



Rocky Mountain Model Club

November 2002

Lest We Forget.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short Days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from our failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae 1918

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NEWS....!

Scale Modelers Association of Saskatoon
May 3, 2002

Rocky Mountain Model Club 9th Contest
May 10, 2003

2003 will mark the 10th Anniversary of the RMMC. Several special events and perks are in the planning stage.

To get us off to a good start, a catch phrase for the year is being sought after. Past examples are Sharing, building and having fun; A Modeling Oddyssey; Celebrating ___ Years of Modeling Friendship, etc... Come up with a catch phrase for us and we'll use it during the next year on the newsletter banners. We will collect the ideas at the December meeting.

Www.RockyMountainModelClub.com



Alberta AFV Modelers Contest Premier Show

By Paul Holmes

Recently, yours truly and a few others from the club had the opportunity to attend and AFV show and contest in Bragg Creek. In a few short words, it was pure class all the way. I must say that before attending, I was hesitant about entering. Boy was I ever wrong.

You see, during my tenure in the UK, I attended a few shows by some local AFV / IPMS chapters. The model quality there was nearly unparalleled. Along with this quality, came a few inflated egos. Some of these guys were so serious that they unlovingly received the nickname of "Members of the Fourth Reich" Don't get me wrong, they were unbelievable model makers, but they usually had the personality of a stiff librarian!

Not so in Bragg Creek. The guys out there are friendly, accommodating and helpful. A case in point... I asked one person about a hundred (annoying) questions about one of his dioramas. He answered every single one cheerfully. That may not sound like much, but it left me with an amazing urge to pull out an armor kit when I got home, to heck with the jet I had been working on for the past month.

The show itself was well organized, easy to navigate and had enough subject matter to keep even the jet heads like me drooling. The contest was judged according to their club's own system. Each model was reviewed by 4 judges. It was scored out of a best of 10. The cool thing was that you got your score card back at the end of the show. You got to see what you did wrong or right. For the proverbial cherry on top, they gave you nice comments and constructive criticism on your finished project. I entered my recently finished Flakpanzer Gepard (my first ever AFV), and came out with a silver award. Not too shabby I think. The RMMC presented its Choice Award to Cary Pochailo for his "Broken Heavy" Tiger Diorama.

The highlight of the day was a slideshow presentation by a favorite military artist; Ron Volstad. I thought it was cool to see pictures of some of the kits I actually own on the screen, and learning his thought about each one of his works. Ron himself had some prints for sale, and was perfectly open to answer questions from us. I have a great respect for the man, and am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet him. If you ever read this Ron, I thank you for giving the hobby the quality it deserves.

Some of the local shops participation was noted by their sale notices. Hobby City had coupons, Phoenix ran 20% off for show visitors, and The Barrel Store was rewarding the aftermarket hounds with 10% off.

So that's about it. On a final note, I extend special thanks to Doug Jameson and Frank Vanderbreggen for putting on a first class gathering. I can not wait for the next one.



JUDGING GUIDELINES AIRCRAFT

BASIC CONSTRUCTION AND FINISHING

A model is a winner only if it passes the basics. It will be easy to find the winners if you remove the ones that do not meet the basics.

MOLD LINES AND SEAMS

Look for glue marks and finger prints. Check the mold lines and ejector pin marks to see if they are properly cleaned. Check to see if panel lines are restored and observe if mold lines have been removed from the small parts. Make sure everything is in proper alignment.

PAINTING

Check for brush marks, runs, over-spray, finger prints, etc... Only gross errors of paint colors will be penalized.

DECALS

Look for signs of silvering, misapplication, etc... Only gross errors of size or colors and shades should be penalized.

CLEAR PARTS

Check for glue or paint and especially fingerprints. Check to see if the clear part is properly glued onto the aircraft. Also make sure that the paint lines are well done without too much over run. Can you see through to the canopy frame? Is the interior color visible.

FINISHING

Does the model look close to a scaled down real thing? Is the weathering done without going overboard? Make sure that fading is not too overstated.

ADVANCED FINISHING

Are the aftermarket items well incorporated into the model. Are the aftermarket items correctly finished and to scale? The same applies to scratch built items. Does the cockpit look well done and authentic? Is the engine well done and correctly weathered. Check for the same guidelines for the wheel wells, under carriage, flaps, slats and other moving parts.

IF IN DOUBT CONSULT THE OTHER JUDGES FOR THEIR OPINIONS.

JUDGING GUIDELINES ARMOUR

BASIC CONSTRUCTION AND FINISHING

A model is a winner only if it passes the basics. It will be easy to find the winners if you remove the ones that do not meet the basics.

MOLD LINES AND SEAMS

Look for glue marks and finger prints. Check the mold lines and ejector pin marks to see if they are properly removed. Remember that on armour the mold lines may be correct. Check to see if mold lines are removed from the small parts. Wheels and tracks are the main culprit for mold lines. Check them out.

ALIGNMENT

Make sure that all wheels touch the ground. Tracks should look natural, there may be a slight droop between road wheels.

PAINTING

Brush marks are not critical on armour as some times paint was applied with a broom. But the basics should be observed. No finger prints and only gross errors of paint colors will be penalized. Check for differences in clean vs. dirty on the model.

DECALS

Look for signs of silvering, misapplication, and they should look painted on.

FINISHING

Does the model look close to a scaled down real thing? Remember that weathering should not be over done but that armour vehicles do not look like something that just came off the showroom floor. Use more common sense than awe.

ADVANCED FINISHING

Are the aftermarket items well incorporated into the model. Are the aftermarket items correctly finished and to scale? The same applies to scratch built items. Are the extra items authentic?

WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK WITH ANOTHER JUDGE.



JUDGING GUIDELINES AUTOS

BASIC CONSTRUCTION

A model is a winner only if it passes the basics. It will be easy to find the winners if you remove the ones that do not meet the basics. Mold lines should be removed. This also means small parts and wheels. The chassis should be even and all wheels should be touching the ground. Clear parts should be free of any glue smears or fingerprints. Paint should be free from fingerprints and runs. Orange peel is a No-no. Overspray is only acceptable if the car is a rendition from a high school paint shop. Window frames and moldings should be straight. Decals should be straight and without silvering.

FINISHING

Does the model look close to a scaled down real thing?
Is the weathering done without going overboard?

ENGINES

If the engine is wired it should be in the right sequence. Plumbing should go to the correct locations. Engine exhaust should be correctly attached to the motor. Correct thickness of the wires and plumbing should be observed.

INTERIORS

Are they a correct replication of the original? Do the colors correspond. Seat belts? It's the Law.

TIRES

Are they round? Don't laugh! Is the lettering done correctly and seam removed.

Overall

Judging automobiles is usually the toughest. When in doubt check for proper information regarding the car. Don't be afraid to consult with the other judges.

**GOOD LUCK, AND REMEMBER
THAT WE PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE
JUDGES.**

Club News and Tidbits:

As mentioned on the front page, we will be looking for Newsletter banner phrases for the next year. Submissions will be collected starting in December.

December will be our annual Christmas party. It will be a raffle month, and we hope to be able to offer a few current kits in the draws.

Jon and I both missed what everyone brought along to the last meeting. We'll resume that info tidbit this month.

Gavin Reese is looking into the possibility of putting on a mall show. With the craft season approaching, we could mix a few "guy hobby" tables in amongst the "girlie" stuff. It is hoped that one of the malls would be willing to provide us with some free display space.

Contest Sponsors have already started to confirm participation. Letters are being drafted and will be delivered early in December.

November 19th 7:00pm The Aero Space Museum will be hosting a presentation by Cmdr Jim Beauville of 410 Squadron. If you want to learn about the process of designing and painting the colorful air show display birds, plan to stop by. Admission will be \$2.00

Club member Biographies are being posted under the membership section of the website. If the Executive's ones are not already up they will be soon. Tell us a little bit about yourself both hobby and real life wise. These posts are being done in order to help members share / ask questions outside of the regular meetings.



Building Model Trees for a Diorama

By Scott McTavish

If I've want to display my model on a base, it has been pretty simple. That's because aircraft are rarely parked next to objects other than some field equipment. Trees, water, roadways and other typical diorama elements generally don't mix with aircraft. I have been building a few armor models recently, and have started to play around with dioramas. At the recent AFV contest, I asked a few questions and learned some valuable tips about making "realistic" trees. I've put realistic in caption marks as scale factors come into play. Model Railroad trees may work for N, HO or 1/144 & 1/72, but the same procedures can have very toy like looks in the larger scales such as 1/35. I've adapted those tips from the contest and the latest FSM issue to suit my own needs. Here's how I'm doing them.

Looking at real trees will show a wide variety of shapes, colors and sizes. Small branches clipped from the proposed type of tree may not scale down effectively. Ie. A Pine tree bough has many spikes from the needles that are way to over-sized for a model size. I found a couple types of bushes along a country road and collected a mix of live and dead wood. Straight branches can be used for Fir or Pine trees, while deciduous trees will need a branch with many twigs to represent multiple limbs.

Once a suitable "trunk" has been found, branches and twigs need to be added. Paul and I went out to the Bragg Creek Provincial park and collected a large bag of Goats Beard Moss off of the pine trees. It comes in a light green color and is shapeable after gluing to your trees stems. Large puffy sections or flat layers can all be made. Depending on the type of tree desired. Applying leaves will be the next step. Does the tree have large leaves like a poplar, or small ones like an aspen? I looked at all the options available in the hobby shops. Each shop tends to have certain ranges. I gathered a few and tried them. Woodland Scenics has a range of foam chips or powders that look okay for very fine leaves such as bushes or aspens. These can be attached to the moss with either 3M spray adhesive or Woodland's own Scenic cement. The 3M product works best. Multiple shades of foliage can be layered on to the moss. Greens and Fall colors are available. For larger leaves such as Poplar, I am using a chipped paper product by Selkirk Scenery. The guys at Trains and Such stock this line. A dusting of these chips is applied over a tree previously done with the Woodland foam will bring depth to the model tree.

Pine or Fir trees can be made using several types of ferns. A trip to a florist can result in a harvest of various greenery spikes. I found a great looking pine bough representation at Michael's craft store. Look in the dried flower section for Ming Fern. A couple large trees can be made out of one package. Drill some small holes in the branch, cut the stems off the fern and super glue them in place. A flat coat afterwards will get rid of the shiny glue spots.

Also found at Micheal's was a great bush / small tree product. Look for Candy tuft. Although it is a light tan color, it can be airbrushed what ever shades you wish. Mini Gip can also be used for a fruit tree looking result. These two can be glued to twigs for a larger tree, or bunched on their own.

Experimentation proves to be fun, and can lead to some pretty cool results.

