



AUGUST 2023

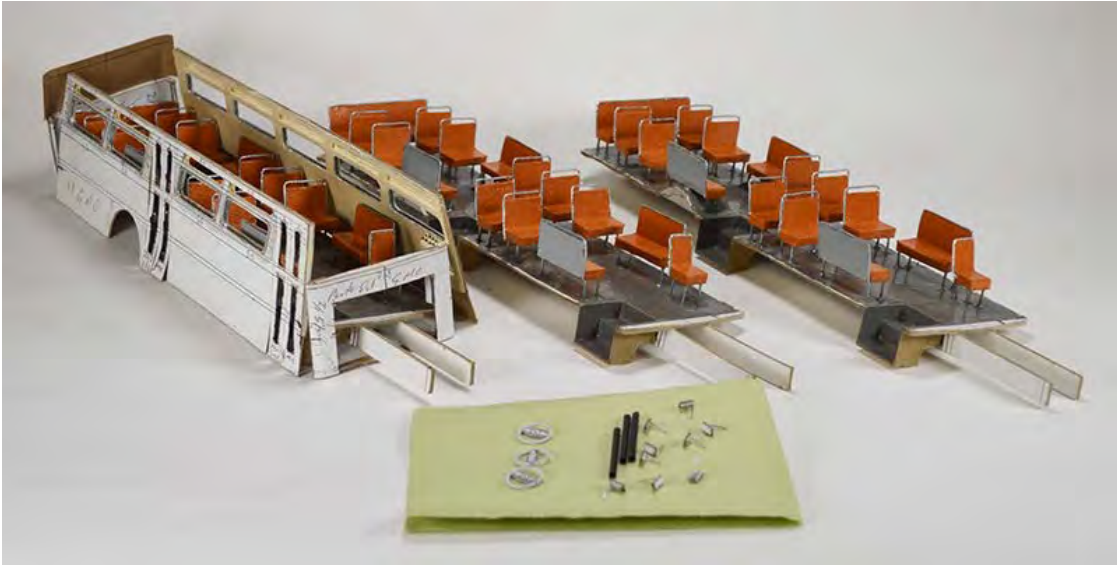


Michael Kennedy's B-36

The attendance at the August meeting was 23 members and one guest, Cristobal Alvarado. He had attended the Bassett Place show in July. He brought a large display of ship models to the meeting. Welcome, Cristobal. He stated that he would like to join our group.

John Estes gave a report from the church about their new rates for room usage which will not affect our meeting in the fellowship hall as we were not included in the changes. In fact, we were thanked for our returning the facility to the setup we find at our meetings.

Clifford Bossie and Michael Garcia reported on their trip to the IPMS Nationals in San Marcos. Mike Boudreaux sent me some photos of the models that he liked as well.



Jose Diaz's Bus interiors WIP

Clifford Bossie sent a couple of links to some photos from the IPMS Nationals held in San Marcos. The links are below:

Here are the winners: <https://www.svsmgallery.com/Top-level/Contests/IPMS-USA-2023-Nationals-San-Marcos-TX/Final/>

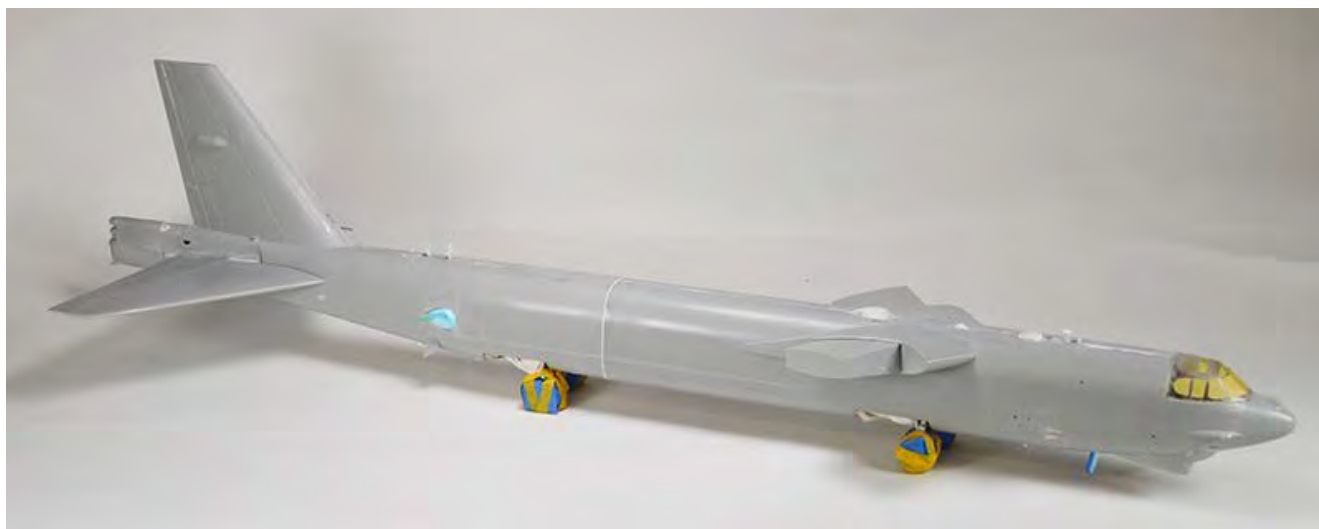
Here is a collection of photos I took of some of the entries: [IPMS Nationals 2023](#)



Cristobal Alvarado's USS Missouri in 1/700th scale from Trumpeter



Cristobal Alvarado's USS Ticonderoga in 1/700th scale from Revell



Richard Macias's WIP Italeri B-52H in 1/72nd scale

From the photo information, “to which Richard has added seventeen scratch-built parts.” Thanks to Michael Kennedy for the photos this month and an interesting article on his B-36 build.



Richard Macias's F-8F in 1/72nd scale from ART Models



Hector Gonzalez's 1965 Chevelle "Surf Wagon" 1/25th scale AMT kit



Hector Gonzalez's 1950 Ford Convertible in 1/25th scale an AMT kit



Hector Gonzalez's 1965 Ford Fairlane "Asphalt Digger" 1/25th scale an AMT kit



Cristobal Alvarado's 1/700th scale ship Presentation



Kai Garcia's 3D printed models

Folks at the meeting:



Cristobal Alvarado



Kai Garcia



Michael Garcia



Richard Macias



Clifford Bossie



William Coster



Roger Guterrez



Sra and Jose C. Diaz



Duane Velasquez



Gustav Hebrok



Joseph Roper



Christopher Ware



Hector Gonzalez John Estes Bernie McCune

Following is Michael Kennedy's article on the B-36 Crash and his research and building process to Commorate the incident. Enjoy.



Last known photo of 071 taken minutes before the crash.

B-36D 492071: CREW DEDICATION and BUILD

THE ACCIDENT:

It was a cold Friday, December 11th, 1953 in El Paso when the huge bomber and crew met their demise; snow was falling on the mountain, the cloud cover was thick and the ceiling was low. The crew of nine were ferrying the last B-36 from Carswell AFB to Biggs AFB during the transition of the 492nd Bomb Squadron, 7th Bomb Wing. Visibility was 2 miles with a haze and an estimated ceiling of between 3300 and 4000 feet. The bomber and crew were West of Biggs Field, with the Franklin Mountains between them and the runway. The pilot turned to the East toward the runway and without any visual reference, struck the mountain. All crewmen onboard perished. The official accident report states that the pilots did not follow proper operation of instrument flight as they did not follow the heading given by the Biggs tower, or did not hear the instructions, in which case they should have followed emergency procedures after a short time without communication. It is also likely that the squadron commander did not give the crew a proper briefing prior to departing Carswell,

which would have informed them of the potentially confusing proximity of the El Paso airport to Biggs Field as well as the terrain elevations. Investigators also found that the APS-23 radar, which was completely capable of portraying the mountain area, either was not operating or was not being utilized. It seems that a series of mistakes by several people who were trying their best to do their jobs, coupled with very bad weather, brought about the disaster.

CREW DEDICATION:

This model represents that aircraft and is a dedication and memorial to the crew. The following is a list of the men who died in the line of duty on the mountain that day:

Lt. Col. Herman Gerick, Aircraft Commander Major George C. Morford, Pilot

Major Douglas F. Miner, Navigator

1st Lt. James M. Harvey, Jr., Flight Engineer

1st Lt. Carey E. Fant, Jr., Flight Engineer

Master Sergeant Royal Freeman, Radio Operator Airman 1st Class Edwin D. Howe, Air Gunner

Airman 2nd Class Frank Silvestri, Air Gunner Tech. Sergeant Dewey Taliferro, passage

THE MODEL BUILD:

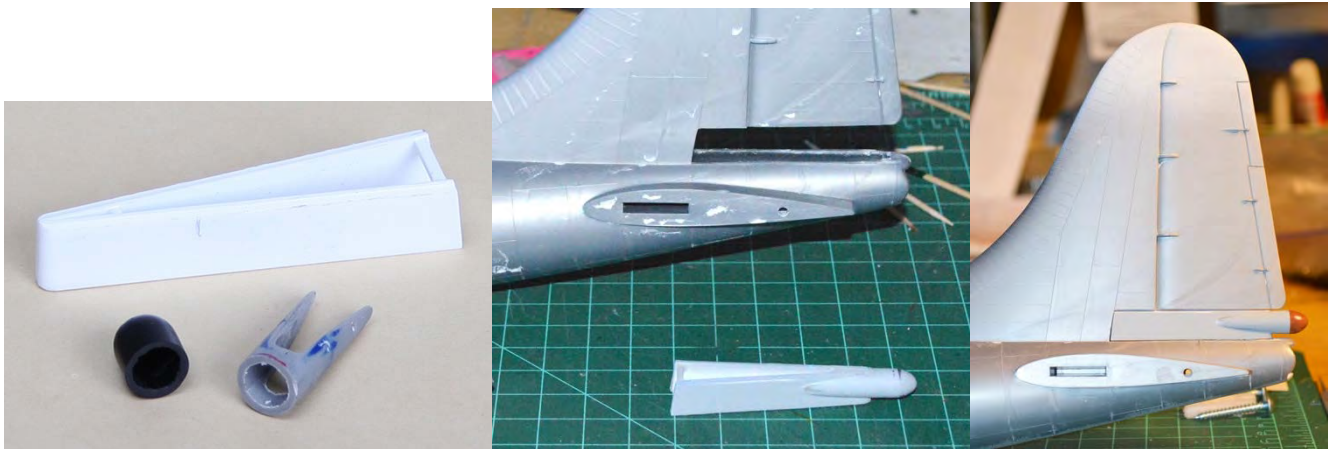
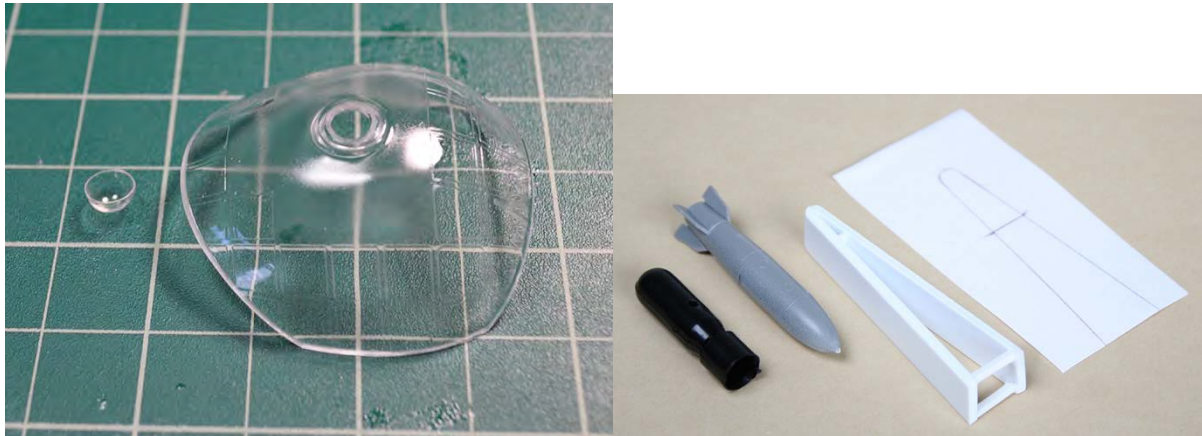
The model kit is the Revell of Germany release of the venerable Monogram, 1/72nd scale B-36. The packaging states that it is boxed as B-36H / RB-36F Peacemaker. The subject aircraft of the dedication is a B-36D, which required some backdating modifications.

The kit provides square-tip propellers; appropriate for later variants of the B-36 however the B-36D had rounded prop tips and so the kit tips were rounded. (See figures 1a & b below.)



A clear dome was scratch built to fit atop the canopy to represent the plexi-glass dome on the B-36D, which allowed the navigator to navigate via the stars on night missions. (See figure 2 below.)

The rear gun aiming radar on the B-36D was a single radar/radome design while the kit provides the double radar/radome fitted to later versions. The double radar on the kit was removed and replaced with scratch-built parts made from styrene sheet and bits of bomb parts from other kits. (See figures 3a, b, c & d.)



Jet engine pods on the B-36 featured landing lights, which are not represented in the kit and so were fashioned out of clear sprue. (See figure 4.)



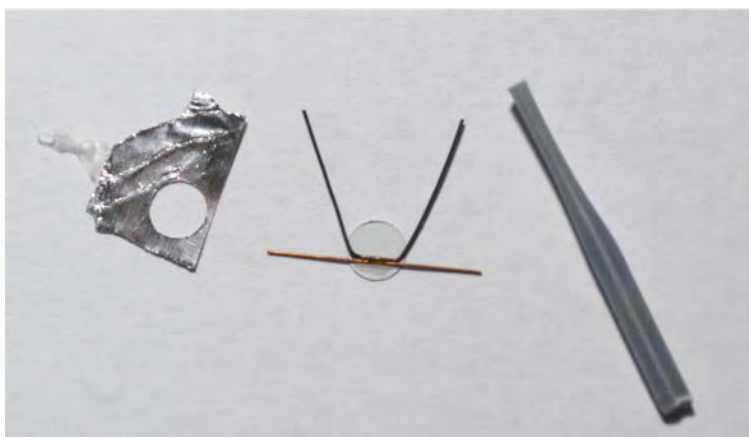
(Figure 4.)

This is a very large model and because of limited workspace it was decided that it would be best to work with various components until final assembly of the airframe. The canopy framing was masked and painted before being cemented to the airframe. Priming, painting and decaling were all done in manageable sections and assembled and touched up later. (See figures 5a & 5b.)



(Figures 5a & 5b.)

Early B-36s, including the B-36D, had the ILS antenna mounted just forward of the canopy, protruding from the antiglare panel. The kit does not provide the antenna so one was fabricated from fine wire, metal foil and stretched sprue (See figures 6a & 6b below.)



Some of the markings were unique to this aircraft and were either fashioned from the kit decals, Warbird B-36 decal sheets or home made. Standard B-36 markings were from the kit or Warbird decals. It is likely that the aircraft did not have all the markings depicted on the model at the time of the accident but probably did at some point during its time with the 492nd Bomb Squadron.

IT HAPPENED IN 1953:

For many modelers, researching the subject at hand is a large part of the fun of the build and that holds true for me as well, but for a project like this I also like to research a bit of popular culture of the era; things which the crew and others of the time might have been interested in or expose to.



POPULAR CULTURE AND EVENTS OF 1953 TOP HEADLINES:

January 20, Dwight D. Eisenhower became the 34th President of the United States

May 29, Mt. Everest ascended first by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay

June 30, First Corvette is Produced



NOTABLE BIRTHS:

June 13, Tim Allen June 22, Cindy Lauper, October 9, Tony Shaloub

**NOTABLE DEATHS:**

January 1, Hank Williams, March 5, Joseph Stalin, March 24, Queen Mary



July 27, Korean War ends

AVERAGE COST OF LIVING IN AMERICA:

Automobile = \$1,850 Avg. Income = \$4,000 Gal. Gasoline = \$.21

New Home = \$16,000 Postal Stamp = \$.03

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of USA approved color televisions in 1953. And the first-ever color TV set went on sale for about \$1,175 (\$13,562.24 in 2023 dollars).

AVIATION FIRSTS:

May 25 — First flight of the YF-100

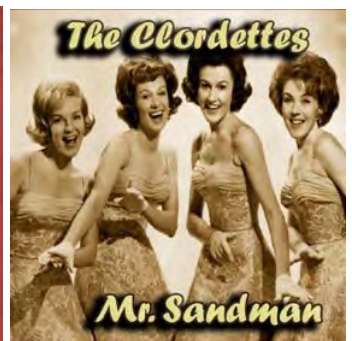
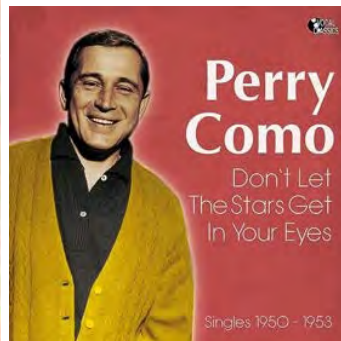
July 3 — First flight of the North American FJ-3 Fury

October 24 — First flight of the Convair YF-102

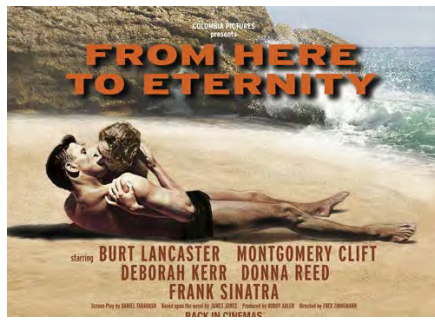
November 20 — Scott Crossfield, first to fly twice the speed of sound in the D 558-2



Popular Music –



ENTERTAINMENT: Top Movies -



Popular Television



Publications -

Casino Royale by Ian Fleming

First issue of Playboy magazine



Sports –World Champions

