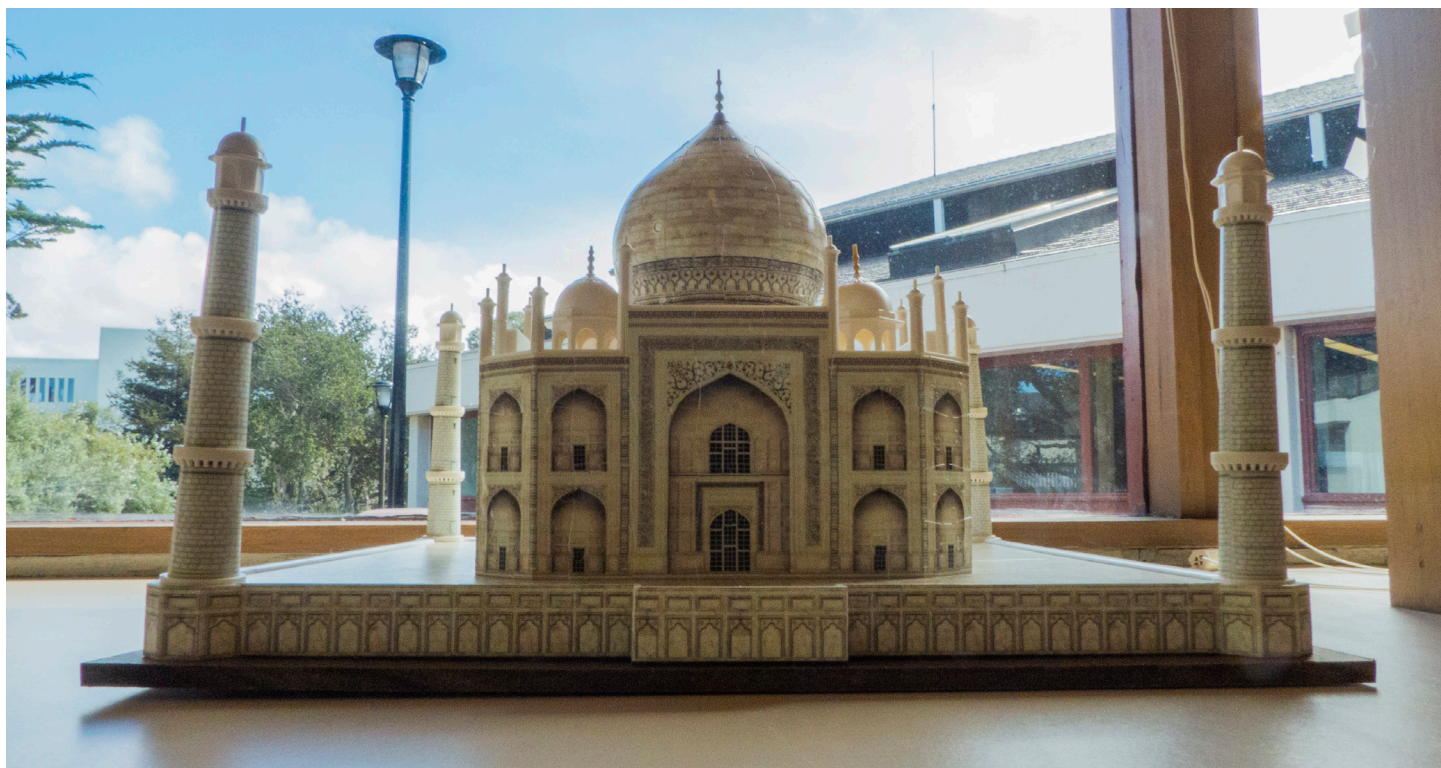




The Monterey Bay Muddler



Evan's Taj Mahal

The International Plastic Modelers' Society, Central Coast-Monterey Bay Chapter held its monthly meeting in the Monterey Public Library's Solarium on Sunday, March 5, 2017.

Present were Matt Robins, Ron Vandergrift, Ron Cline, Eric Hasselfeldt, Ramon Lomeli, Oliver Lomeli, Evan Conneau and David Conneau.

Visibly (and audibly) absent was our fearless leader, Chapter President Lester Tockerman due to a prior family commitment. Also absent was our Chapter Vice President Larry Marcum as well as our Chapter Secretary Lee Marcum who were sorely missed. From the depths of the power vacuum emerged Chapter Treasurer David Conneau who, sensing the opportunity to make a power play, elevated himself to the highest office in the chapter by the largest electoral vote in history. Drunk with power, he convened the meeting at 2:15 pm.

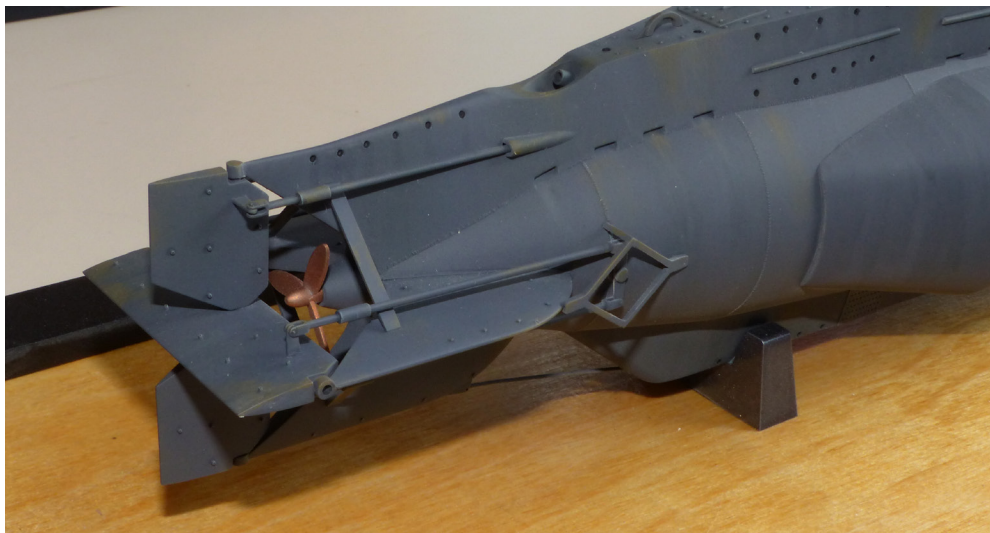
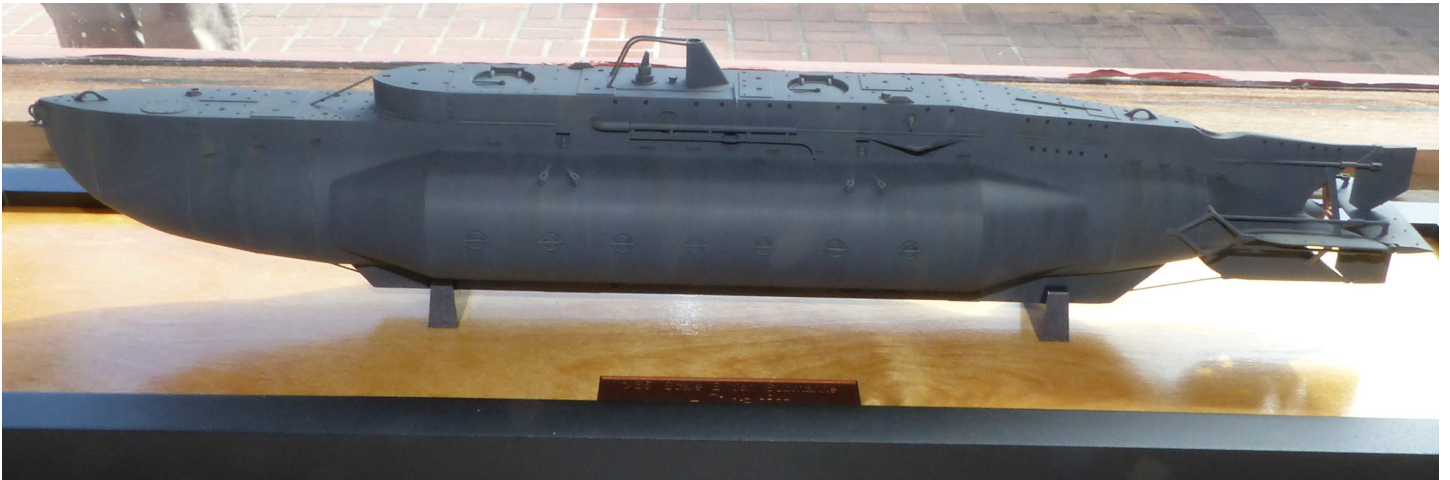
There was no old or new business at this time.

The Treasurer reported that our current balance is \$158.88

and now it's time for...

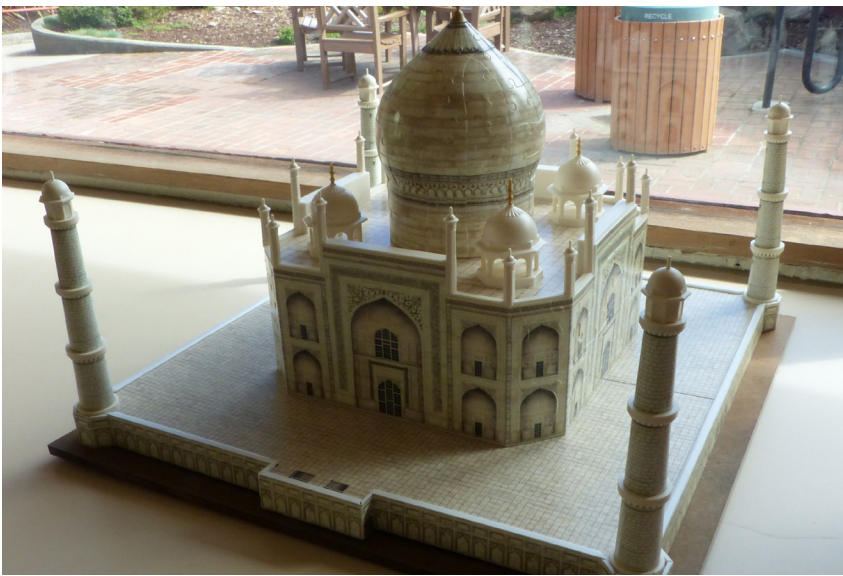
SHOW AND TELL!!!

ERIC HASSELFELDT started off with his Merit Kit of a Royal Navy X-Craft midget submarine, a true midget submarine with a four man crew able to remain at sea for several days. Mines or detachable explosives were fitted to outside of the hull. Modified craft were produced for training and Pacific operations. X-Craft crippled the German battleship Tirpitz in 1943 and sank the Italian heavy cruiser Bolzano the following February. In the Pacific they blew up the Japanese heavy cruiser Takao at Singapore in July 1945.



Mounted on a base, Eric's model was everything we've come to expect from this master modeler. The detail is crisp and the control linkage is jewel-like. This a very interesting and unique subject beautifully executed.





EVAN CONNEAU presented his completed Ravensberger 3D Puzzle of the Taj Mahal. Located in Agra, India, the Taj Mahal was built as a mausoleum in 1631 by the Mughal emperor Shan Jahan in memory of his deceased wife, a Persian princess named Mumtaz Mahal. The huge project required over 20,000 workers over two decades. The façade of the Taj Mahal is made of white marble with ornamentation of semi-precious stones, sapphires and

diamonds. Over 1,000 elephants carried all the materials for the complex from all over Asia. The calligraphic suras from the Koran at the four entrances to the main building are particularly impressive. To this day, newlyweds visit the Taj Mahal since, according to the Indian custom, it is believed to preserve marital bliss.

Evan took care to build a beautiful replica of this famous landmark for which he can be justly proud for years to come.



RON CLINE presented another large scale museum quality masterpiece, the Hasegawa 1/32nd scale Kawasaki NIK2-J Shiden Kai 21. Ron's example depicts the mount of Warrant Officer Hiroshi Oh-hara of the Imperial Japanese Navy's 343rd Kokutai, 407th Hikotai 'Tenchugumi' (Heavenly Punishment Unit), Omura Airfield, Japan, April 1945, an elite home defense unit. Code named "George", the Shiden was one of the finest land based fighters employed by Japan. A naval fighter evolved from a floatplane, the Shiden was superior in most respects to the US Navy's carrier fighters that it opposed. Entering Japanese naval service in early 1944, the Shiden soon gained a reputation among Allied pilots as one of the toughest and most troublesome Japanese fighters to be met in combat. The Grumman Hellcat was regarded as an easy kill to a pilot of any experience. The Shiden was fast, powerful and maneuverable and the equal of any Allied fighter, even the North American P-51 Mustang. Had large numbers of the Shiden been available during the air battles of 1944-45, their outcome might have been different and the war in the Far East lengthened.

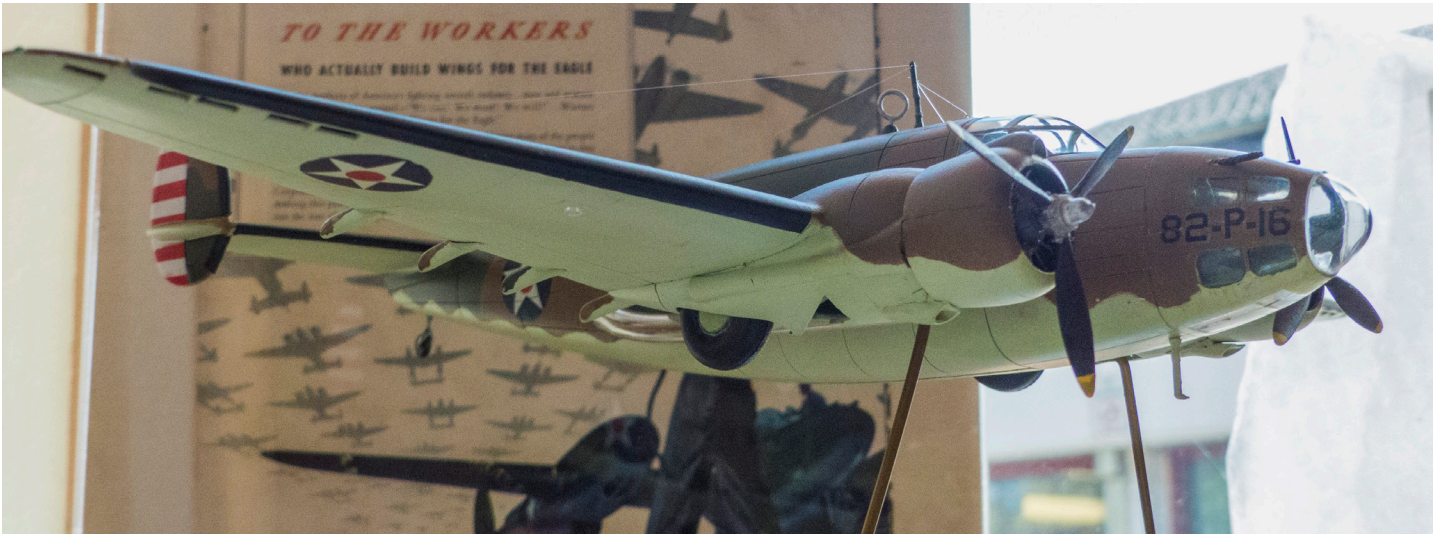
Ron's meticulous attention to detail is evident throughout from the wiring of the power plant to the quadrants, controls and the instrumentation in the cockpit. The more you look, the more you see. The presentation was first rate.



MATT ROBINS is our newest and a most welcome addition to our motley crew. He unveiled for us Hasegawa's 1/72nd scale Kawanishi H8K2, Type 2 Flying Boat Model 21. Code named 'Emily', the Kawanishi Type 2 Flying Boat was one of the finest Japanese warplanes to see operational service during WWII. It was the fastest flying boat of the war, possessing superior hydrodynamic qualities, heavy defensive armament and armor protection, and treated with the greatest respect by Allied fighter pilots.

We are all familiar with the first attack on Pearl Harbor on Sunday, December 7, 1941. Did you know that that wasn't the only time the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor? Matt informed us on how 'Emily' made her operational debut with a night attack on Pearl Harbor on the night of March 4, 1942. Three H8K2's based at Watje in the Marshall Islands rendezvoused with a refueling submarine at French Frigate Island, some 650 miles from Oahu intent on bombing the harbor repair facilities at Pearl. As before, the Americans were caught completely by surprise. Unfortunately for the Japanese, Oahu was obscured by heavy cloud cover and the bombs fell harmlessly in the hills above the naval base. Today in Japan there is a single example of a Kawanishi H8K2 Type 2 Flying Boat on public display.

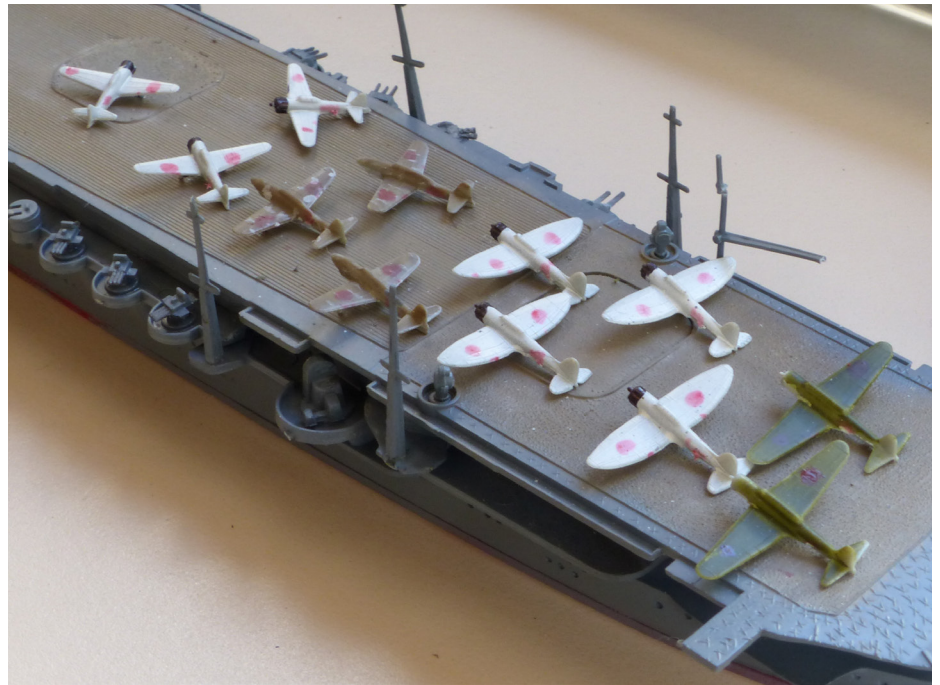
Matt's kit is the much anticipated re-tooled Hasegawa 1/72nd scale 'Emily'. Those of us who are old enough to remember the original Hasegawa from the 1960's recognize that while a great kit, it was a product of its time. Matt's kit is state of the art and a quantum leap from the past issues. The crisp molding is just the start. No pressure, Matt, but don't make us wait too long to see this beauty completed.



DAVID CONNEAU resurrected a rethead associated with the month of March, (in this case March 1942) the Classic Airframes 1/48th scale Lockheed Hudson. Dave's model depicts a Lockheed PBO-1 Hudson of Patrol Squadron 82 (VP-82) based at Argentia, Newfoundland. In aircraft 82-P-16, Ensign Eugene Tepuni, USNR, and crew sunk U-656 on March 1, 1942, the first U-Boat sunk by the US Navy.



OLIVER LOMELI displayed some Imperial Japanese Naval vessels. There was the Aoshima 1/700 waterline series IJN Carrier 'Hiryu'. Launched in 1939, 'Hiryu' along with her sister ship 'Soryu' formed the 2nd Carrier Division participating in the Pearl Harbor attack of December 7, 1941. 6 months later both carriers were lost at the Battle of Midway, June 4-6, 1942. Oliver has done a beautiful job finishing the model; especially eye-catching are the aircraft staged about the flight deck.



A WIP is Mini-craft's IJN Battleship 'Nagato'. Launched in 1919 the 'Nagato' was among the first ships to mount 16-inch guns. The 'Nagato' survived the war and was surrendered damaged at Yokosuka in 1945. She was expended as a nuclear test target the following year.



Oliver's last WIP offering was Tamiya's 1/72nd scale Ilyushin IL-2 Sturmovik. The two most significant weapons deployed by the Red Army in the Great Patriotic War were the T-34 Medium Tank and the Ilyushin IL-2 Sturmovik. The IL-2 with its rockets and heavy fire power was the scourge of the Eastern Front. Heavily armored, German pilots reported pumping enormous quantities

of bullets into the planes without bringing them down or setting them afire. Marshall Stalin railed, "They (IL-2's) are as essential to the Red Army as air and bread!"

Oliver is a rising star in our chapter and his work never ceases to impress.



RAMON LOMELI provided three examples--- all WIP's.

First was the Hasegawa 1/48th scale Lockheed F-104C Starfighter. This Clarence "Kelly" Johnson Cold Warrior design was known as the "missile with a man in it." Ramon's bird represents an example assigned to the 479th TFW (USAF), George AFB, California, 1963.

The next subject was the Tamiya 1/48th scale Lockheed-Martin F-16C/J Fighting Falcon. Finished in an overall Lo-Vis scheme this air superiority fighter is the Flight Leader of the 79th FS, 20th FW based at Buckley AFB, Colorado as it appeared at the Tiger Meet, August 2001. Ramon is the Master of Metalizer. The only word that describes Ramon's work is superb.



Lastly, the final offering is Tamiya's 1/48th scale Chance-Vought F4U-1A Corsair, the first version to feature a frameless clear view type canopy. Ramon intends to finish the bent wing bird in the tri-color scheme employed by the US Navy/Marines from mid-1943 to 1944. Further he will depict VF-17 (Jolly Rodgers) CO Lt. Cdr. Tommy Blackburn's F4U-1A "Big Hog" as it appeared on Ondonga, New Georgia in 1943. The red surround of the national insignia (June-September 1943) against the Sea Blue-Intermediate Blue-White tri-color scheme is always a sharp look.



The "Tamigawas" are pretty much considered the gold standard among kits, and judging from previous examples, Ramon will deliver another round of gems.

Muddlers Mucking About



There being no further business and accepting the thunderous applause and adoration of over 1.3 million devoted fans, the President Pro Tem, his XLNT David Conneau-it-all adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm. All escaped without injury.



“So I told her I bought another model kit. She asked me if I was going to sell the old one. Seriously?!”



Next meeting will be on the 1st Sunday of April at the Monterey Library at 1:30 p.m. Looking forward to seeing all of you there with a multitude of ideas for our 50th Anniversary year.

Until next time!
-David

President: Lester Tockerman
Vice President: Larry Marcum
Treasurer: David Conneau
Secretary: Lee Marcum
Layout Artist: Ramon Lomeli