



The Monterey Bay Muddler



Oliver's Sd.Kfz 225 Radio Car

The International Plastic Modelers Society, Central Coast-Monterey Bay Chapter held its monthly meeting in the Monterey Public Library's Solarium, Sunday, June 4, 2017. In attendance were the usual suspects: President Lester Tockerman, Vice-President Larry Marcum, Secretary Lee Marcum, and Treasurer David Conneau, Ramon Lomeli, Boy Wonder Oliver Lomeli, and Ron Cline rounded out our motley crew. Treasurers Report: As of June 20, 2017 the balance of our treasury account is quite nice.

In New/Old Business: There was nothing new from the President's desk...we're still looking into some kind of 50th Anniversary showplace...mainly Del Monte Center. Treasure David Conneau has suggested that in an effort to prevent any future difficulties with the National IPMS/USA, the chapter will automatically renew membership dues for those who are currently registered. During our October Meeting, each member will be polled as to whether or not they wish to be renewed in the IPMS/USA for the following year. If you are currently enrolled and we receive your permission, your membership will be renewed. As has been discussed many times in past meetings, if you pay your monthly tith (\$3.00 CHEAP) then you are entitled to have your yearly membership (\$30.00) renewed by the chapter. Should you choose you can always reimburse the chapter at your leisure.

Ramon Lomeli made a suggestion that since Adrian Garza cannot attend meetings due to ongoing family issues, we could have a Newsletter section called "Adrian's Corner". Everyone thought that was a great idea!

There being no other business, 'twas time for...

SHOW AND TELL!!!

OLIVER LOMELI started us off by showing his finished (finally) Revell 1/48th scale F/A-18E Super Hornet. Next, his Tamiya 1/35th scale German Sd.Kfz 225 Radio Car employed a combination of water, white glue and weathering powders to make very convincing mud. He also showed us the venerable Revell (formerly Monogram) 1/48th scale P-40B Tomahawk....still a WIP. Since the fruit doesn't fall tooooooo far from the tree, we can expect this talented 12 year old modeler's ability to be far advanced for his years. Mazel tov Oliver!





Daddy RAMON LOMELI was next with 2 WIP's: a Revell 1/48th scale F-15E Strike Eagle. Ramon is doing a lot of weathering on his F-15, so don't expect a showroom model of this bird but rather a front line working-class dog.



An AMK 1/48th scale MiG 31 Foxhound continues to occupy Ramon's attention as one little thing (it's always the little things) after another keeps popping up (or off). To borrow from Thomas Paine, "These are times that try men's souls." We all get excited at the start of a new project, eagerly anticipating a smooth and trouble-free finish. But then come 'the fiddly bits', the flukes, fingerprints, flubs and failures, fit issues, missing parts etc. that drive you to distraction. That's when patience, persistence and problem solving come to the fore and separates the wheat from the chaff. The result: a master modeler. To illustrate my point, go on line to <http://www.aircraftresourcecenter.com/> and select Search. When the Google search comes up, type in Lomeli and then settle back for some real eye candy. The results are worth it!

DAVID CONNEAU was up next with a collection of U.S. Navy carrier based and U.S. Marine Corps land based aircraft that fought at the Battle of Midway. After months of humiliating defeats and setbacks, U.S. intelligence had intercepted and cracked the Japanese code revealing their intentions of seizing Midway Island as a staging ground for the final destruction of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and the ultimate occupation of the Hawaiian Islands. Midway's defenses were bolstered and the carriers Enterprise, Yorktown and Hornet with their respective support groups were stationed to the Northwest with instructions to just 'nip' at the flanks of the invading Imperial Japanese Naval fleet. What ensued between June 4-6, 1942 was an epic battle that most historians consider the turning point of the Pacific War. Incidentally, our meeting was being held on the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway.



1994 1/48th Tamiya Grumman F4F-4 Wildcat, VF-3, U.S.S. Yorktown: The six-gunned, folding wing dash 4 was the frontline fighter of the U.S. Navy (and later, the U.S. Marine Corps) at the time of Midway and would remain so until 1944. This model displays the markings of unit commander Lt. Cdr. John S. Thach. Thach shot down 3 Zeros employing a tactic he devised using match sticks on his kitchen table while at San Diego that would become known as the "Thach Weave".

1974 1/48th Monogram Douglas TBD-1 Devastator, Torpedo 8 (VT-8), U.S.S. Hornet: 8-T-8 (BuNo0329) served aboard the Enterprise (VT-6), the Saratoga (VT-3), the Lexington (VT-2) and finally the Hornet (VT-8) when she was lost at Midway. This is the most heavily armed example of a TBD; upgrading its pop gun armament by employing (commandeered SBD) twin .30cal mounts in the rear seat and packing a single forward .50cal (note the fairing just below the cockpit on the starboard side) firing through the cowling. Nevertheless, of the 41 TBD's launched on the morning of June 4, 1942, only 6 returned.



1994 1/48th Hasegawa Douglas SBD-3 Dauntless, Scouting 5 (VS-5), U.S.S. Yorktown: S-9 is the Dauntless in the foreground of the classic grainy black and white photo showing a pair of SBD's flying over the burning Akagi far below. Due to the Japanese Zero CAP diving to sea level to slaughter the unescorted TBD's, the Dauntlesses arrived at altitude unmolested and within less than 5 minutes doomed three carriers outright. Later that day they returned to sink a fourth. Of the six carriers that attacked Pearl Harbor, Dauntless crews destroyed four at Midway.



1958 (1966 re-issue) 1/48th Monogram Grumman TBF-1 Avenger, Torpedo 8 (VT-8), U.S.S. Hornet: TBF-1 Avenger 8-T-1 was one of six Avengers (unable to be taken aboard the U.S.S. Hornet) stationed on Midway Island. On June 4th at 05:45 the six Avengers left Midway and headed unescorted toward the Japanese fleet. After sighting the fleet at 07:10 the formation came under brutal attack by Zeros of the CAP, quickly dispatching five of the six Avengers. Ens. Albert K. Earnest in 8-T-1 pressed his attack at what he thought was a cruiser, flying through anti-aircraft fire, relentlessly pursued by Zeros, wounding Earnest, radioman Harry Farrier and killing turret gunner J.D. Manning. Dropping his torpedo, Earnest nursed his bullet riddled TBF back to Midway where he made a one wheel crash landing, thereby making 8-T-1 the sole surviving aircraft of Torpedo Squadron 8.



2005 1/48th Special Hobby Brewster F2A-3 Buffalo, Marine Fighter Squadron 221 (VMF-221), Marine Air Wing 2 (MAW-2), Midway Island: The Brewster Buffalo was the most advanced carrier-based fighter when introduced into service in September 1940. No other naval air arm operated a fighter capable of catching it or possessing the fire power to bring it down. By 1942, however, the addition of radio equipment, armored windscreen, increased armor protection for pilot and fuel tank without any commensurate increase in horse power rendered a very unstable and sluggish aircraft that took nearly 30 minutes to climb to 21,000 ft. This model displays the markings of the F2A-3 flown by Capt. William C. Humbert, USMC who shot down a Japanese (B5N) bomber off Midway only to be pursued by two Zeros, one of which chased Humbert down to wave level. Maintaining full throttle, Humbert gained enough distance to turn on his pursuer, giving it a long burst, flaming the Zero, sending it into the sea. Humbert returned to Midway and was in the process of re-arming and refueling when the order came to stand down. Captain Humbert was awarded the Navy Cross for his action. However, the Buffalo fared so badly against the Mitsubishi Zero at Midway, losing 13 out of 21 prompting Capt. P.R. White, USMC to report, "It is my belief that any commander who orders pilots out for combat in an F2A should consider the pilot as lost before leaving the ground."



1995 1/48th HaPM Ltd Vought SB2U-3 Vindicator, Marine Scout Bombing 241 (VMSB-241), Marine Air Group 22 (MAW-22), Midway Island: The Vought Vindicator was the first monoplane dive bomber accepted by the U.S. Navy (1938) and embodied the transition from biplane to the modern monoplane. It was never an outstanding performer, going into spins after a high speed stall. Dive bombing was often effected by dropping flaps and lowering the landing gear. The SB2U-3 was a result of a Marine Corps request for longer range that was answered by increased (unprotected) fuel capacity enabling Marine Vindicators to fly nonstop from Ewa MCAS, Hawaii to Midway Island (1,137mi.) in 9hrs. 45min. This model displays the markings of SB2U-3 (BuNo 2045) flown by 2Lt. James Marmande USMC and gunner PFC Edby Colvin USMC who left Midway Island on the morning of June 4th to attack the battleship Haruna. Both disappeared on the flight back to Midway. As for the 'stripes' on the aft fuselage: "The vertical and horizontal stripes were actually 4-inch medical tape used to hold the fabric to the fuselage! These SB2U-3's were due for overhaul prior to being flown to Midway from MCAS Ewa (December 17, 1941). This overhaul would have included, of course, new fabric for the aft fuselage. Thus to counteract the effects of heat, sunlight, salt air, etc., to hold the decaying fabric to the fuselage structure, medical tape, 4 inches wide, was wrapped around the fuselage and also along the fuselage longerons to keep it in place, and then doped over." Sumner H. Whitten USMC, VMSB-241 "Sons of Satan"





All aircraft in this presentation are finished in regulation US Navy/USMC overall blue-gray with gull gray undersurfaces in effect from late May 1942 until June 1943. National insignia is displayed in six positions in the largest size possible without covering control surfaces. Compared with earlier schemes, there is a complete lack of tail stripes or any red color in the National insignia as a precaution against 'friendly fire'.

LESTER TOCKERMAN got on a conversation about airbrushes... not just any airbrush, but the Sotar 20/20 line. In his humble opinion, the best EVER made! He then presented 2 busts: The first one presented was a WW I German officer, whistle in mouth and pistol in hand. This one could very well be titled "Over the top men". While looking somewhat pregnant, it's his gas mask under his coat that's bulging out! The second one is a WIP, an Aztec Mixeca Captain, c. 1519. The kit, from United Empire Miniatures, came in 5 beautifully molded parts. It will be a welcome addition to my Amerindian collection.





With Show and Tell over, we voted for “Model of the Month”, and once again, OLIVER LOMELI took the honors with his Sd.Kfz 225 radio car.

PARTING THOUGHTS

This month we remember the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Midway (June 4-6, 1942). Lest we forget, let us take a moment to honor those who survived, and to mourn those who paid the ultimate price in the service of their country. Let us also remember that Freedom is not a gift, but a legacy paid for with the lives of hundreds of thousands of American men and women. It is a sacred legacy.



Devastators of VT-6 aboard USS Enterprise being prepared for take off during the battle. Photo courtesy of [Wikipedia](#)

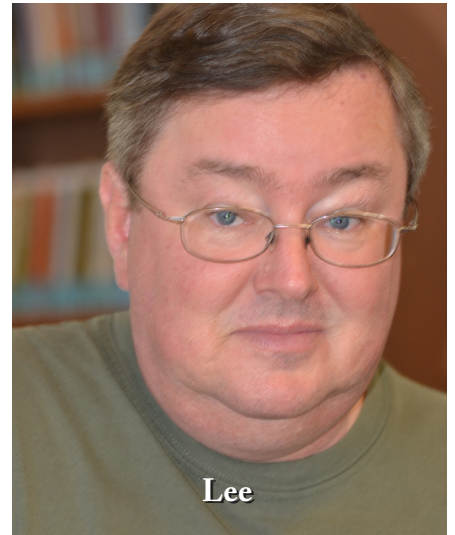
Muddlers Mugshots



David



Lester



Lee



Larry



Oliver



Ramon



Ever the multi-tasker, Ron poses for two cameras at once!

Until next time!
-David

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