

Pelikan Model Club

www.percongrp.com/pelikan.htm



APRIL 2004

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Reminders:

- Submit ideas for Theme of the Month
- Hurricanefest '04 in Ft. Lauderdale April 24th
www.geocities.com/hurricanefest
- Florida West Coast Model Expo 2004 Pensacola May 29th
<http://members.tripod.com/pcolamodelers>
- New web site for Manatee <http://journals.aol.com/lockerlad/manateescalemodelers>

WE RULE!

This is going to be a short newsletter, but there is a good reason. We have been busy! Many club members recently made an excellent showing at Titusville and as I write, there are also several members manning the fort at Airfest '04. First of all, a really big thanks to those folks who made Airfest '04 a reality. George Hecht has done a great job coordinating with the Macdill staff to get us there and I know there are several people manning the display on Saturday and Sunday. My half day stay on Saturday showed me that the public really enjoys this display and it is a really tough weekend for the guys who bring out their models and watch over them both days. A very big thanks to everyone who put in time at Airfest.

What can I say about Titusville except - we rule! The show was great fun. The Titusville/Orlando club put on another excellent show. The trophies they made were very nice. The first place awards with a picture of the model on them were fantastic. I was lucky enough to win one and will bring it to the meeting so everyone can see it. I believe they had over 500 models and more than 100 contestants. Many of the winners were from our club, which just goes to show the outstanding work we do. Congratulations to all who brought home an award. We also had many judging volunteers which was greatly appreciated by the clubs hosting the show. They will be returning the favor at our show. Thanks to all those who helped out. We all know that putting on a show is a great effort and can not be done without the support of the other clubs.

We will have a short show committee update at our meeting. There is not too much to report but we will have an update just to keep things rolling.

That's it for me, now on to the newsletter.

IPMS UPDATES

There was a business meeting at the Titusville show with our Regional Coordinator and the officers of several Region 11 clubs. The following are some highlights of that meeting:

IPMS yearly dues are going up to \$25 a year. This is mostly to cover the cost of insurance for shows since the cost is higher and the number of IPMS members has shrunk.

There is going to be work done to improve the IPMS Journal. They have recognized that members are becoming increasingly unhappy with the journal and are going to work to deliver more useful content and make it more relevant for all types of modelers.

The Region 11 Chapter of the Year award will go to the Puerto Rico club. They have done many shows and public displays in their area, which has done a lot to bring the hobby to the public.

Most clubs feel that there should be no standard trophy for Region 11 shows. The general consensus is that club should do whatever they can afford. This may mean nothing more than certificates, or it could be nice professional trophies purchased from a trophy shop. A great example of cost saving while providing a nice award are the trophies from the Titusville show. The savings were significant and the end result was very nice.

There is also no great support for keeping the regional within the Orlando, Titusville, St. Pete clubs. While this may be the case in many years, there is not much support for making this a hard and fast rule.

No club has expressed an interest in hosting the 2005 Regional yet, but Orlando is going to do a two day show in 2005 and is considering making it the Regional for 2005.

A representative of the Atlanta club gave a short update on the plans for the 2005 National in Atlanta and it sounds like it is going to be a great show. They are already planning around 500 vendor tables and one of the biggest display areas that has ever been available for a national show. Many special guests are in the works for seminars and they are out to break all the national show attendance records. It sounds like it will be awesome.

This years national in Phoenix is ready to roll. Fred has done some research on prices for the a trip to Phoenix and will give us an update at the meeting on what he has found.

That is a brief update. Ed Brut has done a great job as our official IPMS contact. He forwards the information he gets along the club. If there are folks with e-mail who are not getting these updates, or the newsletter, let me know your correct e-mail address so we can update it.

DAVE'S MUSEAM REVIEW

DUTCH MILITARY MUSEAM

In Oct 99, I was able to visit the Dutch military museum at Overloon, Netherlands. This was the site of the first and only tank battle that will occur on Dutch land.

Brief history of the battle from the museum's website

The Battle of Overloon

26 September to 16 October 1944 For more than four years, the village of Overloon escaped the consequences of the war. However, on 26 Sept 1944, the frontline reached this village in the narrow strip of land between Eindhoven and Arnhem that had been liberated during Operation Market Garden and was being extended slowly but surely. The Germans had entrenched themselves to halt the allies. The adversaries bombarded each other's position for the first four days.

On 30 Sept, the allies launched their attack with the help of the U.S. 7th Armored Division that had been specially drafted in for the purpose. This was the start of one of the fiercest battles that took place in Western Europe. The American Sherman Tanks tried to breach the German defenses but time and again, they were prevented by German mines, field artillery and Panther and Tiger tanks. After a number of failed frontal attacks on the village during the tank battle at Overloon, the 7th Armored attempted to outflank the enemy between Overloon and Vierlingsbeek on 4 Oct 1944. Their objective was to corner the German troops at Overloon. However, the Americans encountered heavy resistance from the Luftwaffefestungsbattalion X, which was deployed by Hattert Castle between Overloon and Vierlingsbeek and equipped with an 88-mm antitank cannon. Almost all the tanks employed in this operation were put out of action. On 8 Oct, the exhausted Americans retreated from the battlefield to be relieved by the 11th British Tank Division and the 3rd British Infantry Division.

After a few days of relative peace, a new assault was to be launched on 11 Oct. The attack was put back a day due to heavy rain. The area around Overloon had in the meantime been turned into a huge quagmire, which meant that the British tanks were unable to do much. The task of breaking the German resistance was left to the infantry.

On 12 Oct at 11.00 a.m. all hell was let loose. An hour and a half later, the Allies pounded the German positions with heavy artillery fire and air raids. Once Overloon had been reduced to rubble, the British started their advance. The houses were taken one by one at the cost of a huge number of casualties. Even in the woods, fierce man-to-man combat raged. At 4.15 p.m. on 14 Oct, the last German stronghold in the village fell.

The Allies had not come up against such hostile opposition since June on the beaches of Normandy. Their losses included three aircraft, some forty tanks and 1878 men. The Germans lost about 600 men and a number of tanks.

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DAVE'S MUSEAM REVIEW CONTINUED

Harry van Daal, a citizen of Overloon, was so shocked by the events that had taken place, that he proposed preserving part of the battlefield and erecting a museum on it as a monument. On 25 May 1946, General Whistler, the commanding officer of the British troops who recaptured Overloon, officially opened the museum. The museum and the 15-hectare park on which it stands, was once the scene of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War. It has become a permanent reminder of the horrors of war.

Museum displays

Outside

6 pdr at gun

Sherman Flail anti-mine tank

US Army bulldozer with towed scraper
engineer vehicle

Buffalo AMTRAC, in condition when
found in a canal a few years ago

British universal carrier

British armored car

Searchlight

Infantry bunker complex

Artillery dugout complex with 75mm howitzer

Daimler armored car

JS-II, looked really cool in the woods

85mm at gun

M-3 halftrack

M4A1 Sherman - This Sherman tank was hit directly by 75-mm anti tank artillery (bottom left) and on the left-hand edge of the turret by the above mentioned 88-mm cannon. The crew was killed.

25 pdr howitzer

85mm AA gun

88mm AT gun

Valentine bridge layer with bridge
extended, really cool

Cromwell tank

Churchill tank with 95mm howitzer
75mm cannon

Complete Bailey Bridge, really cool

German Fuse 43 Giant Wurzburg radar
really cool, one of two that I have seen, I
know of at least two others. Best piece in
the whole museum.

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DAVE'S MUSEAM REVIEW CONTINUED

Inside

V-1	Cromwell Mk 10
Morris armored car	Archer AT tank with 17 pdr AT gun
105mm L18h howitzer	Jeep
88mm Flak 43 AA gun	Chevy dispatch and radio vehicle
T-72	17 pdr AT gun
6 pdr	Panther ausf G under restoration. This tank was used in the battle and abandoned by the Germans.
GMC engineer truck	
GMC truck with generator with trailer	
37mm PaK 36	
105mm howitzer	T-34/85
Ft-17 light tank	M-8 armored car
Russian 76.2 mm gun	Weasel amphibious tractor
75mm PaK 40 AT gun	25 pdr howitzer
20mm quad Flak 38 AA gun	US Army road grader engineer vehicle
600mm searchlight	
Crusader utility tractor (formerly a Crusader tank)	Spitfire mk15
Sexton 105mm howitzer	Harvard T-6
	B-25

Shelves of 1/48 metal US trucks and tanks, lots of them

The best item in the museum was a 1/76 diorama display of the village and battlefield area after the battle. Brewed-up Shermans everywhere.

Museum web sites

<http://www.waligora.com/Gallery/WarMuseum/>

<http://www.oorlogsmuseum.nl/uk/>

SHOW STUFF

I am going to keep this part of the newsletter running up to the show to bring everyone updates on the planning for the show.

At this point, we have one estimate for trophies and are going to get at least one more. Our current estimate is around \$1800, which is about \$500 higher than our last show. We currently have around \$1500 in the club account, so we will need to generate more funds to cover the show. Since this is a show year, we will collect dues in September this year. We can also get \$200 from IPMS and will send out trophy sponsorship letters to the other clubs. We should be OK with funding and our show typically generates a fair amount of money that off sets the costs and keeps us in the black. We would obviously like to take any steps we can to generate additional funds and save money, so any ideas will be greatly appreciated.

The show flyers, trophy sponsorship form, vendor registration form, and contestant registration forms are on-line and available for download from our Web site. Please let anyone who is interested know about the Web site so they can check this out. All the most current information will be there. The hotel rates have been confirmed and we are good to go there. There are still some special awards being considered, but the categories should be final.

We are considering using the database application the Orlando/Titusville clubs use for their shows. Registration at Titusville was much easier due to this system they have created, so we are going to request a copy of the application from them and evaluate it for our use. One really nice feature is that they have the names and addresses of all the previous show contestants so registration forms can be pre-printed and mailing lists can be generated.

We do not yet have a plan for a make and take for the kids at our show, so if anyone is willing to take his on, let us know. It is a great event for the kids and will require a few helpers, but is worth the effort.

**For contributions
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