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Doug Spinney's Tesla Tank won the May club's SciFi theme contest!



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Frank Ahern
Secretary

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Bill Winter
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Newsletter
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Prez Sez.....

In my 8+ years of model building I've built some that were considered easy and some that were nightmares (Dragon and Mini Arts models come to mind). Usually, if I build something difficult, I'll follow with something easy. I consider most armor to be fairly easy, not the part counts, but painting. 98% of the exterior model gets painted the same color, with the exception of a few parts here and there. You get all done painting and sit back and admire your job, then you weather the model. This includes getting your masterpiece dirty, something I still have a problem wrapping my mind around. But I do it, even though I don't particularly like it. I've built a few cars, the nice thing about cars is that you don't get them dirty at the end. How many times have you gone to a car show where the vehicles are dirty. There are those out there that can build, plum and wire the engine, detail the interior and trunk, and paint a car in one day. I'm amazed, they are admiring their masterpiece and I'm still cursing the suspension.

I've also built a few planes, again not my thing. I was at a model meeting a few months ago and the discussion was whether the interior of the plane was the correct color. I would have said that I didn't like the off-white interior and painted it myself light green. Of course, then you'd need to worry about the big IPMS judge in the sky swooping down and telling you that the color isn't original, ding, one point off.



What is all this leading up to? At the moment, I'm building a model that calls for no painting. The sprues are 5 different colors. You snip the parts off, clean them up, and put them together. But then, what about that big IPMS judge in the sky? Is he going to swoop down and complain that the model is unpainted? I built a Sci-Fi tank and there was one little part that the instructions said, "do not paint", so I didn't.

Yep, I had a judge point out that it needed to be painted. Anyway, I decided to paint my current, no paint necessary, model kit. I'm rethinking my sanity on that decision - this is going to take along time to finish. Each part is unique, so you can't just paint them all at the same time, and the colors are intermixed with each other. "Oh, the humanities." Looks like I'll be building several models at the same time, just to keep my sanity.

– **Doug**

May – IPMS Gators

little

**We will meet Tuesday,
June 16, 2025, at 6:30
PM at
Oak Hall Library**

Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday May 19, 2026

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. There were 17 members and visitors present, including new member Pat Loyacona from Ocala. The visitor was Dwayne Holloway from Jacksonville.



Doug brought up model shows that are coming up. Pamscon in Plant City, June 27, IPMS Nationals in Ft. Wayne IN Aug.5-8, and Modelpalooza in Kissimmee in October.

Ed Ingersoll and Bill Winter informed the club about an upcoming AMPS show in Orlando in Nov. They are hosting a reception at the show located near Sea World. Contact them if you want to take part.

Doug congratulated Joe Swails for his winning entry in the inter-club contest with Ocala. The theme was "Ice Age". His written entry and pictures of his model are in the newsletter.

The meeting paused for Show & Tell presentations from those who brought models. The monthly theme was Sci-Fi.

The winning model, chosen by vote of those in attendance, was Doug Spinney's Red Alert tank. Next month's theme is - Gundam.

The monthly attendance raffles were won by Pat Loyacona (the Chevelle held by Dan Contento) and Ian Breheny (the Me 262 held by Doug).



The meeting concluded with time for members to participate in a swap meet. The meeting ended at 7:45pm

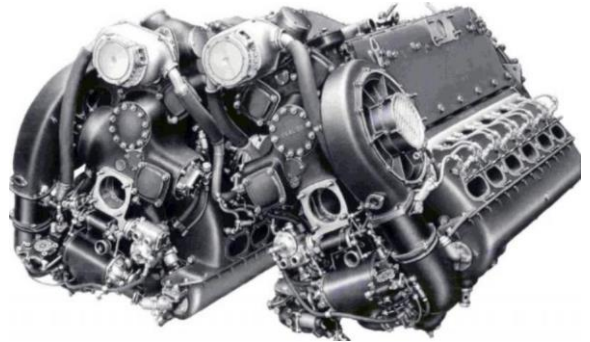
Submitted by: *Frank Ahern, Club Secretary*

The Luftwaffe's Lighter

by Frank Ahern

I've always been fascinated by epic failures. In WW2 no failure was more puzzling than Germany's failure to develop a long-range bomber. They were far ahead of the US in aviation technology at the beginning of the war, yet they couldn't field an operational heavy bomber until the war was essentially over.

The story of the Heinkel He-177 Greif (Griffon) was a classic case of engineering overreach. In attempting to hit a home run they struck out. Some reasons were technical, some were political. The technical reasons were fixable, but the political will was lacking. The result was a weapon of great promise that never made a difference.



The big technical issue was the decision to join 2 engines in one nacelle to improve aerodynamics. This was an obsession of the Heinkel design team. The problems this created were massive, leading to engine fires that caused the unflattering nickname. Rather than make an all-out effort to fix it, the project was put on a back burner (pun intended). What's puzzling is that the Luftwaffe desperately needed a heavy bomber for the Battle of Britain and the invasion of Russia. Both of those crucial battles might have turned out differently with the support of a true strategic bombing force.



The Luftwaffe's Lighter

Another area the Greif could have made a difference was as a platform to deliver two of Germany's most sophisticated weapons. The *Fritz X* and *Hs-293* were radio-controlled glide bombs which were released and guided by a crew member to attack warships with high accuracy. We should be grateful that the internal politics and decision making in the 3rd Reich was such a mess. Otherwise, their lead in technology could have tipped the war in their favor.



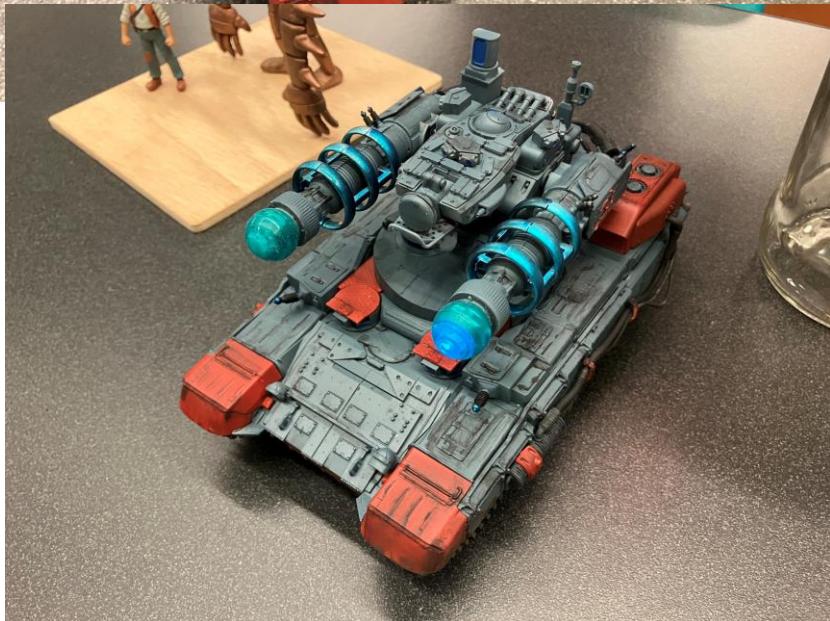
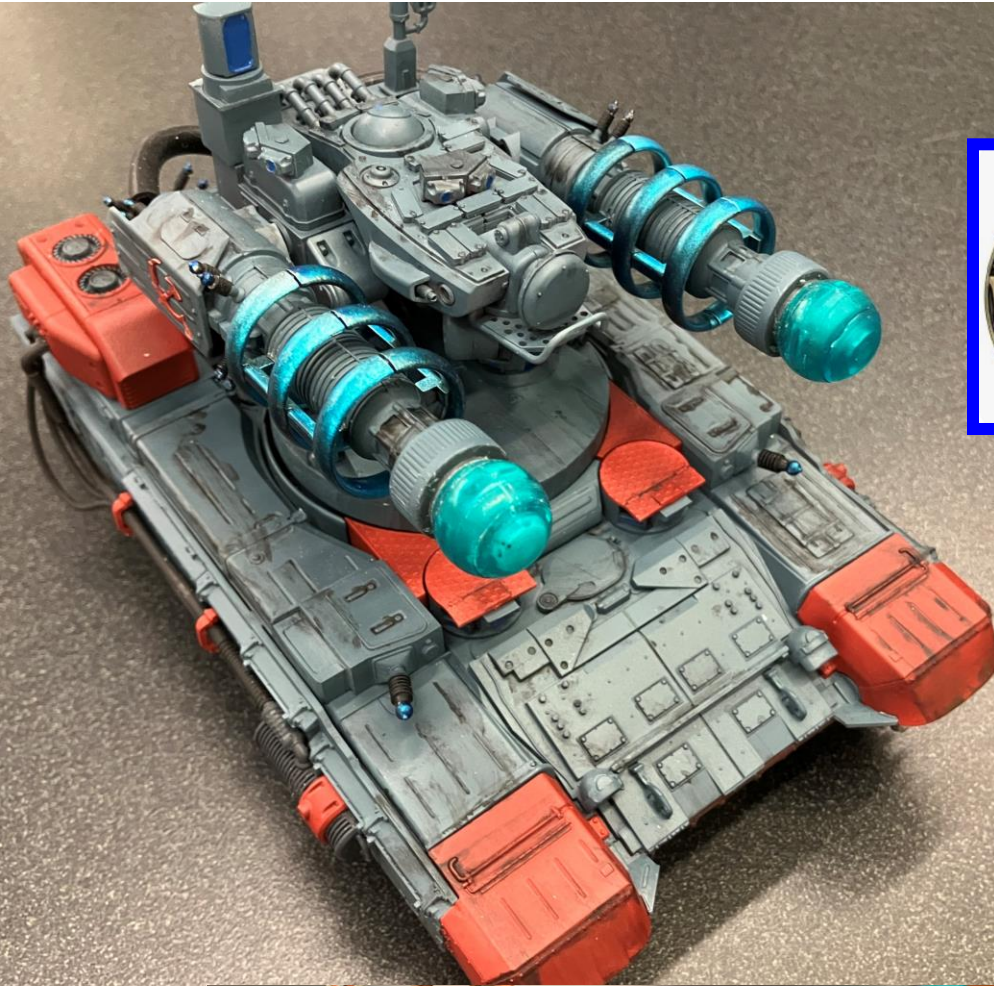
My decision to build this kit is part of my overall plan to reduce my stash. While sorting through my shelves I found this big Revell kit buried in the back. My experience with these newer Revell/Germany kits has been mostly positive. This was no exception. Despite a huge parts count with lots of tiny parts and vague, confusing directions, it was an enjoyable build. Parts fit well and surface detail of the moldings is excellent. It brought me back to my original modeling motivation - combat aircraft of WW2.



The Luftwaffe's Lighter



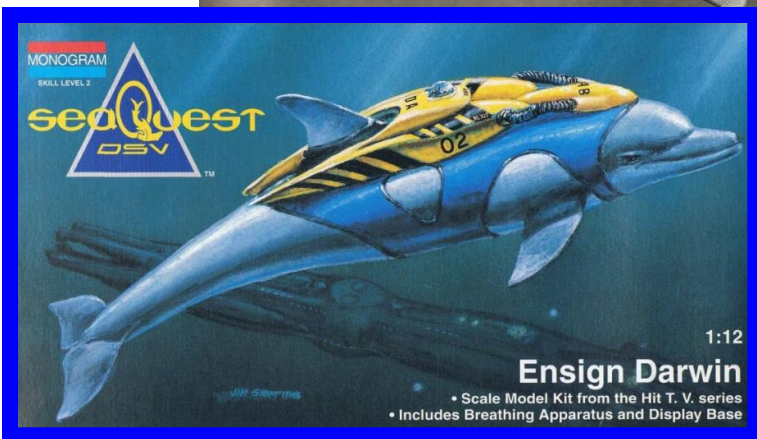
Doug Spinney's Tesla Tank won the May theme award for science fiction



Doug Spinney's Tesla Tank won the May theme award for science fiction



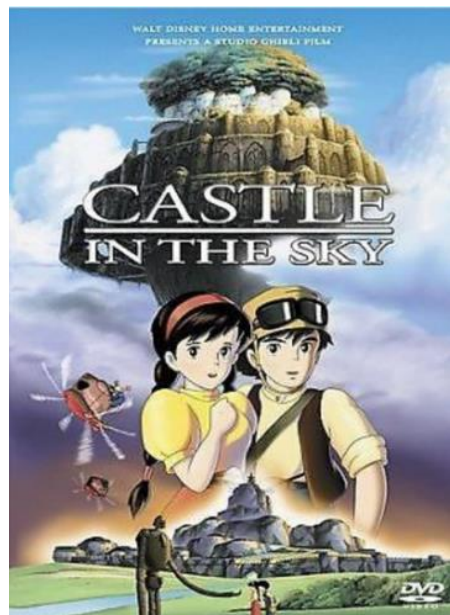
Darryl Palmer's SeaQuest DSV porpoise



Bob Lundeen's Star Wars X-Wing Fighter by Bandai



Ian Breheny's Castle in the Sky Robot



Castle in the Sky

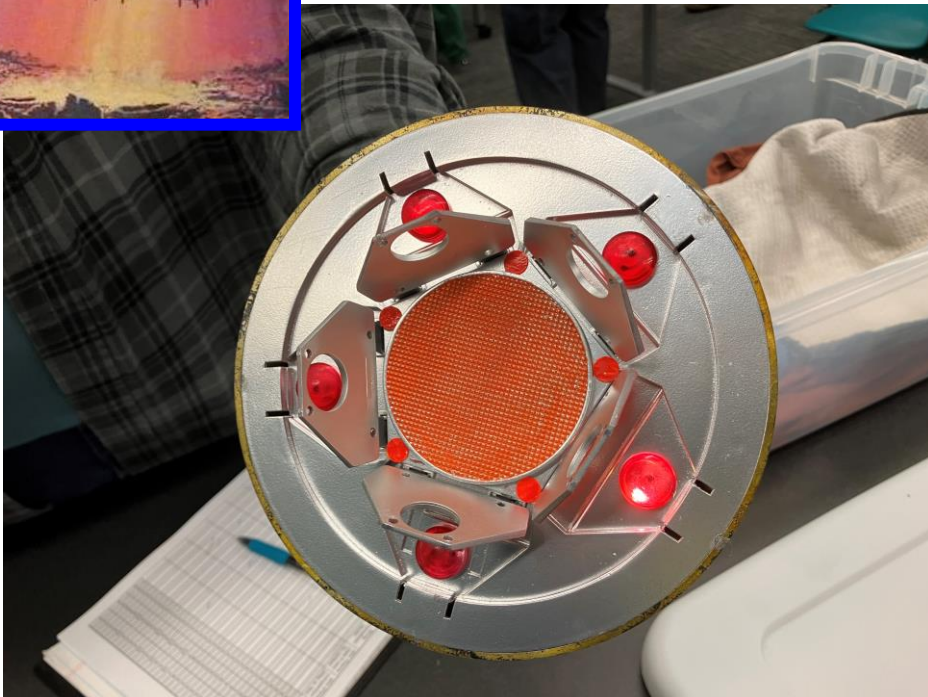
Castle in the Sky, also known as Laputa: Castle in the Sky, is a 1986 Japanese animated fantasy adventure film written and directed by *Hayao Miyazaki*. It was produced by Isao Takahata, animated by Studio Ghibli, and distributed by the Toei Company. The film stars the voices of Mayumi Tanaka, Keiko Yokozawa, Kotoe Hatsui, and Minori Terada. In the film, orphans Sheeta and Pazu are pursued by government agent Muska, the army, and a group of pirates. They seek Sheeta's crystal necklace, the key to accessing Laputa, a legendary flying castle hosting advanced technology.

Castle in the Sky was the first film to be animated by Studio Ghibli. Its production team included many of Miyazaki's longtime collaborators, who would continue to work with the studio for the following three decades. The film was partly inspired by Miyazaki's trips to Wales, where he witnessed the aftermath of the 1984–1985 coal miners' strike. The island of Laputa is used to highlight the theme of environmentalism, exploring the relationships between humanity, nature, and technology, a reflection of Miyazaki's ecological philosophy. The young protagonists also provide a unique perspective on the narrative, as a result of Miyazaki's desire to portray "the honesty and goodness of children in [his] work". Many aspects of the film's retrofuturistic style – the flying machines in particular – are influenced by nineteenth-century approaches, which has earned the film a reputation in the modern steampunk genre.



The film was released in Japanese theaters on August 2, 1986. It underperformed expectations at the box office, but later achieved commercial success through rereleases. An English dub commissioned by Tokuma Shoten was distributed in North America by Streamline Pictures, and another dub was produced by Disney in 1998, released internationally by Buena Vista in 2003. The film's score was composed by Joe Hisaishi, who would become a close collaborator of Miyazaki's; Hisaishi also composed a reworked soundtrack for the 2003 English dub. The film was generally acclaimed by critics, though the English dubs received mixed reviews. It was well received by audiences, being voted as one of the greatest animated films in polls conducted by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and Oricon. The film also received several notable accolades, including the Ōfuji Noburō Award at the Mainichi Film Awards and the Anime Grand Prix from Animage. Castle in the Sky has since earned "cult status", and has influenced several notable artists working in multiple media.

Doug Spinney's UFO with Lights



Bill's adaptation of the 1950's RM-1 Rocket Ship

GLENCOE MODELS Retriever Rocket 1/72 scale



Brian Cormack's WIP Hawker Fury



Doug Spinney's Mech



New member Pat Loyacona's MOPAR Hemi-Powered Roadrunner



New member Pat Loyacona's Wrecker



Don Martin brought home many awards from The Milton, FL AMPS Armorgeddon IV, May 16, 2026



Joe Swail's "Herbie Meets Max Max" with Interclub Trophy



From the workbench of Jack Mugan! ... a Ta 152



From the workbench of Bruce Doyle – Bill recently had the pleasure of visiting Bruce Doyle. We should aspire to Bruce's love and knowledge of aviation!



From the workbench of Bruce Doyle



From the workbench of Bruce Doyle



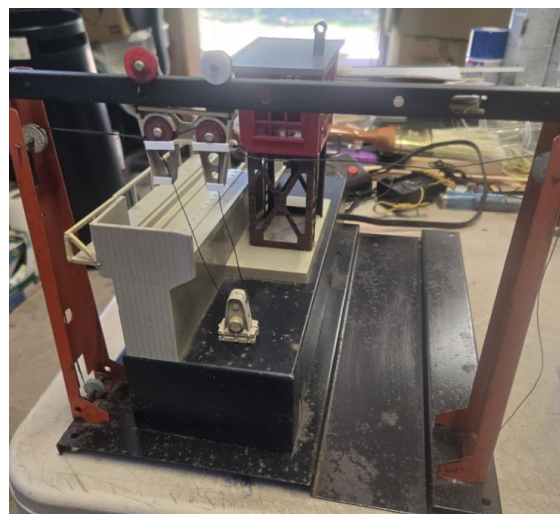
Tops o' the Box

By Darryl Palmer

Is on vacation and will return soooooooooon!



From the workbench of Clarence Snyder!



Members and Guests at the May 2026 meeting of IPMS Gators



Upcoming shows



June 27th, 2026
Teco Expo Hall
2301 W Oak Ave
Plant City, FL 33563

Celebrating 250 years of the Brave, the Bold, the Beautiful USA

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For more info:

Website - polkareamodelsociety.com

Email - president@polkareamodelsociety.com

Upcoming shows



AMPS Florida Con



AMPS Florida and the Central Florida Figure Group present the **AMPS Florida Con / Figure World Orlando Show** on **November 7th and 8th, 2026** at the **Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld** (6677 Sea Harbor Dr, Orlando, FL 32821). Hotel rooms are \$169/night plus a reduced resort fee of \$15/ night.

<https://book.passkey.com/go/figureworldorlandoamps>

The hotel is immediately across the street from Sea World. By car, Disneyworld's Magic Kingdom and Universal Studios Orlando are each no more than 20 minutes away.

Contest registration will be *on-site* and will be open from 8AM until 3PM on Saturday, November 7th. Blank entry forms can be found at AMPS North Florida Facebook page. Vendor tables are available at \$55/table for the two-day show.

AMPS categories will include :

- Tracked armor through 1945, allied (as marked)
- Tracked armor through 1945, axis (as marked)
- Tracked armor, 1946 - 1991 (based on markings)
- Tracked armor, 1992 - present (based on markings)
- Wheeled vehicles and halftracks
- Ordnance
- Fictional, futuristic or proposed land-based vehicles (e.g., Mechs & Gundam on the ground)
- Vignettes
- Dioramas



You may register up to 4 entries that will be judged. AMPS volunteers judging 2 shifts (or the equivalent) will be provided with raffle tickets.

For more information see the AMPS North Florida Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1617151505610642/>) or contact Ed Ingersoll at: ingersollle2@gmail.com.

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – ahernf@gmail.com
Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785



If you have a modeling tip you would like to share with your fellow modelers, please send us a copy so we can put it in the newsletter. We need articles for the Newsletter and the Web Site!

If you just opened up that new kit and want to give a box or build review, write it up and we'll put it in the newsletter and put it on the Web Site. Just read a good book, tell us about it! Got a great tip, share it with your fellow club members. This is your Newsletter and your Web Site and they're only going to be as good as YOU make them so contribute something to the cause. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance if you have something you want to share, we'll be happy to assist you in making it happen!

Don't forget to support your local hobby shop: Rob's Hobby World (Rob Stevely: Proprietor 8585 SW Hwy 200 unit 14) Ocala, FL 34474 www.robshobbyworld@MSN.com; Mon.-Fri.: 10 AM to 5:30PM; Sat.: 9AM to 4PM; Sun: Closed.

Please check out WWW.IPMSUSA.ORG for the latest information from IPMS National Headquarters and for information about joining IPMS.

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – Newsletter Editor ahernf@gmail.com
Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785

UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete list of IPMS events visit: <https://calendar.ipmsusa3.org/>



GATOR MODELERS

It is of great importance, both at the local level (IPMS Gators) and at the national level, that all IPMS Gators members join IPMS USA. This membership includes six bimonthly issues of the IPMS Journal (which is better than ever) and the opportunity to participate in the IPMS National Convention. Joining IPMSUSA or renewing your membership are done on-line (or via hard copy – see form below). <https://myipmsusa.org/join-us>



Join IPMS/USA Today!

Join online at [MyIPMSUSA.org](https://myipmsusa.org), scan the QR code below, or mail in this application.

New ☐ Renewal ☐ IPMS #

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IPMS Chapter Affiliation (if any):

Junior (17 years or younger)	☐	\$17.00
Adult US Address One Year	☐	\$30.00
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Three Years	☐	\$86.00
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Three Years	☐	\$115.00

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International One Year	☐	\$38.00
Three Years	☐	\$110.00
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One Year	☐	\$43.00
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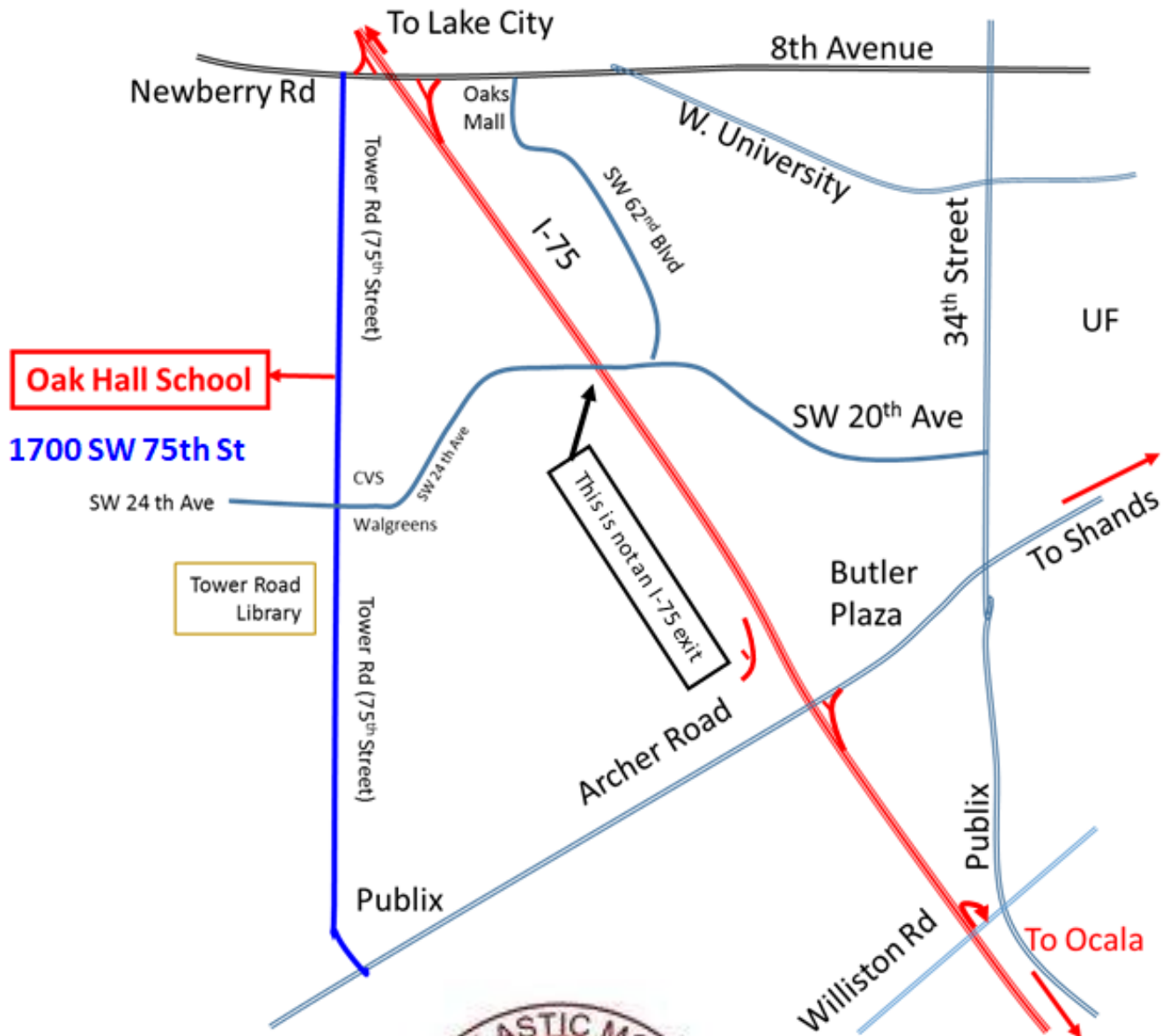
Pay by credit or debit card online, by PayPal to Treasurer@ipmsusa.org, or mail a US Dollar check with your application to:

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Join IPMS/USA
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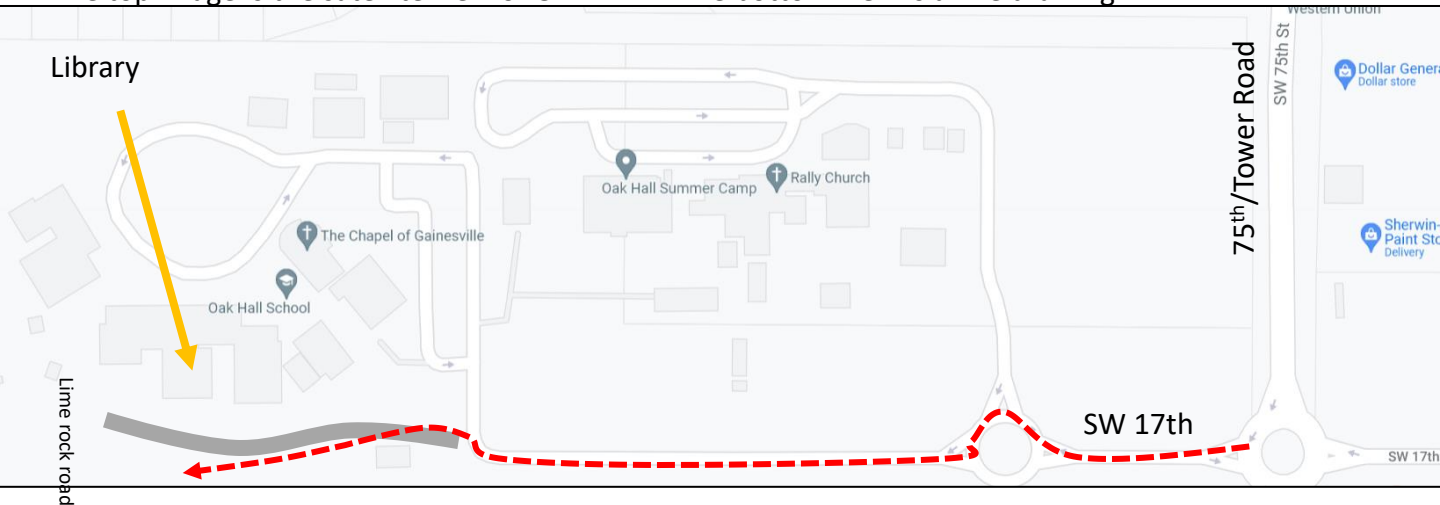
Directions to OAK HALL (1700 SW 75th St, Gainesville, FL)



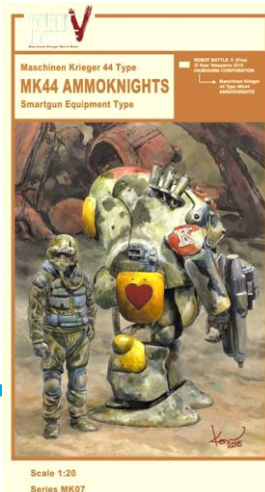
IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday June 16 at 6:30 PM in the LIBRARY.



The top image is the satellite view of OAK HALL. The bottom view is a line drawing.



A note about monthly themes for 2026



June Gundam

- July Animal name
- Aug. Snap Tite
- Sept. Monster
- Oct. Real Space
- Nov. Ships
- Dec. Amphibious

< --- Additional July theme:
America's 250th birthday celebration

Great Box Cover Art ... inspired by Jack Mugan



IPMS GATORS



Dear Readers – If you sent me something for the IPMS Gators' newsletter and I missed it, or if I misidentified any photos, please let me know. I'll try to fix it in the July 2026 newsletter. - Bill