



www.gatormodelers.org



Gator modeler scores BIG in Ocala!

As you may know, several of us Gators are also members of IPMS Ocala (and our Gators' member Mark Box is President of IPMS Ocala). At Ocala's non-theme contest in August, none other than Errol Whisler's UH-1 helicopter was chosen as the winner! Congratulations Errol!

For the August 2025 Gator Modellers' intraclub contest for the "Humor" theme, Bill's Bluesmobile was chosen! ----- >





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

It is September already, only 3 more months of this dreaded heat and daily rain. Then my favorite time of the year, winter in Florida. Of course, September also means Love Bugs. The pesky little critters that stick to your windshields and front of your vehicles like super glue. If we could only figure out why then we could produce the best model glue on the planet. Love Bug Glue, Fly United Glue, better than CA glue. The drawback is that it would probably eat the paint on our models. Maybe not a great idea after all, I'll need to come up with some other money-making venture.

Remember back in January when we all made New Years' Resolutions? Mine was to build one model per month. That hasn't worked out so well, I should have 9 so far. I think I have only built four this year. I do have several in different stages of completion; maybe I can finish them by the end of the year. I did toss one in the garbage can, then had second thoughts, and dug it out. I washed coffee grains off and am getting closer to getting it done. I might even bring it to the next meeting.

This month's theme is World War I, bring those war era models to the meeting for all to enjoy. Of course, you can also bring in any model of your choice. I'm hoping for a great turnout.

- **Doug**

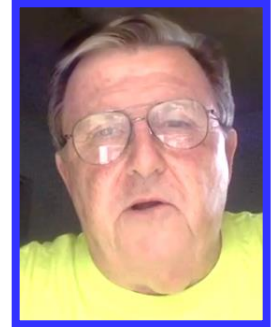


July – IPMS Gators

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

Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday August 19, 2025

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. There were 15 members, and 2 visitors present - David Knox and Jim Benjack.



Doug highlighted upcoming model shows, including the Blue Angels modelfest on August 30 in Pensacola and Modelpalooza in Kissimmee, Oct. 10-12. He also mentioned the new business cards. Jim Benjack came to the meeting as a result of getting a business card from Doug while shopping at Hobby Lobby.

The meeting paused for Show & Tell presentations from those who brought a model. The monthly theme was "Humor" and the winning model came from Bill Winter - the Blues Brothers police cruiser. Next month's theme is "WW1".

Under techniques and tools, Bruce Doyle discussed several YouTube channels he has discovered related to aviation history and modeling.

The attendance raffles were won by Bruce Doyle and Bill Winter.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Bill Winter on the tanks of South Korea. The meeting ended at 8:00pm

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



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

Dreidecker

By Frank Ahern

Despite its reputation as one of the most famous fighter planes of all time, the Fokker Dr.1 remains an aberration in the development of combat aircraft. Even its association with the "Red Baron" is somewhat suspect. Von Richthofen scored less than 20 of his 80 kills in the highly maneuverable but painfully slow little machine. Remember that powered flight had been achieved just 11 years before the outbreak of WW1 so it's understandable that no one was quite sure what to do next.



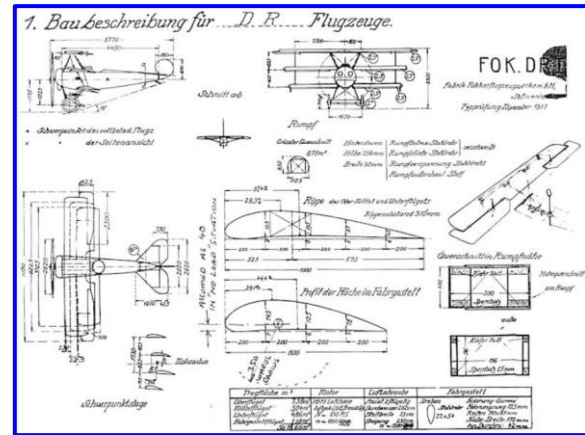
The early air war over Europe was a back-and-forth affair with each side looking for a technological edge. As usual, engine development lagged behind aerodynamics, so maneuverability became the top priority rather



than speed. The British caused a panic when they introduced the Sopwith Triplane in early 1917. It was literally flying rings around German fighters, so Germany's top ace demanded that Fokker produce a

Dreidecker

triplane. To their credit they produced an original design without excessive wire bracing or struts. Simple but strong. It quickly became the favorite mount of Germany's top aces including Manfred von Richthofen, Josef Jacobs, Ernst Udet and Herman Goering.



The Meng model I built also has a unique history. The molds were acquired from Wingnut Wings after its



demise. The quality is outstanding, as you would expect, but the instructions were not. Another challenge was deciding on a paint scheme. I had plenty of reference material (thanks Ed Ingersoll), but the possibilities



Dreidecker

were endless. Apparently, they had lots of time and paint to play with in those days.

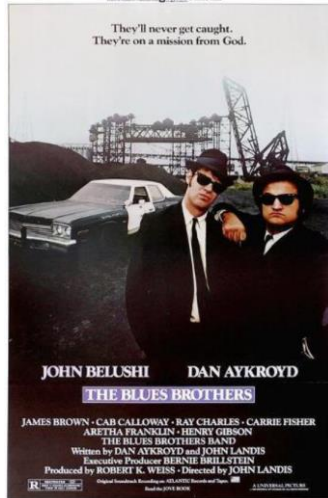


Eventually I chose one of the more common schemes from about a dozen that claimed to be one of the Red Baron's planes.

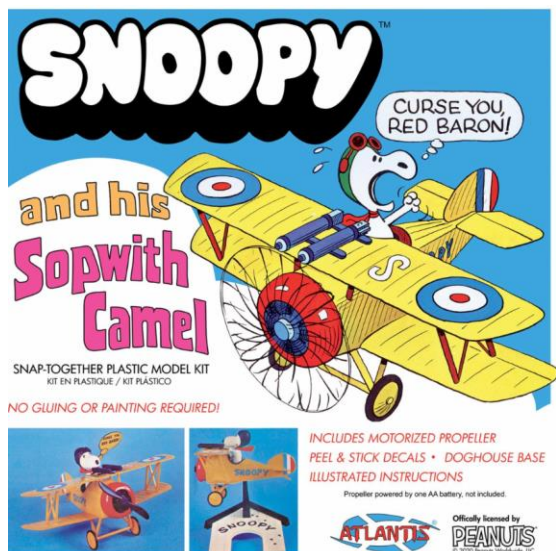


Overall, an enjoyable but difficult build and a nice addition to my collection of Airplanes of the Aces.

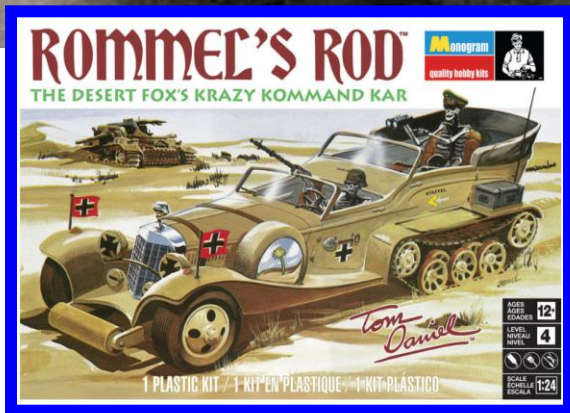
Bill's Rendition of the Blues Brothers' *Bluesmobile*



Doug Spinney's Snoopy



Bob Lundeen's Rommel's Rod

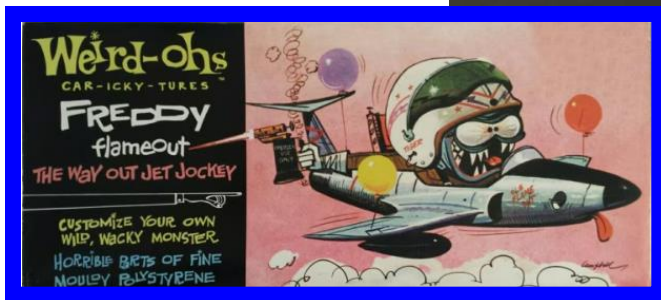


Darryl Plamer's Piasecki ZV-8P Airgeep 1:35 scale flying auto-conversion by Glencoe



Look at the headlights and hood ornament

Clarence Snyder's Freddy Flame-Out



Don Martin's Fido caricature (with a detailed story)

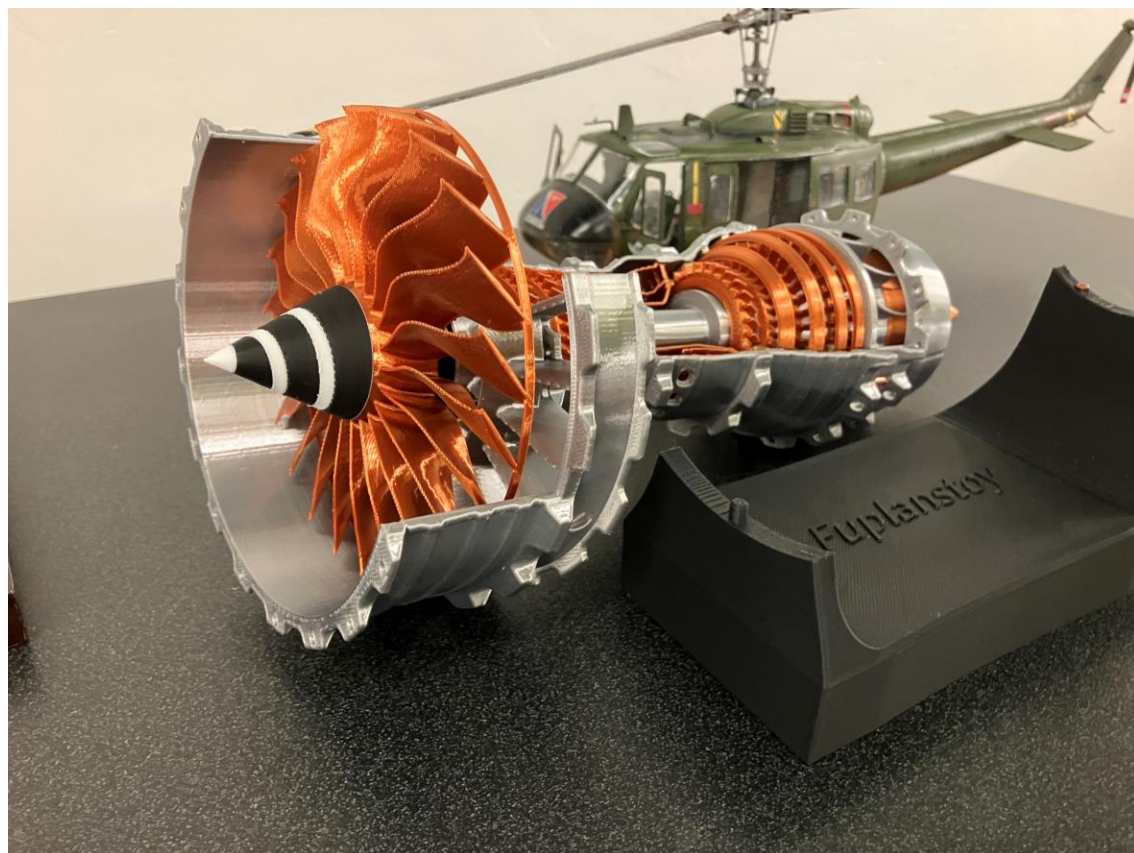
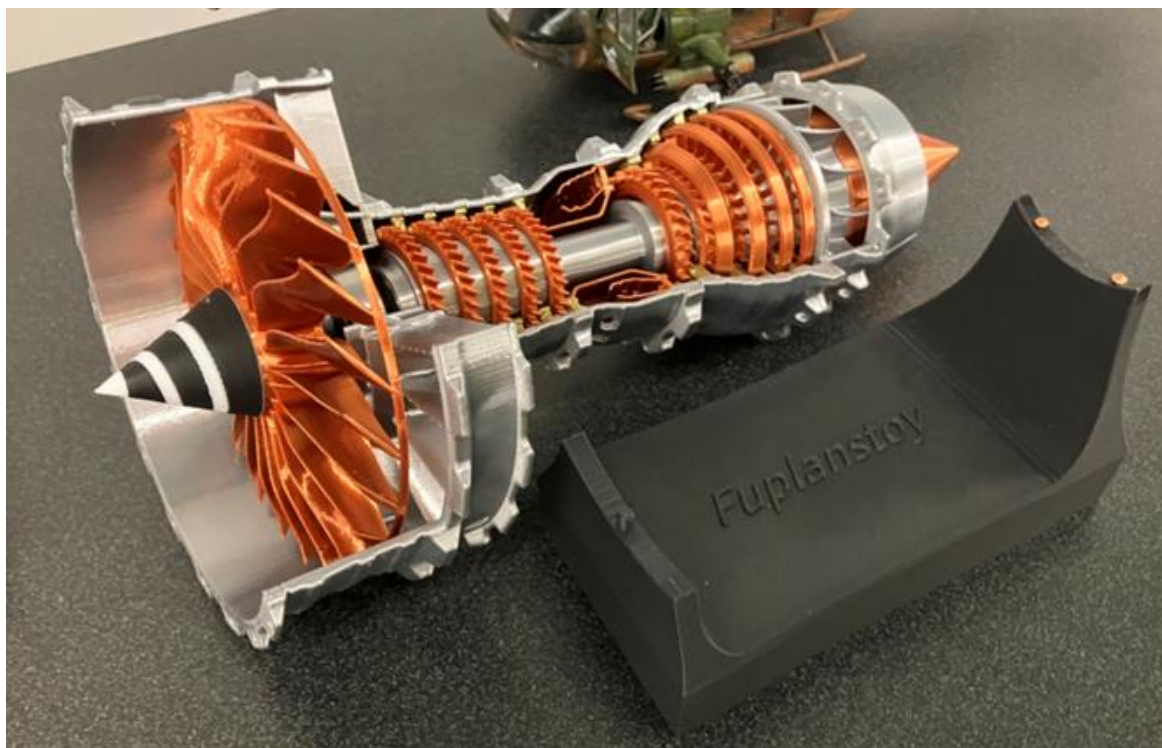


MENG

Brian Cormack's 1:72 scale Folland Gnat by Airfix (in progress)



Bob Lundeen's RR jet engine



Frank Ahern's Gull-Wing Mercedes



Mark Box's 1955 Chevy



Tony Aguilar's beautiful 1:72 jungle outpost scenes!



Chuck Lassiter's P6E in progress



Clarence Snyder's Cars



Clarence Snyder and More Cars!





Gator modeler scores BIG in Ocala!

As you may know, several of us Gators are also members of IPMS Ocala (and our Gators' member Mark Box is President of IPMS Ocala). At Ocala's non-theme contest in August, none other than Errol Whisler's UH-1 helicopter was chosen as the winner! Congratulations Errol!



Errol added: texture, scratch-built seats, cutout screens that were replaced with PE and CUSTOM DECALS!



Bruce Doyle reminds us of the “Bridges at Toko Ri”



Bruce Doyle reminds us of the “Bridges at Toko Ri”



William Holden (Lt. Harry Brubaker)

Douglas AD-4 Skyraider



Mickey Rooney, as Chief Petty Officer
Mike Forney, flies a Sikorsky HO3S-1



Adapted from:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bridges_at_Toko-Ri

Spiler alert – If you plan to watch the movie and never have, READ NO FURTHER!

The Bridges at Toko-Ri is a 1954 American war film about the Korean War and stars William Holden, Grace Kelly, Fredric March, Mickey Rooney, and Robert Strauss. Dennis Weaver and Earl Holliman make early screen appearances in the film.

The screenplay is based on the 1953 novel The Bridges at Toko-ri by Pulitzer Prize winner James Michener. The story, which closely follows the novel, is about the U.S. Navy pilots assigned to bomb a group of heavily defended bridges in North Korea. It emphasizes the lives of the pilots and crew in the context of the Korean War; a conflict that seems remote to all except those who fight in Korea.

Plot - U.S. Navy Lieutenant Harry Brubaker is a Naval Reserve officer and Naval Aviator who was called back to active duty from his civilian profession as an attorney to fly F9F Panthers in the Korean War. Returning from a mission with battle damage, he is forced to ditch into the sea and is rescued by a Sikorsky HO3S-1 manned by Chief Petty Officer (NAP) Mike Forney and Airman (NAC) Nestor Gamidge.

Forney had often been in trouble for brawling and sporting a non-regulation green top hat and scarf while flying his helicopter as encouragement to downed pilots in the water. Back aboard his ship, the aircraft carrier USS Savo Island, Brubaker is called to the quarters of Rear Admiral Tarrant, the Carrier Task Force 77 commander, who has taken an interest in Brubaker because he reminds Tarrant of his son, a Navy Pilot killed in World War II. Brubaker complains about the unfairness of his recall when most actively flying/actively drilling Naval Reserve pilots weren't recalled (Brubaker hadn't been flying in the Reserve), America is not actually "at war", and most Americans have no involvement. Tarrant advises that, "All through history, men have had to fight the wrong war in the wrong place, but that's the one they're stuck with."

The Savo Island returns to port in Japan, where Brubaker is given a three-day shore leave in Tokyo with his wife Nancy and their children. The reunion is interrupted when Gamidge comes to Brubaker asking his help in bailing Forney out of the brig after a brawl. Nancy expresses her bewilderment to Tarrant, who explains that Forney saved her husband from freezing to death when he had to ditch his jet at sea and warns her that when they return to Korea, Brubaker will have to attack the dangerous bridges at Toko-Ri. He advises her to face the reality that Harry might be killed, which neither his wife nor daughter-in-law did, and thus were crushed by despair. Late that night Nancy asks Brubaker about the bridges.

Back on a carrier off Korea, Brubaker flies as wingman for Commander Lee, the carrier air group commander known as "CAG" (from his position as Commander, Air Group in the carrier), on a dangerous reconnaissance to photograph the bridges. Lee briefs his pilots on the coming mission using the film he took, and Brubaker loses his nerve. However, he cannot bring himself to quit the mission or write a final letter to Nancy. Forney crosses the captain of the Savo Island once too often, and then he is exiled to a helicopter scow. As he is leaving the ship, he notices Brubaker's distress, and relates a "cure" for bad nerves that has worked for him, standing on the bow of the ship and facing the waves. Brubaker follows his advice and finds renewed strength within himself.

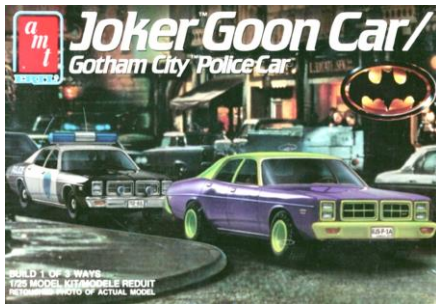
In the attack on the bridges, the antiaircraft fire is intense, but the jets destroy the bridges without a loss. Lee then leads them to attack a secondary target, where Brubaker's jet is hit. Leaking fuel and descending, he tries to return to the carrier, but he cannot and crash-lands on land. Forney and Gamidge attempt to pick him up, but communist troops shoot down the helicopter. Gamidge is killed, and Forney takes cover in a muddy ditch with Brubaker. They try to hold off the enemy with pistols and Forney's and Gamidge's M1 carbines until they can be rescued, but both are killed by the North Korean and Red Chinese soldiers. Tarrant, angered by the news of Brubaker's death, demands an explanation from Commander Lee of why he attacked the second target. Lee defends his actions, noting that Brubaker was his pilot too, and that despite his loss, the mission was a success. Tarrant, realizing that Lee is correct, rhetorically asks, "Where do we get such men?"

GATOR MODELERS

The “real” **Bluesmobile** was a 1974 Dodge Monaco.



This model was built from a 1978 Dodge Monaco that was a gift from Mark Box. The “decals” were stickers from a Monogram Chevy Malibu Police Car Snaptite kit.



The story is that of **Elwood and Jake Blues**. Elwood worked at a factory producing glue spray cans. Jake was recently released from **Old Joliet Prison** in Joliet, Illinois. They were on a “mission from God” to raise \$5000 to prevent their childhood orphanage from being foreclosed.

The Bluesmobile was a decommissioned **Mount Prospect police** car, purchased by Elwood Blues at an auction. Mount Prospect is NW of downtown Chicago. It had “440 Magnum” engine producing at least 375 hp, a “squad car package” which was an option offered by Dodge for the Monaco in 1974. Dan Aykroyd, co-writer of the film, chose the 440 Dodge Monaco because he thought that it was the hottest car used by police during the 1970s.

In describing the car to his brother Jake Blues, Elwood says, “*It's got a cop motor, a 440-cubic-inch plant. It's got cop tires, cop suspension, cop shocks. It's a model made before catalytic converters so it'll run good on regular gas.*” The Bluesmobile had the ability to perform seemingly impossible stunts, such as jumping over an open drawbridge, flipping backwards in midair and even “flying” for very brief periods of time.

My modifications:

Reworked grill to create a facsimile of the 1974 Dodge Monaco

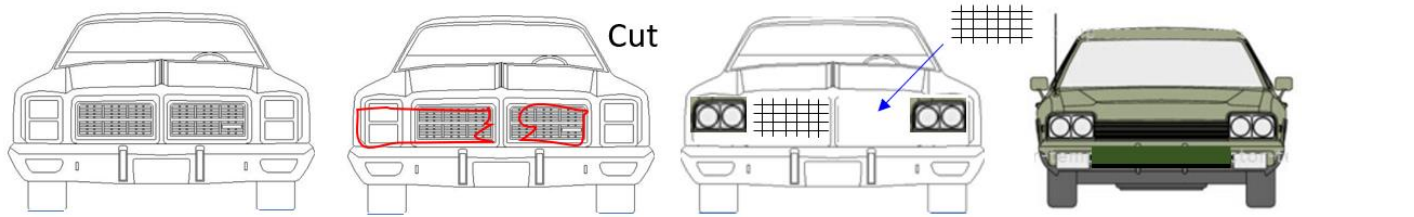
Painted front doors and roof w/ AV Vallejo White Surface primer (74.600)

Painted remainder of vehicle with Tamiya flat black, semi-gloss black and NATO black
Interior painted with Tamiya semi-gloss black and gloss blue.

Used decal stickers from Chevy Police Car Snaptite kit for Blues Brothers

1978 Dodge Monaco grill conversion to a pseudo-1974 grill.

1974 Dodge Monaco



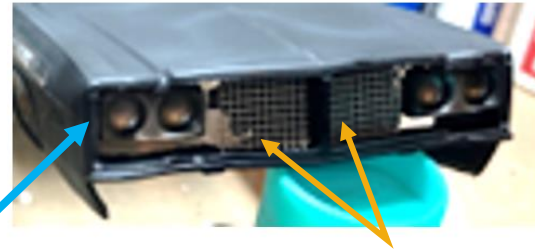
Donor headlight grill



Dual headlight lights were cut out.

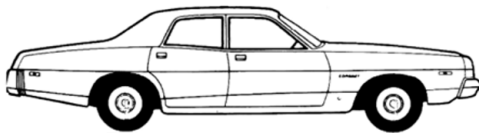


1978 body was modified to accept the pair of donor headlights.



This is the pseudo-grill.

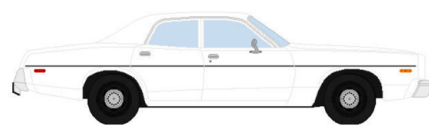
COMPARISON OF THE 1974 AND 1978 Dodge Monacos



1974 - Third generation ('74-'77)

Full-size C platform-body

318 cu in (5.2 L) V8
360 cu in (5.9 L) V8
400 cu in (6.6 L) V8
440 cu in (7.2 L) V8



1978 - Fourth generation ('78-'79)

Mid-size B platform-body

225 cu in (3.7 L) Slant-Six RG I6
318 cu in (5.2 L) LA V8
360 cu in (5.9 L) LA V8
400 cu in (6.6 L) B V8
440 cu in (7.2 L) RB V8 (police)



Thanks to:

Ian Breheny for donating the following kit as a door prize:



F-4C/D Phantom II Vampire
18TFW 44TFS "Vampires" (Kadena AFB,
Okinawa Japan) F-4D
Fujimi | No. 72181 | 1:72

Errol Whisler for donating the following kits as door prizes:



F-22 "Raptor"
HobbyBoss | No. 80210 | 1:72

Many other
members have
contributed kits as
door prizes. Thanks
to all that have!

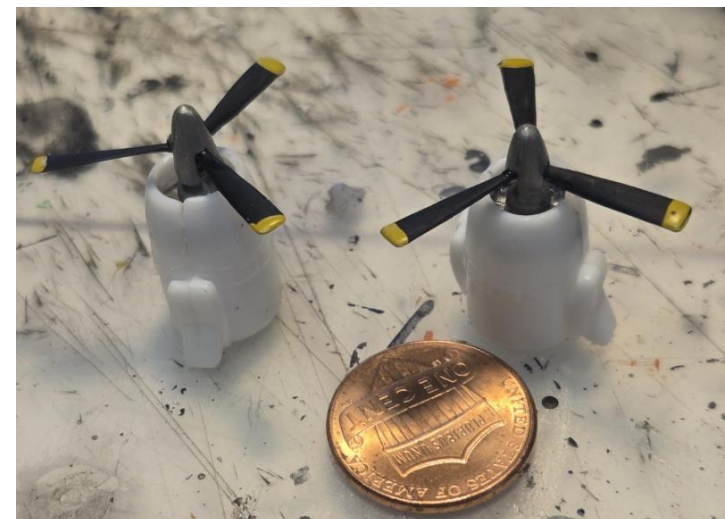


"Viet Nam" F8F-1B Bearcat
Hobbycraft | No. HC1442 | 1:48

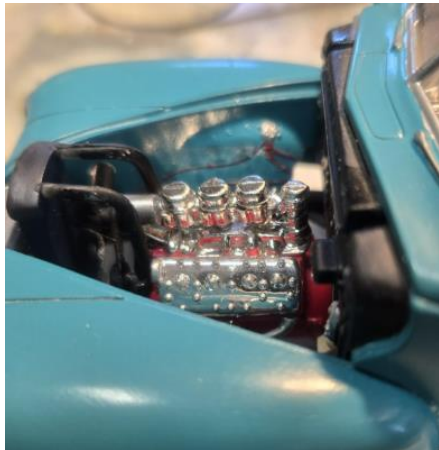


A-10 Warthog
Revell | No. 85-5521 | 1:48

From the desk of Clarence Snyder



From the desk of Clarence Snyder



A chipping tutorial from the desk of Jack Mugan

Upcoming shows

MODEL PALOOZA 2025

OCT. 10-12
HOLIDAY INN RESORT
3011 MAINGATE LN
KISSIMMEE, FL

REFUEL YOUR MOJO!

FLORIDAS LARGEST 3 DAY
SCALE MODEL SHOW!

- 12k Sqft Everything Models
- 100+ Vendor Tables!
- Seminars & Demos
- Huge Raffle - \$1 tickets!
- 500+ Models On Display
- Juried Model Contest
- "Who's The Best Club" Contest
- Near Theme Parks!
- \$55 Vendor Tables
- \$143 Room Nights
- Only \$8 Entry Online
- Fun For The Whole Family!

DETAILS-BOOK-RESERVE:
MODEL PALOOZA.ORG

SAVE the DATE

Pelikan
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

Check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/PelikanModelClub
Contact Donn Buerger for questions: donn.buerger@yahoo.com

Members at the August meeting

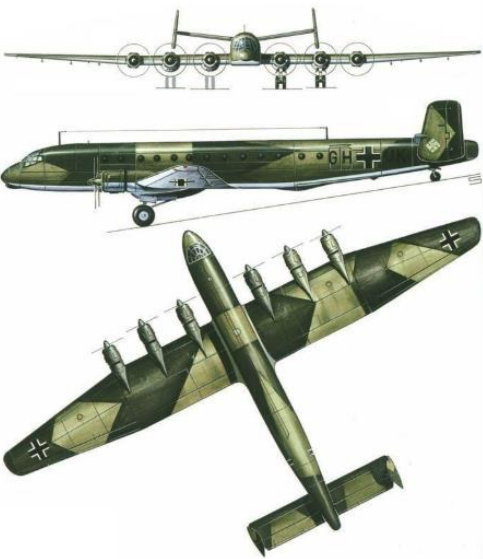


READERS' CHALLENGE: What is this aircraft? - The Answer



This is the IJA (Imperial Japanese Army) Super Heavy Bomber Fugaku Kai. The Nakajima G10N Fugaku (Japanese: "Mount Fuji") was a planned Japanese ultra-long-range heavy bomber designed during World War II. It was conceived as a method for mounting aerial attacks from Japan against industrial targets along the west coast (e.g., San Francisco) and in the Midwest (e.g., Detroit, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Wichita) and the northeast (e.g., New York City and Norfolk) of the United States. Japan's worsening war situation resulted in the project's cancellation in 1944 and no prototype was ever built. Fujimi has a kit of this aircraft in 1:144 scale (No. 14427). [Adapted in part from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nakajima_G10N].

READERS' CHALLENGE: What is this aircraft? - The Answer



Unlike the Fugaku Kai, the above aircraft was actually built by Germany in WWII. The **Junkers Ju 390** was a German long-range derivative of the Junkers Ju 290 aircraft, intended to be used as a heavy transport aircraft, maritime patrol aircraft and long-range bomber. It was one of the aircraft designs submitted for the abortive Amerikabomber project, along with the Messerschmitt Me 264, the Focke-Wulf Ta 400 and the Heinkel He 27. Two prototypes were created by attaching an extra pair of inner-wing segments to the wings of Ju 290 airframes and adding new sections to lengthen the fuselages. A 1:72 scale kit is available from Planet Models (No. PLT209). Presumably this is a plastic kit. Now out of production, Anigrand had a resin kit in 1:144 scale of the Ju 390. "Bird Models" provided plans to convert a Ju 290 to a Ju 390. [Adapted in part from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Junkers_Ju_390].

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/>



*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

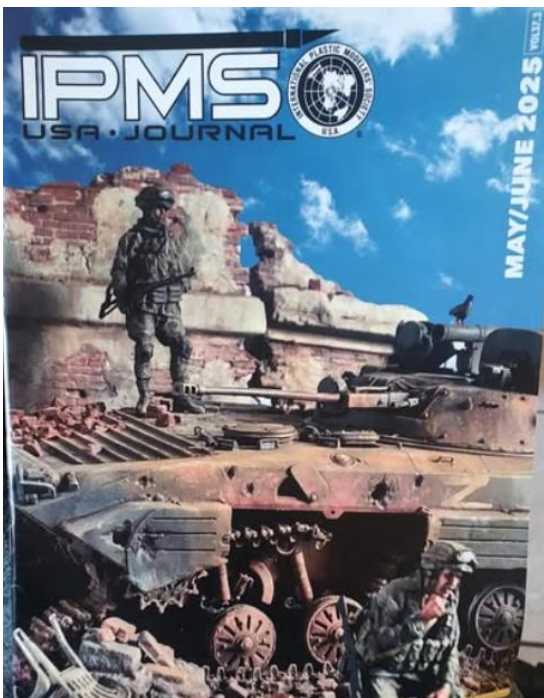
By Modelers, for Modelers



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

Go to IPMS/USA

Renew My Membership



IPMS/USA

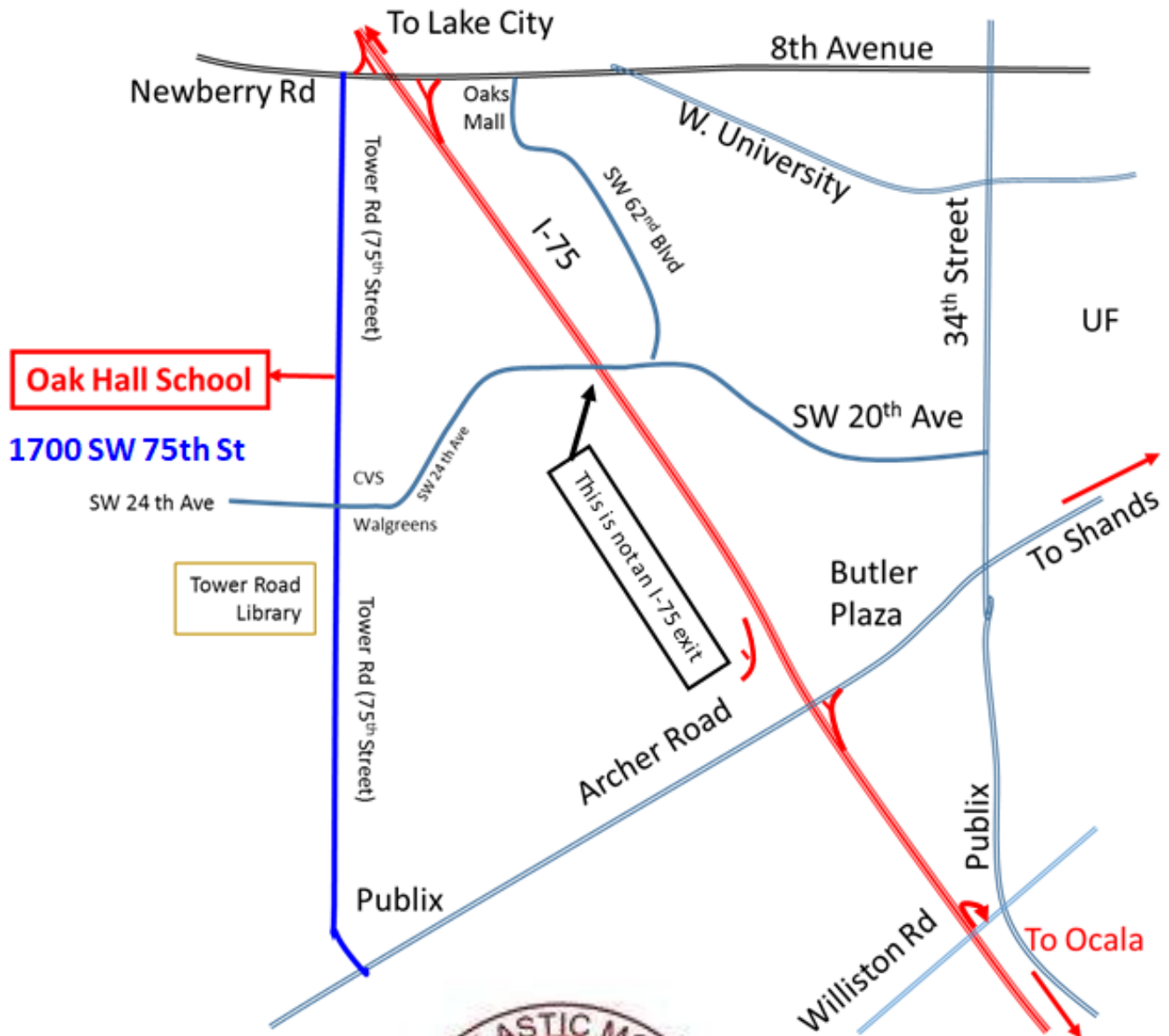
P. O. Box 45235

Omaha, Nebraska 68145-0235

Phone: 727-537-6886

Email: manager@ipmsusa.org

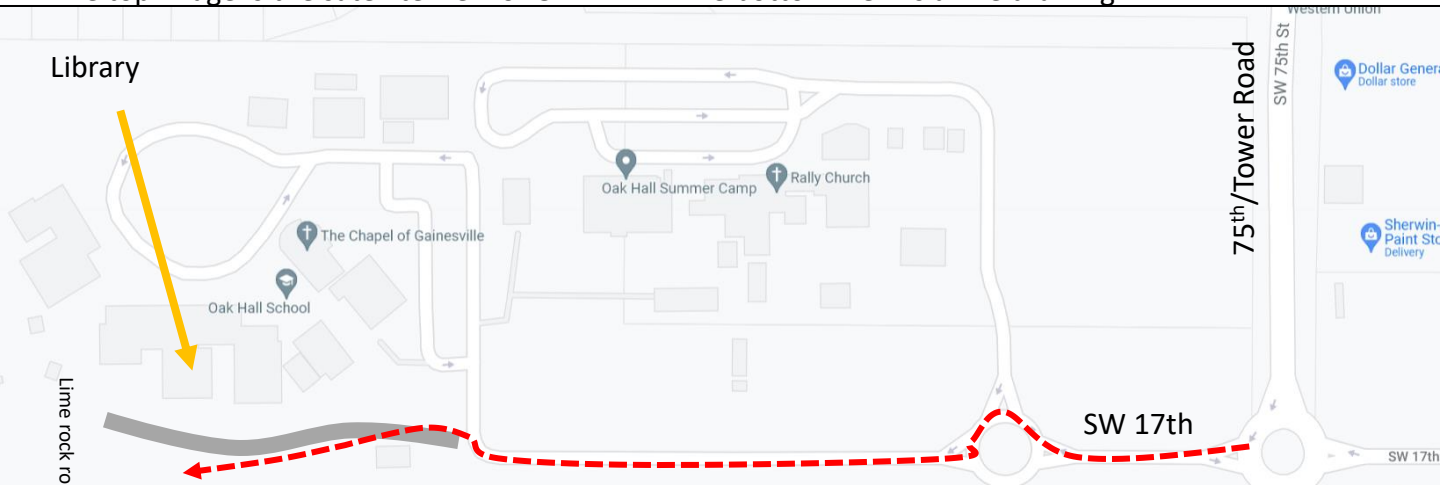
Directions to OAK HALL (1700 SW 75th St, Gainesville, FL)



IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday September 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 2025

Sep

WW1

Oct

Korean war

Nov.

3 color camouflage

Dec.

Sci-Fi



Fancy Paint ... inspired by Jack Mugan



Russia has its own version of the B-52 that keeps on ticking. The Tu-95 has turboprops instead of jet engines, which is even more antiquated than the Stratofortress. The bomber can carry nuclear weapons and conventional munitions.

Nicknamed the “Bear,” it has been in the skies since its first flight in 1952. The Russians produced the Tu-95 until 1993. Over 500 have been made, and many are still in use today. The Russian Air Force wants to fly the Bear until the 2040s.

The Bear has been the kind of platform that is easily updated. The airplane has an ultra-long range and simplicity of design. Turboprop engines have fewer maintenance headaches. They are also easier on fuel than jet engines.

The Tu-95 has made a living from encroaching on US air space. The Bear is often spotted flying near Alaska, which happened repeatedly during the Cold War. In fact, it is still happening today. Two Tu-95s and Su-35 Flanker-E fighter escorts were intercepted in two consecutive days this month. North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) said it sniffed out and tracked the Russian airplanes flying near Alaska’s Air Defense Identification Zone. Two US Air Force F-35As intercepted the Tu-95 and its mates.

From: <https://nationalecurityjournal.org/why-they-call-russias-tu-95-bomber-the-bear/>

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 October 2025 newsletter. - Bill