



www.gatormodelers.org



For the July 2025 intraclub contest for the "Movies and TV" theme, Brian Cormack's Orion III and Darryl Palmer's Little Nellie were winners!



Club officers
Doug Spinney
President

Chuck Lassiter
Vice President

Frank Ahern
Secretary

Bruce Doyle
Historian

Doug Spinney
Webmaster

Bill Winter
Treasurer &
Newsletter
Editor

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

Lately I've been seeing different threads in the modeling world about how *Tamiya Cement* and *Tamiya Airbrush Cleaner* are the same thing. Instead of paying for a small 40ml bottle of glue, buy a large container of a 250ml bottle of Tamiya Airbrush Cleaner for a bit more and use it to glue your model together. The problem with this line of thinking is that Tamiya Airbrush Cleaner and Tamiya Cement are, chemically, not the same. *Tamiya Airbrush Cleaner* contains 49% butyl acetate and 51% "acetone." *Tamiya Cement*, orange cap, contains 50% butyl acetate and 50% "acetate". Acetone and acetate are not the same. Acetone is widely used as a solvent, while acetate is used in the production of various materials and as a food preservative. Folks may be thinking that the airbrush cleaner is the same as *Tamiya Extra Thin Cement* (green cap) but the latter has different ingredients altogether: 40% ethylacetate, 40% acetone and 20% butanon. Now, I'm not going to tell you not to use airbrush cleaner as a glue, but if they are the same would you use extra thin cement, or just plain cement, to clean your airbrush? Food for thought. Speaking of food for thought, if you missed our eating meeting at Cracker Barrel this month, for some reason we got a lot of attention. Two waitresses and the waitstaff manager gave us plenty of attention.

This month's theme is **HUMOR**, and with the temperatures as hot as it has been the last month we could use a bit of humor. Hope to see many of you at the meeting, in the a/c comfort of the Oak Hall School, Upper School Media Center. Hopefully, the parking lot will be finished.

- **Doug**



July – IPMS Gators

We will meet
Tuesday, August 19,
2025, at 6:30 PM at
Oak Hall Library

Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday July 15, 2025

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. There were 13 members present.



Doug listed upcoming model shows including IPMS Nationals in VA on Aug.6-9 and Blue Angels modelfest in Pensacola Aug 30th. He also said he had designed new business cards for the club which should be available by the next meeting.

The club's webpage - gatormodelers.org - is up and running again after being shut down due to a billing mistake. He also encouraged members to use the club Facebook page to post modeling-related content.

Bill Winter brought a box of models from the club stash to sell after the meeting.

The meeting paused for the Show & Tell presentations from those who brought a model. The monthly theme was "Movies & TV".

The contest ended in a tie between Brian Cormack's Orion III spaceship from 2001: Space Odyssey, and Darryl Palmer's autogyro from a James Bond movie.

The raffle winners were Bob Lundeen and Brian Cormack. Additional drawings were held to reduce the club stash. The winners were Frank Ahern, Don Martin, Darryl Palmer and Clarence Snyder.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Frank Ahern on the movie "American Graffiti" and the cars and hot-rod culture of that era. The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Submitted by: [Frank Ahern, Club Secretary](#)



red baron

By Frank Ahern

Not many heroes emerged from the bloody stalemates that defined WW1. There wasn't much chance for heroism in the trenches and no man's land. One place that caught the public's imagination was the new type of warfare taking place in the sky high above the carnage on the Western Front.



A dashing young former German cavalry officer of noble birth - Manfred von Richthofen - was slicing through British and French squadrons like a medieval knight on a crusade. His bright red Fokker Dr.1 triplane earned him the title "Red Baron". The German Army was quick to see the propaganda value and breathlessly promoted his exploits to a German public desperate for a hero.

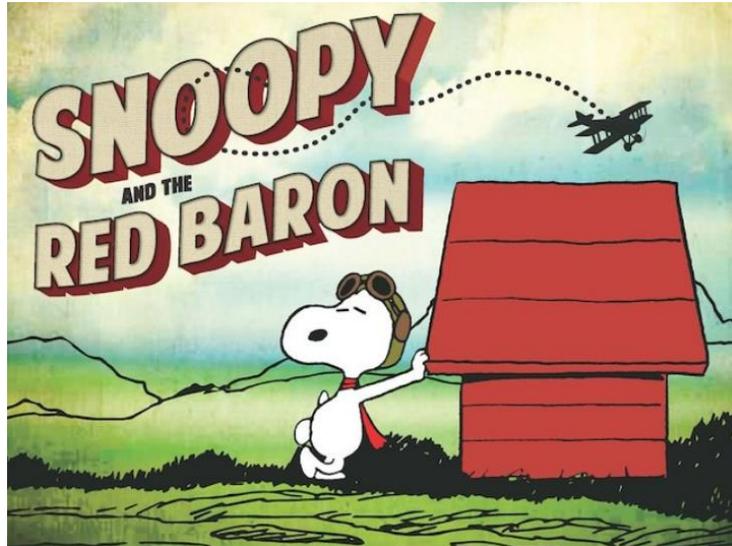


Such was his reputation among friend and foe alike that when he was shot down and killed in April 1918, probably by a sniper, he was given a full military funeral by the British squadron commander in France.



red baron

I don't think it's an exaggeration to say he is the only figure from the Great War that most people today



could identify. That's most likely due to the image boost he received from the wildly popular cartoon Peanuts in the 1960's, when Snoopy became obsessed with the Red Baron. He remains a mythic figure in our imagination. A throwback to a time of gallantry and chivalry which no longer has a place in modern warfare.



My desire to build a model of the Red Baron's iconic triplane was focused on my bucket list goal to build one of the outstanding Wingnut Wings kits. Unfortunately, they went out of business a few years ago, but the Chinese model maker Meng acquired the molds for the kit and re-issued the model.

My goal now is to have this model ready for display at the September meeting, which has the modeling theme "World War I".



Across the Pond: Roy Cross Fixes Airfix

By Darryl Palmer

A polite letter to the company president set Airfix models on the path to success and cemented artist *Roy Cross* in the hearts of young lads throughout the UK and beyond.

Airfix was founded in 1939 by Nicholas Kove, a Hungarian businessman who emigrated to London to escape persecution in fascist Italy. As a Jewish Communist born Miklos Klein in 1891, Kove had been a political prisoner and refugee for most of his life. But he was also a resourceful entrepreneur, and from Anarcs to Siberia to Algiers to Barcelona to Milan to London, Kove managed to survive by manufacturing his many inventions.



Calling his new business Airfix —“Air,” chosen because it would appear high in alphabetical listings, “fix” after Interfix, a line of plastic shirt collars he’d invented in Spain—he manufactured inflatable rubber toys and mattresses. With the outbreak of the London Blitz, Kove was interned as an enemy alien, but he still managed to run Airfix from the Isle of Man. When the postwar scarcity of rubber had deflated the business, he invested in plastic injection molding. By 1947, Airfix was the UK’s leading manufacturer—of pocket combs.





At the time, FROG was the leading model company in Britain, having developed the world's first plastic models from cellulose acetate in the 1930s. Airfix had some success with a model of the Ferguson tractor, but Airfix was struggling to expand into the toy and hobby market. In the early 1950s, Kove hired Ralph Ehrmann, an ex-RAF bomb-aimer whose family had also come to London as refugees. Ehrmann convinced Kove to start producing plastic model kits of historic ships and planes. The massive Woolworths retail chain was willing to sell their kits, but at no more than two shillings a pop. Because printed boxes were too expensive to produce, early Airfix kits came in plastic bags, stapled shut with a crudely illustrated cardboard header.



In 1952, Sir Francis Drake's ship the Golden Hind began appearing in Woolworths as the first of the "two-bob" Airfix kits. This was followed by a 1/72 Supermarine Spitfire (copied and scaled down from a 1/48 Aurora mold). The Spitfire was a wildly popular kit, but it drew a lot of criticism from fans for its inaccuracies and lackluster packaging.

One of those fans was Roy Cross. Born in Camberwell in 1924, Cross had been drawing airplanes since he could first remember. In 1940, 16-year-old Cross got a job with Fairey Aviation as a technical illustrator of training manuals and identification guides. During the war, he led the life of a boy reporter, sketching the first American P-51s and B-17s to land on English airfields. Fast-forward to 1963, and he was just another London freelance illustrator, working on ads for aviation companies and Dan Dare comics for Eagle magazine.

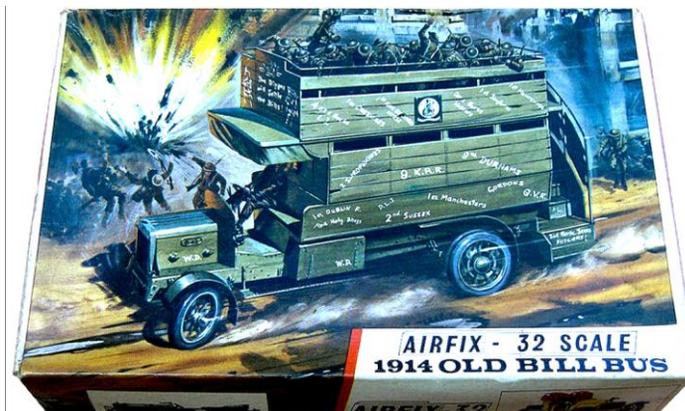
Reasoning he could draw better artwork than what was appearing on its cardboard tabs, Cross wrote to Airfix, gently pointing out criticism and offering his services. At the time, Airfix was eager to make the transition from bags to boxes, and Chief Buyer Charles Smith invited him to share his portfolio (Nicholas Kove had succumbed to cancer in 1957). During an interview, Cross mentioned that he'd been pen pals with Beverly Shenstone, the Canadian engineer responsible for the Spitfire's distinctive elliptical wing shape.



Thus, he could not only offer his artistic talents but could also serve as a technical advisor on aircraft. Airfix hired him to illustrate its new Dornier DO 17. It would be the first of over 200 box covers Cross would create for the company.



Cross used a “wet-on-wet” technique, soaking his illustrator’s boards with water to create the soft clouds and hazy distances that are a signature of his style. Like his American counterparts, he often depicted his subjects in a moment of crisis, such as an Avro Lancaster landing with its engine on fire, or a WWI omnibus being shaken by artillery fire. Filled with hurley burley, and yet as cozy as a Fair Island jumper, Cross’ Airfix box art drew a legion of ardent fans from both sides of the Atlantic. “I can still sense the pan-wetting excitement of that box lid artwork!” remembers Top Gear’s James May.





Airfix grew exponentially during the 1960s and 1970s, until petroleum prices and changing tastes forced it to sell off to U.S. cereal company General Mills. Cross retired from Airfix in 1974 and embarked on a career as a celebrated maritime artist. He died in April 2024, just one day after his 100th birthday.



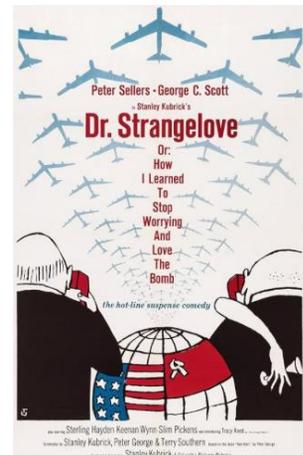
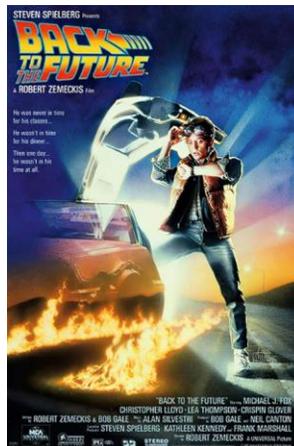
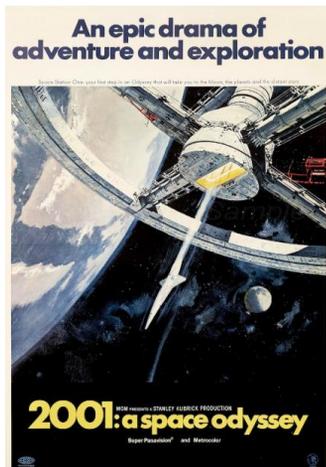
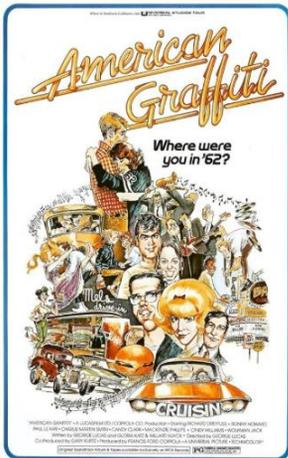
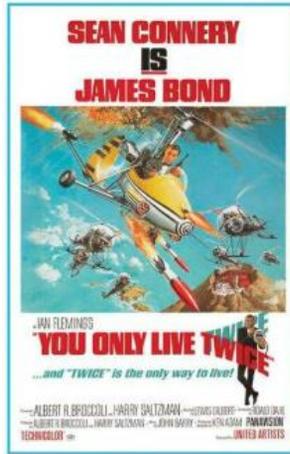
A start-struck James May interviews Roy Cross for his “Top Toys” programme:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_vRI9EThNM
A gallery of Roy Cross art is on display at the Boxart Den:
<https://www.boxartden.com/gallery/index.php/Model-Kit-Artists/Roy-Cross>

Car's displayed by Clarence Snyder at the July meeting

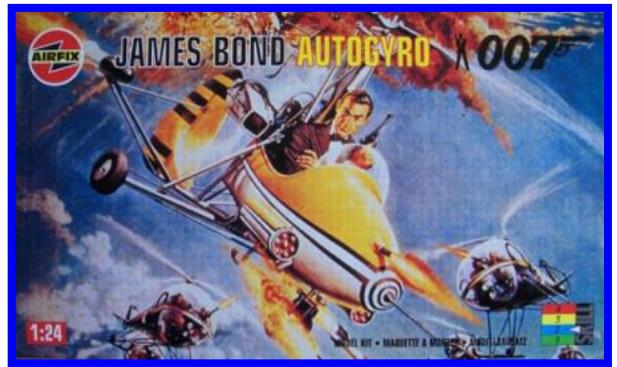




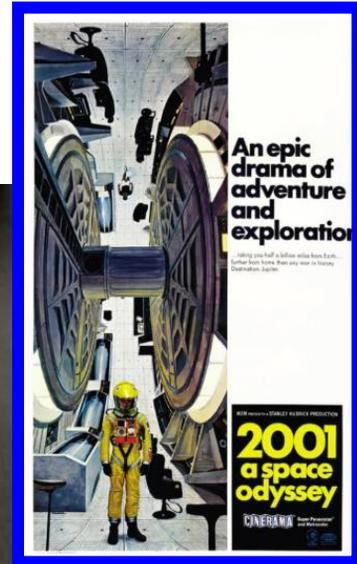
Stories that inspired July's build theme: *Movies and TV*



Darryl Palmer's 1:24 scale Airfix "Little Nellie" (Wallis WA-116 Agile autogiro)

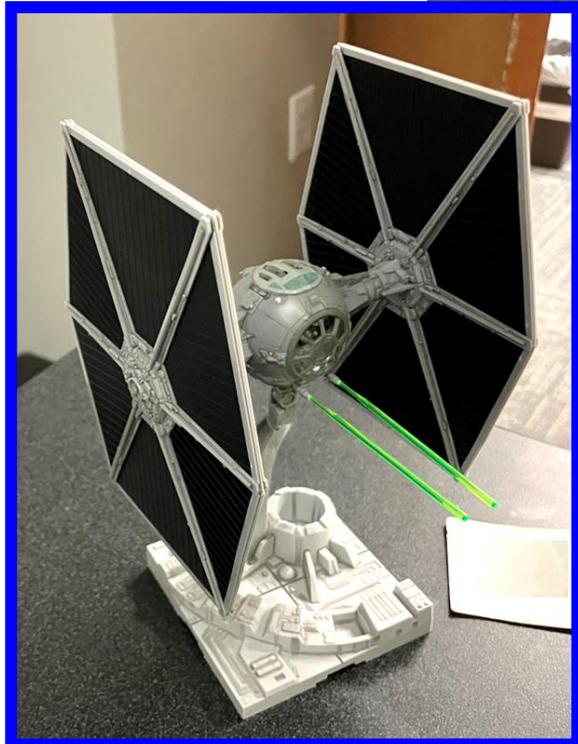
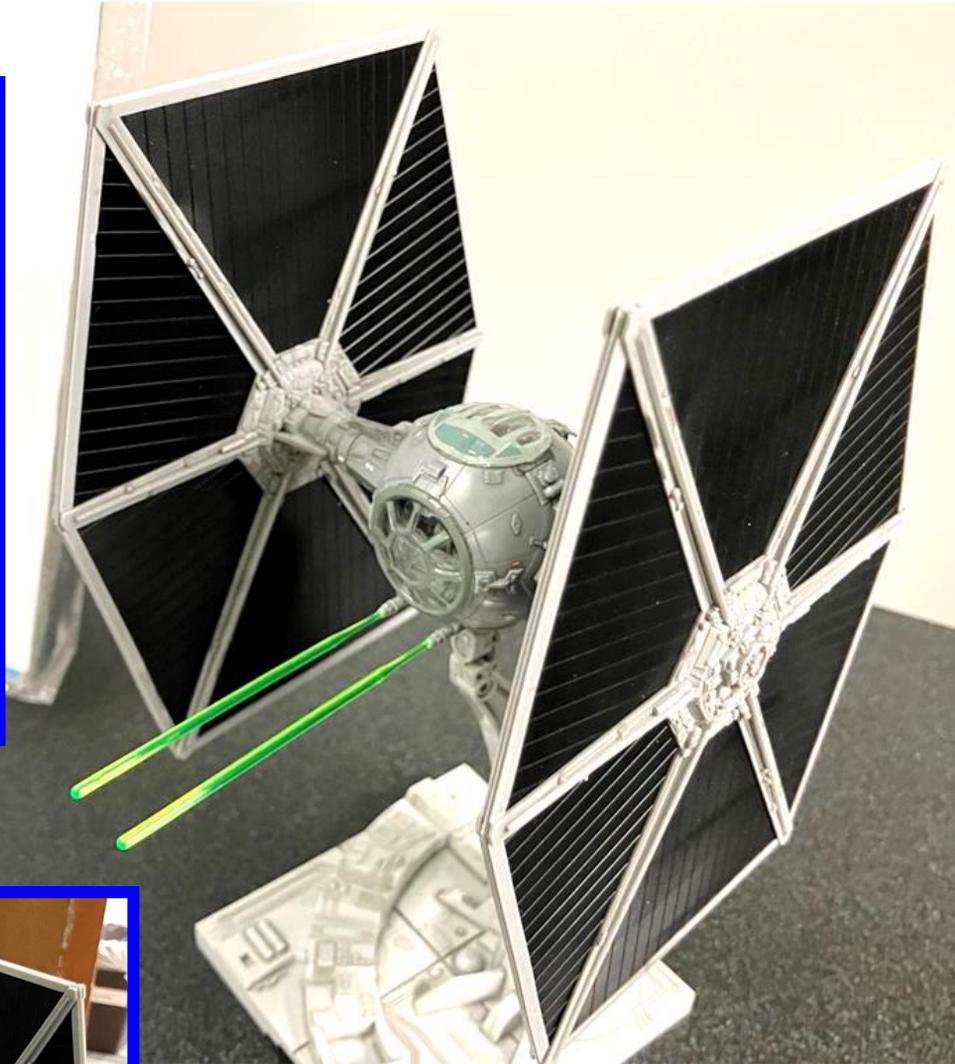


**Brian Cormack's 1:350 scale Moebius Orion III Shuttle from 2001:
A Space Odyssey**

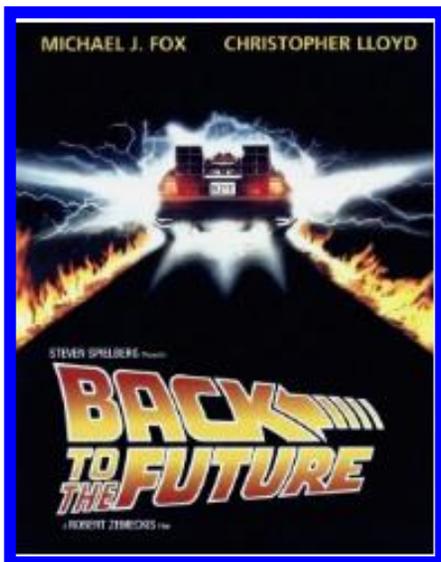


Brian purchased the "Pan Am" decals separately!

Bob Lundeen's Bandai 1:72 scale TIE fighter from Star Wars



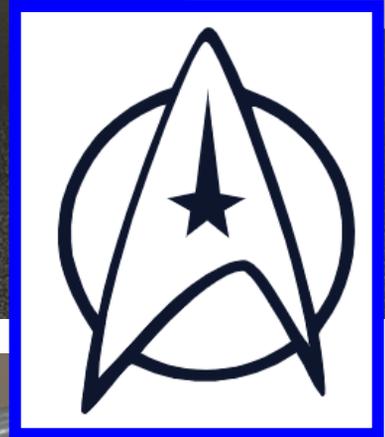
Clarence Snyder's 1:25 scale Time Machine – DMC connection to TV & Movie car



Frank Ahern's car by Revell from American Graffiti



Ian Breheny's USS Excelsior NCC-2000 from a Star Trek movie



STAR TREK



Bill's B-52H in 1:144 scale by Academy from Dr. Strangelove



Celebrating members!

Don Martin's 1:72 scale Shin Kai by Hasegawa won best ship at PAMSCON in June 2025



PAMSCON

2025 PAMSCON Show

30th
Born November 28, 1988

1:72 SCALE KIT

- 種類名: 1:72 1/72
- 全長: 127.0mm
- 全幅: 37.5mm
- 積高: 32.0mm
- 積高: 32.0mm
- プラスティック専用モデル
- MODEL LENGTH: 127.0mm
- MODEL WIDTH: 37.5mm
- PARTS: 1000+ (approx.)
- STAIN: DISPLAY MODEL

Hasegawa
Hobby kits
限定生産版
LIMITED EDITION

SCIENCE WORLD
サイエンスワールドシリーズ

有人潜水調査船 **しんかい6500**
w/完成30周年記念特製ワッペン
Manned Research Submersible SHINKAI 6500 w/Completion 30th Anniversary Wappen





Ed Ingersoll's 1:35 scale Easy 8 (M4A3E8) by Tamiya won best military model at PAMSCON in June 2025
Ed used a metal barrel and tracks.



BEST MILITARY
PAMSCON '25

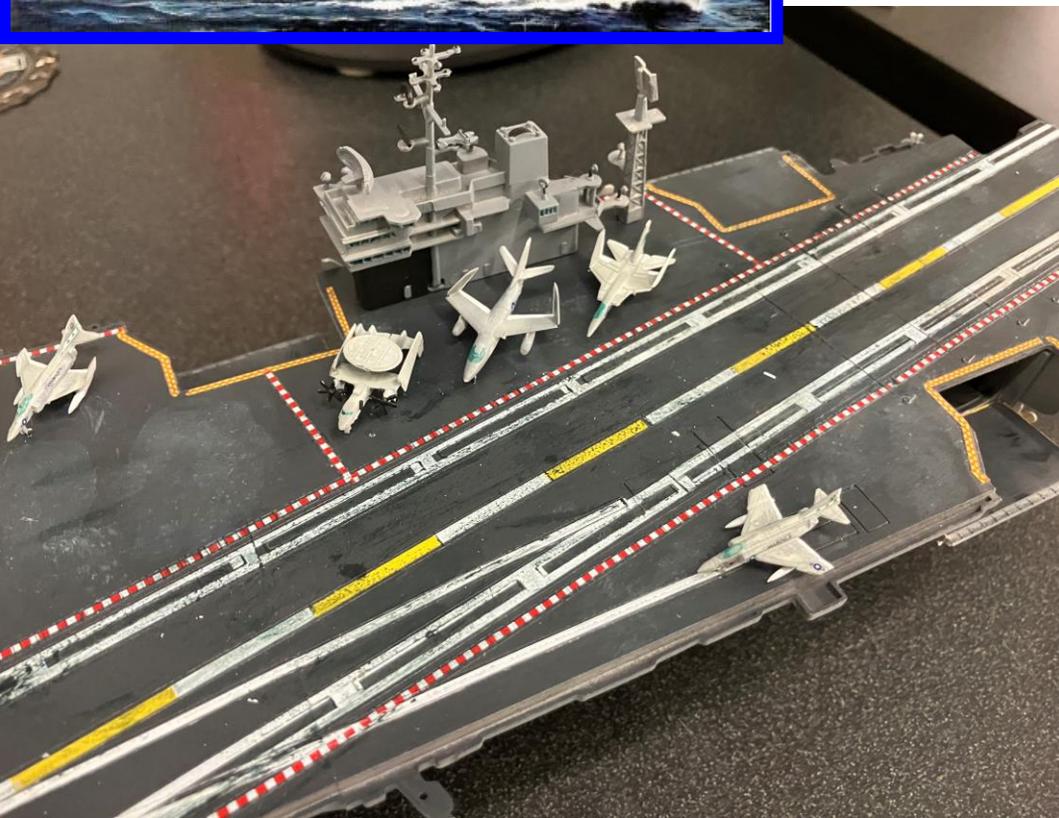


Celebrating members!

Various models displayed by Clarence Snyder



Chuck Lassiter's 1:700 scale Italeri USS America during its 1970 tour



From the desk of Clarence Snyder





Bill's Movie Musings

Being a child of the 50's and 60's, I grew up within 3 miles of a Nike missile base that was designed to launch Nike missiles to protect San Francisco and the Bay Area from Soviet bombers. My next-door neighbor's father build a bomb shelter that my friend Chuck and I played in as kids. My parents and I knew that if WWII began, we were targeted and would not escape being hit. In my grammar school we did "duck and cover" drills not knowing that this would have offered no protection from a multi-megaton Soviet warhead.



Simulated effect of a 30-kiloton nuclear airburst explosion over downtown San Francisco. Yellow is the fireball radius; green is the radiation-death radius; gray is the air-blast radius; and orange is the thermal-radiation-burns radius. Courtesy of [hubbubble](#)

So, this somewhat depressing introduction leads me to my somewhat macabre interest in movies about nuclear weapons. Here is my list of end-of-world movies to lighten up your day.

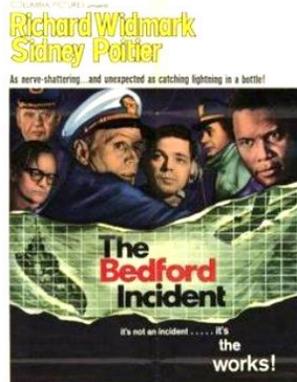
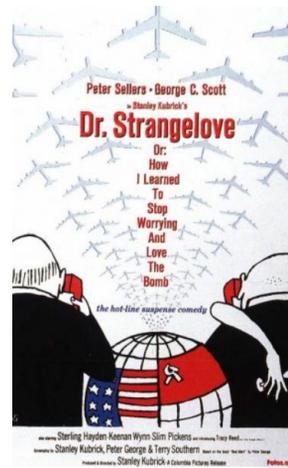
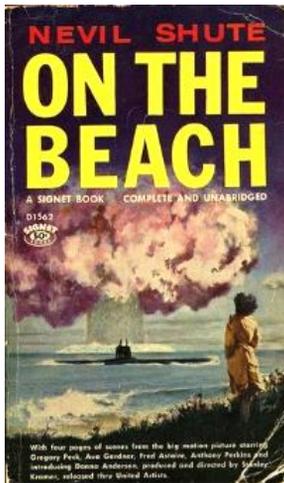
On the Beach (1959)

Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)

Fail Safe (1964)

The Bedford Incident (1965)

Oppenheimer (2023)





Bill's Movie Musings

On the Beach is a 1959 American apocalyptic science fiction dramatic film, starring Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner, Fred Astaire, and Anthony Perkins. Produced and directed by Stanley Kramer, it is based on Nevil Shute's 1957 novel of the same title depicting the aftermath of a nuclear war. The film was remade in 2000 with a new cast. I have not seen this new version of the movie. Adapted from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_the_Beach_\(1959_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_the_Beach_(1959_film))

Dr. Strangelove – Dr. Strangelove parodies Cold War fears of a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union and stars Peter Sellers (portraying three different characters), George C. Scott, Sterling Hayden, Keenan Wynn, Slim Pickens, and Tracy Reed. The story concerns an insane brigadier general of the United States Air Force who orders a pre-emptive nuclear attack on the Soviet Union. It follows the President of the United States (Sellers), his scientific advisor Dr. Strangelove (Sellers), a Royal Air Force exchange officer (Sellers), and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Scott) as they attempt to stop the crew of a B-52 from bombing the Soviet Union and starting a nuclear war. (adapted from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._Strangelove).

Fail Safe – Fail Safe is a 1964 Cold War thriller film starring Henry Fonda, directed by Sidney Lumet, and released by Columbia Pictures. Based on the 1962 novel of the same name by Eugene Burdick and Harvey Wheeler, the film follows a crisis caused by a critical mechanical error that sends a group of U.S. strategic bombers to destroy Moscow, and the ensuing attempts to stop the attack from triggering a Soviet retaliatory nuclear strike. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fail_Safe_\(1964_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fail_Safe_(1964_film))

The Bedford Incident - Richard Widmark plays a hardened cold-warrior and captain of the American destroyer USS Bedford. Sidney Poitier is a reporter given permission to interview the captain during a routine patrol. Poitier gets more than he bargained for when the Bedford discovers a Soviet sub in the depths and the captain begins a relentless pursuit, pushing his crew to the breaking point. This one's grim tension to the end. (source: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0058962/>). "The Bedford Incident" is certainly the least known of these movies.

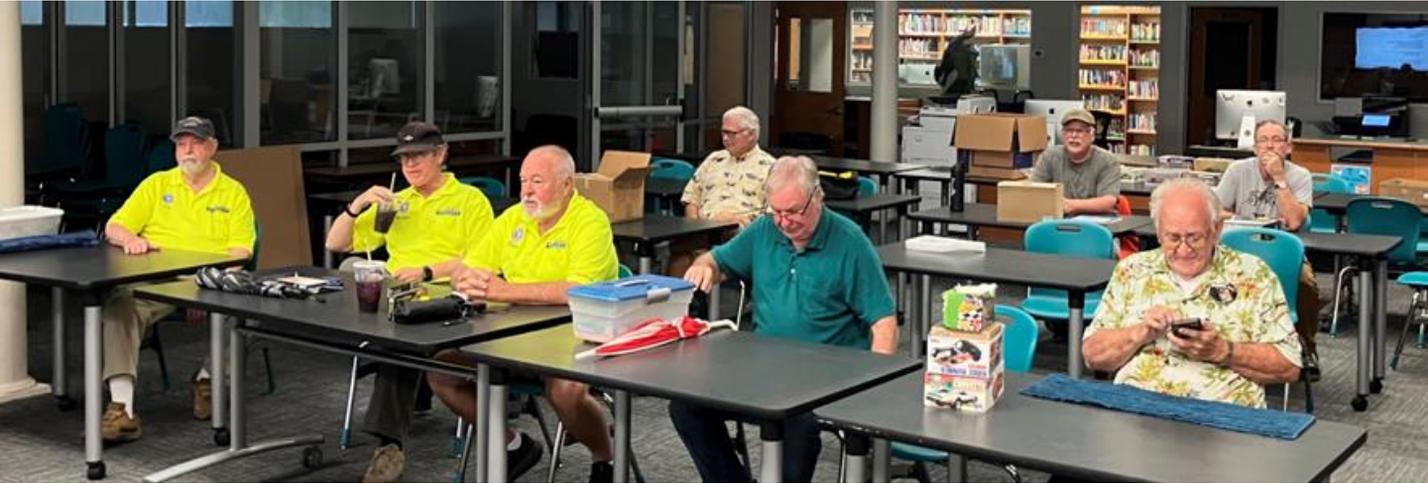
So, what does this have to do with modeling? .. **MILITARY AIRCRAFT!**

In Dr. Strangelove, the bombers were B-52s. In the posters for Fail Safe, the bombers look like B-52s. However, in the movie, the bombers are B-58s BUT the interior views show the pilot and co-pilot side-by-side.



– See you at the movies - Bill

Members at the July meeting



READERS' CHALLENGE: What is this aircraft?



READERS' CHALLENGE: What is this aircraft?



Please send me your responses for posting next month. Thanks!

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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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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



*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

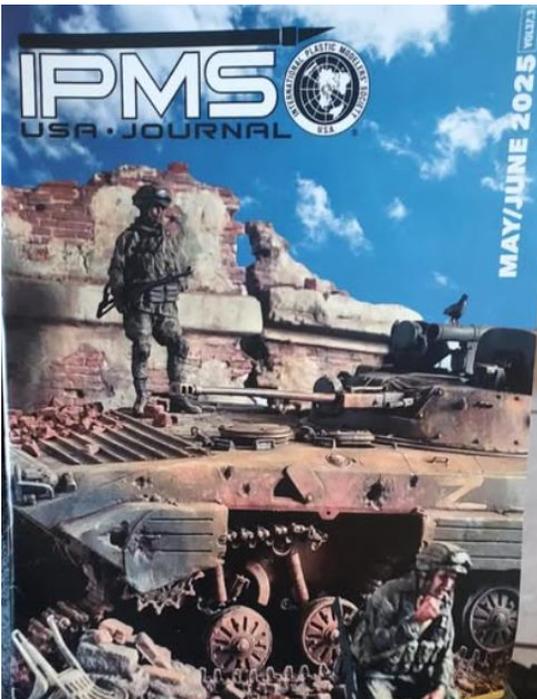
By Modelers, for Modelers



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

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IPMS/USA

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Omaha, Nebraska 68145-0235

Phone: 727-537-6886

Email: manager@ipmsusa.org



Directions to OAK HALL (1700 SW 75th St, Gainesville, FL)

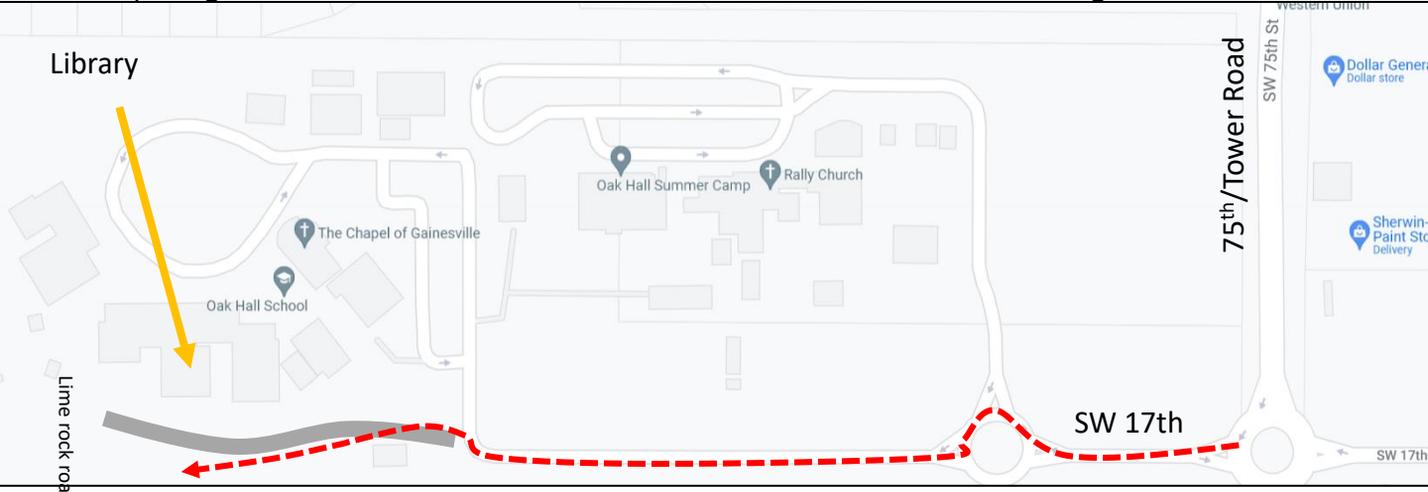


GATOR MODELERS

IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday August 19 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

Aug.	Humor
Sep	WW1
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 September 2025 newsletter. - Bill