

July 2014

Tactical Notes



Next meeting: Thursday, July 17th, 2014 7 p.m.
Remembering Mike 1966-2014

2012, 2013 & 2014 Region 4 Newsletter of the Year!

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"Tactical Notes" is the Newsletter of the Military Modelers Club of Louisville, Inc. We appreciate your taking the time to read this little newsletter. We'd appreciate it even more if you would write something. **Yes, I am talking to you!**

Cover Photos: Photo of Mike Nofsinger from one of the Uncle's "Guy dinners"



Editor's Note

I very much enjoy doing the club newsletter. It's fun. I can inject a little humor and I get to see all the great things our club members can do. However, of all the issues I've done in the 30 years I've been in the club, this is by far the most difficult column I've ever had to write.

The world is a lesser place than it was a week ago. Of all the people I've known, Mike Nofsinger was one of the best. He was that rare type of person who was loved by everyone who met him. He had a heart as big as the world. Kids loved Mike and he loved them.

Mike "Danger" Nofsinger. See, Danger really was his middle name. Actually, the nickname came from a character on a morning radio program many years ago. Mike loved the character, and somehow the name stuck. At the time, Mike was driving a Ford Probe, which immediately was named "The Probe of Danger".

Wherever something needed to get done, Mike was there. Whether serving forever as club treasurer, or helping out at one of our shows, Mike was there. Whenever you needed a laugh, Mike was there with his quick wit and sense of humor.

The club meetings and Saturday builds will be a bit less fun from now on. We'll carry on, because that is what Mike would want. However, none of us will ever forget Mike or what he was or what he meant to us all.

Most of this issue is devoted to remembrances of Mike.

Mike Nofsinger This is going to be a very difficult thing to do, but I will do my best. What can we say about this gentle and passionate man. Mike was our friend, fellow modeler, brother in arms, and avid University of Louisville, Cardinal fan.

For those of you who have not been in this club for a long period of time, you missed out on knowing one of the great members of our club. Mike was our resident guru in all things electronic. He was extremely intelligent, and had a knack for modern gadgetry. Mike had a great sense of humor and always had a smile on his face. He was a weekly attendee at the workshop and was a terrific modeler. He served for many years as the treasurer of the club and saw to it that we always had a balance of 4,500.00 in our checking account.

Having watched him slowly deteriorate over the last 4 weeks has been a very emotional thing for me. It forces us all to deal with our own mortality. Mike was a proud man and I know that he would be horrified to have seen what he had to go through the last 4 weeks of his life. No one deserved what he went through. He was a fighter, for few could have endured what he did those weeks. I knew that after that 2nd surgery that he was never going to come out of the hospital. Even knowing this, I couldn't give up hope that somehow he would rally and beat this thing. But, to no avail. I know deep into the bottom of my heart that Mike knew we were there for him. He recognized us when we visited him. He squeezed our hands, he gave us thumbs up even though

he could not speak. The staff at the hospital was amazed at the number of people who came to see him. It speaks volumes of the character of a man when so many care. I will close this tribute with a poem that I have kept close to me for years:

I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free;
I'm following the path God has laid
you see.

I took His hand when I heard Him
call;

I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I found such peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Oh, yes these things, I too, will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow;
I wish sunshine for tomorrow.
My life's been full; I savored much -
good friends, good times, a loved one's
touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue
grief.

Lift up your heart and share with me;
God wanted me now; He set me free.

Author: Linda Jo Jackson

Terry Hill

The loss of modeler and wonderful friend. Saddened today to realize that our friend and longtime modeling companion, Mike Nofsinger, passed away. While his condition appeared to worsen, we had hopes that through our thoughts and prayers he would be able to bounce back and beat this thing. This was not to be. He was a fixture at the meetings, workshop, and club events and a proud Louisville Cardinal fan. I'm sure he'll be looking down at us with a smile as we continue with the hobby that he and all of us love. **John Dietrich**

President's Page

By Stu Cox

MMCL Members,

This has been a difficult past four weeks for our club. As all are aware by now, we lost our beloved scale modeling brother Mike Nofsinger. Mike fought the good fight for four weeks in the hospital. He had the support and encouragement of every member of Military Modelers Club Of Louisville. While Mike was conscious on and off over that time, the support of each of you, our members, was unwavering. Mike's family expressed on numerous occasions how much the overwhelming love and support for Mike was appreciated. They not only appreciated as a family, but knew for sure that Mike Nofsinger felt the presence, love and support of each of you. Whether through prayer, extended thoughts, Facebook posts, email or visits in person, each effort from you was felt and appreciated by

him. Mike will be missed very much. At the Workshop, at regular meetings, Friday Night Fight events, and during our own personal memories and thoughts of him. However, Mike's friendliness, loyalty and human compassion will carry on through each of us during every club event. We all share a part of the life of Mike Nofsinger.

At This month's meeting, we are going to postpone the Smackdowns, unless you would like to go ahead and bring your models for show and tell. Some of you have requested a little more time given recent events. As a matter of fact, please do bring models in process that you want to share, as I believe Mike would want us to. We will have a photo remembrance of Mike and will give each of you a chance to share your thoughts and reflections on your own personal relationship with Mike.

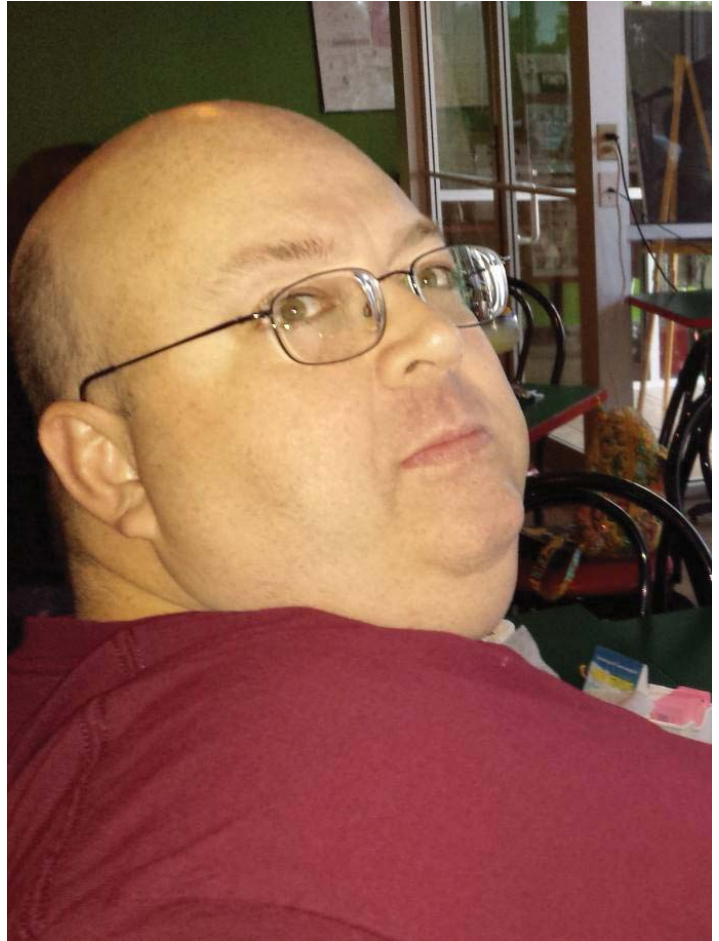
We will discuss upcoming club events and meetings coming up in the future. However, the leadership of the club wanted to allow each of you adequate opportunity to help recognize Mike's support for our club and his constant presence. We will certainly honor Mike in the future with a Show/Contest award named in his honor. We will work out the details on that later. For now though, think of Mike's family and friends from work as well, and provide support as you feel appropriate.

The following was my Facebook post honoring the memory of Mike Nofsinger. "My great friend Mike

Nofsinger is now at peace. He fought hard for over 4 weeks. To my fellow scale modelers, he was a loyal friend and accomplished military/sci-fi model craftsman. For you musician friends out there, Mike was that loyal fan/friend who showed up early for performances, always got the table right up front, and stayed until the last chord rang out, always showing support and appreciation. **Godspeed, Mike Nofsinger.**”

I am proud to be affiliated with our club and members like each of you who share such care and support for one another.

President Stu(g)



Magazine Review: RT Vol. 36 #1 (Spring 2014)

By D.M. Knights IPMS/USA 17656, IPMS/Canada C6091

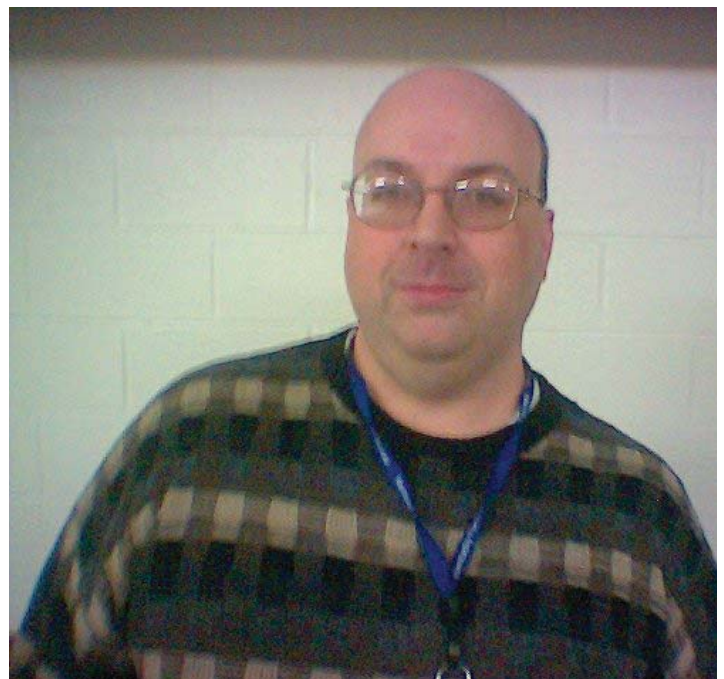
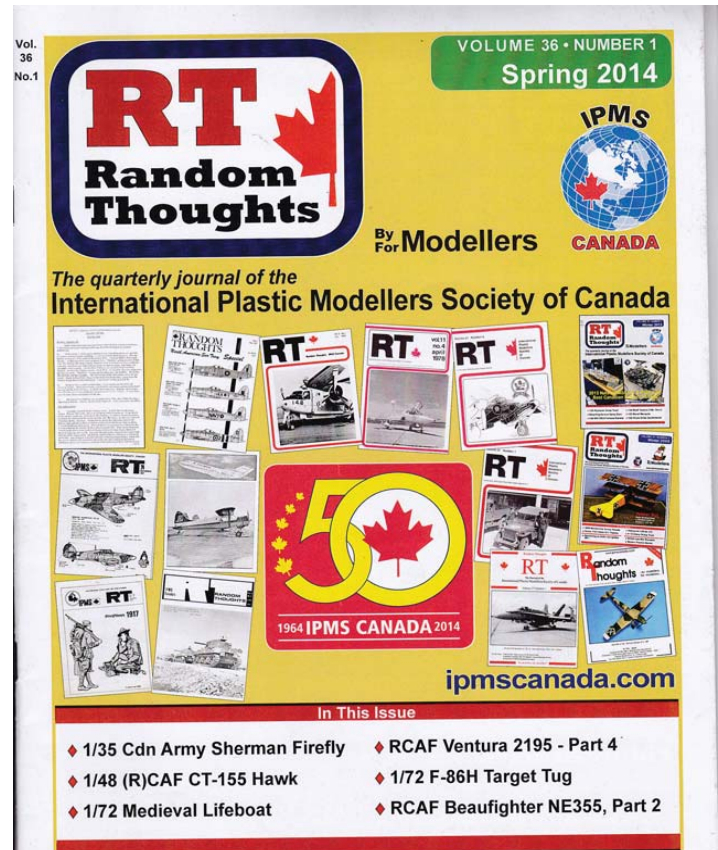
As you know by now, RT (Random Thoughts) is the magazine of IPMS/Canada. I've said it before, but it bears repeating, this is without a doubt the best modeling magazine out there, either profit or non-profit. It reminds me of the early FineScale modeler magazines. Fellow modeler Jim Bates put it best when he said that the magazine has found the right balance of words and pictures. It is the only magazine that I read all the articles, regardless of the subject being covered.

All the IPMS branches are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Our friends in the great white north are going all out. This issue is jam packed with great articles, particularly for the 72nd scale modeler. There is a very nice build of a 72nd scale medieval lifeboat and a build of a 72nd scale F-86H target tug in a bright read and silver scheme.

There are very good historical articles on the Beaufighter and RCAF Ventura. In other scales there is a 35th scale Firefly tank and 48th scale CT-155 Hawk.

I know this sounds like a broken record, but if you aren't a member of IPMS/Canada. They've just gone thru a price increase due to a

postage increase in Canada. It now costs a person in the US \$45 per year. However, I still consider that a bargain. I hope you'll consider joining up.



The Cranky Canuck

By Jim Bates

Droning On...

There is no question that Unmanned Aerial Vehicles - or UAVs - are a major component of future US Naval Aviation. Two major Naval UAV projects are the X-47B and the RQ-4 BAMS and, thanks to Platz models, we have 1/72 scale kits of each type.



Northrop-Grumman RQ-4A Global Hawk Maritime Demonstration

In 1996, the first RQ-4A arrived at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland, for testing under the Global Hawk Maritime Demonstration program. The aircraft, BuNo 166509, was soon being operated by VX-20 along with a second airframe. Shortly after arrival, the two GHMD Global Hawks flew in the RIMPAC



exercise providing maritime surveillance duties. The project was renamed BAMS-D (Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Demonstrator) and, despite the loss of one of the UAVs in 2012, has been a total success. A dedicated naval version of the Global Hawk - designated the MQ-4C Triton - first flew in 2013, and the Navy hopes to acquire 68 of the aircraft to supplement the Boeing P-8 Poseidon for real time reconnaissance, maritime surveillance, and search and rescue missions.



Captioned as a RQ-4N Global Hawk, Platz's kit is well modeled in grey plastic. Spread out over five sprues, the first thing that catches one's attention is the large wing span of the aircraft. The fuselage is made of three major parts along with impressively slide-molded intake and exhaust pipe. The large wings are two components each, and the rest of the kit is landing gear and lumps,

bumps, and antennas. All panel lines are engraved and the oddly shaped hump on the forward fuselage is well captured. Decals are provided for BuNo.166509, and four spurious schemes: a proposed Japanese RQ-4, a nice looking orange and white US Naval Oceanographic example, and two what-if in service US Navy Global Hawks. The Platz RQ-4N looks like it will build into a great looking model of the Global Hawk, but the finished project is going to take up a lot of display space.

Northrop-Grumman X-47B



The X-47B unmanned combat air vehicle (UCAV) is a demonstrator stealth carrier-born strike bomber. Similar in concept to the cancelled A-12 Avenger II, the X-47B first flew in 2011, and made its first catapult launch at sea from the USS George H.W. Bush in May 2013. In July 2013, the X-47B completed the first arrested landing

of a UAV on an aircraft carrier at sea; again on the USS George H.W. Bush. Northrop-Grumman hopes to develop the demonstrator into a full combat ready UAV by 2020.

Again molded in grey plastic, the X-47B is made up of two large top and bottom parts for the main section of the flying wing, and optional folded or extended outer wing panels. Some ribbing detail is included for the landing gear and weapons bays and the landing gear detail is impressively stout, as required for a carrier aircraft. Two JDAMS are provided for the weapons bays, but it looks like some cutting will be required if one wishes to close up the bays. A nice decal sheet is provided for the two X-47B demonstrators along with some additional, what-if wing art.

Again, this is a nice kit and I look forward to digging in and getting started. Look for a full review of the finished model in a future Tactical Notes



Military Modelers of Louisville Membership Form 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Birth Date: _____ Year Joined Club: _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter by e-mail? The e-mail version of Tactical Notes is in full color and is sent using the PDF format: Yes _____ No _____

Do you give MMCL permission to place your contact information on the club website: Yes _____ No _____

What are the advantages of membership to the Military Modelers Club of Louisville?

- Monthly meetings held on the third Thursday of the month at the club workshop located at 3821 Hunsinger Lane in Louisville KY.
- A monthly subscription to the official newsletter of the Military Modelers Club of Louisville, Tactical Notes. Tactical Notes contains kit reviews, editorials and modeling techniques.
- The Club Workshop. MMCL has its own club workshop. This is a great place for modelers to build kits and have a good time. The club provides tables, work lights and various tools. We also have quarterly all night model building sessions at this location.
- Quarterly in house model contests with prizes.
- Monthly model kit raffle.
- Annual club cookout.

All of this and more is included in your yearly \$10.00 membership (junior \$5.00) dues.

Please complete all information above and forward your check made out to MMCL for \$10.00 to:

Stu Cox, President
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LOUISVILLE, KY 40218
502-499-6618
COX40218@BELLSOUTH.NET

Please visit us on the web at WWW.MMCL.ORG

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