



Volume 17, Number 9

September 2014

**Preflight**  
Submitted by **Bob Niemiec**

I'm putting the finishing touches on the newsletter since we'll be leaving Friday for Vermont to visit our grandson and granddaughter. We'll be back Sunday. I'll have the web version on line on Thursday (early for a change).

A couple of things from Hal, Interesting Links and On The table are on the agenda this month. I didn't have much time to do any model work so The Returning Modeler should be back next month.

I trust everyone enjoyed Mark Horan's talk on the sinking of the Bismarck. Although most of us know the story, I'm sure we all learned something that we weren't aware of.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at the First Congregational Church in West Springfield, starting at 7 PM. Hope to see you there.

**Meeting Notes**  
Submitted by **Ed Potkai**

Summer took its toll on attendance as only sixteen people turned out for our August meeting. Al noted that he is trying to wrap up the collection of annual dues.

Author Mark Horan gave a presentation on the attack by Swordfish aircraft from the British carrier Ark Royal which crippled the German battleship Bismarck

Ron Harrison reported on his visit to JerseyFest Model Kit and Statue Fair. Although Ron managed to spend some money, he found the vendor offerings to be disappointing. Ron won an award but, having left before the show ended, he has not yet found out what or why.

Although the slate of Special Awards was scheduled for finalization, Al announced postponement until next month due to the absence of several members. Members are encouraged to reward select aspects of their favorite subjects. The cost, as always, is \$10 per award, and the winner must be selected by the sponsor.

**On The Table**  
Show-and-Tell from the Last Meeting

- **Dave Calhoun:** 1/48 scale Eduard Nieuport Triplane; SPIN resin conversion set.
- **Al LaFleche:** 54mm Romeo Models ACW Union Cavalry Sergeant; added picket rope; lead foil tack; Historex buckles; Bayardi tree and custom groundwork; Woodland Scenics water with cotton; John Jeffries base; based on a Keith Rocco painting.

- **Ed Potkai:** 1/72 scale Academy F/A-18 Hornet; VF-147 Argonauts; True Details seat; Eagle Strike decals.
- **Ed Potkai:** 1/24 scale Monogram 1981 IMSA Zakspeed Mustang.
- **Ed Potkai:** 1/24 scale Tamiya 1981 Ford Zakspeed Turbo Capri; Eduard seat belts and screens.
- **Ed Potkai:** 1/24 scale Tamiya 1991 Honda NSX-R (Japan); Alclad and Tamiya lacquers; work in progress.
- **Wayne Weatherwax:** Abraham Lincoln flat.

**Kit review**  
**Fine MOLDS 1/48th Mitsubishi KA-14**  
Submitted by **Hal Marshman, Sr.**



I saw a review of a build of this kit on Modeling Madness, and had an immediate attraction to it. I did not find it listed on any American sources, so had to go through HobbyLink Japan. I must say the experience was enlightening. Postage cost for regular service was USD 9.50, and I had the model in 10 days, which I thought was pretty decent. I would not hesitate to use this source again.

I'll give you just a wee background on this rather unusual looking machine It was designed in 1935 by Jiro Horikoshi. Only one prototype was built in this configuration. The subsequent prototype design featured straight wings, and was (Continued on [page 2](#))

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**Ka-14 (Continued from page 1)** developed into the Mitsubishi A5M, which we code named the Claude, one of my very favorite Japanese planes. The Claude served as a basis for the development of the A6M Zero fighter, with which we are all familiar.

Now, on to the kit. Note the box illustration, with the anime type illustration. I'm told this represents a movie currently coming out in Japan, and the person is Jiro Horikoshi, himself. Well in any case, what might appear to one as perhaps a toy, is in fact, a serious model kit by Fine Molds.

The kit is nicely cast in light gray plastic, with finely done scribed surface detail. I found no flash, no ejector pin marks, and no dimples. The basic airframe is quite simple, being the standard two fuselage halves, to include the vertical fin. The headrest fairing is a separate molding. The wings are a one piece bottom molding with two individual top pieces. Horizontal tail surfaces are each one piece affairs, as is the separate rudder. The fabric effect on the control surfaces is limited to the rib tapes, with no fabric etched in, and no sagging between ribs. Quite restrained. Assembly is quite straight forward, and offered me no difficulties.

The cockpit is pretty nice, and about all you need. There is a floor, rib system for the side walls, with throttle quadrant a separate item, plus a couple of black boxes. Rudder pedals and stick are fine, plus there are a pair of consoles, and a handle to the right of the seat, for which I cannot figure a purpose. I built a set of seat belts for mine, but no shoulder straps. There's no gunsight besides the telescope sight mounted to the nose in front of the windscreen. The whole thing builds up into a nice little sub-assembly. There are a pair of 7.7mm machine guns, which you can only see the butts of once installed, and two instrument panels, one smooth, and the other with instruments relief cast. There is a decal for the smooth one, but I used it on the relief cast one, and once installed, with a tiny drop of window maker for lenses, it looks pretty spiffy.

The engine is pretty well detailed and is a major assembly. It's just a wee bit finicky to build, so keep the instructions close to hand. All is very nicely cast and detailed, but no need to go into great extra detail such as plug wires, as there is a dish shaped fairing that goes in front of all, and all you can see is pushrods and cylinder tops from the front. The cowling ring is in two parts, but assembles quite easily, and needs only a mere dressing down to cover the seam. Take some time painting the intake manifolds and exhaust pipes, as they will be very visible once the assembly is attached to the fuselage nose. There are hollowed caps to install at the bottom of the exhausts, thus no need for drilling. As said, it's somewhat finicky, so don't hurry with it.

Landing gear consists of two half pants, with a one piece wheel. I'll repeat my process here, I assemble and install the pants, but leave the wheels out until the whole bird is assembled and painted. I then razor saw a vee from the outside of the tire to the axle hole, Piece of pie type wedge, if you will. It's easy to slip the wheel into the pant and secure to the axle stubs. No pain, no complicated masking. If there's a weak point in the kit, it's the tailwheel assembly. The wheel is cast onto one half of the tear drop shaped pant, with an attached rod to cement into a hole in the bottom of the fuselage. Looking at that rod, I felt that the first ill breeze that came along would snap it off quite neatly. So, I snapped it off myself, and drilled a 0.7mm hole into the top of the pant, and super glued a section of aluminum tube into it, and super glued the assembly into the hole in the bottom rear of the fuselage.

The decal sheet consists of blood red hinomarus for all six positions, the aforementioned instrument panel dials, and red stripes

to use for warning stripes on the nicely cast two bladed propeller. Matching the red of the insignia for painting the entire tail assembly is no easy task.

I made my Japanese Green/Gray by mixing a 50/50 combination of Model Master RLM 02 with RLM 63. I applied a clear gloss to the painted model, this was a prototype in 1935 Japan, so no weathering would be the way to go. The enclosed pictures failed to capture the shade correctly.

So...if you want a nice model of a not too well known airplane, this would be a great subject. A nice collection would be this prototype plane, an A5M Claude, and an A6M Zero

Have fun, Hal.

### **Panted Landing Gear Submitted by Hal Marshman, Sr.**

You may remember that I offered a short essay a couple of weeks back, dealing with installing wheels into landing gear pants. My friend Joe Ravino was at the house tonight, when I was doing just that for a Japanese Mitsubishi KA-14, Fine Molds, 1/48th scale. He was good enough to take a couple of pics of how I do this. First I cut a wedge out of the finished wheel, right down to the center axle hole, with a razor saw. Then I just apply cement, and slip it onto the axle pins cast into the insides of the wheel pants. Let's face it, you don't want those wheels to roll anyway, do you? Further, you've saved yourself a difficult masking job. Hal Sr



## Interesting Links Various contributors

### Boeing's New Spy Plane

General Characteristics:

Wingspan: 150 ft (46 m)

Takeoff gross weight: 9,800 lbs (4,445 kg)

Cruise speed: 150 kts

Maximum speed: 200 kts

Altitude: 65,000+ ft

Engines: (2) 2.3L 150 horsepower

Endurance: 4 days at 65,000 ft

Let that sink in

Wingspan equal to the width of a good size building lot

It's relatively light (at 5 tons), slow, flies at twice the altitude of most commercial transports. It's powered by the equivalent of 2 compact car engines and stays aloft for 4 days.

Now take a look:

<http://video.boeing.com/services/player/bcpid1173939806001?bckey=AQ~~%2cAAAukPAIqE~%2coAVq1qtdRjwBrIkHYj2MSytJiEK9s5fy&bctid=1331877361001>

### Just not your every day Harley

That's some ride!

Russian Made Motorcycle - it floats, it packs, it gets you where you need to go

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/pn\\_5dMHsCPE?autoplay=1&hd=1&rel=0&showinfo=0&start=14&end=178](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/pn_5dMHsCPE?autoplay=1&hd=1&rel=0&showinfo=0&start=14&end=178)

### Military Vehicles – Unusual Auction?

[http://www.autoweek.com/article/auctions/military-arsenal-goes-grabs-california?utm\\_source=DailyDrive20140722&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_term=headline-center&utm\\_content=body&utm\\_campaign=awdailydrive](http://www.autoweek.com/article/auctions/military-arsenal-goes-grabs-california?utm_source=DailyDrive20140722&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_term=headline-center&utm_content=body&utm_campaign=awdailydrive)

### WW2: The 50 hours inspection of the Engines and Propellers of an USAAF B-24 Liberator (1943)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I\\_7-U7uWgNk&feature=em-subsub\\_digest](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_7-U7uWgNk&feature=em-subsub_digest)

### PBY Restoration

When viewing this video, bear in mind you're looking at a restoration, but many interior modifications have been made, and do not resemble a wartime Cat boat.

This is an artistic and absolutely fantastic video on the venerable PBY...hope you enjoy.

Best viewed in full screen, sound on.

<http://vimeo.com/99919462>

### Antique Tractor Pictures

[http://wwwboard2.spotlighthobbies.com/cgi-bin/bbs62x/webbbs\\_config.pl?md=read:id=19580](http://wwwboard2.spotlighthobbies.com/cgi-bin/bbs62x/webbbs_config.pl?md=read:id=19580)

<http://s28.photobucket.com/user/marty1961/library/Car%20Shows%20Album%202/Summer%20Harvest%20Festival%202014?sort=9&page=1>

### Wings & Wheels Modelers

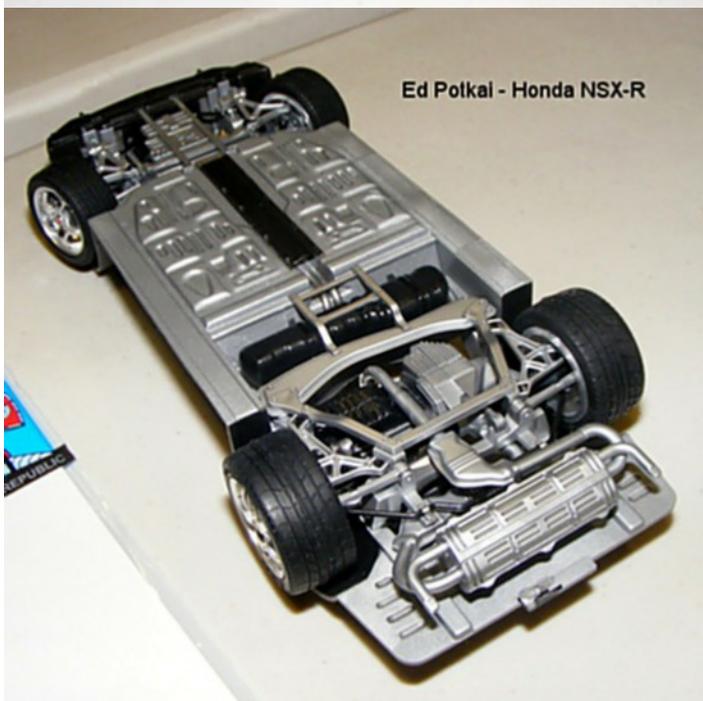
On The Table Pictures



Al LaFleche - ACW Union Cavalry Sergeant



Dave Calhoun - Nieuport Triplane



Ed Polkai - Honda NSX-R



Ed Polkai - F/A-18 Hornet "VF-147 Argonauts"



Ed Polkai - IMSA Zakspeed Mustang



Ed Polkai - Ford Zakspeed Turbo Capri



**Wayne Weatherwax - Abraham Lincoln**

**Additional Ka-14 Pictures**

