



# BATTLEWAGON

## Bay Colony Historical Modelers

Volume 25 Issue 5  
April 2007

IPMS Region 1 Chapter of the Year 2004

### Recon:

**Mass Car** – April 15, 2007 – Taunton, MA Contact Norm Jean, [headjudge@masscar.com](mailto:headjudge@masscar.com), 401-766-4322

**Noreastcon 2007** – April 27-28, 2007 – Poughkeepsie, NY Contact Event Chairman Thomas Walker - IPMS Mid-Hudson - 845-632-1383 - [Tholian@optonline.net](mailto:Tholian@optonline.net)

**IPMS Nationals 2007** – August 22-25, 2007 – Anaheim, CA Contact <http://www.ipmsusa2007.org/>

**AMPS EAST 2007** – September 29, 2007 – Danbury, CT Contact Bill Schmidt 203-735-9014 [bjnc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjnc@sbcglobal.net)

**Granite ConXIII** – October 21, 2007 – Nashua, NH Contact Rodney Currier [ipmsgsmc@hotmail.com](mailto:ipmsgsmc@hotmail.com) or 603-726-3876

**Baycon 2007** – November 4, 2007 – So. Attleboro, MA – Contact Bob Magina, [treadhead@comcast.net](mailto:treadhead@comcast.net) or 508-695-7754

### The Modeler's Bench – Frank Iacobucci, Paula and David



Frank has been into modeling since he was about 10 years old. He does everything from Sci. Fi. to cars. His favorite to build is military WWII as well as modern military. As of late he is very interested in building British LRDG jeeps and has shown a strong interest in the TV series Rat Patrol. Frank has started to be a regular at the workshops on Friday and Saturday nights. He is currently working on a Dodge command car and a SAS Jeep.

Paula has been building for a few years now and mostly likes to build cars. Check out her Black Mustang in the gallery, it is very nice. However, after meeting a number of the Bay Colony Modelers she is now taking an interest in figures. Although, there is this purple roadster that she is learning how to airbursh. So far, it is coming out great.

David has been building for a few years as well. He likes to build Star Wars stuff and cars. David was quite excited when he heard about Kevin and his Star Wars Speeder Bike. Seems he couldn't wait to work with Kevin and learn techniques for building this stuff.

Well, since joining Bay Colony late in 2006, we have met quite a number of Bay Colony members and really have enjoyed ourselves. The workshops have been an eye opener. We have begun to learn how to use an airbrush, learned the virtues of the visor, and a whole lot of building and finishing techniques.

We hope to be able to start attending the club monthly meetings and of course the coming model shows. We attended Baycon 2006 and had a great time. We look forward to more.



### Luftwaffe Ground Crew Work Uniforms *By Hal Marshman, Sr.*

All the way from Home club meetings, to the Nationals, I really enjoy looking at dioramas. Airplane dioramas are pretty much my favorites. As those of you who delve into this venue know, the appearance of the figures can make or break a well done diorama. What I'm talking about in this case, is not how beautifully they're painted, but how accurately they're rendered. Now, set aside the splendidly decorated pilot and visiting officer figures, and take a good look at the mechanics and other ground crewman, such as fuelers, armorers, and laborers. It is most likely that they are not wearing Luftwaffe Grey field or dress uniforms, but the specially designed Luftwaffe work uniform.

A simple coverall type garment, rather loosely fitted was the main article. I have also seen a 2 piece version of this uniform worn. In any case, it was a rather simple garment, made out of a black denim material, the color chosen to disguise grease and dirt smears.

There was a matching cloth belt with open buckle intended for wear with this uniform, but quite often the leather field belt with Luftwaffe insignia was worn. I've seen a great many pictures where no belt of any sort was in evidence. There was a black denim overseas style cap intended for wear with his uniform. I have found no evidence of an M-43 style cap produced for wear, and naturally the visored dress cap was not worn. In certain situations, the regular steel helmet could be worn.

The insignia worn for all ranks was limited to the Luftwaffe eagle in white or grey on the cap, but not on the uniform breast. There was no cockade on the cap. Medals and specialty decorations were not worn. Rank was limited to the normal lozenge or chevron sleeve insignia on the left sleeve. Collar tabs and shoulder straps were not worn. NCO ranks wore a single band of tresse down the front of the collar, and around the base. The tresse was 1 centimeter wide, and light grey in color. In addition, the sergeant grades had tresse rings around the cuffs of both sleeves, as follows

Feldwebel – one ring about 4 inches above the cuff.

Oberfeldwebel – 2 rings.

Hauptwebel/Oberfeldwebel – 3 rings

Stabsfeldwebel – 3 rings topped with a lozenge.

Officer ranks wore the same field sleeve insignia as Fallschermjaeger (paratroops).

[Tresse was a flat braid type of material, with the Luftwaffe having a different weave than the Heer or SS.]

This article basically pertains to Luftwaffe ground crew, but this uniform could also be seen worn by Luftwaffe fire personnel and Luftwaffe Flak personnel, to include Hitler Youth Flak Helpers and Female Flak helpers. (Hilferen and Hilferinnen.) In addition to the black denims, I have pictures of Luftwaffe personnel of Flak units, and other personnel unloading bombs from trucks, wearing both one and two piece uniforms made of an off white material. In this

case, they seem to be wearing normal Luftwaffe headgear. I've not seen mechanics wearing this garment.

I hope this summary of Luftwaffe ground crew uniforms may have been of assistance of those who might be contemplating including mechanics, fuelers or armorers with their airplane dioramas.

Have fun, Hal

Bibliography: this article was prepared using information found in Vol. 2, Uniforms and Insignia of the Luftwaffe, 1940-1945, by Brian L. Davis, Pub by Arms and Armour Press, London, UK, 1995

## IPMS Region 1 Update *By Doug Hamilton RC-1*



Hi and Howdy everyone,  
Time for more news that chews!! There's a fair amount of news this time out, so lets get right to it.

The first two items come from Dick Montgomery, DLC. The first provides a new Point of Contact (PoC) for the Supporting our

Troops initiative. As well as a few words on a couple of other important subjects.

The second is the first of what will become a series of broadsheets detailing the roll of the Chapter Contact (CC) and their roll in the Chapter/Society communication system. This is a must read for all CC's and officers of the chapter. The CC position is the immediate link between the chapter and IPMS, and the importance of this job is generally overlooked and or under appreciated at the chapter level. The new fact sheet procedures will rely heavily upon the CC working with the chapter's Officer Corps to ensure a smooth flow of information in both directions. As this is the first in the series it's really a primer of what is to come. If anyone has any questions about it, let me know. I'll see you get answers.

The next topic is Noreastcon. Oh Boy!!!! The event is approaching in only 6 weeks. I attended a planning meeting with our hosts yesterday and have the latest skinny to pass along.

The deadline of submissions for Chapter of the Year and Person of the Year will be closing on the 15th at midnight, or in three days!! You still have a short time to get me your nominations for consideration. I have some in my possession now, but am always happy to consider more. These two awards will be announced at the banquet.

I'd also like to remind everyone to get the names of any members that have passed away to me before Noreastcon. We'll again be paying respects to our friends, and I want to include all names on the roll. Also please let me know if you'd like anything particular addressed at the business meeting. I have a few topics to talk about, and will be happy to add to the agenda. Word on the bus trip being planned for Saturday to the NYANG Base at Stewart is that seats are selling slowly. If there aren't 25 that sign up before April 13th, the trip may be canceled. There may be a car pool set up, depending on circumstances, but that's iffy. I also need to

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remind everyone planning to go that you'll need to submit your name before hand, and bring a photo ID with you. Security being what it is these days, if you don't bring ID, you won't get further than the gate. I'm sure they'll pick you up on the way back to the show!!

Sponsorships are also being sought. The prices are \$45 for a regular category, and \$55 for a Special. My thanks to the chapters that have agreed to sponsor already, and I'm asking those that haven't yet to please consider it. It's our event, let's all help!!

The Chief judge for the show, Roger Griemsmann is looking for judging help. I know a lot of y'all always help, and it's very much appreciated!! But I know there's a few of you out there that haven't judged at a Regional before. Not to worry my friends!!! You'll be teamed up with more experienced judges and will learn it isn't such a difficult process. Come to the judges meeting to get in on the fun!!

If you haven't made hotel reservations yet, the rates will go up on March 27th. Get on the stick

soon, and you can have a few more bucks for the vendor room!!

And for all the latest info on the show go to: <http://www.hvhmg.com/NorEastCon07/index.html>

The site is being updated as soon as new info is available, so check back often!!

Well, I figure this is long enough, and I won't bore you with anymore stuff till next time!! As always, please share this with the officers and members of your chapter.

Semper Fi  
Doug Hamilton  
RC-1

**God Bless America**

IPMS/USA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION	
IPMS No.: _____	Name: _____
(leave blank)	FIRST M LAST
Address: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____	email: _____
VISA/MasterCard _____	Account # _____ - _____ - _____
Exp. Date: _____	
Signature: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult: <b>\$25</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (17 years old or younger): <b>\$12</b> DOB: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Canada &amp; Mexico</i> : <b>\$30</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Foreign: <b>\$32</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Air Mail: <b>\$55</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Adult dues + \$5, one set magazines, # of membership cards required: _____)	
<input type="checkbox"/> If recommended by an IPMS member,	
list his/her name and member number	_____ (name) _____ (IPMS#)
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P.O. Box: 2475	
North Canton, OH 44720-0475	
Check out our web page: <a href="http://www.ipmsusa.org">www.ipmsusa.org</a>	

### *In Range:*

#### **February 10<sup>th</sup> Javier Brown**

??<sup>th</sup> Princess Warrior (WIP) – Kevin Conlon  
1/35<sup>th</sup> Lancia Auto Cannone (WIP)-Kevin Conlon  
??<sup>th</sup> Desert Trooper – Mike Conlon  
1/48<sup>th</sup> F4U-1 (WIP) – Hal Marshman Sr.  
1/48<sup>th</sup> F4F – Joe Ravino  
1/72<sup>nd</sup> Puma – Mike Kenny  
1/72<sup>nd</sup> F-14D – Javier Brown  
1/72<sup>nd</sup> MIG-21 – Javier Brown  
1/72<sup>nd</sup> SA341 Gazelle – Bob Don  
1/24<sup>th</sup> Scale GT3 Porsche – Gil Costa

*Raffle: USS O'Brien – Hal Marshman Sr.  
50% Coupon for Darlington Hobbies –  
Mike Conlon*

In Attendance:  
Mike Conlon  
Jim Hayman  
Javier Brown  
John Nickerson  
Chris Libucha  
Gian Montecalvo  
Hal Marshman  
Gil Costa  
Bob Magina  
John Gisetto Sr.  
Joe Ravino  
Kevin Conlon  
Ray Rosario  
Mike Kenny  
Bob Don  
Kevin Colburn

#### **March 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Gil Costa**

1/72<sup>nd</sup> F4F – Joe McDonald Sr.  
90mm Japanese Pilot – Joe McDonald Sr.  
1/72<sup>nd</sup> Vultee V1a – Joe McDonald Sr.  
1/72<sup>nd</sup> P-51 – Joe McDonald Sr.  
1/35<sup>th</sup> Semovente(WIP) – Chris Libucha  
1/25<sup>th</sup> 1977 Mustang Cobra(WIP)-Gil Costa  
1/72<sup>nd</sup> George – Frank Knight

*Raffle: 1/48<sup>th</sup> P400 Air Cobra – Frank Knight*

In Attendance:  
Kevin Colburn  
Kevin Conlon  
Terry Sumner  
Chris Libucha  
Gian Montecalvo  
Bob Don  
Ray Rosario  
Hal Marshman Sr.  
Bob Magina  
John Nickerson  
John Gisetto  
Joe McDonald Sr.  
Gil Costa  
Ray Laskorski  
Frank Knight



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### MAKE-N-TAKE Program



by  
John J. Gisetto Sr.

The Make-N-Take program was started in the fall of 2005 and has now become a well established program of the Bay Colony Historical Modelers Association. To date we have brought this program to 7 different Cub Scout Packs in 7 different communities from Middleboro, MA to North Attleboro, MA. There have been 3 Cub Scout Packs who have run this program two years in a row and one thing all these groups have commented on is:

*“This is a great fun event for the boys and their families-lets do it again”*

This Make-N-Take program has seen a total of 312 models being constructed from the fall of 2005 to date.

Although we have run this program so far within Cub Scout Packs, is not solely a Scout program but rather a broader program open to any and all groups of youngsters. The Cub Scout Packs seem to have embraced this program and utilize because it is a fantastic family activity and it works extremely well for them.

The following club members have taken part in exhibiting models or related material at these events and also have taken part in helping the young modelers during these events.

John Gisetto Sr.	10
events	
John Nickerson	8
events	
John Gisetto Jr.	7
events	
Ray Rosario	1 event

Bob Magina	2 event
Frank Knight	1 event
Kevin Conlon	1
events	
Mike Conlon	1 event
Norm Robbie	1 event

All upcoming Make-N-Take program dates are listed within the club website in the “Forum” and updated periodically. Remember-this is a club program so, please help us in making this program succeed by taking part at these events. For further information: call or e-mail John Gisetto, better still stop by the Gisetto Villa as the door is always open to acquaintances, friends and club members.

John J. Gisetto Sr., 508-947-1546,  
[jgisetto@comcast.net](mailto:jgisetto@comcast.net)



### Up Scope:

#### May 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 Meeting

- **Host – Kevin Colburn** –  
15 Gilberts Way  
Norton, Ma 02766  
508-285-4864

**From RI on 95N** Take exit 3 123E and follow it through Attleboro and into Norton (around 6 miles) About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile past the Norton\Attleboro town line turn right on South Worchester St. After about  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile S. Worchester St will turn left...stay straight, which turns into John Scott BLVD.

Follow John Scott through 2 4-way stops. At the second with the flashing red, turn right onto Dean St.

Follow Dean St. for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to intersection of Dean and East/West Hodges ST. Turn left on East Hodges and follow for  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile till left on Myras Way. Follow Myras Way till you come to Gilberts Way. Turn either left or right on Gilberts Way, as it's just a big circle. Our house is at the opposite end of the circle, with the number on the mailbox.

**From 495N or S** Take exit 10 and follow 123w through Norton for about 4.5 miles. Turn left on S. Worchester St. After about  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile S. Worchester St will turn left...stay straight, which turns into John Scott BLVD. Follow John Scott through 2 4-way stops. At the second with the flashing red, turn right onto Dean St. Follow Dean St. for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to intersection of Dean and East/West Hodges ST. Turn left on East Hodges and follow for  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile till left on Myras Way. Follow Myras Way till you come to Gilberts Way. Turn either left or right on Gilberts Way, as it's just a big circle. Our house is at the opposite end of the circle, with the number on the mailbox.

**From the North** Take 95 S to 495S and follow directions for 495 above.

#### June 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 Meeting

- **Host – Bob Don** –  
11 William Drive, Foxboro, MA  
508-698-2753

Take 95 to Exit 8 (Sharon/Foxboro). Go onto Mechanic Street towards Foxboro. (left if coming from south, right if coming from north). Go to overhead blinking yellow light and go left onto Oak Street. Go  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and go right onto Maura Elizabeth Lane (last street before overpass). Go left onto William Drive. House is #11 (6<sup>th</sup> house on right).

#### July 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 Meeting

- **Host – Kevin Conlon** –  
96 Touisset Road  
Warren, RI 02885  
401-245-4627

Take 95 South to 195 East, follow 195 East over Mass line and take exit # 3. (Swansea Route 118 Exit). Go **Left** off exit and follow to **first** light (Cumberland Farms and White Church at the intersection). Take a **left** at the light and follow to the next set of lights. Go **straight** through the lights and follow the road to the right along the water. (When the road turns away from the water and goes up the hill) take third left at the top of the hill onto **Touisset Road** \*. Follow Touisset Road until you pass the Touisset Engine 6 Fire Department. My house is the 2nd house on the left after the fire department. There will be a sign on the front lawn. ( Meeting)

\* Make sure you take the 3rd left which is Touisset Road not the 2nd left which is Touisset Ave.

### **The President's Column FROM THE BRIDGE**



We are in the second half of our 2006 – 2007 membership year. If you haven't paid your dues yet, you are well overdue. Still only \$10 per year. If you would like to pay a couple years in advance we can handle that. Mail your payments to me or see me at a meeting, checks to be made payable to Bay Colony Historic Modelers.

Ok, on with the column, I've got good news and bad news. I'll start with the bad so that things will get better and end on an up note.

On the bad side, for those that haven't heard, Ernie LeBlanc, owner of The Hobby Hut in Attleboro, has passed away. We are all very saddened by his passing. Ernie and his wife have been supporters of our club for many years, they have held down the front corner of vendors row at BayCon since way back. I think they have been there since we moved to the Knights of Columbus hall. He will be missed. The club has sent it's condolences to his wife.

Bill Grigg had secured a new location in South Middleboro, but there is a problem between his new landlord and the town. So, I guess that plan is on hold. We will keep you up to date via the forum.

If things go well we will have a 'Family Membership' plan for the start of the new membership year starting in June. It was discussed, (a lively one at that), at the February meeting. We have a few things to iron out yet, but basically there will be a \$20 fee ceiling. The

more involved modeler pays \$10 for his or her membership and may expand it to a family membership for an additional \$10. All of the family members should be from the same address for only one copy of the "Battlewagon" will be sent out, addressed to the initial membership. All family members will be listed as club members and receive membership cards. We currently have three families that could take advantage of this program.

We have entered into an agreement with LISMS, Long Island Scale Modeler Society, another Region 1 IPMS chapter, to exchange trophy packs for our shows.

At the March meeting we discussed having 'Out of the Box' trophies for our show. This is a subject that has been broached before. Some of the arguments used previously no longer apply. We now have the Apprentice and Journeyman categories which fill a void that many felt that 'out of the box' would help fill. There is also the question of using the IPMS definition of 'out of the box' or developing our own. One other question that was raised is if an out of the box modeler places do you disqualify him from that award and give the 'out of the box' trophy instead or do you not give the 'out of the box' trophy for that category?. There are a number of opinions by many members that must be resolved before we can institute an 'out of the box' award system. Personally I am not against 'out of the box' awards being given, but I think that there are a number of questions to resolve and a series of guidelines or rules written to establish an 'out of the box' award or awards for BayCon. It may be that the rules of governance for this award are more of an effort to write than the award is worth. Hopefully we will have a reasonable discussion at the April meeting. I will also post questions on the club forum so that all that wish to be heard will have a place to do so on this issue. One important question that must be decided is with today's mixed media kits containing injection molded, resin, and photo-etched parts, can they be defined as 'out of the box'?

The next big show on the near horizon is NoreastCon 07, April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in the Poughkeepsie Best Western, Poughkeepsie, New York. That's Friday and Saturday. Saturday is the main event, with the competition, seminars and vendors and finally the awards banquet. There will be top shelf modelers there from all over Region 1. I hope a number of bay

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colony members are planning to attend. It's about a three to 3 1/2 hour drive from our area, that makes for a long day trip, but if you want to see some good models this is the place to be here in the northeast. I plan to be there for both days, I know some are planning to be there at least for Saturday. It will be a fun time at the Bay Colony table at the banquet that evening. I hope Bob Don will let me sit there. For more info go to their website at <http://www.hvhmg.com/NorEastCon07/index.html>.

Which brings me to the next item, the NortheastCon Cup. Some of you may remember that at last year's Noreastcon, we, Bay Colony, were awarded the Noreastcon cup. This was a great thrill for us. Unfortunately a glitch was discovered in the software that did the calculations to determine the winner of this trophy. We had to turn the trophy over to Patriot Chapter. Needless to say this was a bit of a disappointment. So, for those of us that touched this award, we would like to win it back. To do this we need a good turnout of club members entering models. The more trophies we win the better our chances of regaining the NoreastCon Cup.

Following Noreastcon, May 19 it's DowneastCon 2007. This is sponsored by the Southern Maine Scale Modelers, good friends of ours. It has become club tradition to send a strong contingent 'down east'. I hope we will continue this year and our members score well. This has been consistently a fun time. Once again it is at the Rochambeau Club on South Street in Biddeford ME. You will find threads on the forum for links for more information and possibly to share the ride for anyone that might like to go.

We have a club library. I carry some of it with me to each meeting. Members can sign out a book to use / read between meetings. If you are trying to advance your skills or want to try something new we might just have what you need to set you in the right direction. We have a number of Kalmbach and Osprey 'How To' books covering almost all areas of modeling. We also have a couple historical novels and histories available. Email me for more info or to ask me to bring certain books to the meeting.

And last but not least, remember to check the club forum to keep up to date on what's happening, Club wise and Hobby wise. There are always announcements there to keep you up to date, requests

for info, and discussions you can join to expand your modeling skills and knowledge.

See you at Noreastcon!

As always, you can reach me on the web at [bchmaprez@comcast.net](mailto:bchmaprez@comcast.net). Note the new address. God bless America! Happy modeling and give kits to kids!

John J. Nickerson

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### Kit Review – DML SdKfz 251/C 1/35<sup>th</sup> Scale

By Bob Magina

When Steve Kwasny set the challenge for Baycon 2006 as the German Halftrack SdKfz 251 any variant I decided to give one of these new DML kits a try. The particular 251C kit I am building was the first issue by DML. It came out before the “3 in 1” sets. I have heard many horror stories about this first kit as to very poor fit of the upper and side body panels. Well, despite this I took the plunge. How bad can it be right?

I first picked up a set of Voyager PE for this kit to add those really fine details. Beyond this, I used only the kit parts. There really was no need for anything else. I did not replace the kit track either.

Lets start with the tracks first. The 251 tracks are not real big to begin with and require assembly link to link with the rubber pad added to hold the two together. Works like DML’s new magic track except these are not magic track. The great thing about these links is that there is no pin ejection marks anywhere, even on the pads. The only cleanup is the attachment points to the sprues. That’s it! They went together like a dream. You end up with workable track link. Assembly was a bit tedious but not bad once you got in the zone. Yes Edmund, you do paint these first before assembly. The only problem here is not in the assembly but in putting the track on your model. DML instructions do not indicate which direction they go. Box art is no help, as you cannot see the track horns. There is a right and wrong direction. I did one side correctly and the other wrong. Figures! Consult your pictures to make sure you have the track horns going in the correct direction. I painted the track base color of Testor’s Rubber with a wash of burnt sienna.

The rubber pads were done in Model Master Dark Euro Grey.

The basic chassis assembles quite easily. Front suspension is a bit delicate so be careful when cleaning the parts. Road wheel assemblies are pretty straightforward. Front wheels come in two halves and present no assembly or cleanup problems. I applied a small amount of putty to the seam and sanded it out. Tire tread was deep enough that there was no problem. I painted the tires with Model Master Aircraft Interior Black and the hubs in Model Master Panzer Grey. Seats, firewall and floor plates drop in place. Another little item here to make note of; if you are not making an ambulance version then do not use the water keg that the instructions show behind the front seats. You will need to fill and sand the mounting holes in the floor plates. This water keg was not used in the any other variant except the ambulance. Here you will need to stop assembly if you plan on adding driver and radio operator from DML’s Halftrack Crew Figure set as I did. I just can’t understand how DML makes both the model and the figures in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale and they don’t fit together. I needed to perform major surgery to both figures in order to get them to fit into the seats. These two will not be walking anywhere soon! In the end, the radio operator took it in the head and was tossed out. It’s amazing what you can do to a figure with a Xacto saw. There is no way no how that you can fit both figures in with both sidewalls in place. NO WAY!!!!

Obviously at this point you will also need to paint the interior, weather and detail it as once the top hull panel is in place access becomes a big problem. I used the PE radio mounts in place of the molded lumps on the kit radio. Very big improvement. Next is to assemble the two sides of the halftrack onto the chassis. Next, add the top of the hull. Make sure you dry fit all three pieces first to make sure of fit. I had to lower the driver some by grinding his butt with a dremel tool in order for his head to clear the top

of the compartment. Again, wonderful fit of 1/35<sup>th</sup> figures! Next, the top of the hull did not fit! I ended up cutting off the four locating tabs on the top half of the hull in order to get it to lay down correctly on the lower hull. Even then, there was some minor puttying required. Next came the rear doors. What a pain! They in the closed position would not fit. They were too wide together for the opening. I needed to file each one down a bit to adjust for fitting in the closed position. Of course, in the process of doing this I broke one of the jerry can racks and knocked off the door hinge assembly. Well, after the filing and repairs on they went. I must say the horror stories of poor fit for this kit body are true!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I chose to use the MG 34 for the weapon rather than the doorknocker 37mm gun. This meant I could use the machine gunner from DML's crew set. He too has some fit problems with his feet between the seats. A little heat and re-adjustment of his boots takes care of the problem. However, once I was ready to put him into the 251 you guessed it both feet did not touch the floor of the 251 once he was lined up with the gun shield. Well, careful use of an ammo can took care of the problem. I used the PE gun shield as the thickness is much more accurate than the kit part.

My 251 was painted with Model Master Panzer Grey as it was modeled to represent a unit in 1942 in the Ukraine. My weathering was done with paint pigments and pastel chalk. The wet water surfaces were done with Future floor wax as the dio I have in mind for this little guy involves water. Interior and exterior are finished in Model Master Panzer Grey. I used the markings provided by DML in the kit since one of them was for a unit in the Ukraine. These decals went on like a dream. There is very very little film edge and they lay down real nice. Antenna was done with K&S wire stock. I replaced the fender poles with K&S wire and white glue balls.

Overall, a very big improvement over the old Tamiya 251C. Once together, this little guy looks real nice and is a worthwhile addition to anyone's armor collection. I can see some real nice dios in the future when you figure on all the variations of the 251C that DML and AFV are doing. I have a number of the DML variants and plan on doing these in the future so I do recommend this kit. My only caution is be prepared for fit issues in the hull and whatever you do, don't use the crew set!!!!

### **Kit Review – YAK UT-1 by Pavla** *By Joe McDonald Sr.*

This Eastern European country did some real dogs early on but they are, like the weather, improving. This miniscule radial engined monoplane without retractable under cart was a prewar "sport" plane and a WWII trainer and light attack craft on wheels or skis.

Good, well molded semi soft plastic which was part of their trouble early on. I think they've solved their mold problem. Good decals for several craft (I'm doing the red and white Gee Bee look alike). Duplicate vac windshields in case you mess up. But the resin parts --- and you know I'm not a fan ---are superb. Engine, engine cowl, combination cockpit floor plus former and rudder pedals all in one piece of delicate molding. All that is needed to finish off the insides are a stick and instrument panel. Recommended for builders of 1/72<sup>nd</sup> thingies.

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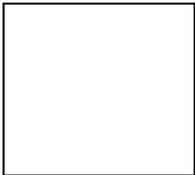
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