



Volume : 33 Issue: 6

June 2015

Recon

IPMS USA Nationals - Jul 22-25, 2015,
Columbus, Ohio Contact Graham Holmes
registration AT ipmsusa2015 DOT com

Patcon 2015 - Sept 13, 2015, Leominster Elks
Lodge 1237 134 N. Main Street Leominster,
MA Contact David Schmidt 978-706-1211

Armorcon 2015 - Sept 25-26, 2015, Crowne
Plaza Danbury 18 Old Ridgebury Road
Danbury, CT Contact Matt Toms 203-729-
3218 or ssgtoms@sbcglobal.net

Granitecon - Oct 18, 2015, Nashua Elks Club
120 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, NH
Contact, Keith Touchette 603-578-9231
granitestatemodelers@gmail.com

Baycon 2015 - Nov 1, 2015, Elks Club on 326
Farnum Pike on Smithfield, RI Contact Bob
Magina 508-695-7754 or
treadhead@comcast.net

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2015 - 2016 Dues

If you have not already done so, please
renew your dues for the coming 2015-2016
membership year. Dues are still \$10.
Please remit your dues to John Nickerson
at the meeting or send it to him at 18
Stone Street, Middleboro, MA 02346

Don't forget to ask for the Family
Membership if you have sons or
daughters as members in the club as
well.



Battlewagon

Inspiration to Figure Painting

By John Nickerson

Photos by author

From an early age I knew military figures existed. After all, being a child of the post war years I grew up with Marx playsets; Fort Apache, The Alamo, The Blue & The Gray, etc. I saw metal toy soldiers at the local 5 and dime. At Christmas time I would marvel at the Britons and other 'toy soldier' sets, forts, and castles on display in Jordan Marsh. As I got older and traveled around Boston on my own I noticed the unpainted metal soldiers at Eric Fuchs and at Fisher's Bike Shop in Quincy. Once I became a member of this merry band I found club members painting military figures and I was quite fascinated by them.

The norm at this time, at least according to the popular British figure magazines, was pretty basic, compared to today's standards. Not much more than block colors outlined in black, some shading, some highlights. It was Honor Roll member Don Oakly that talked me into doing my first figure, (a WWII Canadian infantryman). It was a fairly simple figure with a fairly simple paint job. I picked the heads of some of the club figure painters, bought some Imrie-Risley paints, and painted my first figure. Don talked me through it although I don't think he had ever painted one himself.

Not long after this I ran into some members of MCNE (Military Collectors of New England). This opened a new chapter in my modeling career. There were some outstanding figure painters and model builders in this group and I learned a lot from many of them. Some would share openly, some others not so much, but you could learn by studying their work. One of the people that I found a little tight lipped was Henri Lion. I now suspect it was more because so many people would ask the same questions. Henri was an artist by trade and it was reflected in his work. On occasion,

during an MCNE meeting, Henri would describe how he had completed his latest creation. The room would quiet as he talked, and possibly a bit self conscious because of his accent, he would speak softer and wave his hand with the cigar stub in it towards the figure he was holding up and explain where he had modified the original figure and the colors he had used. His favorite subjects were French uniforms, native Americans, and horses. Mustangs and Indian ponies were among his favorites. He would not paint WWII Germans or show blood. I found how to get him to open up to me by accident, I asked him about the horses. I must admit that when I think about Henri it's his horses and pen and ink drawings that come to mind first. He was also fond of sculpting and sketching caricatures of himself.

In 1977, The Soldier Center, West Roxbury, MA, (owned by Ed Carrig, an ex-Bay Colony member), published My Way, by Henri Lion with Valentine Bean, a softbound book on Henri's method of painting. I still use this book, especially when I'm painting horses. Because this book is no longer in print and hard to find, (I'm not sure what I paid for it originally, but I have seen it offered on ebay for \$85), I'll share a couple of Henri's secrets. He worked with a simple color palette of primary colors and mixed the colors he needed. Two colors he found very important were turquoise, (for giving life to all blues), and magenta, (for use with reds and browns). Because you can't mix these colors from primary colors and they are not normally included in military color paint lines, he would use artist oils and squeeze the paint into a bottle and thin it to the consistency of hobby paints. Always mix a little then add more.

He also had a color he called 'basic brown' for painting horses. This is the base coat

Battlewagon

coat color. Mix 50% black and 50% red. This gives you a warm brown color. Paint the whole horse with this then shade or highlight as needed.

Unfortunately, Henri passed a number of years ago. I and many others from that group miss his presence. Also, in the intervening years, the MCNE group has disintegrated. There is still a small core group that meets north of Boston, but many of the shakers and movers of that group have drifted off.



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Continued on Page 8



From The Bridge

The President's Column

We are now in our 47th (2015 – 2016) membership year. The membership fee is still only \$10 per year and we accept advanced payment if you wish to get ahead on your membership. There is also a family membership plan. You can catch me at a meeting or send your payments to me by mail, checks to be made payable to Bay Colony Historic Modelers.

We have cancelled the November 1st, So. Attleboro Knights hall reservation. We are moving forward by booking the Smithfield RI Elks hall instead. BayCon will be held there on November 1st. Please remind anyone you know that attends the show that we are moving. That said, we are still searching for a hall where we can host our annual event with a little more space.

Just as our long string of hosting BayCon at the So. Attleboro location has come to an end, long time sponsor, Hobby Hut of Attleboro, will no longer be attending. It is sad to see such a relationship end, but possibly new relationships will be forged. As to the So. Attleboro hall, it has now been sold and is to become a dance studio.

Last year at BayCon, we awarded 4 "Line Judge Special Awards". Two were

collected, two left behind. None of them went to club members. Where each award read exactly the same, we didn't know which awards were picked up and which weren't. I asked some of our members that were around the awards table during the awards ceremony, if they remembered. No such luck. So I emailed all four winners. I explained, much as I did above, 4 awards, 2 picked up, 2 not, let me know if you didn't receive your award. I even told them what it said on it, so they could check. Of the 4, I heard back from 3. The first one said he didn't, I mailed the award and a printout of the award sheet so he would know what it was for. The next response I received said "he didn't receive an award in the mail"! So I ask you this, allowing for the possibility that responder 1 and responder 2 knew each other and had communicated that he had received an award in the mail, how did respondent 2 expect me to know that I needed to send an award to him, without him responding to my original question? Meanwhile I received a reply from respondent 3, asking what the award was for. I sent him an answer, I've not heard back. Does that mean he has his? Only respondent 1 said he hadn't received his award. The quest continues!

Member Peter Jardim has offered up a challenge for BayCon this year, in the name of the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. This years challenge is for Post 1946 US Cargo Aircraft, any scale.

One of the History channels has been running a series called "World War 2 in HD". The episode I caught, featured the words of Rockie Blunt as well as some video clips of him. There were others featured in this episode, so it wasn't all Rockie. Rockie had an affiliation with our club. He did a couple meet and greets at BayCon as he promoted

Battlewagon

his books. He also came to the Noreastcon we did in Marlboro at our request. For those that don't know, like most other WWII veterans, Rockie has since passed. For that fact, our Infantryman Award we give at BayCon is given as a memorial to Rockie.

Tired of visiting the Airfix website and seeing everything listed in pounds? The Airfix USA website is now operational. To visit the site and make it a favorite, go to Airfix.com. At the top of the page you will see a small American flag, click on this and it will give you a pull down menu. Select Airfix. This will take you to the US site with prices in dollars. (You could also select Humbrol, or Corgi, etc.) You can order direct from them if you wish. I'm looking forward to their He 111P. It's being developed using the same technology that they used for the 1/24 scale Typhoon. I think it would be hard to exceed the level of the Hasegawa He 111, but if it is anywhere close it will be about half the price.

The Battle of Britain is one of those air campaigns that fascinates me. The Germans came oh so close to breaking the back of the RAF. It was mistakes in planning and command that prevented it from happening. Many of Airfix's kits are oriented around the Battle of Britain. Their 1/72 Bf 109E-3 and Bf-110C have already been re-tooled. Their Do-17Z has been re-tooled, the all new He 111P2 is due mid July, and the Ju-87B Stuka is re-tooled. Only their Ju-88 is left with raised panel lines and rivets. I don't know if there are plans to re-tool this kit anytime soon. If so, you could build a collection of Airfix kits of all of the German combatants of the Battle of Britain. To expand this to the complete Axis line up you would have to step away from the Airfix line and visit Italeri. Their Cr-42 is a nice

kit. They have the molds for the Fiat and Breda bombers but they are not currently listed in their catalog. On top of that I don't believe they have been updated so they are still raised detail and panel lines. They were originally brought out in the mid '70s.

You can do the same with Airfix British aircraft. They have redone their Spitfire Mk. I and Hurricane Mk. I. (The Hurricane is the better kit.) They have also redone the Gloster Gladiator. They have a new mold of a Blenheim Mk. I. They have released the new Boulton Paul Defiant, they list it with 70 parts, and the kit review I read online called it "a little gem". It comes with two schemes, one is typical day fighter dark green / dark earth, and the other is an all black night fighter.

Last issue I reported that I thought that Airfix had three versions of their new tool C-47 / Dakota on the market. Not quite true, their Dakota with jeep is not due out until November.

The Airfix USA website lists the 1/24 scale DeHavilland Mosquito as available for pre-order at \$175.

Getting away from Airfix, but not that far, for a long time if you wanted to build a P-40B/C in 1/72, you had only the Frog kit, if you could find one, to start with. Now we have three. Academy, Trumpeter and now Airfix have a P-40B/C, (or export version, thereof), available. The Trumpeter kit is the only kit that offers you an option in decals, (although I don't recommend using them), one scheme is an AVG machine, the other kits only offer Charles Older's white 68 AVG machine. In 1/48 you have the Monogram/Revell offering, Trumpeter, and Academy/Hobbycraft, and

Battlewagon

possible Hasegawa but I couldn't find any evidence in a short search, but I think I remember seeing one on the shelves. Only the Academy kit comes with Older's markings.

Last issue I also mentioned the availability of US WW2 truck models. It would be a nifty little collection in 1/35. You can now get GMC, Diamond, Studebaker, and White trucks. The problem is the cost. The Diamond and White are recent releases and list in the \$80 to \$90 range. You can get the GMC and Studebaker for about \$45 each, not cheap, but not outrageous, for an armor kit. With a reasonable discount you may be able to get the group down to the \$200 range. My point is this, we are living in "the Golden Age of Modeling"! We have never had the selection of kits, or the quality of molding, that is available today. All of the major models and marks are available to us, along with most of the minor varieties. If you have the gold, there is little you want for in the way of plastic. And there lies the crux of it, so much available, tough to afford. I know many factors are involved, but \$\$\$\$ seems to be the biggest factor, followed by time. We want to see models on the tables, but numbers are dwindling. Modelers are dwindling. Fewer modelers building fewer models. The typical 1/35 armor kit used to be in the \$10 to \$15 range and come with about 80 parts. Today the typical kit is \$60 to \$70 with 300 plus parts. More bang for the buck? Maybe, but it's also more assemblies to screw up, more to go wrong and at \$70 who can afford to make a mistake. Car kits, I think, got the best and worst of it. What used to be \$5 to \$7.50 is now \$25 to \$35, and it's the exact same kit! Nothing new in the box. The price increase is less than armor but there is nothing to show for it. There are new car kits with better molding and more parts, but there are only a few more parts, not the exponential growth in parts armor kits have had, but not the price increase either. This makes them a better deal, well maybe. Aircraft fall somewhere in between, in general. When you split them out by scale it makes a different spin. In 1/72 there are still little jewels for under \$15, thanks to Airfix and Revell Germany. In 1/48

there are some nice kits for \$30, but not an abundance. On the upper end thing are going out of sight, with modern jets crossing the \$80 and even the \$100 barriers. And 1/32 is a whole other story. There are a few good 1/32 scale kits for under \$60 but we broke the \$100 barrier a long time ago. Add some aftermarket and you can be into the \$200 - \$250 range very quickly. And people ask me why I still build 1/72. Ships? Sorry, I'm not going there. What has happened to ship models in the last 10 years is amazing, but so aren't the price tags. Well that's my rant for this issue.

God bless America! Pray for our servicemen overseas.

Happy modeling and give kits to kids!

John J. Nickerson

bchmaprez@verizon.net

Up Scope:

July 11th 2015 Meeting

Robert Magina
71 Willow Lane
Plainville, MA 02762
508-695-7754

Directions:

Take 95N to 495N. Take exit 14B (Rte 1 – North Attleboro). Go through the lights, heading towards North Attleboro on Rte 1. (Pass Boston Tropical Garden at lights) Go to next light, intersection of Rte 106 and Rte 1 – go right onto Rte 106 towards Plainville center. (Convenience Store at lights). go to bottom of hill at the light take a right onto Rte 1A. Go past the Plainville Police and Fire on your right. Take right onto Sharlene Lane – Willow Lane is the first right – I am on the corner of Willow Lane and Maple Terrace – #71 Look for my Honda in the driveway – I would like to ask everyone to please park along Sharlene Lane and walk down Willow Lane to my Condo – I am very close to Sharlene Lane. Thank you for parking there and making the short walk.

August 8th 2015 Meeting

Bill Collins
113 Powderhorn Drive
Taunton, MA 02780
508-695-7754 (Bob Magina)

Directions:

Take 140N from Taunton or S from Norton. Go right or left on Norton Street. Take a left at first fork, then a right at the second fork. Take first right and follow along to house #113.

Sept 12th 2015 Meeting

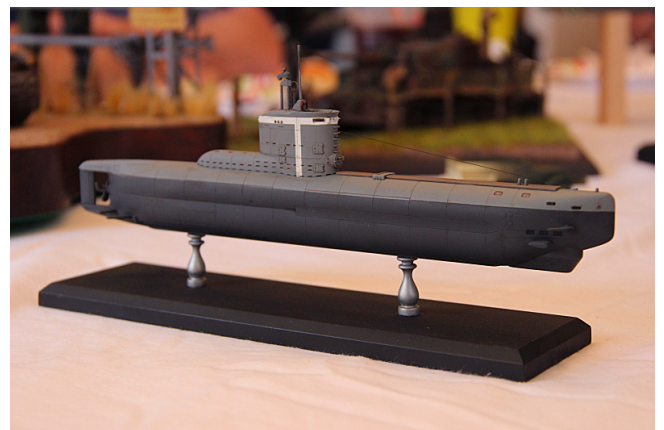
John Nickerson
18 Stone Street
Middleborough, MA 02346
508-947-7939

Directions:

From the west: Rte. 495 South to the Rte. 44 East & West (Plymouth / Taunton) exit. Go right at the top of the ramp, East, toward Plymouth. Go half way around the rotary and continue east on Rte. 44. Take the Rte. 58 exit and go right, South towards Carver, through two sets of lights, at the top of the rise, in front of Quickeez, take a right on to Forest, then first right onto Fuller. Thru the cranberry bogs, at the town line Fuller becomes Stone, and in about ½ mile you will see the intermediate blue raised ranch on your right.

From the east/Rte. 3: Take Rte 44 East to the third exit, Rte 58, Carver / Plympton; at the bottom of the ramp go left, South. (Follow the directions above.)

From downtown Middleboro: Follow Rte. 105 north, right on Plymouth St., bear right onto Wall St., 4th left onto Stone, 6th house on the left.



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Pics from Vermont National Guard
Armory at CAN/AM CON 13

By Robert Magina



M998 Hummer



M997 Hummer Ambulance



M998 Hummer



M1038 Troop Truck



M1038 Armored Troop Truck



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In Range:

May 9th Meeting - Pat McColgen

1/35th BT-42 (WIP) - Steve Kwasny
1/35th Leopard 2A6 (WIP) - Steve Kwasny
1/35th Battle of Berlin (WIP) - Gian Montecalvo
1/32nd F-4B (WIP) - John McCormick
1/48th F-86D Sabre - Bill Collins
1/35th German Supply Wagon - Bill Collins

In Attendance:

Bob Magina	Pat McColgen
Eric Peterson	Ted Bunn
Warren April	Chris Libucha
Steve Kwasny	Terry Sumner
Joe Russum	Gian Montecalvo
Paul Champigny	Kevin Conlon
Mike Kenney	Bill Collins
John McCormick	John Nickerson
John Gisetto Sr.	

Raffle:

1/35th M36B1 - Mike Kenney
Sanding Sticks - Bill Collins
Swizzle Stick Sanders- Gian Montecalvo
Sanding Needles - John Nickerson
1/144th 737 - Steve Kwasny



Apr 11th Meeting - Gil Costa

1/35th Tiger I Dio - Gil Costa
1/35th JS-3 Dio - Kevin Conlon
1/35th Lysander (WIP) - Kevin Conlon
Box Scale Master Chief (WIP) - Peter Jardim
1/48th V1 Rocket - Steve Kwasny
1/144th Type XXIII - Steve Kwasny
1/72nd Hawker Hurricane Mk I - Chris Libucha
1/72nd M2A1 (WIP) -
1/25th Hudson Hornet (WIP) -
1/48th F9F-8 - Bill Collins
1/48th F9F-10 - Bill Collins

In Attendance:

Bob Magina	John Nickerson
Kevin Colburn	Gil Costa
Hal Marshman Sr.	Bob Don
Ray Rosario	John Gisetto Sr.
Warren April	Bill Collins
Peter Jardim	Kevin Conlon
Gian Montecalvo	

Raffle:

1/48th Me262 - John Gisetto Sr.
Tamiya Putty - Chris Libucha
Tamiya Glue - Steve Kwasny
Sanding Sticks - Ray Rosario
Sanding Sticks - John Nickerson
Sanding Sticks - Hal Marshman Sr.



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IPMS Bay Colony Modelers meet the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The meetings take place at selected members houses. Look at the Battlewagon or the club website for locatiion and directions. Guests are always welcome. Membership is \$10.00 per year. Members and guests are encouraged to bring completed models or works in progress for display and discussion.

The Battlewagon is published six times per year. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect IPMS Bay Colony or IPMS USA views. Submissions relevant to modeling are welcome, and may be published at the discretion of the editor. All material is subject to editing. There is no payment for articles.



IPMS Bay Colony Historical Modelers

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web: www.ipmsbaycolony.com

2015 - 2016 Club Dues

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