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**Don Martin's JSU-152 – Winner of April's
Theme: Russia in World War II**



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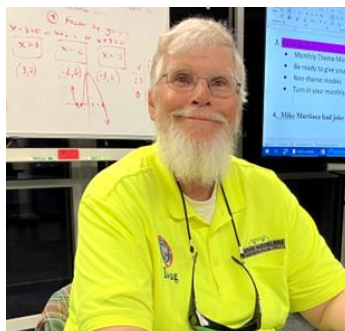
Prez Sez.....

After going about 6 months of barely spending time in the model room, I finally have my mojo back. And I need to thank my wife for giving me a nudge. For Christmas she gave me a ROKR 3d puzzle, once I put it together, I was back to building plastic again. Not only that, but I've put together two more ROKR 3d models. One of them I'll show off at our upcoming meeting.

Speaking of our meeting, this month's theme is "Ships." I hope to see a full house at our May meeting, and I would like to see some of the hardware some of you brought back from a few model events this last month.

A bit of incentive of coming to this months meeting, we will have more "for sale" items on the back tables. A big *Thank You* to Jack Mugan and Don Billups for the donations, proceeds go to the club treasury.

- Doug



May – IPMS Gators

We will meet
Tuesday, May 20,
2025, at 6:30 PM at
Oak Hall Library

From the editor: “Mojo” can be defined as
“a magic charm, talisman, spell or magic
power.”



Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday April 15, 2025

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. A total of 15 members were present.

He began with upcoming modeling events in the area, including the Scale Model Expo in the Villages on Saturday, April 19, and Pelicon in Tampa on April 26.



Club historian Bruce Doyle gave a presentation on the origins of his collection of signatures of WW2 aces, called "Aces on Aces", which has reached over a thousand.

Mike Martinez shared information on how WW2 pilot navigation tools were used, prior to the use of computer navigation devices.

The meeting paused for the Show & Tell presentations for those who brought models. The monthly theme was "Russia WW2". The winning model, a Russian tank, was brought by Don Martin. Next month's theme is - Ships.

The group build contest involved a sci-fi kit of the Roswell flying saucer. The winner was a diorama from Bill Winter.

The monthly attendance raffle winners were Ian Breheny and Dan Contento.

A second raffle was held to distribute excess kits in the club stash. The winners were Don Martin, Brian Cormack and Darryl Palmer.

The meeting concluded with a Powerpoint presentation by Frank Ahern on the Russian ground attack fighter Il-2 Stormovik.



The meeting ended at 8:20 and was followed by a swap meet.

Submitted by: *Frank Ahern, Club Secretary*



Parrot Cannon

By Frank Ahern

Now that I am a mature modeler (notice I didn't say expert) I have found that leaving my comfort zone helps keep me engaged in the hobby. My bucket-list trip to Gettysburg last summer caused me to buy a model kit of the famous Parrot cannon that you see everywhere in the national park.



It was named for an Army officer named Parrot who invented a technique for joining a cast iron barrel with a wrought iron breech that solved the over-heating problem that had plagued cannons for centuries. It became the primary artillery weapon for both sides of the Civil War.



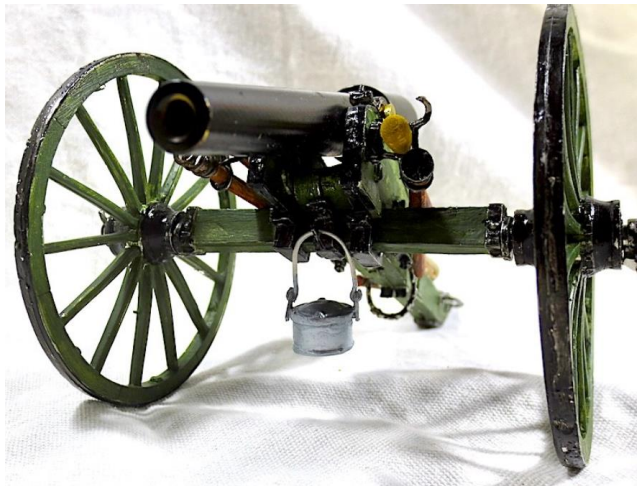
Parrot Cannon

The kit is mixed media, mostly metal of the soft white metal variety. The barrel is brass. There are lots of pieces of rope and chain and strange looking little parts. The instructions are an exploded diagram which is poorly reproduced.

My first question was what kind of glue to use? They recommended epoxy, but it was clear that slow-drying epoxy would take forever, so I settled on my new favorite glue - super glue gel.



Almost every part needs to be painted. Metal parts were painted semi-gloss black and wood parts, which are reproduced in metal, were painted an olive drab green.



Once I was familiar with the strange parts and vague instructions the kit went together fairly well. I plan to put it on a little grassy slope base and give it to a friend of mine who is a big gun collector.

Parrot Cannon



It's amazing to think that this was the height of weapon technology of that era. Less than 100 years later we would have atomic weapons and supersonic aircraft at our disposal.

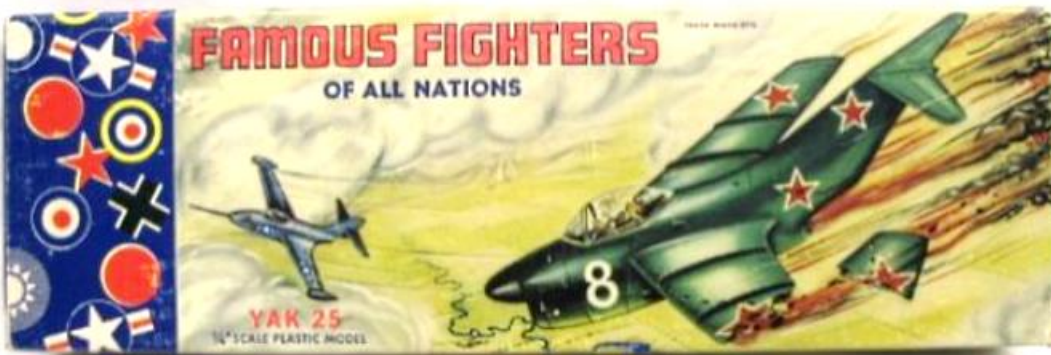
It's also a grim reminder of the senseless and tragic war that killed more Americans than any other in our history. - [Frank](#)





By Darryl Palmer

Jim Cox and the Brooklyn 8



Box art picturing your model going down in flames might seem like an odd marketing choice today, but in the early 1950s, it was a revolutionary success. For millions of boys, Jim Cox's artwork for Aurora Models had the "wow" factor that convinced them to turn over their hard-earned lawn-mowing and paper-route money.



Aurora Plastics Corporation was founded in 1950 by two guys from Brooklyn, Abe Shikes and Joe Giammarino. Their injection molding shop did contract work, making things like buttons, dials, and sometimes toys. In 1952, they brought on salesman John Cuomo, who told them about all the money to be made in the hot new plastic modeling market. Starting with some molds "borrowed" from Hawk, Aurora produced its first two fighter jet models, a Panther F9F and F90 Lockheed.

The Brooklyn partners had a different approach to breaking into the market. While Revell and Monogram were competing for the most detailed and accurate kits, Aurora would undersell them with smaller, cheaper designs. While other companies were trying to appeal to serious hobbyists, Aurora would sell to kids. In order to make up for inferior molds, their packaging would employ a classic advertising stratagem: Sell the sizzle, not the steak.



Ad-man Cuomo approached the Printing and Lithograph Service (PLS) in New Jersey to design eye-popping box art for their new series of model planes. Jim Pettit Cox was PLS' head illustrator. Cox was a graduate of the prestigious Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art. During the Depression, he worked for the WPA teaching art and designing posters. Before joining PLS, he did freelance work, drawing art for fruit crates and vegetable cans.

Aurora contracted Cox to design glossy cover lithographs ("box slicks") for what became known as the Brooklyn 8:



Jim Pettit Cox

*Aurora's "Brooklyn 8": Top row, l to r: F9F, F86 Sabre, XF90, Me-109;
2nd row: P40, P38, Yak-25, Mitsubishi Zero.*

Up to that time, model kit packaging was very plain — a cardboard box with a two-color label showing a simple line drawing of the completed kit. Taking inspiration from pulps and comics such as *Battle Aces* and *Sky Fighters*, the designs that Cox drew for Aurora were dynamic — planes swooping over the clouds, dive-bombing out of flack-filled skies, guns blazing, wings aflame — all in vivid four-color.

The Brooklyn 8 proved to be a massive success. In 1953, Aurora moved to a larger factory in Long Island and became a major player, producing models up until the late 1970s. Cox was their house illustrator for most of those years, and he also did box art for Revell and Pyro. Competitors like Monogram and Lindberg started adding action-packed art on their boxes, and it began an industry trend that, in many cases, continues to this day.



Cox's 1956 artwork for the Fokker D-VII was used by Aurora until 1976.



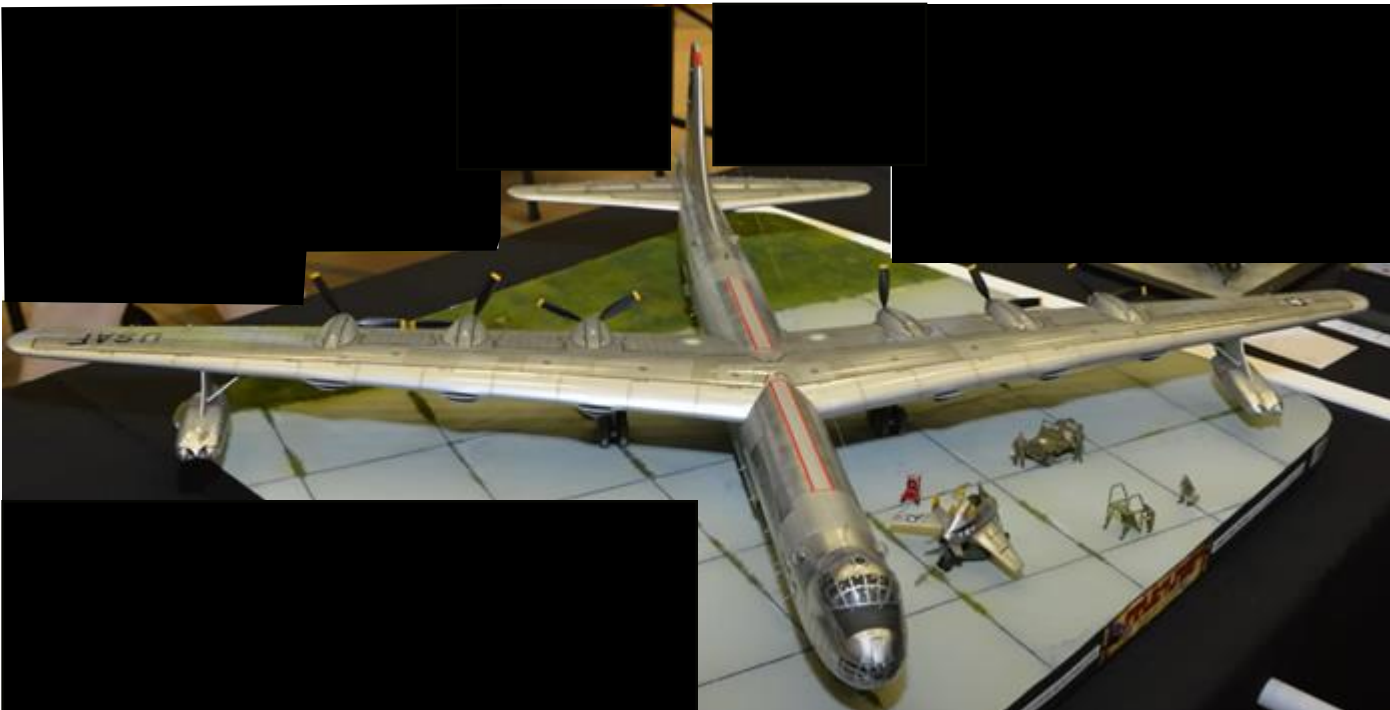
Artists like Jim Cox, and others who will be introduced in this series, were instrumental in turning a whole generation on to plastic modeling. They did it by appealing to our imaginations: From opening the box to laying on the decals, you weren't just building a toy or recreating an historical replica — you were engaged in a sustained daydream filled with speed, danger and excitement.

More about Jim Cox and Aurora can be found in this excellent blog:

<https://www.oldmodelkits.com/blog/plastic-model-kit-history/a-biography-of-james-jim-pettit-cox-the-father-of-modern-model-box-artwork/>

Reader's challenge

What is the most unusual aircraft in this photo from a recent hobby show? Jack Mugan shared the link to the show.



The answer is on page **35** . CHECK IT OUT!

Don Martin's 1:35 scale Tamiya JSU-152 – Winner of April's Theme: Russia in World War II



Don added an Aber barrel, Friulmetal tracks and extra stowage



Bob Lundeen's 1:35 scale, Tamiya 8-wheeled armored car in a snowy scene entitled "Stuck in the Mud."



Schwerer Panzerspähwagen 8Rad Sdkfz 232

1:35 (1/35) SCALE MODEL KIT
GERMAN 8-WHEELED HEAVY ARMORED CAR
REALISTIC COMMANDER FIGURE READY TO ASSEMBLE PLASTIC MODEL KIT
TAMIYA



Ed Ingersoll's 1:48 scale Yak-3 (OTB)



Frank Ahern's Russian Fighter, the IL-2 Sturmovik



Bruce Doyle's
Fw-190A5/U7 in
1:72 scale by Hasegawa.

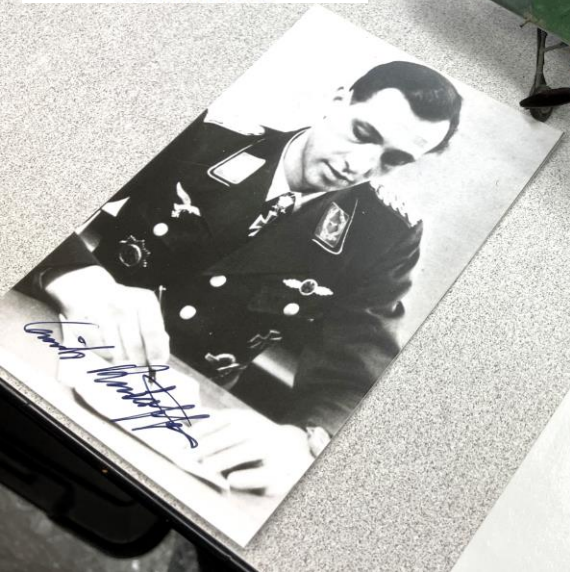
This plane was flown by
Oberst Hermann Graf
who was the
commanding officer of
JG-52.



Hermann Graf



Focke-Wulf Fw190A-5/U7 'GRAF SPECIAL'



Brian Cormack's 1:72 scale, Zvezda.Italeri **La-5FN** (WIP) – re-scribed the panel lines!



Tony Aguilar's 1:72 scale, Esci T-34 Mod. 43 and SV-85 (by S Model).



Ian Breheny's 1:72 scale, PST KV-220 (OOB)



Doug Spinney's 1:72 scale, Trumpeter KV-2 (OOB)



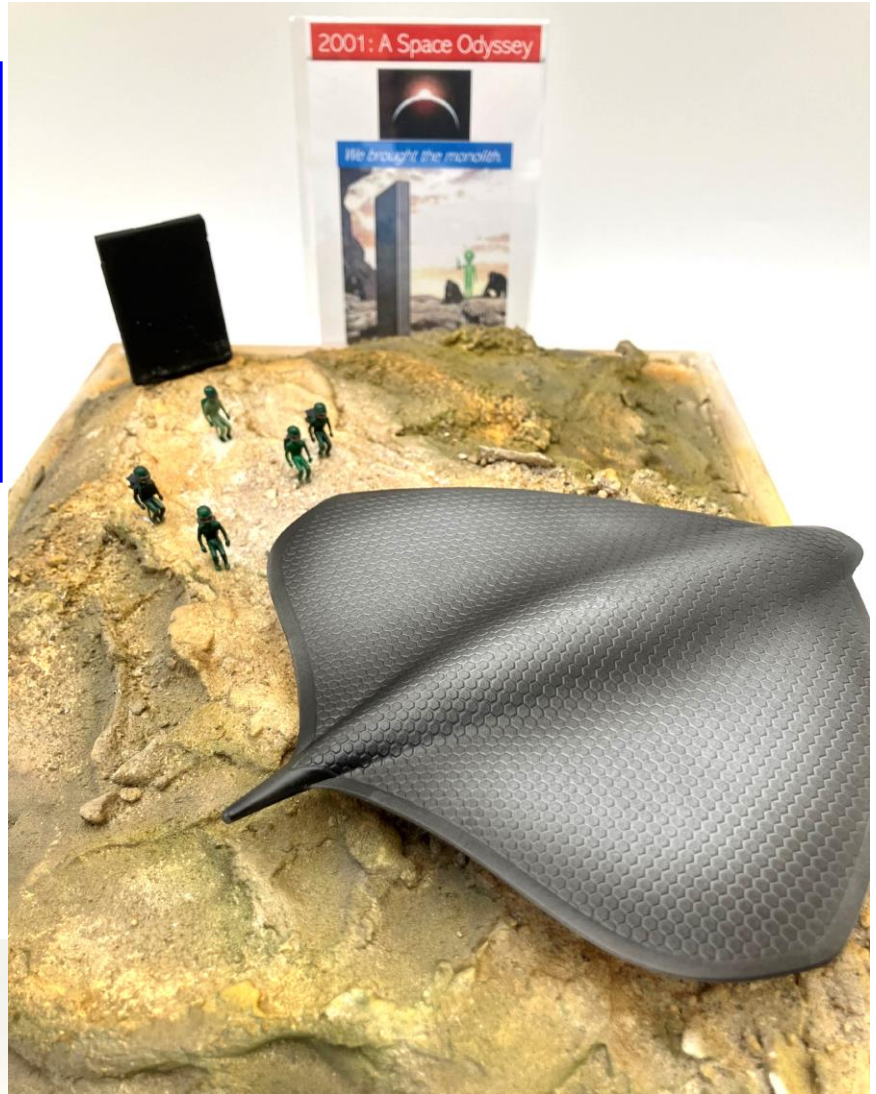
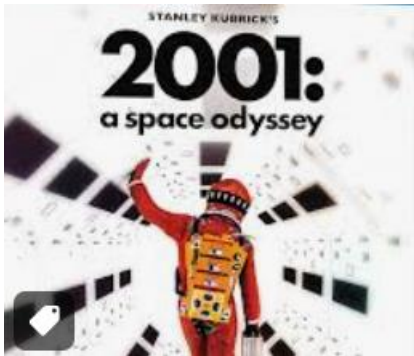
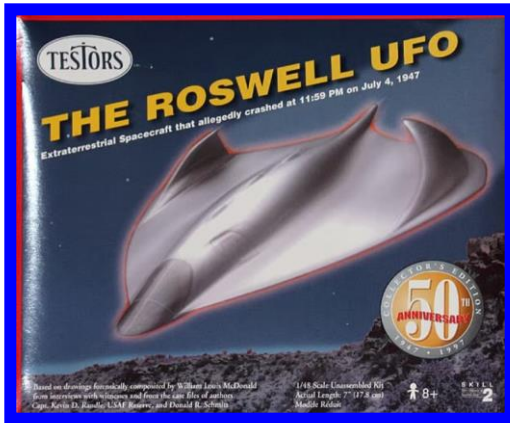
Worldwide Deaths in World War II - ☹️

	Country	Military Deaths	Total Civilian and Military Deaths
1	Soviet Union	8,800,000-10,700,000	24,000,000
2	China	3-4,000,000	20,000,000
3	Germany	5,533,000	6,600,000-8,800,000
4	Poland	240,000	5,600,000
5	Dutch East Indies	--	3-4,000,000
6	Japan	2,120,000	2,600,000-3,100,000
7	India	87,000	1,500,000-2,500,000
8	French Indochina	--	1-1,500,000
9	Yugoslavia	446,000	1,000,000
10	Philippines	57,000	500,000-1,000,000
11	Romania	300,000	833,000
12	Greece	20,000-35,000	300,000-800,000
13	Hungary	300,000	580,000
14	France	217,600	567,600
15	Korea	--	378,000-473,000
16	Italy	301,400	457,000
17	United Kingdom	383,600	450,700
18	United States	416,800	418,500
19	Austria	261,000	384,700
20	Lithuania	--	353,000
21	Czechoslovakia	25,000	345,000
22	Netherlands	17,000	301,000
23	Latvia	--	227,000
24	Malaya	--	100,000
25	Ethiopia	5,000	100,000
26	Finland	95,000	97,000
27	Belgium	12,100	86,100
28	Estonia	--	51,000
29	Singapore	--	50,000
30	Canada	45,400	45,400
31	Australia	39,800	40,500
32	Albania	30,000	30,200
33	Bulgaria	22,000	25,000
34	Papua New Guinea	--	15,000
35	South Africa	11,900	11,900
36	New Zealand	11,900	11,900
37	Norway	3,000	9,500
38	Denmark	2,100	3,200
39	Luxembourg	--	2,000
40	Brazil	1,000	2,000

Bill's 1:35 scale diorama of a captured Russian T-34/76 being presented to a German WWII officer by a German WWII infantry man.



The intra-club contest for the Testor's Roswell UFO was won by Bill with his diorama entitled: "*We Brought the Monolith*" as a "take off" on '2001 - A Space Odyssey' film.



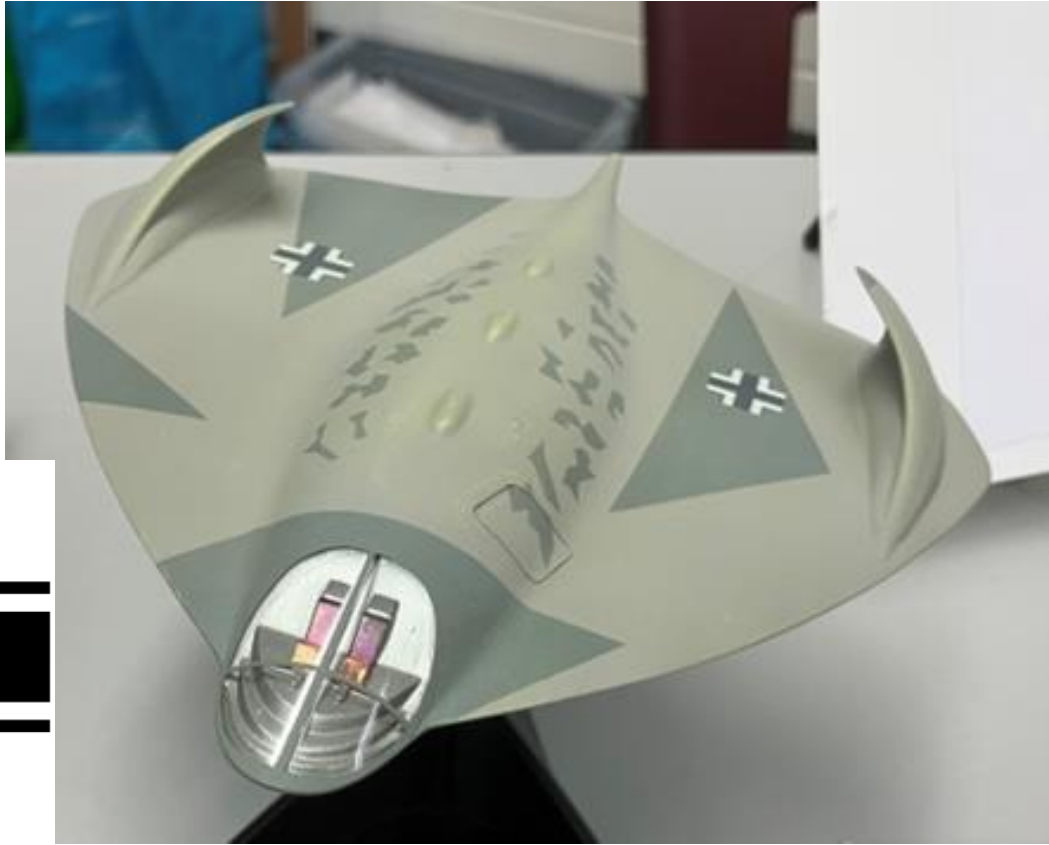
Frank Ahern's Space Force UFO (Roswell) (other than decals, OOB)



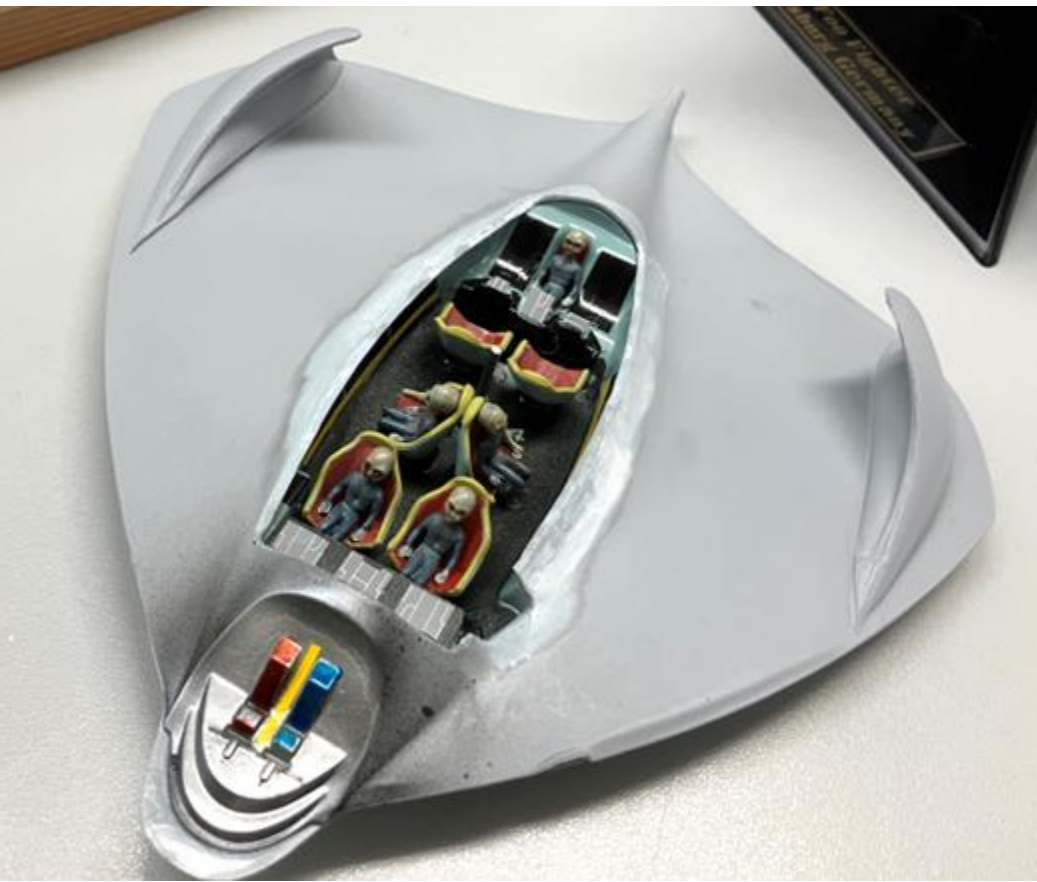
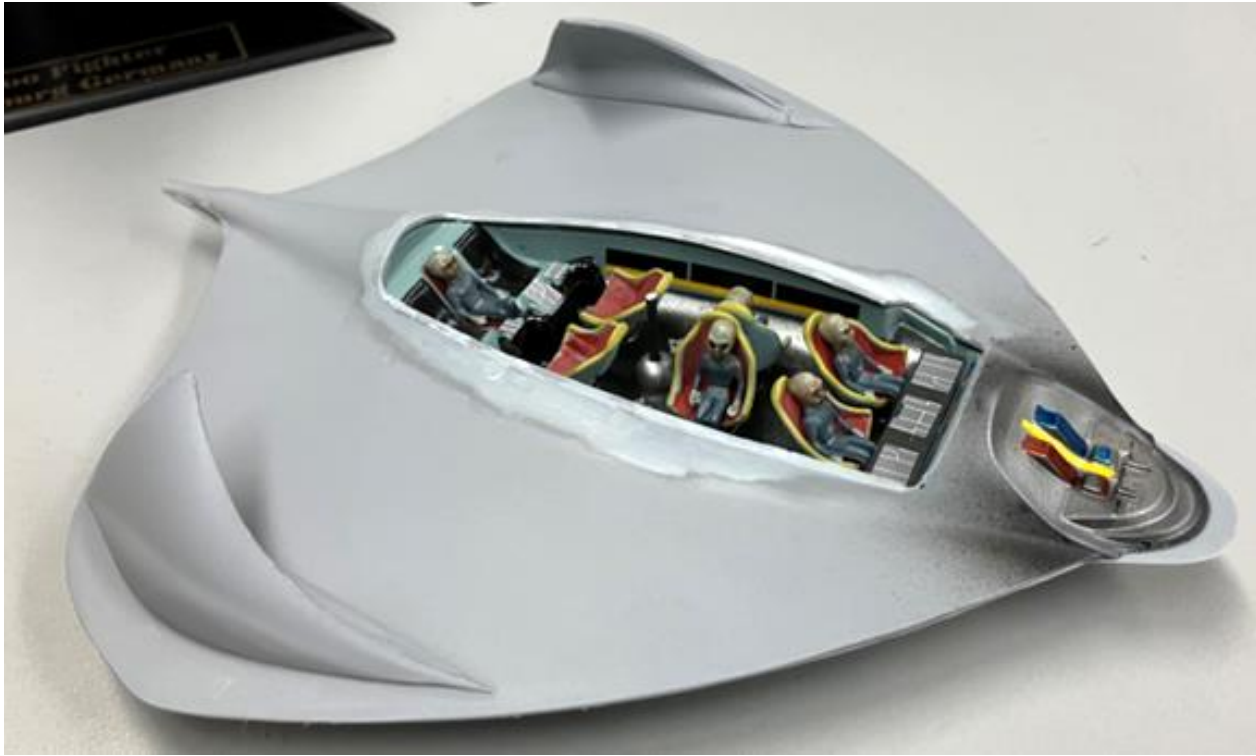
Doug Spinney's interpretation of the Testor's Roswell UFO spacecraft. Note the **fabulous** paint job! These aliens liberated a bathroom plunger from a home on planet Earth (see white arrow).



Ed Ingersoll's "Foo-Fighter" interpretation of the Testor's Roswell UFO spacecraft. Note that this UFO originated from Rosberg, Germany.



An interpretation of the Testor's **Roswell UFO** spacecraft



Darryl Palmer's Testor's Roswell UFO spacecraft



Errol Whisler's **Corvette** for "show and Tell"



Clarence Snyder's C-7 Corvette for "show and Tell"



Tony Aguilar's Soldiers with snow made from the "Golden" product



From Tony Aguilar

Here is a list of links to items that either I have mentioned in the past or on the AMPS Zoom call of Saturday, April 12, 2025.

[1] My YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/@TonyAguilarFigure-atively>

I do almost all of my hobbying on there live in order to give me a distraction and stay entertained by socializing to some extent.

[2] Here is the link to the YouTube video I made on using hand-sanitizer to get the residual paint off of paint brushes.

This works on all Acrylics including the Vallejo primer which is sometimes a beat to remove. I got the Purell brand and it was BOGO at the time. Not sure if other brands work as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQhhZckWVjc&t=342s>

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO A DEMONSTRATION IN THE FUTURE ON THIS AT A MEETING.

[3] The product I used for snow was **Golden Light Molding** paste. It can be used straight from the jar and is easy to apply and is water reducible. It is available at Michaels.



[4] The White paint I used for the snow camo is **Ammo-MIG 024 Washable White**. Basically, you can apply this over your model with airbrush or brush paint. Wait for it to dry a bit and then with a wet brush or sponge wipe some off. I picked this up at **Spraygunner** in Tampa.



[5] Below is the link to Iron Horse Collectibles who is the 3D printer I use.

<http://www.sportsattic2.com/IronHorseCollectibles/IHC.htm>

From Tony Aguilar

He is affordable, quick and is based here in the US (to save on shipping) and does good work. Below is an unboxing I did on one of my orders so you can see what you get and how it comes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5SnI9M9zX0&t=3s>

[6] Here is the link to the video I made a couple of weeks ago for **Volusia Valor Days** in case no one made it out there.

I had several good interviews with the re-enactors and one even invited me to do an interview at the Zephyrhills show so we will see if we can make this happen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMaVwdZyfEc&t=6066s>

[7] **Khurram Abbas's Magic Formula** - This is a thinner that is easy to make that was a gamechanger to avoid tip drying and jams when working with acrylics. This even works for craft paint (which surprised the author when I told him)

This is the author's words below from the Facebook group: **Airbrush for Beginners, Advice from Experts.**

UPDATED: This is for "water-based" acrylics and primers only (Vallejo, Ammo 1st Gen, currently testing it Atom range, AK 1st and 3rd Gen, Mission Models, Humbrol Acrylics, Aeromaster, and several others). It does not work on "hybrid-acrylics" like Tamiya.

Several people have posted in this group on how to get the best out of airbrushing acrylic paints. I am hoping this will help. This is for those of us who have to use acrylics for whatever reason (health, living with roommates/partners, etc). To my friends using lacquers, calm down this is not an attack on you (I love lacquer paints, I worked with them for year). So, if you can't contribute positively, just skip the post.

Quick background on me. I started airbrushing at around age 9 and fell in love with it. I am an airbrushing nut (currently have close to 50 airbrushes) and worked as a professional airbrush artist for many years. Due to health issues from my job and doctor's order I was forced to switch to acrylics. Started with Vallejo and hated them at first. No matter what I did, I could not get them to work right. Main problem was tip drying. I tried several recommendations from fellow modelers, from Vallejo, etc. Nothing worked at all! After about 15 seconds I would get tip dry. It was just so frustrating. I got rid of them immediately the first time. Due to health concerns, living with pets, and roommates, I decided to give them another try and find a solution.

Working with my artist friends, I came up with a mixture that just works. I am relentless when it came to testing; I tried every combination of mixtures, quantities, spray performance.

What you need:

- Acrylic thinner
- Acrylic flow improver
- Acrylic retarder

From Tony Aguilar

I am using Vallejo thinner/flow improver/retarder as I have easy accessibility to these items at my local hobby lobby

The formula is 7 parts flow improver, 3 parts thinner, and 1 part retarder (you don't have to be precise with the retarder but you must include it into the mixture). I use an empty 17 ml bottle for this purpose. I add all 3 parts into the bottle and then shake the hell out of the bottle.

UPDATED: I am not a math guy, and my original explanation confused people. So I re-wrote it as 7 parts flow improver, 3 parts thinner, 1 part retarder. Originally, I had written it up as it is a 2-part equation (liquid and goo) the liquid being 70% flow improver (thus my mark on the bottle), 30% thinner (thus the mark on the bottle), and I would just fill it with retarder to the top of the bottle with the retarder.

For airbrushing, I use either a 50/50 (paint to thinner) or 60/40 (paint to thinner) and start with 20 PSI. I prefer to use a smaller needle/nozzle setup, .2mm. I use the back-flushing technique to mix the paint within the cup. Btw, this is a starting point, and you should adjust this as needed for your needs....for example: more thinner and lower air pressure for mottling purposes.

I recommend adding the thinner mixture into your airbrush first! It helps lube the airbrush needle. Also, a little goes a long way. For this example, I added in 5 drops thinner to 6 drops paint. I had so much paint leftover even after the sheet and the test piece.

As you can see from the pictures, I can get fine lines with no tip drying issues. I sprayed on that white sheet for about 5 mins no issues at all. Coverage is great...but HIGHLY RECOMMEND USING A PRIMER.

Acrylics need primers or they will easily come off with excess handling. Hopefully, the pictures show the wonderful results you can get from acrylic paints and how to get them to perform beautifully.

BONUS: This mixture works on all "water-based" acrylic paint and primers. I have tested it on Vallejo, Ammo, AK 1st Gen and 3rd Gen, Army Painters, Mission Models, Humbrol acrylics. For primers, I do 70/30 primer to thinner mixture. It makes Badger primer lay down smoothly, and it solves several of the issues Vallejo primer is known for.

EXTRA BONUS: by using this mixture, you will find the paint is more resilient, you will be able to mask over it within 10-15 mins with no lifting, you can handle the model with bare hands. Hope this helps! If you have any questions, let me know.

(All models painted with acrylics and using my mixture formula)

PS: If you're more of a visual learner, here is a video I made 2 years ago.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/6627834997318317/posts/8290121741089626/?__cft__\[0\]=AZU6Zgcya2WOzYqpWJWv2nYPH1q1c3GgJBlxpgZt0Aynjxboq_e5pjDeOdk2z6QS0U2LDmfP3qAaM6wUXUm xM4qe5WlRjttC3imtliT_QnT_vSn3m9v-9sQEpl9sJ6p3ih4lmMkQGNie-B2At6LmiLO&__tn__=R\]-R](https://www.facebook.com/groups/6627834997318317/posts/8290121741089626/?__cft__[0]=AZU6Zgcya2WOzYqpWJWv2nYPH1q1c3GgJBlxpgZt0Aynjxboq_e5pjDeOdk2z6QS0U2LDmfP3qAaM6wUXUm xM4qe5WlRjttC3imtliT_QnT_vSn3m9v-9sQEpl9sJ6p3ih4lmMkQGNie-B2At6LmiLO&__tn__=R]-R)

That is it for now. I am sure I have forgotten something. Regards, Tony Aguilar

My YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@TonyAguilarFigure-atively>

From the desk of Jack Mugan



If you want to build a 1:8 scale metal model, try this →



PACK 1 ONLY \$74.99
then \$149.99 per month

BUY NOW

Add \$16.58 per month to
include Display Case

MODEL + CASE



PACK 1 ONLY \$74.99
then \$79.99 per month

BUY NOW



PACKS 1-6 \$799
Followed by 6 monthly packs

BUY NOW



PACKS 1-12 ONLY \$1,599
Get it all at once!

BUY NOW

<https://www.agoramodels.com/us/ferrari-250-gto/>

Shared from Jack Mugan

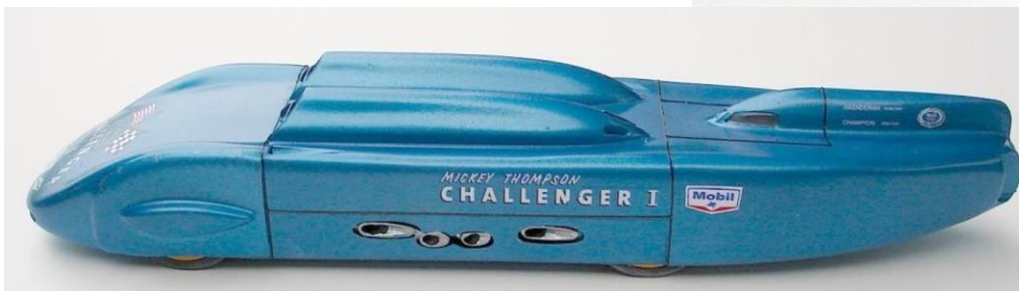
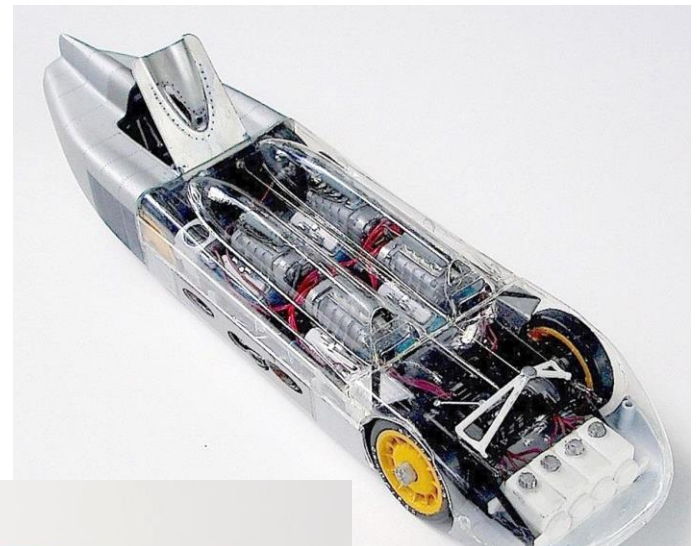
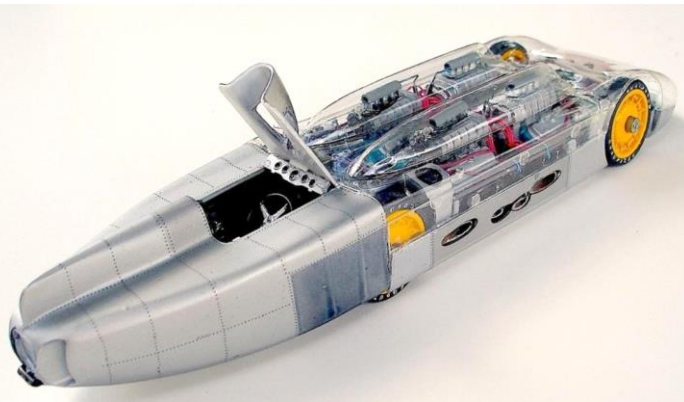
Jack recently sent me a link to the LSR (land speed record) "Top 10 Fastest Land Speed Record Cars Ever - Land Speed Record Cars" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3d2wE8SDcM>

I asked Jack about Mickey Thompson's Challenger 1 that was the first piston-engined vehicle to break 400 mph. Sadly, the Challenger 1 is not listed in this video. *"Why you may ask?"*

Jack (and Mark Box) responded. As Mark wrote: *"Mickey Thompson broke the world land speed record in 1960 by running 406 plus mph breaking a long-time record of 394 mph. However, due to mechanical issues, he was unable to make his return run backing up his first run which is required to make it an official record. So, the answer is 'YES' he broke the LSR, but he never officially held the record. He is famous for breaking the 400-mph barrier."*

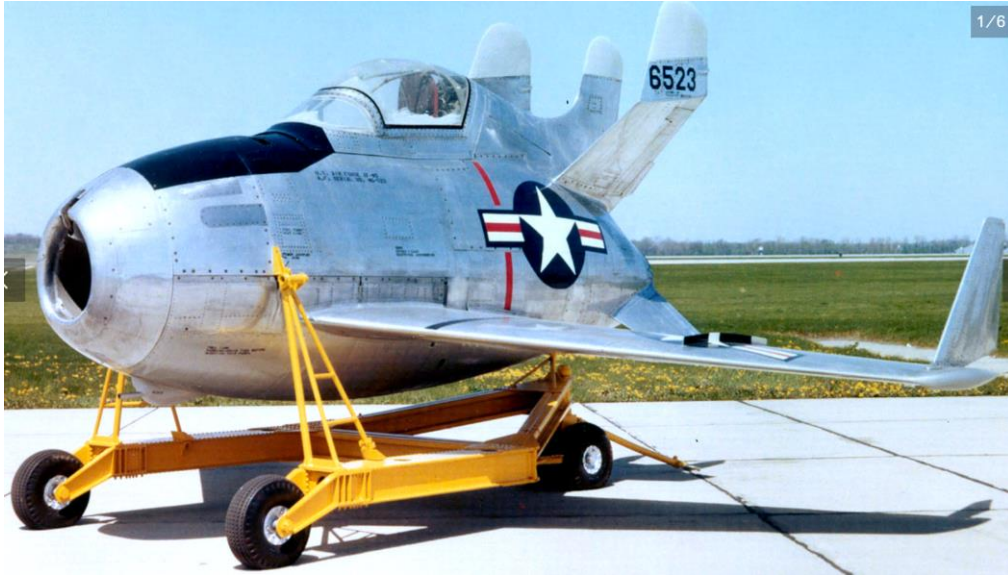
Jack built the Challenger 1 TWICE! One version includes a transparent cover for the engine. Photos are below.

With thanks to Jack! - Bill



World's Worst Airplanes - The Goblin

McDonnell XF-85 Goblin is an American prototype fighter aircraft conceived during World War II by McDonnell Aircraft. It was intended to deploy from the bomb bay of the **Convair B-36 bomber** as a parasite fighter. The XF-85's intended role was to defend bombers from hostile interceptor aircraft, a need demonstrated during World War II. McDonnell built two prototypes before the Air Force (USAF) terminated the program.



The XF-85 was a response to a USAAF requirement for a fighter to be carried within the Northrop XB-35 and B-36, then under development. This was to address the limited range of existing interceptor aircraft compared to the greater range of new bomber designs. The XF-85 was a diminutive jet aircraft featuring a distinctive potato-shaped fuselage and a forked-tail stabilizer design. The prototypes were built and underwent testing and evaluation in 1948. Flight tests showed promise in the design, but the aircraft's performance was inferior to the jet fighters it would have faced in combat, and there were difficulties in docking. The XF-85 was swiftly canceled, and the prototypes were thereafter relegated to museum exhibits. The 1947 successor to the USAAF, the United States Air Force (USAF), continued to examine the concept of parasite aircraft under three related projects following the cancellation: MX-106 "Tip Tow", FICON, and "Tom-Tom." What were these programs?



From the desk of Clarence Snyder



CORVETTE

From the desk of Clarence Snyder



Members and Friends that attended the April 2025 meeting



Members and Friends that attended the April 2025 meeting



GATOR MODELERS

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – ahernf@gmail.com
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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

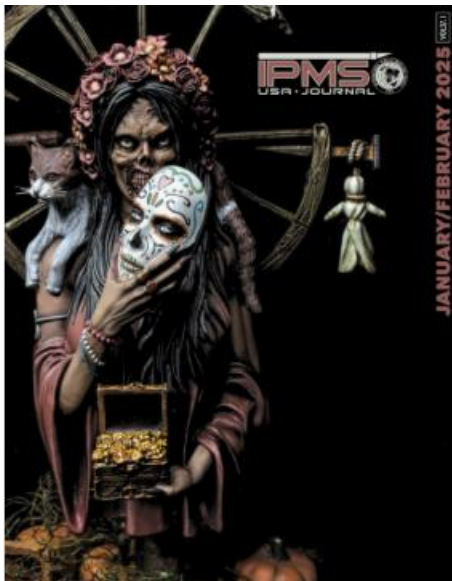
By Modelers, for Modelers



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

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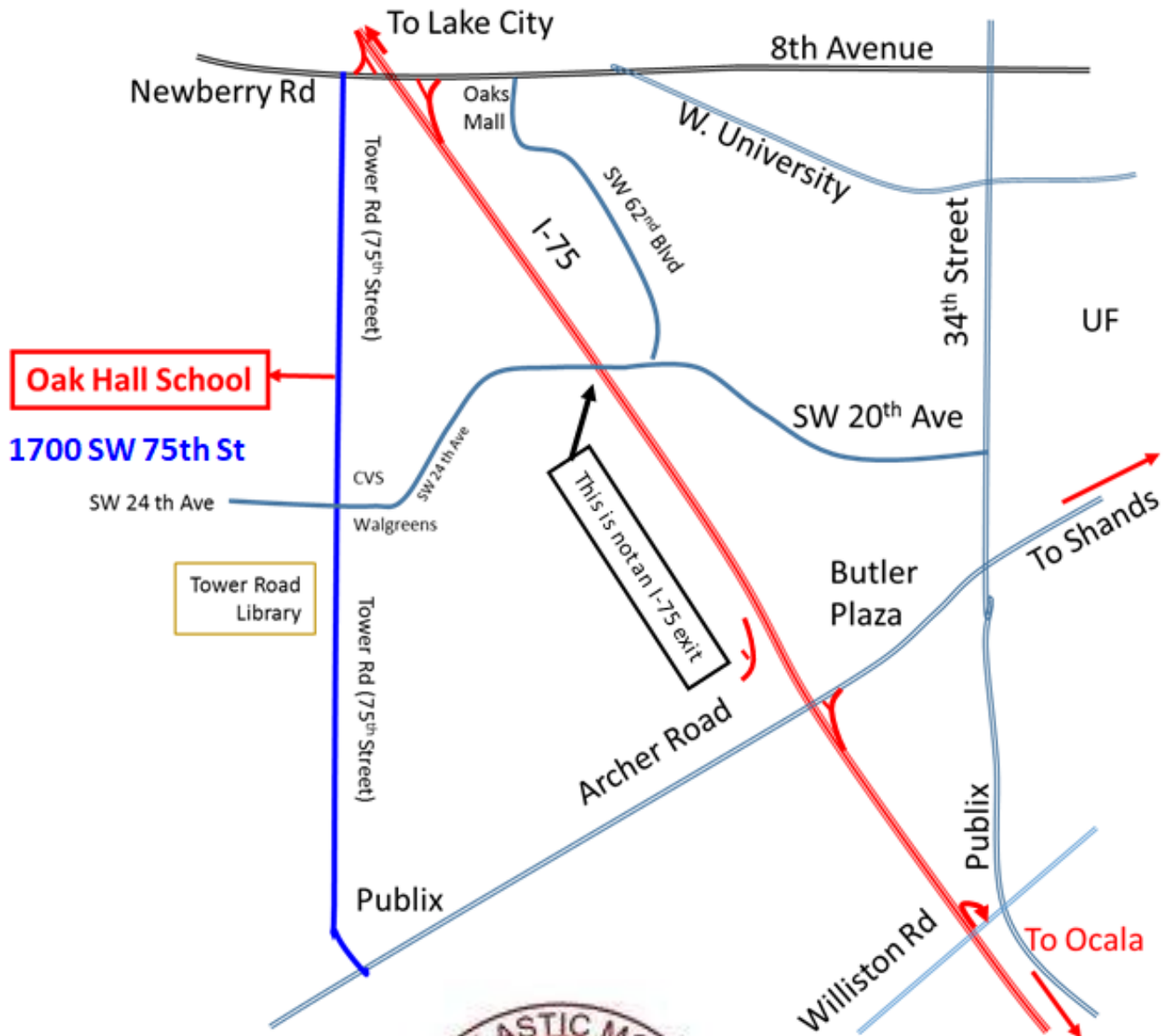
P. O. Box 1411

Riverview, FL 33568-1411

Phone: 727-537-6886

Email: manager@ipmsusa.org

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

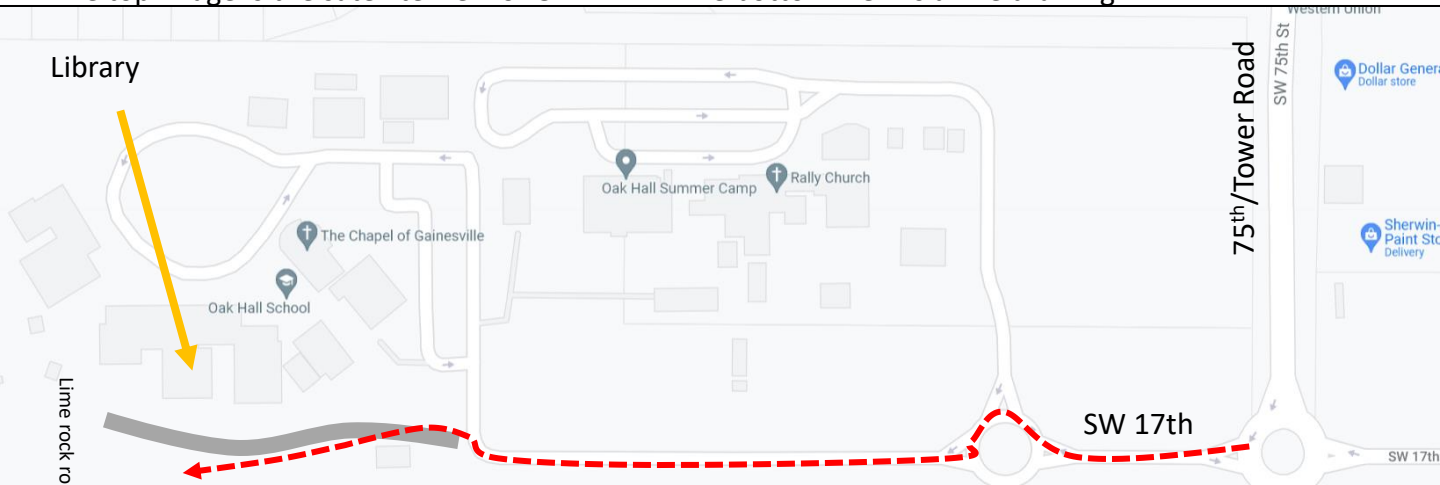


GATOR MODELERS

IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday May 20 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

May	Ships
Jun	Snow vehicles
Jul	Movie/TV
Aug.	Humor
Sep	WW1
Oct	Korean war
Nov.	3 color camouflage
Dec.	Sci-Fi



Fancy Paint ... from 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 June 2025 newsletter. - Bill