

District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia



Mark Radcliff
Vice President

mradcliff@suddenlink.net
199 Heron Dr., St. Marys WV 26170
Tel.: (304) 684-2133; www.amadistrict-iii.org

When I learned that this issue of *Model Aviation* would feature building models from scratch, I thought it would be nice to include some District III modelers who are award-winning builders, feature their aircraft, and give some insight into how they construct their masterpieces.

Although many came to mind, two stuck out: Mike Barbee and his Top Gun- and Nats-winning Giant Scale T-34 and Karl Schneider's 50% Pitts S-12. We'll start with Karl Schneider of Washington, Pennsylvania, and his amazing 50% scale Pitts S-12. Here are some details in Karl's words:



Karl and his Pitts S-12.

"My bird has a 132-inch wingspan, is 123 inches long, and is covered with full-scale, lightweight Dacron. Paint is Rust-Oleum from a rattle can. Mostly aluminum construction, the fuselage frame is all aluminum, sheeted with aluminum, and the wing's leading edges are aluminum.

"It took 2½ winters to build 100% from scratch. I even vacuum-formed the canopy with my wife's help. The

wings are foam core with wood rib overlays. The motor is a 400cc Moki five-cylinder radial. Most of the plane's material came from Home Depot. Its empty weight is 94 pounds. I'm using four Seiko PS050 servos for all the flying control surfaces and using a Spektrum DX18 for guidance."



Unique wing construction on the Pitts.

I had the pleasure of seeing this airplane at Toledo and saw it fly at Joe Nall. For more information on Karl's Pitts project, point your browser to: <http://bit.ly/16bdN8l>. Karl created a build thread on Flying Giants. Search Krazy Karl's Pitts and you will find tons of information about this amazing airplane.

And now, Mike Barbee describes his Top Gun- and Nats-winning Giant Scale T-34.

"My Beechcraft T-34B is 36% scale. Its wingspan is 151 inches; length 112 inches; weight 115 pounds; and wing loading 62.2 ounces per square foot. Power is a DA 200 four-cylinder. Construction time was two years.

"The construction includes a fiberglass fuselage, foam-sheeted wings, stabilizer, rudder, and fin. The foam was sheeted with 3/32 balsa and covered with 1.5-ounce glass cloth using Zap Zpoxy.

"The retract mechanism is electric 12 volt using Figelli jackscrew servos. Each has a 3.5-inch throw and power to move 160 pounds. Color and markings are all painted using paint masks by Pro-Mark graphics. Paint is PPG

basecoat, clearcoat using the full-scale owner's paint numbers for an accurate paint match."


Although I have not seen Mike's T-34 fly, I saw it at Toledo and can tell you it is a masterpiece in fit and finish. In this day of instant gratification with ARFs and such, it is great to see there are still master craftsmen builders who turn out amazing aircraft that inspire us all. Congratulations to Karl and Mike on their fantastic building talents and thank you for showing us anything is possible in model aviation.



The engine, exhaust, and retract detail on the T-34.



Mike with his award-winning T-34.

Until next month, go fly and have fun! 

Associate Vice Presidents: Randy Adams, Fairfield OH; Rtrcpilot@aol.com; Mike Barbee, Delaware OH; (740) 362-5545; Mabarbee@aol.com; Jeff Black, New Oxford PA; (717) 965-5634; jrblack1964@gmail.com; Dave Brown, Hamilton OH; (513) 738-1576; dbrown@dbproducts.com; Nelson Gould, Macungie PA; (610) 395-9159; at6srj@pd.net; Tony Husak, Harts Grove OH; (440) 283-7447; racer749@gmail.com; Dan Luchaco, Sayre PA; (570) 888-1856; palflyer23@stny.rr.com; Jim Martin, Franklin OH; (937) 260-0143; hootelovesremy@yahoo.com; Al Myers, Canfield OH; (330) 506-6194; ajm486@hotmail.com; Leo Rodriguez, New Stanton PA; (724) 925-0159; lrodriguez44@verizon.net; Matthew Tarowski, Nescopeck PA; (570) 379-2014; mt@riglaw.com; Joseph Vislay, Monclova OH; (419) 878-8843; jvislay@buckeye-express.com. **CL/FF/RC Coordinators:** Nelson Gould, 1340 Oak Dr., Macungie PA 18062; (610) 395-9159; at6srj@pd.net; Sheila Nitsch, 5650 Boyd Rd., Grove City OH 43123; (614) 877-3453; snitsch@columbus.rr.com. **Webmaster:** Roger Luther, Johnstown, PA; (814) 266-2630; raluther@atlantebb.net.