paint bottles; what a sweet setup.

I have nothing like that here. Fortunately, we have pets-dogs and cats. I blame that on my wife. Anyway, because of the need for dog food and cat food and flea and tick meds, with Walmart being SOOO unreliable of late stocking the brands my wife likes for our extended family, Chewy has become a bi-monthly staple. All these goodies arrive in a neat, sturdy box that are multiplying in my garage, taking up space and are just about right for a much needed, redneck fashioned spray booth. With just a little surgery with a box knife, presto! It fits on my drawing table in my den, where I try to work my magic without spraying paint all over the walls in this room. And as long as we have pets, I have renewable spray booths. I do have to open the window some to vent the room, because my den is a converted bedroom on the second floor, next to our bedroom. Our bedroom is also where my wife sleeps, and most of the animals. Sometimes I get to sleep there too.

Unfortunately, events these past weeks have hindered my efforts to accomplish anything. We had a potentially dangerous situation involving my daughter and her now ex-boyfriend take up a lot of my time after work for a while until I went all pappa bear on him to resolve the situation. Then we lost a fellow co-worker suddenly and unexpectedly when he passed away which turned work every which way but loose and upside down. We are finally recovering from that loss, and things are finally stable on the home front and with my daughter at ECU. Now it is time for me to get back on track. ■

-David Stiteler

PRIZE WINNING BRADLEY



My build is a Tamiya 1/35 M2 early model Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle. The kit featured a full hull interior in the box, I added an after-market turret interior, so it became the first full interior model I ever built.

I built this model in 1998 when I first discovered higher quality kits, and this one didn't disappoint as the fit was excellent. I don't recall any fit problems at all.

I did the nonskid on the upper surfaces by using liquid glue and the finest grit railroad sand available before it was painted

I got lucky and got a walk around of the actual vehicle that I modeled at a National Guard facility here in Wilmington, and the camo scheme matches it.

The camo pattern was used on the early to mid 80s vehicles in the non desert environments.

I spent about 6 months on it off and on.

This model won a 1st place in the first competition it was in in 1998, and a 3rd place in the "Open Top and Interior" division in the 1996 IPMS Nationals. Overall it has won about 30 awards, and is now retired from competition. ■

-Mark Gray

(Left, Top) Quiet and unassuming but deadly the Bradley builds into a beautiful display piece. This build has acquired approximately 30 prizes and is now living comfortably in retirement.

(Left, Middle) The hatch accessing the driver's compartment showing Mark's custom texturing.

(Left, Lower) The interior with such additions as crew weapons and MRE cases.



BEECHCRAFT 18

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fect from overspray.

6. Spot airbrushes the seam with matching area colors and final coat.

So, I did that with the Benibato. In my case, I rattle-can-sprayed Tamiya White Fine Surface Primer and Testors Flat White on the 2 fuselage halves. Footnote: Mr. Skinner uses Flat White because Gloss White doesn't adhere as well to the sharp curves on a plane (like vertical stabilizer leading edge). This is true...the gloss white will 'separate' from the edge exposing the primer. I wasn't quite ready to mask and spray the red, yet.

Next, I glued the top/bottom halves of the port and starboard wings together. Sanded/puttied/smooth sanded the wings clean. The tail section was in three separate pieces: port rudder, starboard rudder, and horizontal stabilizer. These 5 sections I painted the same primer and white.

Now, I am ready for the red. To be specific, it is Insignia Red. I knew that the soon-to-be-defunct Model Masters has an enamel Insignia Red FS31136, but the question was, "Does Hobby Lobby have it?" I found the Testors paint rack and the Insignia Red row but 'DANG!' no bottle. Modelers never give up! With heart in chest, I looked up the empty row to the back and 'lo & behold' the last bottle. I might add the bottle looked

like it fell off the Hobby Lobby truck, rolled under the truck, bounced back up traveling through a dust storm, only to land back into the box and, finally, to our store.

I took rubber bands and tape to dry-fit the 2 halves of the fuselage, wings, and tail section into a full plane. With a pencil, I drew connecting lines representing the Insignia red. The paint-work red crossovers from one surface to another and needed to line up. I masked off the red on the 7 pieces and airbrushed the red areas separately. I had to do the same with the black glare strips on the nose, engine, and tail leading edges.

Next up, I hand-brushed Future on the areas that would take decals and applied said decals when areas dried. Lastly, I sprayed an acrylic Microscale Micro Satin over all the surfaces of the separate pieces. The time had come to glue the windows into the interior of the fuselage halves

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SAN FRANCISCO

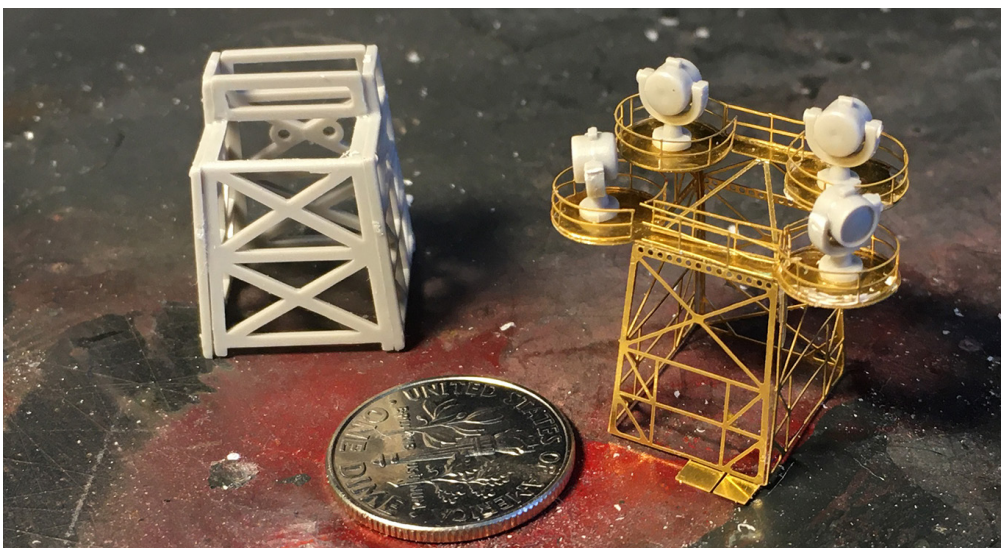


Some detail shots of Alan's USS San Francisco, (above) the seaplane catapults, Al feels these were the toughest part of the P.E. set so far as the catapult box like shape was four separate parts with no alignment tabs. His Scotch supply suffered during this phase of the build.

(left) the kit searchlight platform on left compared to the White Ensign P.E. version to the right. Searchlights from Black Cat Models.



(above) Here is a sampling of some of Jeff's implements of destruction used on his Beechcraft build. Of special interest is the Model Master© Insignia Red!



BEECHCRAFT 18

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with StarBond Super-Fast Thin Acrylic Glue. Yes. Acrylic Glue. Unlike superglue, it doesn't haze clear plastic & it's stronger than white glue.

The fuselage halves were glued together with Model Master Liquid Cement that has a thin viscosity plus it flows from a very small caliber metal tube. I could apply the glue in a thin bead and along the inside edge. It kept the glue from squeezing out of the seam (less sanding).

Once dry, I lightly sanded and, where needed, applied Vallejo's Acrylic Plastic Putty from their squeeze tube. With acrylic putty, you can take water or alcohol and run your finger along the seam to smooth it out. After the last smooth sanding, I did as Aaron instructed and taped off the rest of the fuselage and airbrushed the flat white (no primer) and satin varnish along the seam.

I glued the wings on along with the tail section and other accessories like the landing gear and front windshield. I still had gaps at the wing roots plus where the tail attached to the fuselage. Here, I used the Vallejo acrylic putty and smoothed out the seam with my finger while wet. Once dried, I hand brushed the flat white, insignia red, and satin varnish as the areas were small and airbrushing wasn't necessary.

So, that's the saga of my PM Model's 1/72 SNB-4/5 Benibato-Dust Croping-Beechcraft Model 18. If anyone out there needs any Model Master enamel Insignia Red FS31136, I will send you my address. (And bring cash...lots of cash.) ■

-Jeff Maples

GROUP BUILDS

- Reprinted from last month as we forgot to discuss this at the March meeting
- by Jeff Maples

Last, a fellow ECPM member mentioned how they wished there was someone they could build models with. To socialize in the same room with a fellow model builder who understands your stories of building successes and/or failures. To hold two fiddly bits together while you apply the super glue. To ask him (or her), "does this horizontal stabilizer look straight to you?"

Fortunately, I have Mr. Mark Gray. We are the Group Build Guild of 2. Mark and I have been building models together for 2 years now.

According to our published schedule, (on the website), February was supposed to be an extended group build meeting. The next scheduled group build meeting is June so I propose we all participate. Let's get social. ■

DIRECTION

I think the newsletter has reached the point in defining the graphic format that I am satisfied with. With that in mind I think it is time to finesse the content. I've been flying by the seat of my pants since starting this but I now think it is time to sound out the club members on what they think is important to include.

I put out a call for member written articles and have been gratified by the response and a number of people have sent in articles and others have committed to submitting in the future. But I want to make sure we are presenting information that the club wants.

So . . . what do you want to see here? I am soliciting ideas for articles *and* regular features. Let's discuss this at the next meeting, it would give us all a chance to air ideas. ■

-Ed.

Murphy's Laws for Modelers

MURPHY'S LAW

If something can go wrong it will.

MACKOWSKI'S LAWS OF DROPPED PARTS

1. The probability of dropping a part on the floor is inversely proportional to the size of the part.
2. The closer the color match of a part and the floor, the greater the probability of dropping the part.
3. A dropped part will bounce to the most inaccessible part of the room.
Corollary: If the dropped item is heavy or sharp, it will visit your foot before obeying the third law.
4. As soon as you give up on looking for a dropped part, you will find it by stepping on it.

DOWNY'S LAWS OF INERTIA

1. The more unbuilt kits you have on the shelves, the fewer kits you actually build.
2. Unbuilt kits expand to fill the space available.
3. Reference material expands beyond the space available.
4. Additional reference material adds confusion, not clarification.

BROOKS' CONSTANT

There's no such thing as a perfect kit.

KUKLINSKI'S PRINCIPLE OF APPEARANCE

A half-built vacuform impresses people with your skill; a completed vacuform just looks like another model.

DRESCHER'S PARLIAMENTARY RULES FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

1. If it doesn't matter, it doesn't matter.
Corollary: However, it will take the most time to discuss.
2. A motion to adjourn is always in order.

CRAZED PLASTIC LAWS

1. Tube glue strings only in the presence of clear parts.
2. Paint causes seams to crack.

MILLER'S CHAIRMANSHIP PRINCIPLES

1. You can't win.
2. You can't break even.
3. You can't even quit the game.

SPELLERBERG'S LAW OF FINITE DIFFERENCES

In most people's minds, the line between being different and being weird is thin and easily crossed.

THE THICK THUMB THEOREM

The difficulty in reaching a seam to sand it is directly proportional to the mismatch of the parts.

PUKALA'S PROGRESSION

1. As soon as you scratchbuild a model, someone will release a vacuform kit of it.
2. As soon as you finish a vacuform kit, an injection molded version will be released.
3. As soon as you convert an injection molded kit to the version you want, it will be released by another manufacturer.
4. As soon as you finish that kit, a better kit will be released.
(See Miller's Principles)

SAXTON'S HYPOTHESIS

The probability of finding an error in a model increases exponentially after you've entered it in a contest.

Corollary: The more important the contest, the greater the error.

SAM CLEMENS' LAW OF DIVERGENCE

There are references, and there are models, but never the twain shall meet.

MRS. MURPHY'S COMMENT ON MURPHY'S LAW

Remember, Murphy was an optimist.

Compiled by the Editors

Thanks to Vincent M Mankowski of the "All Things Scale" group on Facebook for permission to use this.

Don't forget, next month's meeting will be Saturday, April 17, 12:00 noon till 2:00 pm and all members are urged to bring some new or old builds please.