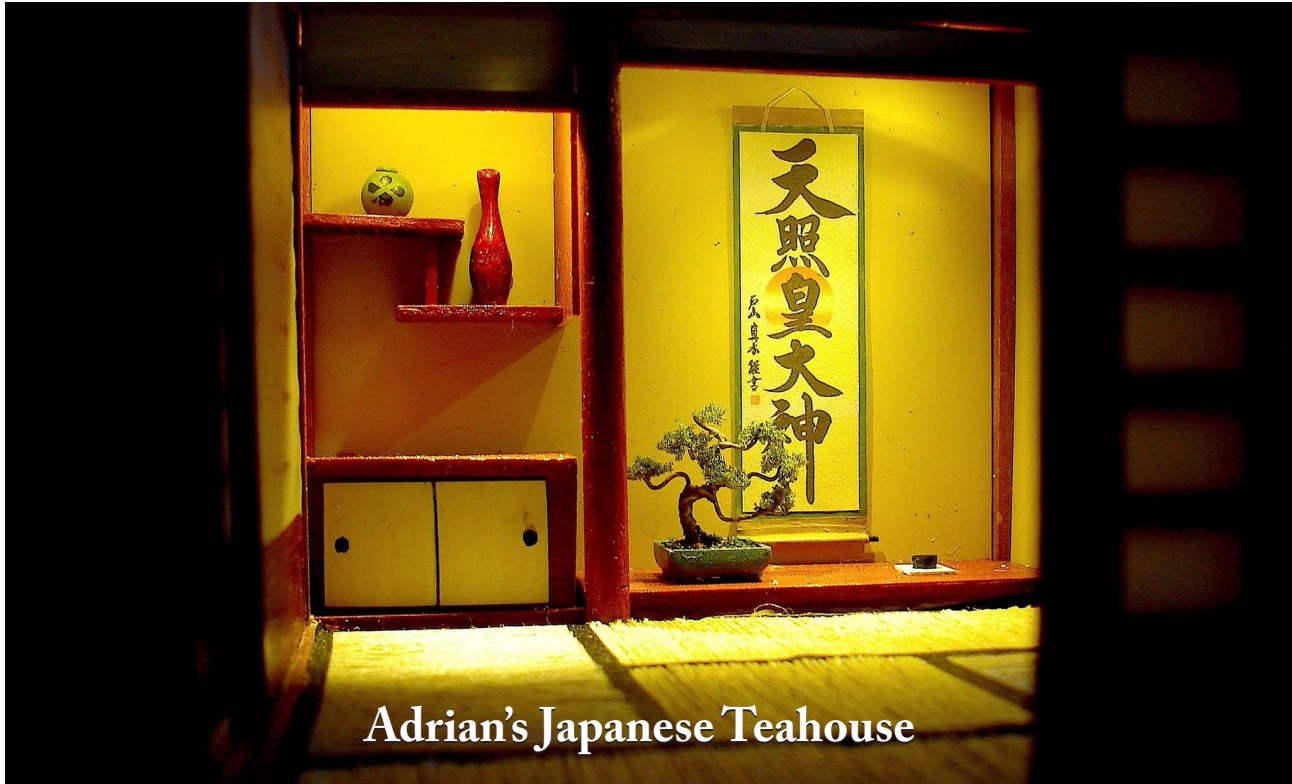




The Monterey Bay Muddler



Adrian's Japanese Teahouse

The International Plastic Modelers Society, Central Coast-Monterey Bay Chapter held its monthly meeting at President Lester Tockerman's home in Seaside on Sunday, July 2, 2017, a beautiful, sunny day.

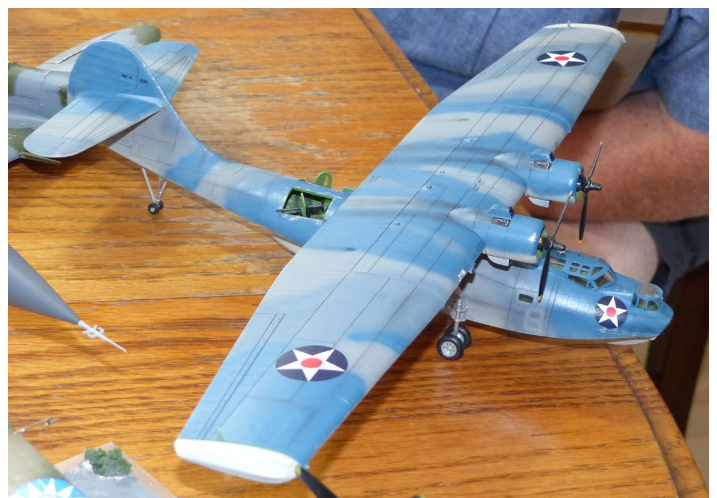
As usual, the meeting started a bit late, but that was O.K., because Wendy did a great job redecorating the back patio. The chefs at Safeway did a great job making the roasted chicken and the hero sandwiches, which were enthusiastically devoured by all. Those who did the devouring were David Clarke, David Conneau, grandson Evan, Ramon Lomeli, and son, Oliver, the brothers Marcum...Larry and Lee, Kelly Avery, Ron Cline, our long lost brother Adrian Garza, Anthony Moltini., and our gracious and generous host, Lester, who gave the whole affair a relaxed and party-like atmosphere. What a lovely way to spend a fog-free July afternoon!

During lunch, Lester got down an old box filled with old accessory kits, and they were gobbled up faster than the food...imagine that! We did a lot of kibitzing before we got down to business, of which there was precious little. We're still hoping we can do something for our 50th Anniversary, but having some doubts. Perhaps we could make some fabulous signs for the Fair, in celebration of our 50th. That might just be the best we can manage. Incidentally, two (2) display cases have been reserved for our Monterey County Fair (August 31-September 4) Exhibit. This year's theme is: Fair Fun in the Summer of Love. Anyone got a Volkswagen Bus model? How about those Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers? A Jefferson Airplane? Sopwith Camel? Wooden Ships upon the Waters? Sgt. Pepper? White Rabbit...I'll stop.

David, our fearless Treasurer told us that there was \$211.00 in our coffers, and all our bills were paid. As of July 20th our Treasury shows a balance of \$273.89. As lunch wound down, and business finished we went right into...

SHOW AND TELL!!!

ANTHONY MOLTINI started things off by showing several projects: One was a Hasegawa 1/72nd scale Lockheed P-38J Lighting, another, an Italeri 1/72nd scale North American B-25H Mitchell, and an Academy 1/72nd scale Consolidated PB4Y-2 Catalina. The unusual blue/green camo scheme on the Catalina really made it stand out...kudos Anthony.





RON CLINE was up next with his beautiful Tamiya 1/48th scale North American P-51D Mustang assigned to the 355th Fighter Group, 8th Air Force, stationed at Steeple Morden, England, serving in the bomber escort role, April 1944. As usual, his work is flawless, and full of eye-catching details.



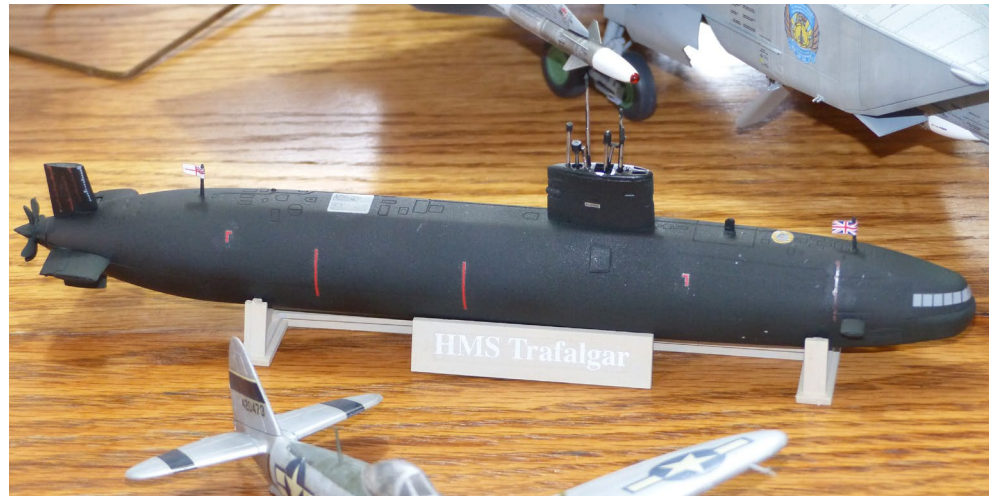
KELLY AVERY was up with two beaubs...both in 1/48 scale. The first was a silver Northrop F-5A, Freedom Fighter and the other, a black Northrop T-38, both by Testors. Interesting fact...both had Cruise Missile engines!

LESTER TOCKERMAN showed next, with 2 Amerindians. The first is an Aztec Mexica Captain, from 1519 c.e., during the Spanish Conquest under Hernando Cortes, and the other, a Mayan Priest, from about the 4th C., c.e.



However, being true to his roots, Lester had to do something in plastic. Since his oldest step-son is into old horror movies, Lester showed the Aurora 1/12th scale "The Witch" kit. Initially released in 1969, "The Witch" was re-released in 1972 with 'Glow in the Dark' parts. Since then the kit is still available under the Polar Lights label (2000, 2009).

OLIVER LOMELI stepped up to the plate next with some finished work, and one WIP. Finally finished after 12 years in the making was his H.M.S. Trafalgar, a 1/350th scale British submarine.



Also finished after many years in the box, were his 1/72nd scale Republic P-47D Thunderbolt, an early 'razorback' version, and a diorama of his Monogram 1/48th scale Curtiss P-40B Tiger Shark.



His WIP is a Mikoyan Mi-28 Russian Havoc, a 1/72nd scale helo. by Hasegawa. Oliver seems to grow as a modeler, at twice the speed of sound. I just know that when he goes to the Nationals, he'll bring home lots of gold and silver!



LEE MARCUM brought in his finally finished, after decades of work, a beautiful Aurora (Polar Lights) Godzilla presentation. One would not believe how much putty went into the making of this kit, but out of the box, the kit weighed 3 lbs, and with the putty, it now weighs 376 lbs, 14 ozs. I hope he remembered to buy stock in that putty company.





LARRY MARCUM followed with his WIP of the Airfix, 1/72nd scale British Blenheim Mk. IV bomber. This 1968 kit is your classic Airfix issue that we older modelers grew up on (warts and all). However, Larry has invested many hours and effort in the true model maker's art to fashion an example that just might turn out to be a prime candidate for the "Sows ear into a Silk purse" award. I'm guessing we'll find out in 7 or 8 years.



DAVID CONNEAU was up next. If you'll recall last month (June 2017) was the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway. What many overlook is the fact the Japanese thrust at Midway was the southern part of a two prong strategy to draw out the US Navy for a final fatal encounter. The northern prong was the bait to lure the US forces to the Aleutian Islands by bombing Dutch Harbor on Unalaska Island. David presented two models of aircraft employed in the ensuing Aleutian Campaign: a 1969 Monogram 1/48th scale Bell P-39F Airacobra in the colors of the 57th FS, 54th FG (Snow Wolves), based at Anchorage, Alaska, July 1942. Interestingly, the Group had no sooner applied their distinctive Snow Wolves nose art when the Army ordered it removed for security reasons.



The other example was a 1970 Otaki 1/48th scale Curtiss P-40E Warhawk in the 'Aleutian Tiger' livery of the 11th FS, 343rd FG, 11th AF based on Kiska Island, Alaska, September 1942. 'The Aleutian Tiger' came into being as a tribute to the father of the Group's CO, John Chennault, Claire Chennault of AVG (Flying Tigers) fame. If you should like to view these aircraft in action, go on YouTube and enter, Report from the Aleutians from film director and Hollywood icon, John Huston, in full color.



RAMON LOMELI stepped up next with his (believe it or not) out of the box McDonnell-Douglas F-15E Strike Eagle in 1/48th scale, BUT...he did add weapons from Hasegawa.



He also showed us his AMK 1/48th scale MiG-31 Foxhound. Both kits are beautifully done and worthy of praise.

Lastly, he showed us an Airfix, 1/48th scale Supermarine Spitfire Mk V, sprayed with his Sotar 20/20. He's finally getting used to it and I believe that a love affair will soon bloom between the two. Vicky....better keep an eye out on that airbrush!



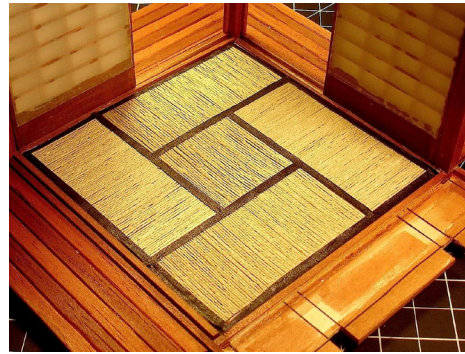
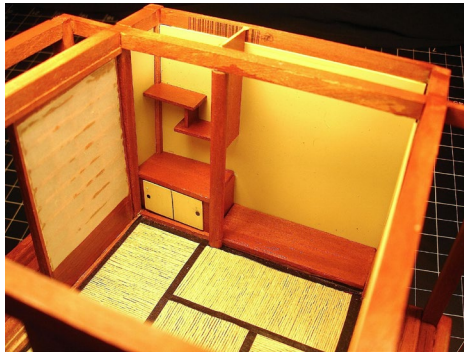
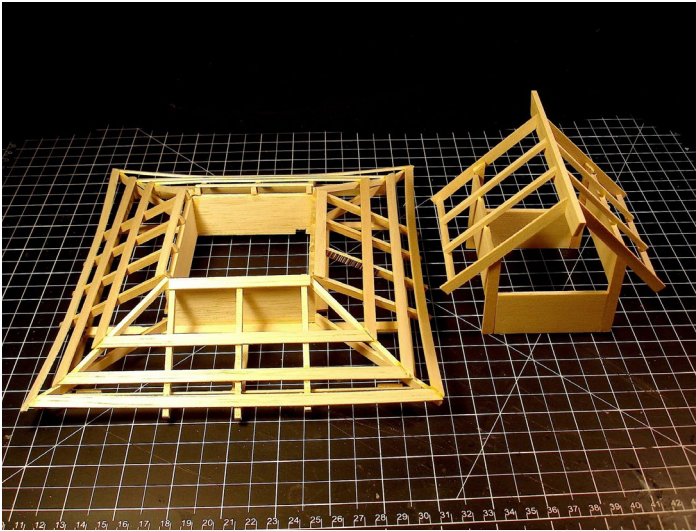


ADRIAN GARZA wowed the show with a FABULOUS scratch-built Japanese Tea House in 1/24th scale. Still a WIP, it's constructed of bass, balsa wood and plastic. The tatami mats were made strand by strand. The shoji doors are functional, the interior is fully appointed according to classical Japanese tradition. Upon completion of the Tea House, Adrian intends to place it in a formal Japanese landscape, complete with water effects. In the Japanese garden, every element has significance and is placed according to strict custom. Adrian's sensitive attention to such detail is inspiring. Oh, and did we mention that the entire project is lit with tiny lights? So far, he has 2 months worth of work in it, but I have this feeling that he will soon join Ramon and Lee at the funny farm.(or the Smithsonian).....actually, we are envious in the very best way possible.



Adrian's Workbench

Selected WIP shots from Adrian's work bench...





DAVID CLARKE Last, but never least, our long lost active duty member came with his WIPs...the 1/72nd scale German Panther IV, disguised as a M-10 Wolverine look-alike, the M-103 U.S. heavy tank, and his M-4A3 Sherman w/ 105 mm gun.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Before closing this months' letter, I have some thoughts I'd like to share with you. As you all know, I look forward to going to contests around the state and have seen several chapters, especially those in Central and Northern CA. Some of these chapters have upwards of 100 members or more. As I look back at their presentations, and compare them to ours, I'd put our work up against the very best in the state. I firmly believe that we will outperform them, hands down and eyes closed. I guess that's a very long winded way of telling all of you how very proud I am to be part of our chapter, and how proud I am of your work. PLEASE...keep it up.

Muddlers Mucking About



Our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 6, 2017 in the Solarium at the Monterey Library, starting at 1:30 p.m. Hope to see all of you there.....Lester

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