

Survived the Contest?

By Ed Burgess

We got through the contest last month, and it went quite well in most ways. We'd have been happier if more people had showed up, but as it happened there were a lot of conflicts and a show every weekend that month. Still, the point is to have fun and I think that goal was met. On to the next challenge!

Mark and I went to the WCMO show last Saturday. Big turnout and a lot of models that made me feel seriously

inferior. Also some fine vendors. I was tempted by several things but only fell for some Vallejo pigments. Kind of regret I didn't go ahead and buy that short-run resin model of an early four-wheel Piranha variant....

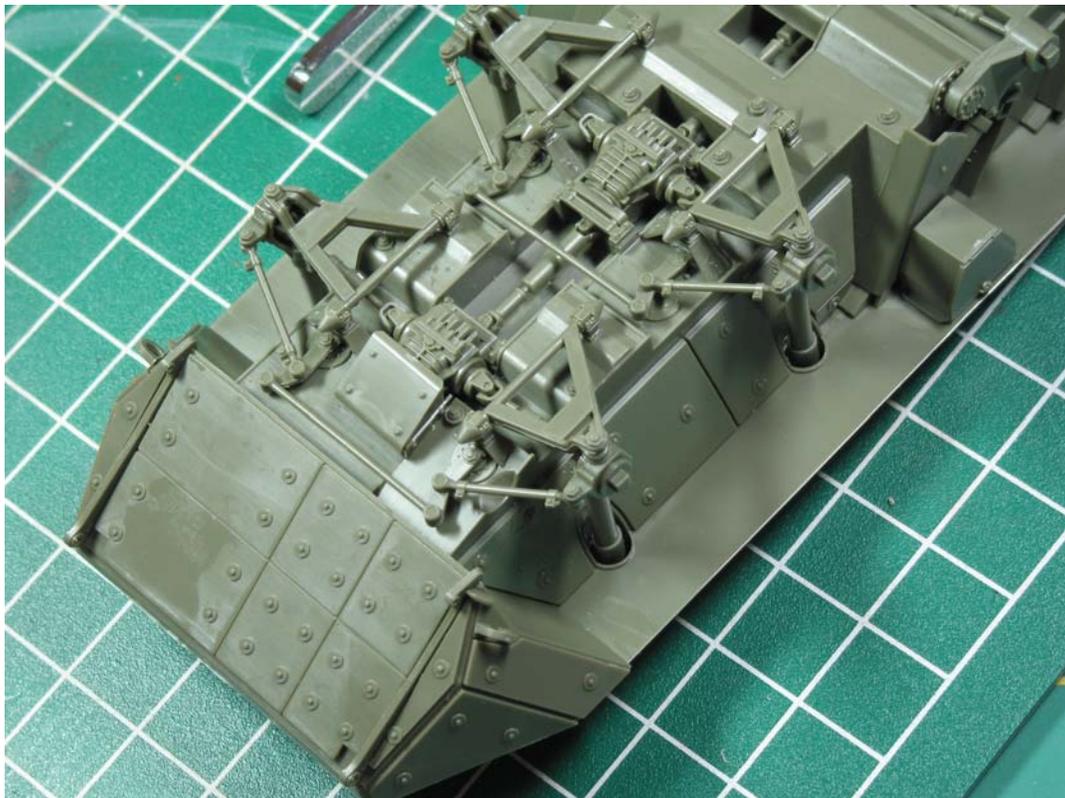
This is a short newsletter because I was out of town, and didn't get to it. Live with it.

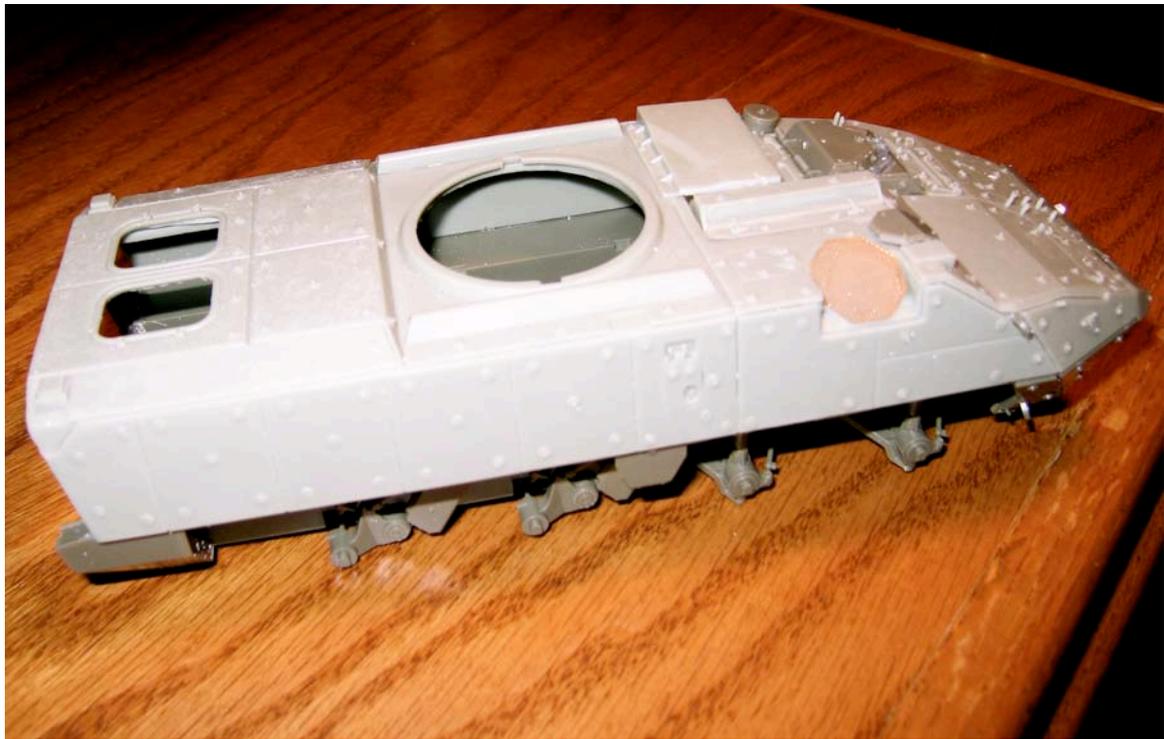
I've been working on a model of a Canadian LAV-III, which is quite similar to a Stryker (both were developed from the same European sire, an eight-wheeled Piranha). The base kit is the AFV Club Stryker, which seems to be an excellent kit. The Stryker hull is identical to the LAV-III, but different wheels, and the Canadians opted for a considerably different superstructure and turret. The entire superstructure will be a lovely Realmodel resin conversion set from the Czech Republic. Big chunk of resin and seven sheets of photo-etch. A few pictures of the work in progress below.

First step, for me at least, was to assemble the AFV Club hull and suspension. No issues there. Excellent detail, perfect fit everywhere. It comes with vinyl tires, which I dislike, but they which were replaced by resin ones in the Realmodel set. The step rings on the hubs are provided in PE, but I got a piece of 5/16 aluminum tubing and sliced eight pieces off. Knew I'd never get the PE rolled into the proper little torus.

Then attached the body to the hull. Again, no issues, good fit. You do have to remove some casting waste but that's just time, not any particular skill.

Now, a problem. The rear door assembly just does not want to fit. Still working that. I saw that another modeler wrote about the same problem on Armorama, and got past it by filing, fitting, and grunting. So I'm using the same method, so far with positive results but not a final resolution.





So, work in progress. Stay tuned. I will probably be boring everyone to death with this for months. For similar projects see *Armorama* and the last two issues of *Finescale Modeler*.

You know what I often say about stretching yourself? Try something that is both cool and hard,. Maybe not this conversion, but put yourself out there and improve your skills.

Calendar

Upcoming club meetings:

21 April -- Club Meeting at Leavenworth Library 7pm
19 May -- Club Meeting at Leavenworth Library 7pm
16 June -- Club Meeting at Leavenworth Library 7pm

Interesting 2009 - 2010 Events in our area:

22-24 April 2010 – Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS) 2010 International Show, Auburn, IN

12 – 13 June 2010 – KC Slammers 19th Heartland Model Car Nationals, Overland Park Convention Center, KS

8 -11 July 2010 – “Historicon” war gaming convention, new location Baltimore Convention Center, MD

9-10 July 2010 -- KC AMPS 2010 in conjunction with the Military Vehicle Preservation Association. Topeka Expocentre. Real vehicles, model vehicles, \$5 admission.

24 July 2010 – KC Slammers 5th Annual Elden Titus National Model Kemp Spectacular, Salina, KS