

Front Range Hobby News: January 27, 2007 Supplement DISTRIBUTE
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***** Stay tuned for more information about the pictures from Winter Model Daze!

Download the awards list here:

<http://www.hummingline.com/toms/downloads/wmd07.xls>

You'll need MS Excel

Greetings Fellow Enthusiasts,

I hear some modelers bemoaning the flaws and inaccuracies of certain kits. I think what's often forgotten is how much work goes into producing one. I've had the fortune to be close to garage kit production from lumps of clay and coils of wire all the way up to cleaning up the first casting. The injection modeling process is even more involved with heavy equipment and machined metal molds. It takes tens of thousands of dollars to produce an injection molded kit.

To meet the demands of a hungry and often fickle consumer base, kit manufacturers often rush to get things to market. I've experienced the hurry-up mentality in my work as columnist in Hobby Merchandiser Magazine. The lesson is true in just about every area you can think of. Things usually don't go well when you rush. The result is a finished product that wasn't what you had envisioned at the beginning of the project. For a modeler, the finished piece becomes shelf fodder, as my pal Brian Peck in Albuquerque calls it. Los of fun to work on but things didn't go quite right so it probably won't be seen in any contests or displays. For a model company, the price is much higher. When the piece hits the market, accuracy and perfection oriented modelers, some with very visible positions in the community, attack the kit. "Throw it in the trash!" Just like the shelf fodder model, there will be admirers who enjoy it for what it is, including all the flaws and problems. Such is the case with newsletters, too.

In a rush to get things done and out, we often miss filling that last little bit of seam or making sure that the molds produce undistorted parts that fit well or adding all of the activities to a summary. There are lots of other models on the shelf to try again. Lots of other subjects to make into kits. And there will always be another edition to a newsletter! Sometimes all we have to do is move on to the next one and do what we can to make it come out better.

So if it wasn't what you were hoping it would be, your best bet is to enjoy it as is. There's always the next one!

Happy Modeling!

Tom Grossman

Front Range Hobby News

CSprgs: A Model Citizen

Taking the reigns this year as Secretary/Treasurer of Centennial IPMS is Dekker Zimmerman. Well known in local modeling circles, Dekker accepted the nomination and was voted in last November, replacing two-term predecessor, Matt Quiroz. Standing on the accomplishments that Matt made in his tenure, Dekker has hit the ground running.

Centennial now has the best website in its long history with Dekker at the helm as webmaster. The site features a regularly updated news page, map to the meeting location, event calendar, member profiles and a member gallery. His background in graphic design and layout serves the club well. Dekker is also chair of the Pikes Peak Model Expo Committee. That's the local contest Centennial will be producing May 19 at the Weisbrod Air Museum in Pueblo.

Among Dekker's recent contributions to the club was an informative and inspiring demo on photo etch parts at the last Centennial meeting. Several members were treated to techniques used by this master to get those nasty little parts off the trees and into the models. Dekker's presentation included techniques for cutting the parts from the trees, handling them safely, shaping them into square and curved parts and putting them in place. This was part of the renewed campaign to make Centennial the best club in town spearheaded by President Dave Kagarise. Thanks to Rob Schmitt for the on the spot report.

Also on Dekker's list of accomplishments are many First Place awards at IPMS contests including nationals. Some of Dekker's models can be seen in the

Member Gallery at Centennial's website. A new piece will also be a feature article in an upcoming edition of Aerospace Modeler.
www.aerospacemodeler.com This magazine is created and published another well known local, Billy Crisler.

Kudos to Dekker for a great start to the year and his contributions to Centennial! Check out his work at www.centennialipms.org

CSprgs: Locals in Fine Scale Modeler

Two of Colorado Springs own have been published in the March edition of Fine Scale Modeler. Kudos to Rob Schmitt and Dekker Zimmerman. The issue is on the stands now at your favorite hobby shop.

Rob Schmitt of Anime & Figure Modelers, Centennial IPMS and Team Iwata did the Obi Wan Jedi Fighter on page 36. Rob started this award winning build up with the pre-paint kit from Revell.

http://www.starshipmodeler.com/starwars/rog_jedi.htm He redid the paint job, cleaned up the model and topped it off with a base made from a piece of concrete he found near his house.

Dekker demonstrates his prowess with modeling techniques when he finished the Mi-24 Hind that is pictured on page 38 in the March Fine Scale.

http://www.cybermodeler.com/hobby/kits/tru/kit_tru_mi-24.shtm Expertly assembled painted and weathered, Dekker's work is always exceptional.

These guys are locals! Buy a copy and get them to sign it! Rob can be found at the Anime & Figure Modelers meetings at Compleat's Open Builds and Centennial's monthly meetings. Dekker can be found at Centennial's monthly meetings and most days at Discount Trains at their new location in the shopping center at N Academy and N Carefree, south of the Safeway. While you are there, be sure to check out the great selection of landscape products! Just the thing for dressing up bases and building dioramas!

Centennial IPMS 4th Wednesday of the month, Falcon Police Station
www.centennialipms.org

Compleat Games & Hobbies Open Builds 2nd & 4th Saturday 12 – 4 PM
www.gamesandhobbies.com

Front Range Anime & Figure Modelers <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRAFM>

Upcoming Events Got an event for the list? Send it to tomtag@pcisys.net

February 18 Super Show Auto/Motorcycle Model Contest Phil Long Expo Center

Super Show admission required

Pro Promotions www.propromotions.com

Matt Duran sduran52@msn.com

April 1-30 Spring Model Daze Bonnie Brae Hobbies Englewood, CO 303-806-6526

In-the-Case Contest, Open Builds, 6 Hour Build .

April 20-22 The Model Show at StarFest www.starland.com

Marriott Denver Tech Center

Long-Running Sci-Fi Fantasy Model Contest for StarFest attendees.

No entry fee for the contest. Con membership required

May 3 – 6 Greater Salt Lake International Scale Vehicle Championship and Convention

Salt Lake Sheraton, Salt Lake City UT www.GSLChampionship.org

THE show for auto modeling fans

May 19 Pikes Peak Model Expo

www.centennialipms.org/pikes_peak_model_expo.htm

Weisbrod Air Museum, Pueblo, CO

May 26-27 Wonderfest www.wonderfest.com

Executive West Hotel, Louisville, KY

Long-running nationally recognized scifi & figure modeling fan con

June 22, 23 IPMS Region X Convention

Phoenix AZ www.ipms-phx.org

July 2006 Summer Model Daze www.gamesandhobbies.com
Compleat Games & Hobbies, CSprgs

August 22-25 IPMS National Convention Anaheim CA
www.ipmsusa.org

September 14-16 The Art & Model Show at Nan Desu Kan
Nan Desu Kan www.ndkdenver.org Marriott Denver Tech Center
11th year anime and scifi modeling contest
No entry fee for contest. Con membership required.

October 14-16 Consumer Days at iHobby Expo www.ihobbyexpo.com
Donald E Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont IL
The BIG annual hobby industry show. Get the latest from the
manufacturers.

Other IPMS events: www.ipmsusa.org

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