

E. C. P. M.

Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers
May XX, 2021



May, 2021

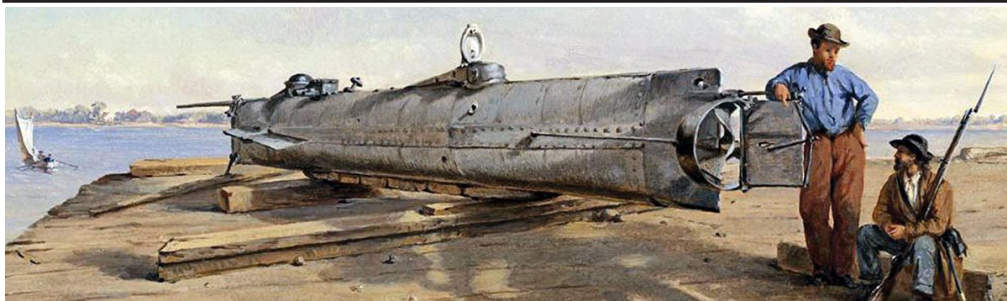
May Meeting Cancelled Due To Gas Supply Complications

E. C. P. M. Down East Con

July 10, 2021: Our event has succumbed to Covid restrictions. We will advise you on future plans ASAP. ■

1/72 H. L. Hunley

-by Dennis Korn



This model of the H.L. Hunley (often incorrectly identified as the C.S.S. Hunley – it was operated by the Confederate Army, not the Navy) is from Cottage Industry Models, Ltd, (cottageindustrymodels.com) a home operation that produces a number of resin/white metal models for the Civil War period. This will not be the last of their kits I will be putting together.

The H.L. Hunley was the first submarine to successfully sink an enemy ship when it sank the USS Housatonic on the night of February 17, 1864, outside of Charleston Harbor, in an effort to break the blockade that had been in existence for years. The brave eight Confederate soldiers/sailors were led by Lt. George E. Dixon, who is famous for carrying around a good luck gold coin in his pocket from his sweetheart . . . a coin bent from a musket ball that slammed into his leg at the battle of Shiloh and though it damaged the nerves in his leg, it saved

him from amputation. The H.L. Hunley disappeared after its successful mission on February 17th and became a mystery for over a hundred years. Thanks to the author Clive Cussler (one of my favorites) the H.L. Hunley was located in 27 feet of water about 1000 feet from the final resting place of the USS Housatonic in 1995. It was raised from the ocean floor on August 8, 2000 and resides in its own museum operated by The Friends of the Hunley in Charleston, SC (Hunley.org).

The question of what happened to the H.L. Hunley and why she sank after her successful attack has been debated for as long as the submarine has been missing and became even more of a debate after the raising and continuing conservation efforts. A more recent book by Rachel Lance “*In the Waves*” would appear to solve the mystery (though the museum will *(continued on page 2)*)

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 Check their facebook page for meeting info for meetings, usually 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 *(continued on page 2)*

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



2020/21 SC Scale Model MEGA SHOW
and
IPMS/USA Region 12 Regional Show

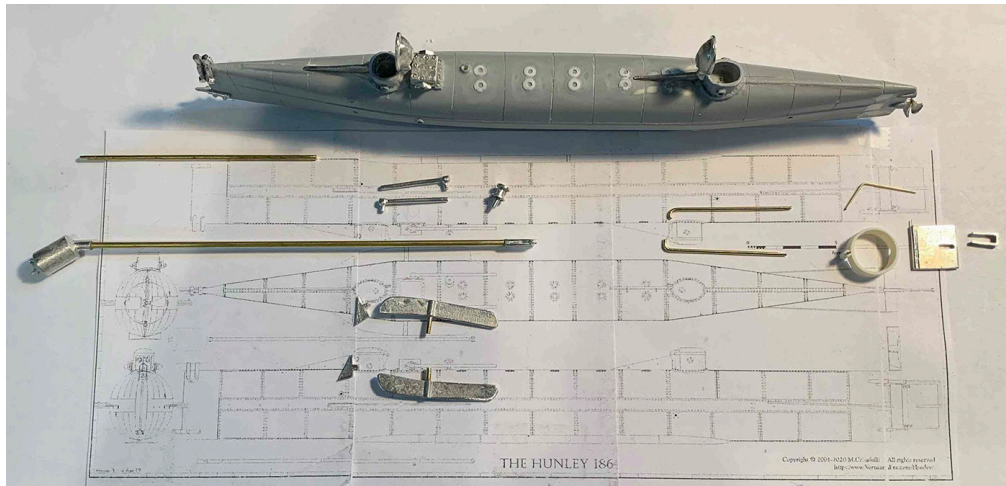
Invites you to...

Second Theme: "When Bad Things Happen: First Responders & Disaster Relief!"

20/20 VISION
RECONNAISSANCE THROUGH TIME

9am – 6pm Saturday, June 19, 2021

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



The hull, here, is mostly complete with hatches open for fresh air and awaiting fiddly bits such as the spar torpedo, various bracings and the forward diving planes.

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not recognize her theories and work . . . maybe competing Universities at play here), but her analysis shows that the shock wave generated by the explosion of the torpedo against the Housatonic's hull produced an internal shock wave inside the submarine that then passed through the crew members bodies and resulted in the deaths from internal injuries. It gets into some advanced science, so if you are interested, read the book as it is written for even us layman to understand.

Now to the kit. Working with resin is not that bad . . . though I reserve further judgement on aircraft resin as my first experience with aircraft resin parts was not a good one, but that is another story for another time . . . and this kit was molded nicely and included a number of white metal parts for the details.

The instructions were fair, not great, but not bad. B&W picture illustrations were provided with modeling notes. It is safe to say that the manufacturer has an interest in the topics he produces and takes the time to include as much information as possible. He also included a website (<http://www.VernianEra.com/Hunley>) to gain insight from someone who has studied the construction of

H.L. Hunley extensively and provides a number of theories, drawings and even more information links.

The first challenge I faced was what to do about the main body of the submarine. The resin casting had wide deep panel lines around the entire body (I'm guessing to give it texture?), but the original submarine was actually quite smooth. Made of old cast iron boiler plate, the body was attached to a frame with countersunk rivets to provide greater streamlining in the water. So any seams between panels would small and there would be no rivet detail to see (you will find pictures of the what some people think the Hunley appeared like with giant rivets all over the outside shell – totally wrong) and this is what I wanted to duplicate.

I filled all the seams on the resin with superglue (again and again and again) until I ended up with a smooth body. I then followed drawings found on the noted website to layout new seams. For the first time I used my Tamiya scribe to make the seams between panels, but I find out it is sharp and works only too well. I believe I scribed the seams too deep, but at this point I was done filling and sanding, so I was hoping paint

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H. L. Hunley

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*The attack on the Housatonic
(artist's impression)*

A detail shot of the business end of the Hunley. After all, she was a ship of war and her armament was this spar torpedo, a singularly dangerous weapon for any boat to use. (See also Lt. Cushing's history among others)

would fill in a bit and maybe it would not be noticeable from a distance.

On to adding the white metal parts. I wanted to have the hatches open (you have the option obviously to go either way), but to do that I need to hog out the interior of the hatchway so it looked like there was an opening. I also drilled out all the ports on the sides of the conning towers, figuring to add some Krystal Kleer later. All the white metal parts required clean up, but some metal files took care of that pretty easily. There were a number of holes that needed to be drilled on the body to attach the dive planes and other parts. I had to cut the brass rod provided to make up the boom and torpedo spar. I determined the length of these parts by using the instructions and comparing to what had been found when the Hunley was found and Dr. Lance's book on her studies of the submarine.

Picking a color to paint the sub was another tough one. The manufacturer chose to paint his model based on a famous painting by Conrad Wise Chapman (this is the picture

shown on the box art) which shows the submarine on a dock with two soldiers standing guard. This was a brownish color, which didn't sound right for something made of cast iron and wanting to be stealthy while approaching a ship during an attack. I used Tamiya XF-85 Tire Black for the main body and inside the conning towers (I have seen models built with white painted inside the conning towers, but once again I could find no evidence of this taking place. The torpedo I painted Copper as it was made from copper. At this point I couldn't decide what type or how much to weather the model, so I left it as painted.

Setting up the rigging for the torpedo (so it could be raised or lowered from inside the submarine) was based on best information. There was a spool attached to body near one of the conning towers and there was a spar that stuck out and some fitting on the top of the bow, but how it was actually rigged is anyone's guess. I made up a small pulley for the end of the top spar and ran some rope from a ring

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Confessions of a Closet Modeler, part 5

This piece will take a slightly different tack because I have a confession to make. After recovering from Pneumonia last month and demands from work, long days, and exhaustion after getting home not much has been accomplished as of late. I sometimes get home, hit the chair and not remember anything until my wife wakes me up to go to bed. I know, lame excuses. But an event happened recently that allows me to revisit a topic I alluded to in a past piece. So, please bear with me.

A week or two ago I received a text from one of my old work buddies back west and he invited me to a Zoom meeting with a couple of my other buddies. We had not been in touch recently and my name came up in conversation I guess, so they decided to check in with me. After getting off work and getting home from a lousy day I was looking forward to some good old happy chit-chat and friendly conversation.

It was good to see them all on one screen, and the talk was pretty much what I had expected; one of my friends is still serving in the Air Force, and the rest of us are retired, so we rubbed in that fact some and he got his licks in as well. We are all modelers and eventually the conversation turned to modeling and the projects we are working on or avoiding. That is when the debate started.

Two of us enjoy the hobby as we were brought into the hobby; build a subject that interests you and do the best you can and make a presentable representation of the subject. One of my friends is a competitor extremist. Every little detail must be accurate, precise, and flawless. And he builds to compete in all the contests he can

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H. L. Hunley

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on the torpedo up through the pulley, around the fittings and to the spool. How it really worked we really don't know. There is also debate about whether it had any additional rigging to provide lateral support for the torpedo. I chose not to include any of this because I could not find definitive proof of how it was rigged and if one looks at the lower spar that held the torpedo, it has a clevis attached to the body and would appear to be able to handle any lateral loads . . . especially when one considers how slow this submarine traveled being hand cranked. If I find additional evidence of other rigging, I can add it on later.

The assembly was straight forward once all the pieces were cleaned up and painted. I had to make new hinges for tower hatches as the molded in ones were for closed hatches. I used wire bent to the proper shape for the shroud supports on the rudder/prop assembly as the white metal pieces were too bulky. It was a challenge to get the lower spar glued into the proper position. Based on Dr. Lance's book, the torpedo would have been set at 11 degrees downward position to hit the Housatonic below the waterline . . . note that the Hunley attacked on the surface as it had

limited air supply when submerged (though it did have a snorkel system on top, it never worked properly) . . . and this angle was perfect for a shock wave to be transmitted unimpeded back the body of the sub itself.

But having solved all the little challenges that came up during this build, I set about providing a proper way to display my model. As stated earlier, the kit provided a base (looking like a section of dock) and two resin soldiers, but I didn't want to go that way . . . I mean the torpedo was probably not attached in that 11 degrees down angle so I could go into the whole "why did they die" discussion.

So I bought a base at Hobby Lobby, cleaned it up a bit, drilled some mounting holes for stands and finished it with some stain. I then took the name from the kit box and glued it to the base and added the card with Dixon's gold coin (replica) to provide another interesting story and coated all with polyurethane clear to seal everything. I added a couple of coffee cups I picked up from Friends of the Hunley and a couple First Day Covers (since I collect stamps as well . . . too many hobbies).

Up next 1968 Lotus Turbine Indy Car. ■

-Dennis Korn

Closet Modeler

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enter. There is nothing wrong with that. It is just not my cup of tea. The last of us is on the fence. He loves the hobby but is not sure if anything he builds is worthy of a contest. I believe his work is fantastic, but like myself, he lacks the confidence to compete. I have other reasons why I do not enter contests and I will get into that later. We all got our say in and as usual had our differences and parted as friends. A Band of Brothers to the end.



I started modeling when my father brought home my first kit and handed me that tube of glue and paint bottle and brush for the first time. I was not thinking about the accuracy of the panel lines, whether that vent is here or there, or of the correct shade of grey or blue going on the model. I was thinking about doing the best job I could to please my father, and myself. I was looking forward to finishing that model, stepping back, and admiring what I had accomplished, and wanting to do another right away. I wanted to head straight for the store and find another model and see if I could do a better job with the next one than I did for the first one. I had been bitten by the bug!

As I got older, and built more models my skills improved. Practice makes

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The full display complete with gold coin, (replica) coffee mugs, (real) and first day covers. (stamps, also real) Dennis is nothing if not thorough.

Closet Modeler

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perfect, or as close to perfect as one can get. But the excitement and passion for the hobby never wavered. Only when we let other things get in the way; life, other people's opinions, the desire to go beyond our skills, or feel pressured to do so, does the passion or desire wane. I really do love this hobby, and I want to keep that love and passion I remember having when I was that kid of 5 years old following my Dads lead and gentle instruction.

As a modeler, if you desire the absolute accuracy of the subject down to the last detail and love to compete to fill a trophy case, great! Keep on trucking! If you are the kind of modeler that may not have the skills to absolute perfection but love the hobby and put the best into the subject you can, that is great too! Keep at it and keep learning. If you are just starting out in the hobby and may lack the confidence to ask for help or advise, or shy about showing your work, consider rethinking that thought. Seek out the advice you are looking for and ask for feedback.

We all started out as novices at the beginning. All of us should remember that and do what we can to encourage others in this hobby. Sometimes, some of us just need an encouraging word to keep going. ■

-To be continued

Kit Warning

I have been asked by an old model building friend in Durham to find a new home for a box of classic models from the 60s and 70s. I will bring this selection of old models he wishes to go to a good home to the meeting. A token offer could be made for any kit. ■

- Editor

my Spares Box

In reading the IPMS Journal and other publications that cater to the plastic modeler, you frequently come across references to the "spares box". Usually it's in an article describing an attempt to create an obscure variant from some generic kit, or when during the build of a mass-market kit a particularly important piece flies off the work surface and is immediately devoured by the carpet monster. The author then reaches into their spares box and somehow locates the B-57 flap control cylinder that they did not need from a kit they build 10 years ago, and by some miracle it is the exact duplicate of the part they need/lost. The model is successfully completed and the spares box has once again saved the day.

While only a part-time model builder - with more kits than time to work on them - I have also accumulated my own spares box. It is a small multi-drawer plastic cabinet like the ones used to hold screws and bolts in a hardware store sitting in a corner of my work area. There is some general organization to it, with drawers for specific items like wheels or ordinance but mostly it is a depository of random bits and pieces from past builds that I thought might be useful.

During a recent attempt to re-assemble my workspace after replacing the carpet monster in the hobby room with laminate flooring, I went through my spares box and would like to share some of the items found:

Canopies – An entire drawer full of canopies and windscreens, several still on the sprue, from pre-WW II to the present day. Each one is unique and only fits the plane it was made for, but there is something about that uniqueness which makes me reluctant to get rid of any of them.

Figures – Mostly pilots, including two 1/16 th scale Stuka pilots from a collectible that didn't survive an interstate move, along with a hunter, photographer and deceased mountain lion from an ancient civilian aircraft kit that was supposed to be made into a hunting scene diorama.

Car Parts – While having only built a few car models, I have a good start on a "you pick – you pull" junkyard. Photo-etched metal wiper blades, disc brake assemblies from a pre-painted kit, ribbons for seat belt material, steering wheels, and tires of all sizes. (Also in this category is a set of tiny dice from a toy vending machine that will look really cool on the rear view mirror of a hot rod – whenever I get around to building it.)

Anything Goes – The folding "wings" from a Space Battleship Yamato anime model that was backdated to an earlier version, the plastic branch from the "Birds of the World" model kit line I was collecting at the time, a 1/35 th scale 55 gallon drum still on the sprue, and the plastic nameplate for a 1/350 th scale USS New Jersey.

Next time you decide to toss something in your own spares box, take a couple of minutes to poke around and see if it doesn't bring up some memories of models completed (or not) and why that particular piece ended up there. At the risk of copyright infringement from the Capital One folks, "What's in your spares box?" ■ -David M. Mohr

Don't forget, next month's meeting will be Saturday, June 26, 12:00 noon till 2:00 at Fairfield Harbor.