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**WORLD
WAR I**
THE GREAT WAR TO END ALL WARS



Don Martin's 1:48 scale Fokker D-VII by Eduard won the September contest theme award for "World War I"



GATOR MODELERS

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

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Newsletter
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Prez Sez..... www.gatormodelers.org

On a recent trip to central Illinois, a good friend of mine suggested a side trip to Elkhart, Illinois: a small town, population of 450, with a "downtown" of ten turn-of-the-century buildings. In two of these buildings is *Route 66 Model Raceway*, one building has plastic models and slot cars, the other building is a huge slot car track along with a slot car drag strip. We got there just before



closing, but the gentleman working there, Fred, was kind enough to open the slot car track, gave us two cars to race, and told us to have fun. After reverting back to our childhood for 30 minutes, we spoke to Fred at the shop, he gave us a tour of the facility, showed off their extensive plastic models, paints, and accessories. All of this in a town of 450. Pictured in the center is the slot car track with restored antique pedal cars in the middle, and Fred's daily transportation parked out front (left photo). So, if by some slim chance, you make it to central Illinois, stop by *Route 66 Model Raceway* for some fun. The above article was not a paid advertising.

Our theme for October is "Korean War". And don't forget about the upcoming Modelpalooza in Kissimmee this month. Best of luck to those that are entering models.

Hope to see a good turnout at our October meeting. Bring in any hardware from Modelpalooza.

- Doug



July – IPMS Gators

We will meet
Tuesday, October
21, 2025, at 6:30
PM at
Oak Hall Library



Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday September 16, 2025

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. A total of 14 members were present plus one visitor - Joe Swails. He said he hadn't been building models for a while but wanted to get back into modeling, with an emphasis on cars, and is looking for guidance from experienced modelers.



Doug talked about the upcoming Modelpalooza in Kissimmee on Oct. 10-12. It is the largest model show in Florida and has about 100 tables of vendors in attendance.

He also mentioned that in October members will receive a form to indicate their preferences for next year's modeling themes. They can turn in their theme ideas at the November meeting for the Board of Directors to select from in December.

Bill Winter said that the best date for the Christmas party will be Sunday Dec.14, due to travel schedules of he and his wife. The party normally takes place from 1-3pm. Further information will be shared as we get closer to the date.

The meeting paused for Show & Tell presentations by those who brought models. The monthly theme was WW1 and the winning model was presented by Don Martin - a Fokker D-VII. Next month's theme is the Korean War.

The monthly attendance raffles were won by Frank Ahern and Don Martin.

Finally, the meeting concluded with a slide show from Bob Lundeen on a visit he made to the WW2 Museum in New Orleans.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Submitted by
Frank Ahern, club secretary
Submitted by: *Frank Ahern, Club Secretary*





Mig vs. Sabre

By Frank Ahern

Underestimating your enemy is a dangerous and often fatal mistake that is commonly made in times of war. Hitler claimed that Russians were "sub-human" and the country would collapse when invaded by Germany in 1941. Not so much.

The US military was also caught off guard in the Korean War by the appearance of the Mig-15 at a time when we assumed they were not capable of producing such an advanced aircraft.

Fighter pilots and military enthusiasts love to debate the relative merits of combat aircraft and the argument about Mig vs. F-86 Sabre has continued for years in online message boards. One reason is that Korea represents the end of the "dogfighting" era of aerial combat. By Vietnam The age of the fighter-bomber had dawned and individual battles between aircraft was considered unproductive and a waste of time.



The differences in the two airplanes represented the differing missions of the two nations that produced them. The Mig-15 was designed as a high-altitude interceptor and was lighter, faster, simpler to build and service. The F-86 was envisioned as a "dogfighter", more maneuverable and more technologically sophisticated. The Mig had heavier armament. 3 slow firing cannons intended to shoot down B-29s. The Sabre had 6 fast firing .50 cal. machine guns.





Mig vs. Sabre

One of the main points of contention over the years has been the kill ratio. During the war, American sources placed it as high as 10-1 Sabre, but this was based on our own kill claims which are always highly unreliable in war time. More recent research has shown that when flown against experienced Soviet pilots it was a much more even fight. The lopsided totals came against poorly trained Korean and Chinese pilots.



There is no debate that the US eventually won the battle for air superiority and helped push Communist forces back over the 38th parallel. There is also little debate that the skill of American fighter pilots was the deciding factor in the victory. So, the answer to this long-running argument is not found in the capabilities of the two machines, which were different, but, on balance, about equal. Any machine is only as good as the person at the controls. The credit should go to the finest group of fighter pilots this nation ever produced.



I have built models of both airplanes. Some time ago I built the Academy F-86 flown by then Maj. John Glenn. Most recently the Eduard Mig-15. Eduard kits are high quality, but tricky to build. Getting the cockpit



tub to fit correctly was, in the words of Bruce Doyle - fiddly. I persisted but it took a while. Now the two legendary rivals can face off in my closet shelf.

Tops of the Box



Of Molds and Monsters—Aurora’s Horrors

By Darryl Palmer

On a summer afternoon in 1960, Aurora ad man Bill Silverstein saw a large group of kids waiting to get into a movie theater. Was the theater playing one of the new Technicolor widescreen epics like ‘The Alamo’ or ‘Spartacus’? No—they were in line to see a double bill of ‘Frankenstein’ and ‘Dracula’, two moldy oldies from the 1930s.



A mad scientist’s laboratory full of lightbulbs went off in Silverstein’s head.



Aurora’s senior staff met regularly at a deli near their plant in West Hempstead, Long Island to talk shop and kick around new ideas. Silverstein showed up one day with an empty box that featured a design for a model kit of the Frankenstein monster.

“Kids these days are all crazy about movie monsters,” he said. “Look at that guy Zacherley on late-night TV with his old horror pictures—he gets great ratings!”

“Forget it,” his bosses said. “The figure market is dead. We put out those gladiator kits to cash in on ‘Spartacus’ and they flopped!”

Silverstein continued to pitch his monster idea at every deli meeting for months until, worn down, company head Abe Shikes relented. There was a trade show coming up—bring one prototype pattern of your monster and they’ll test the waters, he



Of Molds and Monsters—Aurora's Horrors

said. Silverstein got busy securing the rights from Universal Pictures for a 3 percent share on sales.

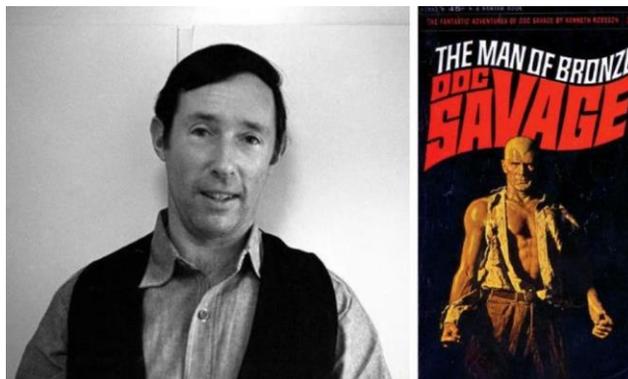
To make the monster, they turned to their house master sculptor, Bill Lemon. An artist with no formal training or even a high school diploma, Lemon began an apprenticeship in 1949 with Philip Derham & Associates, a toy company in Philadelphia. Since starting with Aurora in 1956, he'd crafted all the company's figure kits, from the Medieval Knights, which were very popular, to the Scottish Lad and Lassie, which were not. Lemon was a fan of movie monsters himself, and began carving his creation out of plastic acetate, working from stills of Boris Karloff, Lon Chaney Jr. and Glenn Strange in their Jack Pierce-designed makeup.



Bill Lemon, left, with fellow Aurora sculptor Ray Meyers

The miniature monster turned out to be a huge hit with buyers' kids at the trade show, and soon orders for Frankenstein and more monsters started pouring in.

To make the monsters come alive on the box, Aurora's art department secured the services of James Bama, a top-notch illustrator at Manhattan's Cooper Studios. Bama's specialty was rendering pulpy, realistic-looking flesh; when he wasn't painting monsters, he was giving Doc Savage rippling muscles on paperback covers for Bantam.



Artist James Bama with his reimagining of Doc Savage



Of Molds and Monsters—Aurora's Horrors

The first three monster kits—Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Wolf Man—hit stores in 1962. The Mummy, Phantom of the Opera, and the Creature from the Black Lagoon followed the next year, featuring even more detailed sculpts. It typically took Lemon between 75 and 120 hours to complete a pattern, for which he would be paid around \$2,000.



In just two years, Aurora sold over 7.5 million monster kits. Ads for the monster crew started appearing on the back covers of comic books. The kits also got a huge boost when Famous Monsters of Filmland organized a nationwide Monster Customizing Contest, which coincided with Aurora's new customizing kits with rats, snakes, skulls and other creepy accessories that could be painted with branded Monster Colors.



Next came King Kong, Godzilla, the Hunchback of Notre Dame, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, the Bride of Frankenstein, and the Witch. But by the mid-1960s, like a full moon, the monster craze was beginning to wane. Spinoffs and glow-in-the-dark parts kept the line going for a time, but the end was near.

The final model in Aurora's monster series was the Forgotten Prisoner in 1967, with a sculpt by Larry Ehling and box art by Mort Kunstler. By that time, James Bama had grown disillusioned with Aurora and commercial art in general. He left for Wyoming and became a renowned painter of Western subjects, making far more for his canvases than the \$300-\$600 per painting that Aurora was offering. Bill Lemon also left after completing the Hunchback, drawn by lucrative commissions from Remco and Marx Toys. By 1969, Aurora's catalog had whittled the monster gallery down to just six kits.



Aurora's ghoulish glue-bombs might have temporarily returned to their coffin-shaped boxes, but you can't keep a good monster down. Frankenstein and his mates would soon again rise from the grave!

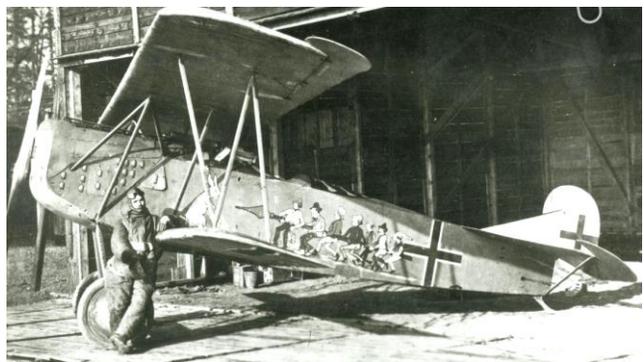
The End?

The best source for Aurora model history is Thomas Graham's Aurora Model Kits, available on Amazon.

Don Martin's 1:48 scale Fokker D-VII by Eduard won the September contest theme award for "World War I"



**Fokker D.VII (OAW built)
Jasta 65 'Seven Swabians'
Lt. Alfred Bunder**



Ed Ingersolle's 1:35 Meng FT-17



oute 66 Model Raceway



Frank Ahern's 1:32 scale Meng Fokker Dr.I Dreidecker Triplane



World War I German Pilot Painted by Jack Mugan for Frank Ahern



Disclaimer – This poster is added only for decoration. – Signed – The Editor

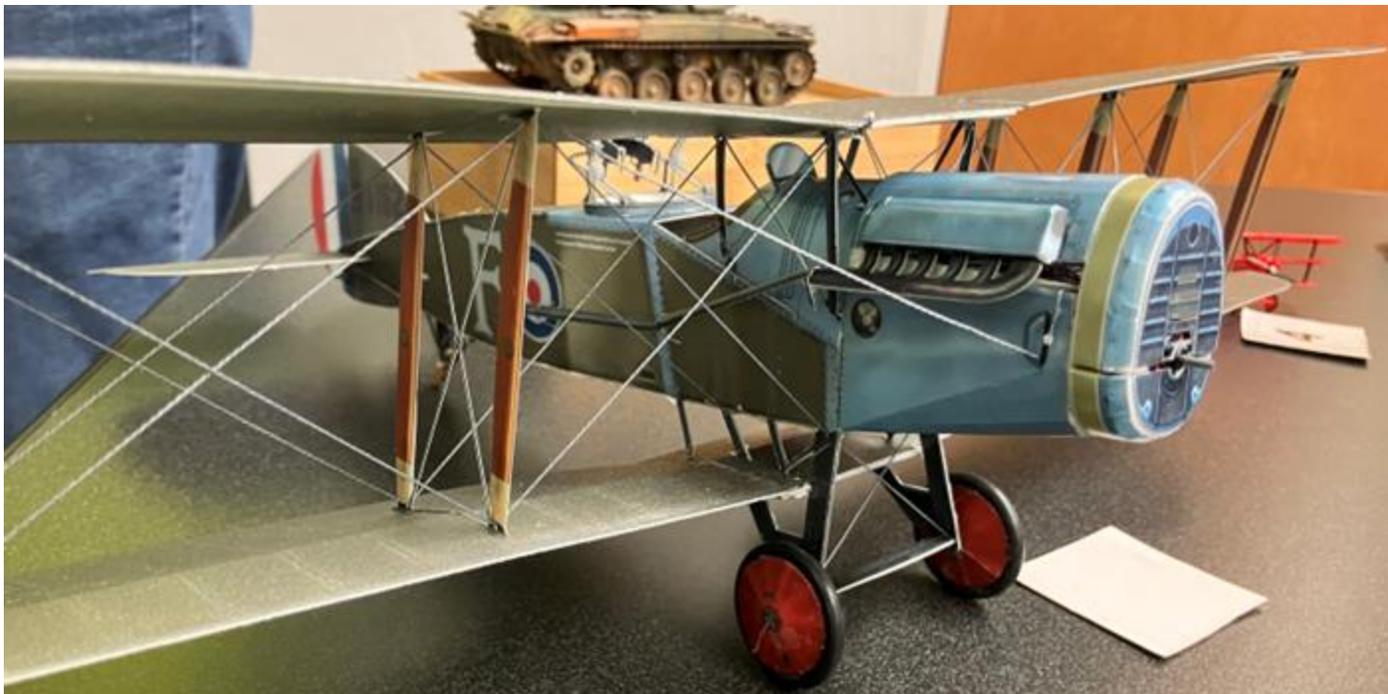
Bob Lundeen's 1:35 scale Emhar British WWI Mark IV tank captured by the Germans



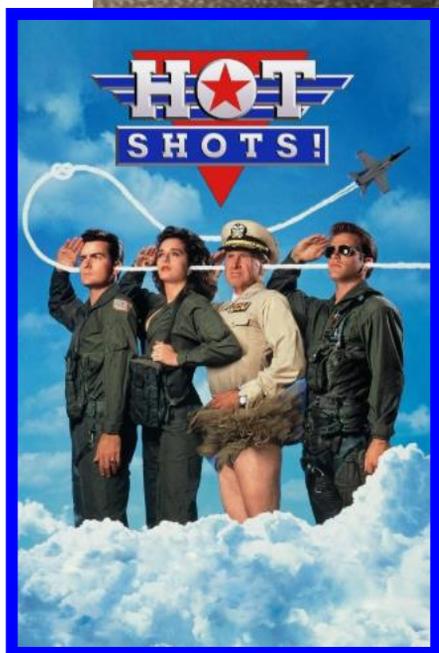
Clarence Snyder's small scale German WWI Fokker Dr.1 Triplane



Chuck Lassiter's WWI British Biplane (It really will fly sometime soon)!



Brian Cormack's completed Airfix Folland Gnat T-1 (1:72 scale) using kit decals for "Oscar EW-5894 Phallus" from the movie "Hot Shots"



Darryl Palmer's 1:172 scale XB-70 with X-15 delta-wing plane



Clarence Snyder's 1:25 scale 1959 Chevy (buffed – not painted)



Clarence Snyder's 1:25 scale 1962 Pontiac (buffed – not painted)



Clarence Snyder's dune buggy



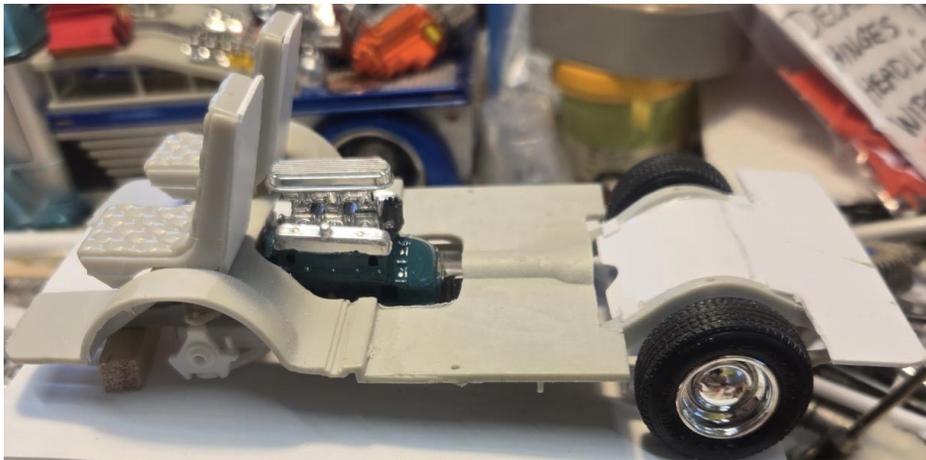
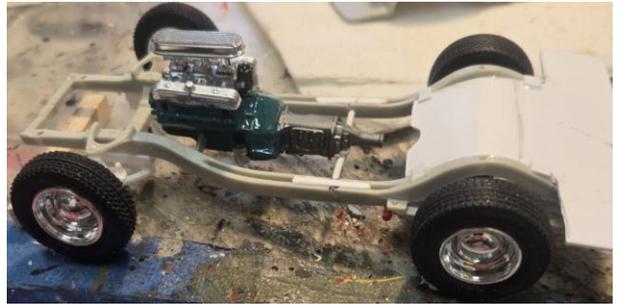
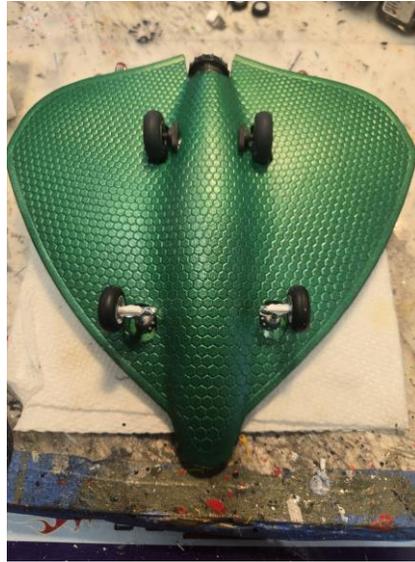
Bob Lundeen's 1:32 scale NiK2-J Shidenkai (George) by Hasegawa



Bill's 1:35 scale AFV Club M41A3 [South Vietnam Army (ARVN)]



From the desk of
Clarence Snyder



Upcoming shows

Jaxcon 2026 will be held on Friday evening and all day Saturday Feb. 6/7th. It will once again be at the fabulous North Jacksonville Baptist Church recreation hall where it's been for the last 5 years or so. The good news is that this year there will be 75 vendor tables available!

SAVE the DATE

Pelican
MODEL CLUB

Pelican 26
Scale Model Convention and Contest
www.pelicanmodelclub.org

Sat. March 14, 2026
St. Lawrence Higgins Hall
5225 N. Himes Ave., Tampa FL 33613

f Check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/PelicanModelClub
Contact Donn Buerger for questions: donn_buerger@yahoo.com



Upcoming shows

Theme for the 2026 Gainesville- Ocala Interclub contest: ICE WORLD

With the onset of massive global freezing, the polar ice caps extended south and north as far as 40th parallel and resulted in freezing solid Seattle's Puget Sound, New York's Hudson River and Ports, all of the Great Lakes, even northern sections of the Mediterranean Sea (ice bergs occasionally clogged the strait of Gibraltar).



In efforts to overcome the economic constraints of a frozen world, 'brilliant' minds diligently proposed various means of developing advantages out of difficulties, addressing issues of freighters, mass transits, recreation, and the military in a frozen world.

Let the Gainesville/Ocala IPMS club challenge propose solutions to this future problem in the form of a kit-bash of two (or more) kits of which at least one is plastic; use of other materials optional. Entry to be accompanied with a narrative of no more than 3 pages explaining the presentation. Judging will be based 2/3 on the model and 1/3 on the narrative. A new category is being introduced, a Junior Class for entrants 18 years of age or younger. Judging to be done by entry members.

TBD. Contest dates being targeted (depending on availability of a meeting place) are, first choice, Saturday 25th of April 2026 or second choice, Saturday 11th of April 2026.

Note: Interclub contest was last held in Gainesville April 27, 2024

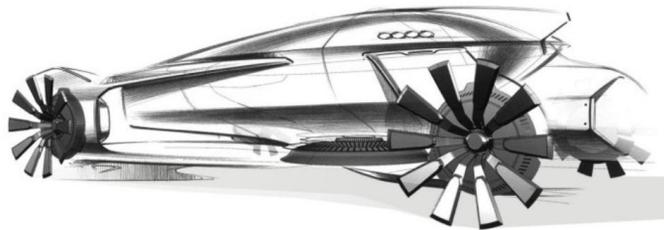
Examples of theme builds:



Upcoming shows

Theme for the 2026 Gainesville- Ocala Interclub contest: ICE WORLD

Ideas for the theme:



Upcoming shows

Theme for the 2026 Gainesville- Ocala Interclub contest: ICE WORLD

Ideas for the theme:



Tool Time

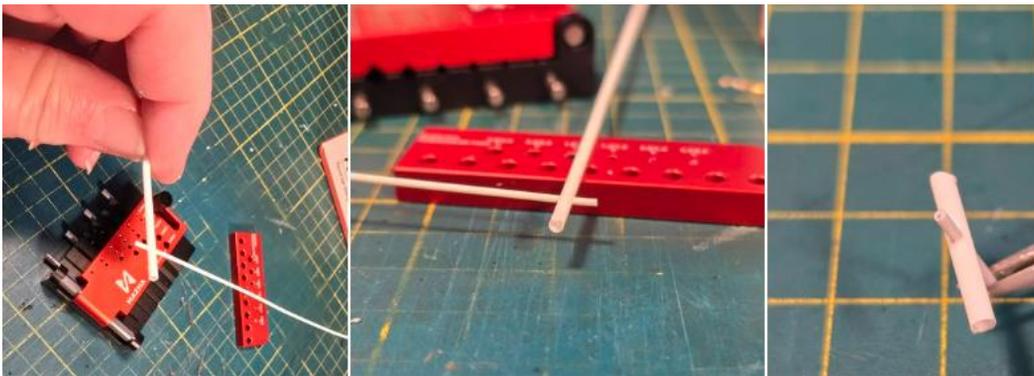
Dear GATORS - Here is the tool I want to share with the Gators club. I bought one and it works great!

Mark B. Box



From: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/riversideSMC/posts/10161301566092671/>

You can never have too many tools, said the plumber to the actress, and this one is a keeper. Introducing the "Borehole Positioner" [which is] a drilling jig for round stock. Suits 1.0mm to 4.0mm round rod and drills from 0.3mm to 3.0mm. In the attached photos I've drilled a 1.5mm bore in a 2.0mm rod, a 0.5mm bore in a 1.0 mm rod and cross drilled the 2.0mm rod 1.0mm. You could easily make a ladder with this tool. The end bore guide can be moved sideways to drill almost any size bore in the end of a rod.



And then he told me
he builds plastic models!



Their expectations

Your expectations



How I moved my model (Italeri's Demag D7 Sd.Kfz. 10/5, 20 mm Flak 38) from Chattanooga, TN to Gainesville, FL via *Delta Airlines*. Note: I do have TSA pre-check and Chattanooga was not a busy airport on the day that I traveled. 😊 - by Bill



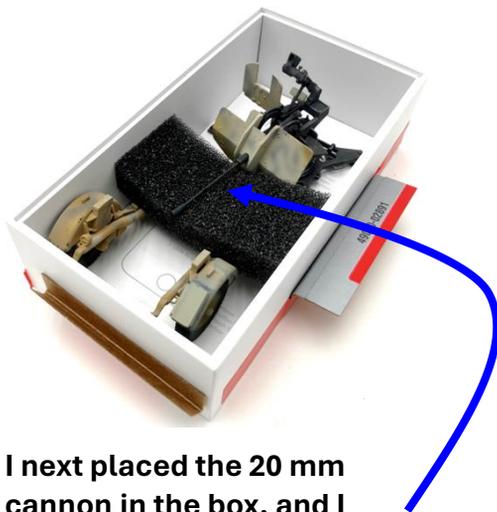
The model was nearly finished.



For the smaller parts, I selected a sturdy box (in this case, an old iPhone box)



I disassembled the trailer and put the trailer in the box (this is a fragile part of the build).



I next placed the 20 mm cannon in the box, and I gently rested the cannon barrel on a piece of packing material.

Here I've added another piece of soft foam.





How I moved my model



The iPhone box is filled, and I am adding foam to the top to secure the contents.



The iPhone box is now ready to be closed



The iPhone box is closed and secured with rubber bands. Note that I added "stops" on the side of the box because the contents of the box were taller than the box if the box were completely closed.



The closed iPhone box is placed in a cardboard box



I still need to place the vehicle and odds and ends into the box. Note that at this point, I had not glued the 20 mm cannon and its mount onto the read deck of the vehicle.



I've gently wrapped the vehicle in a plastic bag. The smaller parts are placed in plastic bags to protect them and so that I won't lose them.



Transportation Security Administration

- Bill



How I moved my model



Everything is now placed in the cardboard box.



The box is closed but not taped close. In this way, should TSA want to inspect the contents of the box, I can easily open the box.



I put the box in a plastic bag so that I could easily carry the box. Without the bag, I wouldn't have anything to hold on to.

VIOLA!

From Bill's Shelf -----



Having read Darryl's super article on famous models in plastic, I thought that I'd include photos of the Frankenstein that I built ears ago.

Members at the September meeting



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
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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



*August 5 – 8, 2026
Fort Wayne, Indiana*

*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 (now: "IJ"; 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.

<https://myipmsusa.org/join-us>



INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODELERS' SOCIETY

By Modelers, for Modelers



MEMBERSHIP HOME ▶ 60TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL! CHAPTER DIRECTORY JOIN US IPMS/USA ONLINE STORE

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Renew My Membership

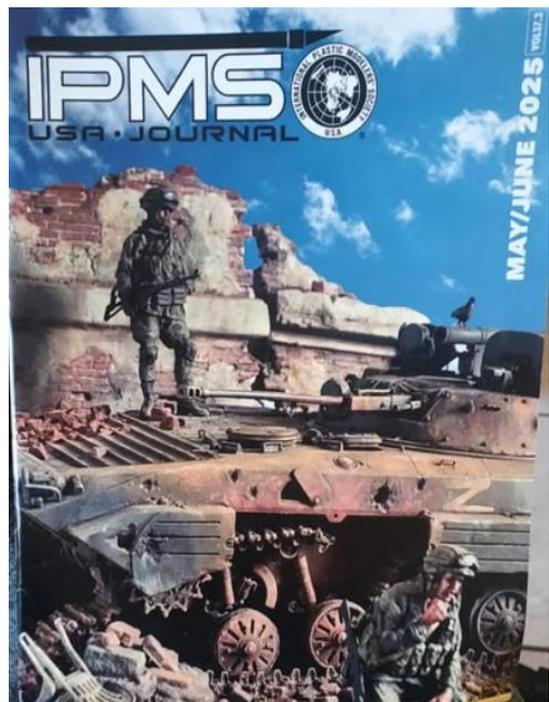
IPMS/USA

P. O. Box 45235

Omaha, Nebraska 68145-0235

Phone: 727-537-6886

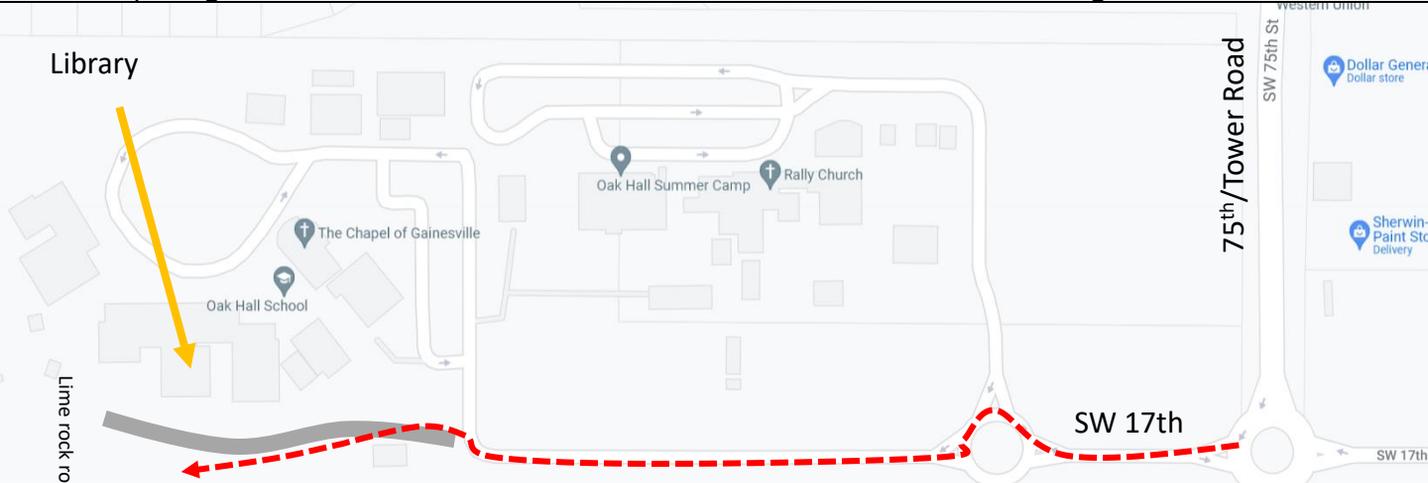
Email: manager@ipmsusa.org



IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday October 21 at 6:30 PM in the LIBRARY.



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



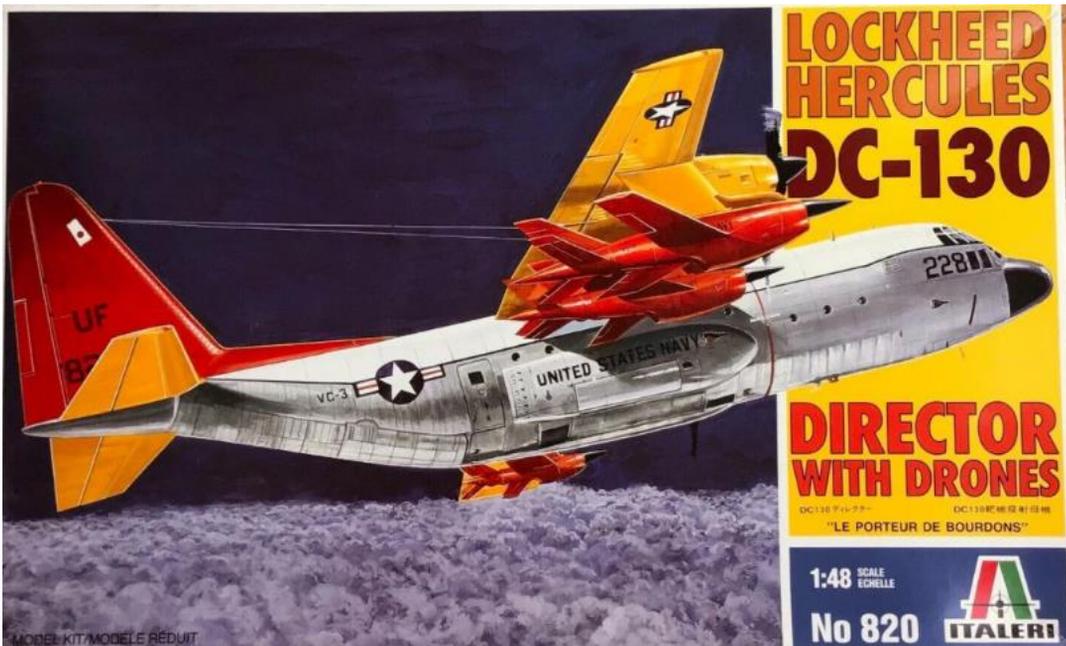
A note about monthly themes for 2025

- Oct** Korean war
- Nov.** 3 color camouflage
- Dec.** Sci-Fi





Fancy Paint ... inspired by Jack Mugan



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 fix it in the November 2025 newsletter. - Bill