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***Inside is Ken Wilson's AWESOME Kitbashed  
Mk - 15 CIWS mounted on a HEMTT! Below is  
Frank Ahern's P-40 diorama!***





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**Chuck Lassiter**

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**Doug Spinney**

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[www.gatormodelers.org](http://www.gatormodelers.org)

## **Prez Sez..... By Dan Contento**

Well another month with no in person meeting, but then again another month closer to going back to normal. As we get vaccinated we get closer to make the decision to meet again. I can't believe I'm missing a monthly meal at Cracker Barrel so much. Even a meal at Steak and Shake would seem great.



On my personal homefront I have moved in my new home and began to glue again. Space is limited, but I will adjust.

Everyone stay healthy.

- Dan

**February Meeting – IPMS Gators –**  
**Look for a zoom address from Frank Ahern.**

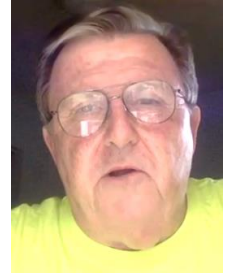
Ken Wilson's HEMTT with Mk – 15 CIWS



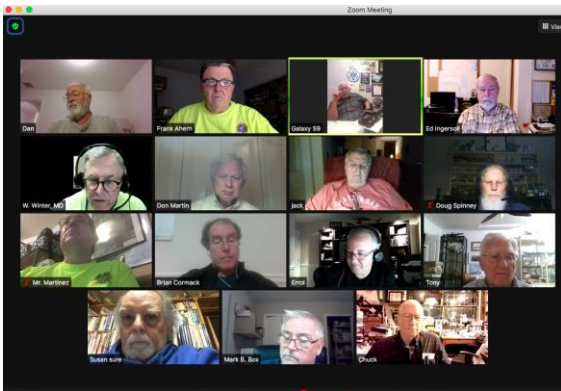
**Editor's note:** The officers would like to thank Ken Wilson and the other Gator modelers who have helped us raise money for the treasury via the periodic online model auctions! We also thank those members who have made generous kit donations for fund raising (Frank, Dan and Don Billups. THANKS GUYS!

## *Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

### Frank Ahern - Club secretary



President Dan Contento called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. A total of 16 members participated at some point during the meeting (see attached screenshot). The meeting opened with the President sharing some thoughts and ideas of what will happen during the next live meeting of the club, which could take place by April or May if a substantial number of members get vaccinated against the coronavirus. At this point, by show of hands, only 2 members, Bill Winter and Frank Ahern, had received shots, but several others are scheduled to get one in the coming weeks. Frank Ahern suggested that one element that could be added to the next live meeting is a version of the Christmas gift exchange game with the club supplying wrapped modeling gifts which members will open after drawing a number to determine the order of play. The club Board of Directors will discuss plans for the live meeting at their next meeting. The final bid list of the silent auction was displayed and Frank Ahern read the names of those who had placed a winning bid. The list is attached to this message. All 40 items on the list of kits submitted by Bill Winter and Don Billups received a bid, thanks to Ken Wilson who placed a blanket minimum bid on all items. Winter will coordinate with all winning bidders on delivery of items.



There was general talk about other modeling activities and shows that have been canceled due to the pandemic, including Jaxcon which has not been rescheduled at this time. The directors of Modelpalooza in Orlando have announced their intention to go ahead with their show in Oct. The IPMS National Show in August in Las Vegas is still on and expected to take place as scheduled.

The floor was opened for members to participate in Show and Tell about projects completed or works-in-progress.

The meeting ended with a detailed PowerPoint presentation by Bill Winter on the Syrian War and the various types of AFV used in the war, including a review of model kits of the tanks and other equipment currently available on the market.

The meeting concluded at 8:15pm. – **Frank Ahern**



## Airplanes Of the Aces – Tex Hill

By Frank Ahern

In the gloomy days after Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese were running roughshod over everybody in the Pacific theater, there was one flicker of light in China that gave Americans hope that the Empire's forces might not be invincible after all.



A group of US pilots, who became known as the Flying Tigers, hired themselves out to the Chinese government as mercenaries and were having success against the Japanese army's air force.

One of the leading pilots of that group was David "Tex" Hill. Like many of the recruited airmen, who were officially known as the American Volunteer Group (AVG), Hill was already trained as a combat pilot in the US military but got tired of waiting for America to enter the war and jumped at the chance to see action immediately.



Their leader was the maverick airpower advocate Claire Chennault who had been bounced out of the Army Air Corps for his strident support of increasing US aerial combat capability.

They engaged the Japanese Army Air Force flying early versions of the Curtiss P-40 which had been rejected by the British as obsolete. Compared to the nimble Japanese fighters it was heavy

## Airplanes Of the Aces – Tex Hill

slow and awkward, but Chennault devised a strategy that took advantage of its strengths - greater firepower, armor protection and high diving speed. Soon they were carving up the Japanese flight formations with a tactic they called “zoom and boom”.



My model of Tex Hill's P-40E, the newer version that arrived in spring 1942, was an excellent Hasegawa kit that I incorporated into a diorama of the primitive conditions that the Flying Tigers often were forced to work from.





## Airplanes Of the Aces – Tex Hill

I used a resin model of the Allison engine in the P-40, cut the engine panel off and borrowed some figures from another kit to give the scene some interest and activity. The fuel drums and ammo boxes were also borrowed from resin cargo sets.



Finishing off the display is an information card that includes a brief bio of Tex Hill and his signature on one of Bruce Doyle's ace cards. It's a fitting tribute to one of the first American aces of WW2.



## News from Ken Wilson:

Dear Bill - Hope things are well with you. Wanted to send you some pictures of a kitbashed model I did.

I started with the 1/35 RPG Mk-15 Phalanx CIWS model. After getting it I realized it would look kind of small by itself, and I found a picture of a CRAM system, which is the Mk-15 mounted on a M1120 HEMTT truck, so I got an Italeri kit of the truck and kitbashed them together. Not exact, but I was happy with the results.

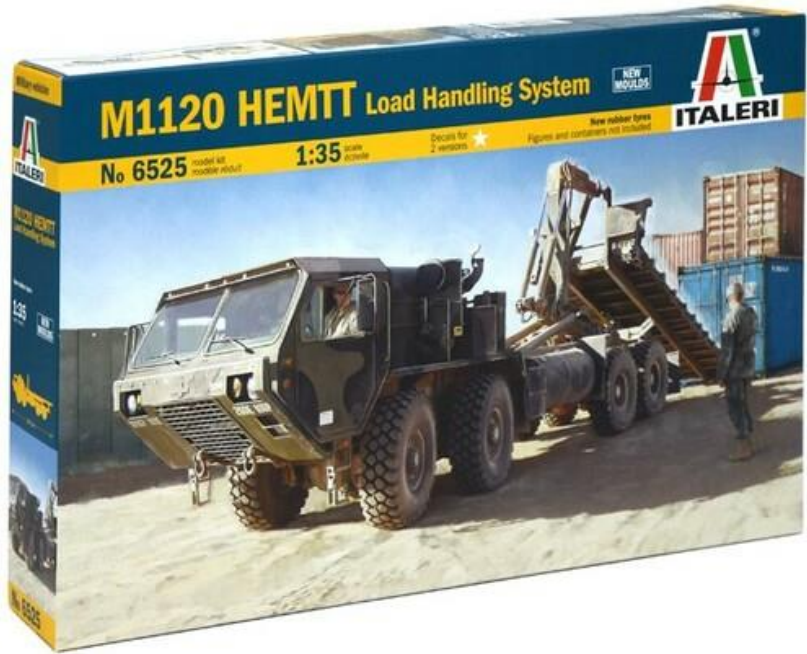
Best regards,

Ken





## News from Ken Wilson:



The Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) is an eight-wheel drive, diesel-powered, 10-short-ton (9,100 kg), tactical truck used by the US military and others. In evolving configurations, it has been in continuous production since 1982. The M977 HEMTT entered service with the U.S. Army as a replacement for the M520 Goer. This is a model of the HEMTT with a 30mm anti-aircraft/anti-missile Phalanx weapon system. Source: <https://free3d.com/3d-model/m977-hemtt-phalanx-weapon-system-tan-2630.html>





News from Ken Wilson:



## MK 15 - Phalanx Close-In Weapon System (CIWS)

### Description

Fast-reaction, detect-through-engage, radar guided, 20-millimeter gun weapon system.

### Features

MK 15 Phalanx CIWS provides ships of the U.S. Navy with an inner layer point defense capability against anti-ship missiles (ASM), aircraft and littoral warfare threats that have penetrated other fleet defenses. Phalanx automatically detects, evaluates, tracks, engages and performs kill assessment against ASM and high speed aircraft threats. The current Phalanx variant (Block 1B) adds the ability to counter asymmetric warfare threats through the addition of an integrated, stabilized, Electro Optic sensor. These improvements give Phalanx the added ability to counter small high speed surface craft, aircraft, helicopters and unmanned aerial systems (UAS). Phalanx is the only deployed close-in weapon system capable of autonomously performing its own search, detect, evaluation, track, engage and kill assessment functions. Phalanx also can be integrated into existing ship combat control systems to provide additional sensor and fire-control support to other installed ship weapon systems.

### General Characteristics, MK 15

Primary Function: Fast-reaction, detect-thru-engage, radar guided 20-millimeter gun weapon system.

Contractor: Raytheon Systems Company (preceded by Hughes Missile Systems Company and purchased from General Dynamics Pomona Division in 1992).

Date Deployed: Date Deployed: Block 0: 1980 (aboard USS Coral Sea)

Block 1: 1988 (aboard USS Wisconsin)

Block 1B: 1999 (aboard USS Underwood)

Weight: (Block 1B): 13,600 pounds (6,120 kg).

Type Fire: ASM & Aircraft: 4,500 rounds/min, Asymmetric Threats: 3,000 rounds/min.

Magazine Capacity: 1,550 rounds

Caliber: 20mm.

Ammunition: Armor Piercing Discarding Sabot

Type: M-61A1 Gatling Gun



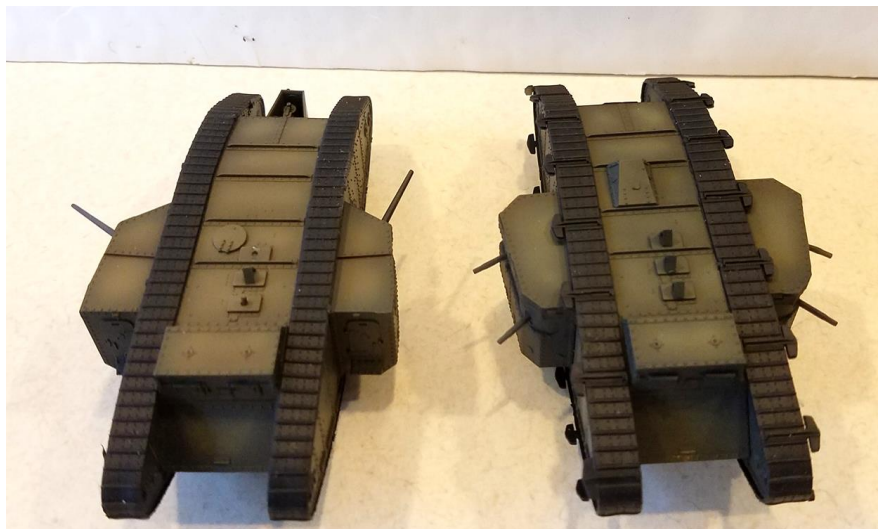
Source: <https://www.navy.mil/Resources/Fact-Files/Display-FactFiles/Article/2167831/mk-15-phalanx-close-in-weapon-system-ciws/>

## News from Doug Spinney

### Master Box MK I “Male” and Master Box MK II “Female”

Both are painted with AK Interactive Khaki Brown, AK Khaki Brown Shadow, and AK Khaki Brown Highlights. Both are 1/72 scale.

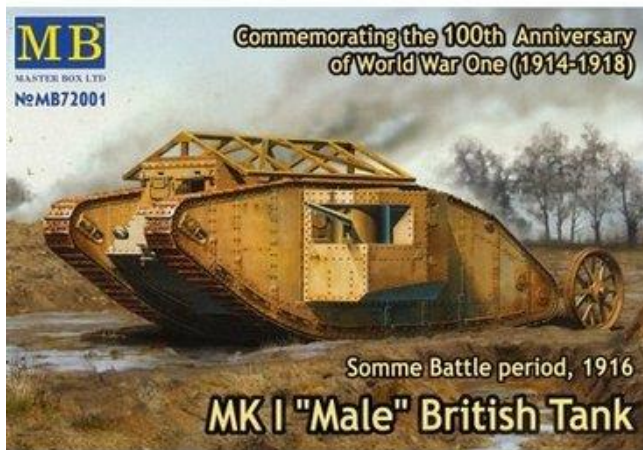
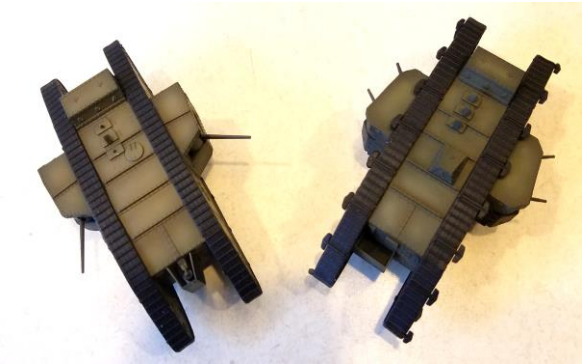
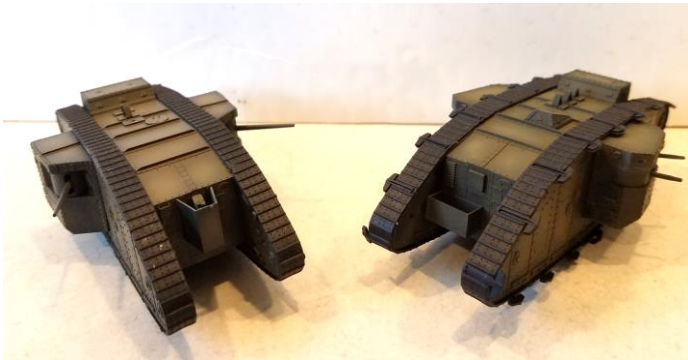
(The MK I is called the HMLS Reverse, as the person that put it together, namely me, glued the gun mounts on the wrong sides. I didn't notice my mistake until I went to place the decals.)





## News from Doug Spinney

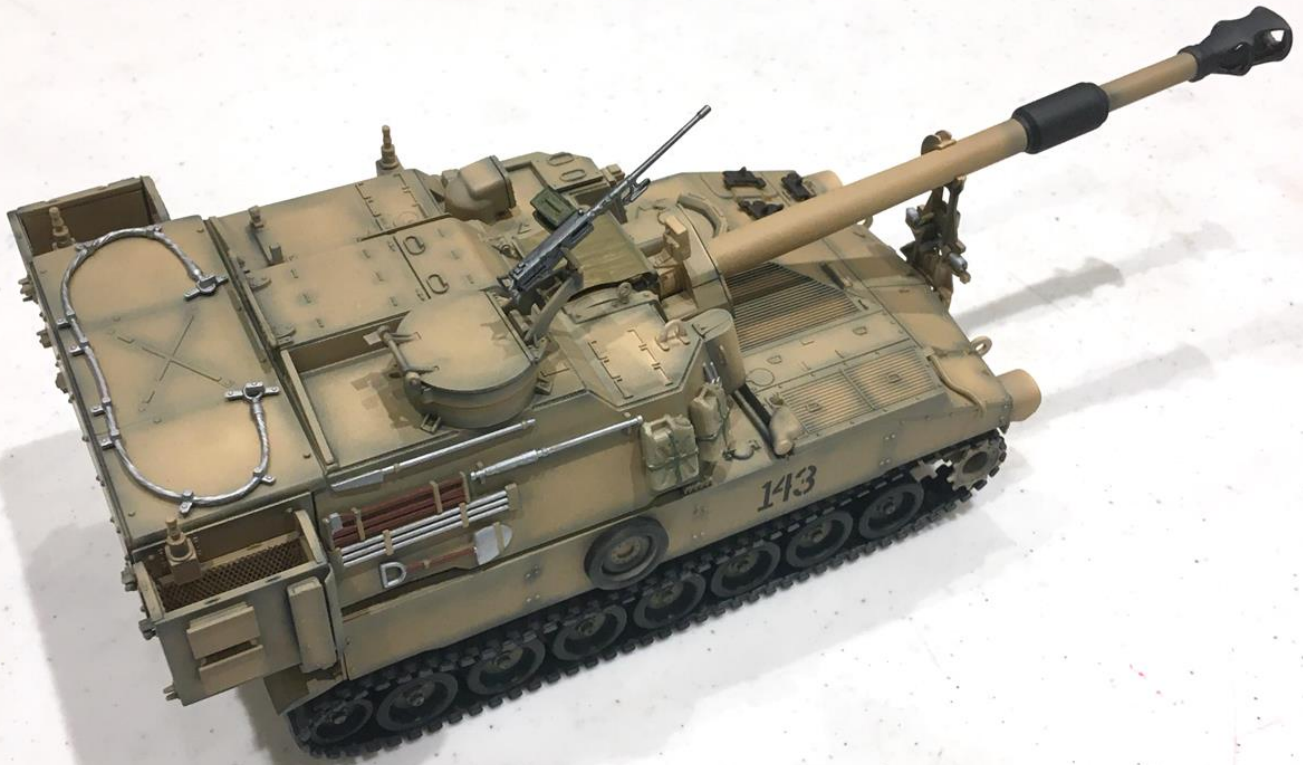
### Master Box MK I "Male" and Master Box MK II "Female"





Doug Spinney's M-109A6 Paladin (1:35 scale) by Tamiya/Italeri





**Paladin M109A6** is a cannon artillery system with self-propelled howitzer (SPH) developed by the ground system division of United Defense LP (now BAE Systems Land and Armaments) and manufactured at the Paladin Production Operation centre at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Paladin was first fielded in 1994, is operational with the United States Army and the Israeli Army and has been selected by the Kuwait and Taiwan. In June 1999, the US Army received the last of the 950 Paladin M109A6 that it ordered. Seven systems were ordered in July 2000 for the US Army National Guard and a further 18 systems in January 2002. The US Army received the first Paladin M109A6 upgraded to M109A7 standard in April 2015. The Paladin artillery system is operated by a crew of four, a commander, a driver, a gunner and a loader. The crew are able to receive mission data via a secure voice and digital communications system, compute the firing data, automatically unlock the cannon from the travel lock, point the cannon and fire, and move to a new location without external technical assistance. The M109A6 Paladin fires the first round from the move within 60 seconds. The 'shoot and scoot' capability protects the crew from counter-battery fire. Paladin was used in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March / April 2003 and in the continuing operations in Iraq, including Operation Al Fajr in Fallujah in November 2004.

BAE Systems Land and Armaments supplied 219 modification kits for US Army Paladins, which enable the use of the modular artillery charge system (MACS) and the 155mm precision-guided extended-range XM92 Excalibur projectile being developed by Raytheon and Bofors Defense of Sweden (a BAE Systems subsidiary). Deliveries began in 2005.

<https://www.army-technology.com/projects/paladin/>



## From the modeling desk of Doug Spinney

Meng German WWII Vs.Kfz.617 Minesweeper



Tamiya white primer with flat black preshade  
Painted with Tamiya Desert Yellow  
Tracks are painted with Mission Models NATO black



## News from Clarence Snyder

Part of my restock from auctions and Rob's Hobby World (8585 SW State Rd 200, Ocala, FL 34481). I also bought other kits here and there.





## News from Clarence Snyder

Look what Hobby Lobby has in stock now! It really makes a display easy to do. ... not having to scratch build!

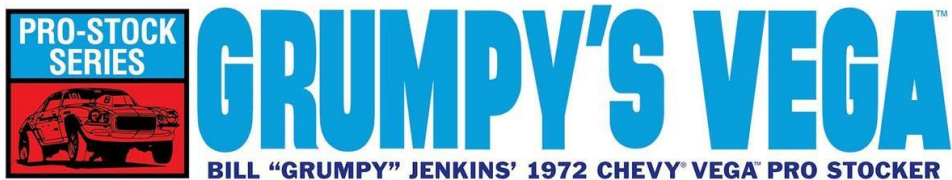




## News from Clarence Snyder



(The car is ...) still in the work area as I am doing some last touch ups. I have to add the drag shoot to rear and wheelie bars.



## News from Clarence Snyder



## Drag Racing Warriors: Grumpy's Toy 1974 Vega

September 20, 2015 by Muscle Car DiY  
Grumpy's Toy XI 1974 Vega

Bill "Grumpy" Jenkins was a true drag racing legend whose reputation for winning long preceded Grumpy's Toy XI. He first gained fame in the early 1960s building winning Mopars, Junior Stockers, and the Old Reliable Chevys for Dave Strickler. Between 1961 and 1963, the Old Reliables, I through IV, dominated categories from Stock through Factory Experimental.

Source: <https://www.musclecardiy.com/drag-racing/drag-racing-warriors-grumpys-toy-1974-vega/>





## News from Clarence Snyder



Another one done .... buffed out due to cold weather .... rattle can hard to dry.



I had a green 67 Chevy with a 4 speed, 396 engine, and positive traction. It was not an SS model. It was a budget-special order some one else had bought. The engine was punched out to 425 CID as a hot rod keep me broke. I never had another big block chevy.



## Hollywood Heroes



*By Frank Ahern*

*This continuing feature is designed to showcase the often-unpublicized military service of many of the entertainment icons of the previous generation who served their country without complaint or protest.*

## Clifton James



Like many WW2 veterans Clifton James didn't like to talk about his time in the service, but the medals, ribbons and "hash" marks on his uniform tell the tale for him. The seven stripes on his sleeve indicate that he spent 3 and a half years in combat zones in the south Pacific. Very few of his friends survived, which is why he didn't like to talk about it.

For his service and valor he was awarded 2 Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and a Silver Star - which is one of the highest honors the Army can bestow. He served as an infantry platoon



sergeant with Co. "A" 163rd Infantry, 41st Division. He served forty-two months in the South Pacific from January 1942 until August 1945. Among his duty stations were New Guinea, Australia and the Philippines.

## Hollywood Heroes

### Clifton James

It's ironic that someone born and raised in Oregon would come to be seen as the stereotypical Southern lawman.



His first major film role was as the hard-nosed prison floorwalker in *Cool Hand Luke* who delivers the famous speech about spending "a night in the box".

Best remembered for playing the redneck policeman Sheriff J.W. Pepper in the James Bond films *Live and Let Die* (1973) and *The Man with the Golden Gun* (1974).



He played basically the same character in *Superman II* (1980) although his name is never mentioned (He was referred to simply as "sheriff").

In all, he appeared in close to 100 films and TV shows in a career that spanned 5 decades. He died in 2017 at the age of 96.





## News from Jack Mugan

From Jack Mugan ..... almost finished.



From Jack Mugan .... Earlier days!



Frank Ahern, – Secretary – [ahernf@gmail.com](mailto: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!

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Please use one of the links below or go to the IPMS Membership page for more information about joining IPMS USA.

[http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms\\_application\\_form\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms_application_form_2016.pdf)

<http://www.shopipmsusa.org/product-p/adult-membership.htm>

<http://www.shopipmsusa.org/product-p/family-membership.htm>

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – Newsletter Editor [ahernf@gmail.com](mailto:ahernf@gmail.com)

Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785

## UPCOMING EVENTS





## IPMS Membership

It is of great importance, both at the local level (IPMS Gators) and at the national level. The Club officers strongly recommend joining IPMS as an individual which provides six yearly issues of the IPMS Journal (which is better than ever) and the opportunity to participate at the IPMS National Convention .

A copy of the membership application is on the right or available at the IPMS / USA website address, [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org).

Complete the form and return it to the address listed at the bottom of the form along with your method of payment.



### International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA Membership Application / Renewal Form

New ☐ Renewal ☐ IPMS #:

Name:

Address:

City:  State:

Zip Code:

Phone:  E-Mail:

Chapter Affiliation, if any:

<b>Junior</b> (17 years or younger)	\$17.00	<input type="text"/>	Date of Birth: <input type="text"/>
<b>Adult</b> One year	\$30.00	<input type="text"/>	
Two years	\$58.00	<input type="text"/>	
Three years	\$86.00	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Canada &amp; Mexico</b>	\$35.00	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Foreign</b> Surface	\$38.00	<input type="text"/>	

**Family** (1 set of Journals)  ← Adult fee + \$5.00 # of cards?

Your Signature:

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:  
Name:  IPMS #:

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Cash ☐ Amount:

Check ☐ Check #:  Amount:

Billing Address, if different than above -

Address:

City:  State:

Zip Code:

Applications should be printed and mailed to: IPMS/USA, PO Box 1411, Riverview, FL 33568-1411

**Wild Paint(s)** ... by Jack Mugan



**B**ye for now!