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*Inside see: The winner of the August's Intra-Club Contest of "Winter Scenes" - Frank Ahern's Focke-Wulf Fw 189. We also celebrate our late member Tracy Palmer (center).*





Club officers  
**Doug Spinney**  
President

**Chuck Lassiter**  
Vice President

**Frank Ahern**  
Secretary

**Bruce Doyle**  
Historian

**Doug Spinney**  
Webmaster

**Bill Winter**  
Treasurer &  
Newsletter  
Editor



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## Prez Sez.....

When is enough not enough?

Last year I was at an IPMS meeting in Ocala, a new member was asked how many models he had in his stash. Ten was his answer, and somebody called him a Rookie. Last week the same member made a comment that he now has over 400, then someone called him a Novice. My question is, what total amount of stash makes you an expert? So I did some internet searching on how many unbuilt models most modelers have in their unbuilt stash pile(s). The numbers were astounding, anywhere between a few up to 5000. Yes, 5000, that wasn't a typo. Can you imagine? And this was from a modeler that "said" that he isn't a vendor. A few years ago a good friend of mine and I were invited to a fellow modelers home, his collection was the largest I had ever seen. Every room, except the bathroom, (Yes, I used the bathroom, it is an age thing) had stacks of models from floor to ceiling, it was mind boggling. Then there was the three car garage, about a third of it was floor to ceiling models. I'm not an expert, but I would say his numbers were around 3000. So I can't imagine what 5000 looks like. Where do you store that many models? Okay, maybe the person that has 5000 models has a basement. For those of you that don't know what that is, it is the dark, dank place under your house that monsters dwell when you are a toddler. I suppose it is also the storage for a lot of models.

At our last meeting I was going to ask members what the numbers were in their model stash, but I didn't want to get anybody in to trouble. I have heard stories about the wife being upset about having too many model boxes sitting around the house. My stash is in two different locations, one in the model room and one in the spare bedroom. Now I don't spread out my stash to hide my numbers from the wife, I am blessed with a wife that has her own hobbies and understands having a stash, she has never said anything about me having too many models. But I do know of fellow modelers that hide models to keep their spouse from finding out. My amount of models to build is a bit under 200, I suppose that puts me someplace between Rookie and Novice. I was a little taken aback by the number, I didn't realize that I had that many. I'm thinking that I need to shed a few. But, just like almost all modelers I can't pass up a bargain, even if it a model that wasn't on my radar.

If you see me at one of our meetings and would like to share your stash numbers, I promise not to broadcast it. I'm just curious as to what kind of numbers are out there in the personal model world waiting to be built.

- Doug

September – IPMS

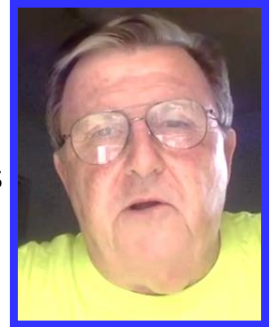
Gators

**We will meet**  
**Tuesday, September**  
**19, 2023 at 6:30 PM**  
**at**  
**Oak Hall Library**



## ***Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday August 15, 2023***

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. A total of 12 members were present, plus special guest Sue Palmer.



Doug talked about upcoming model shows, including the Blue Angels Fest in Pensacola and Modelpalooza in Kissimmee in October.

The meeting paused for members to discuss models brought for 3 categories - Show & Tell, the monthly theme contest, and a special contest for models built from Tracy Palmer's estate.

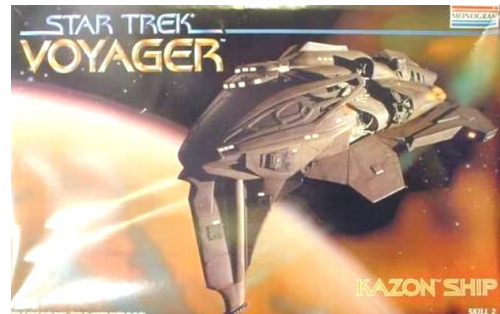
The monthly theme was Winter War and it was won by Frank Ahern with a model of the Luftwaffe observation plane FW-189 on the Eastern Front.

Next month's theme is - Operation Torch (North African campaign WW2).

The Tracy Palmer model contest was judged by Sue Palmer and won by Bill Winter. Runner-ups were Clarence Snyder and Doug Spinney.

As part of the contest members shared their memories and stories about Tracy during his time as a part of the club.

The monthly attendance raffle drawings were won by Ed Ingersoll (M4A2) and Doug Spinney (Kazon Ship).



The meeting ended at 7:50pm.

- Submitted By: *Frank Ahern, club secretary.*



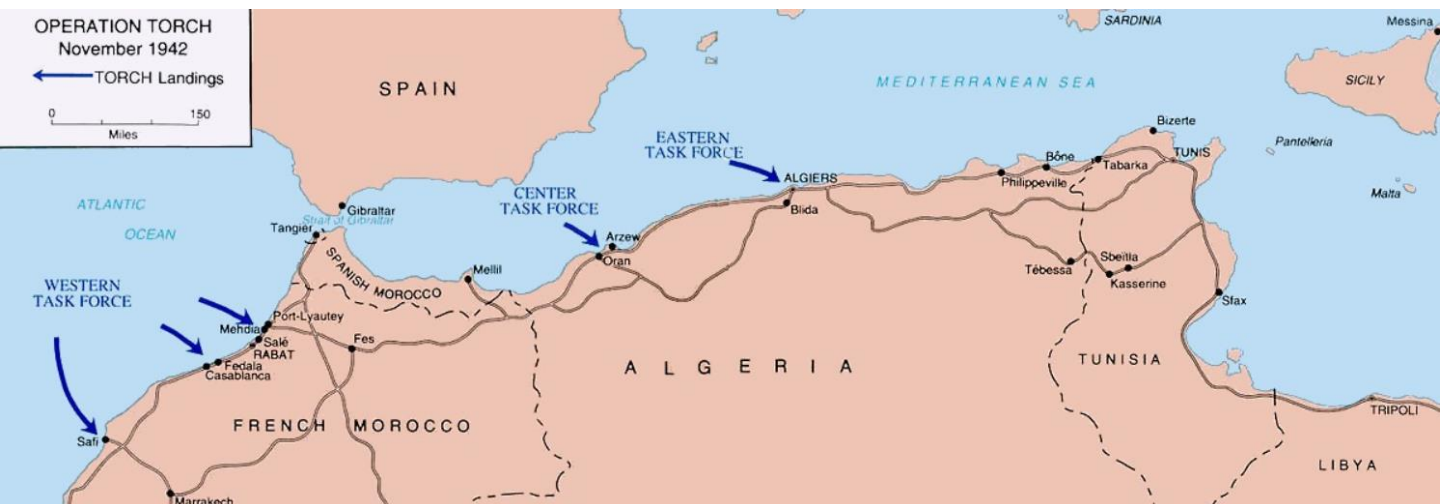


# Operation Torch



By Frank Ahern

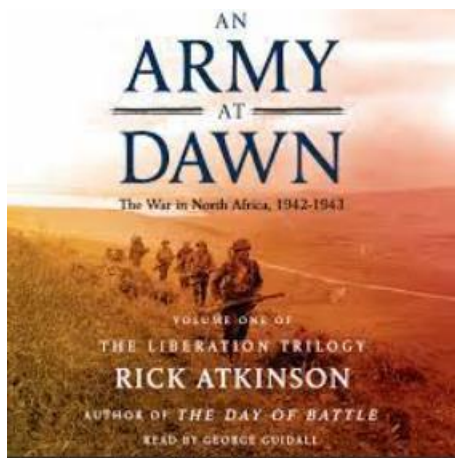
As the generation that fought WW2 disappears, it seems likely that public interest in the biggest and most important world event of our time will fade. I believe the next generation will view this war the way my generation viewed WW1 - something long ago and far away. This is despite the fact that the political and military landscape we live in today is still shaped by the events that began over 80 years ago. The rise of Nazi Germany from the ashes of WW1, the emergence of the Empire of Japan as a military power, the United States accepting its role as the leader of the free world, and the threat of Russian world dominance are just some of the major developments of that era that have kept historians writing for decades.



However, one aspect of the epic WW2 story has received relatively little attention over the years - the tentative and sometimes bumbling effort by the combined forces of the US and Britain in mid-1942 to invade North Africa. It might be considered the military equivalent of an NFL pre-season game. They called it **Operation Torch**.

## Operation Torch

Many in the US high command, especially Chief-of-Staff George Marshall, wanted to rush to England in 1942 and prepare for the immediate invasion of continental Europe. Winston Churchill convinced FDR that this would be catastrophic. Subsequent events proved he was right...



I won't try to detail all the poor planning and bad decisions of *Operation Torch*. It's already been done by Pulitzer Prize winning author Rick Atkinson in the first book of his outstanding trilogy on the war in Europe - *An Army at Dawn*. Highly recommended!

All I wanted to do was produce a model for the monthly theme contest.

The *Curtiss P-40 Warhawk* symbolized our military shortcomings as we entered the war. It was clearly inferior to the best fighters that the Germans and British had. Since I already had the excellent Airfix kit in my stash, all I needed was a set of the unique decals used by the combined Allied forces in North Africa.



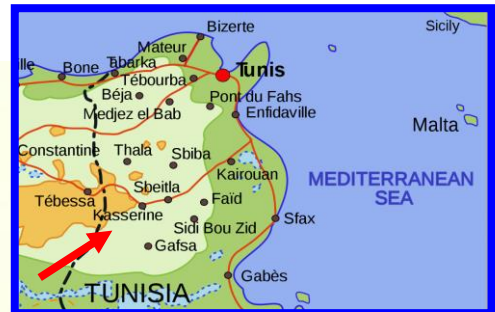
The yellow band around the American star and British roundel was designed to show solidarity between the two joint combatants. The US also adopted the British camouflage scheme and the use of a fin slash on the vertical stabilizer. Neither were used after *Operation Torch*.



## Operation Torch



Despite our slow start in North Africa, including the disaster at Kasserine Pass highlighted in the movie *Patton*, the 'Army at Dawn' eventually woke up and became the force that freed Europe from the grip of Hitler. Hopefully that will never be forgotten.



Frank Ahern's Focke-Wulf Fw 189 – WINNER of the August in-club contest “winter scenes.”





Don Martin's completed Tamiya JSU-152 (1:35 scale) – Used an Aber metal barrel and metal Friul tracks.



Note the beautifully applied winter whitewash scheme.



"Winter" theme contestant



Doug Spinney's completed Tamiya Leopard 2A6 (1:35 scale) – Used San Xiu metal tracks.



"Winter" theme contestant



Bob Lundeen's completed Tamiya Sd. Kfz. 232 Schwerer Panzerspähwagen (1:35 scale) – Stuck in mud diorama.



"Winter" theme contestant

**Schwerer Panzerspähwagen 8Rad Sdkfz 232**

1:35 MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES NO.36  
1351999-118 (1/35) KNO.36  
ドイツ8輪重装甲車 Sdkfz 232  
ドイツ8輪重装甲車 Sdkfz 232





Bill's Tamiya T-34/76 (1:35 scale) – winter scene – used hydrated lime for snow.

"Winter" theme contestant





Bruce Doyle's completed Matchbox Brewster Buffalo (1:72 scale).



"Winter" theme contestant



We dearly miss our friend **Tracy Palmer**. To celebrate Tracy and his love for plastic modeling and all of the people that Tracy helped, Sue Palmer visited the IPMS Gators' meeting on August 15. The officers took Sue to dinner before the meeting.



Some of the members in attendance are pictured with Sue (from left to right): Clarence Snyder, Chuck Lassiter (IPMS Gators VP), Bob Lundeen, Doug Spinney (IPMS Gators President), Sue Palmer, Mike Martinez, Don Martin, Ed Ingersoll, Frank Ahern (IPMS Gators Secretary), and Errol Whisler.

The models pictured on the following pages were built from Tracy's estate.



Tracy Palmer's completed SIGA Model North American FJ-1 Fury (1:72 scale) – Tracy built this for the 2017 collectors' day – rockets and jets WWII and the 1940's (presented by Bruce Doyle).



Tracy Palmer memorial build project





Frank Ahern's Dragon M4A3 (1:35 scale) – Built for Tracy's memorial.



Tracy Palmer memorial build project





Chuck Lassiter's completed Monogram Custis Hawk 75 (1:72 scale)  
– Custom decals – used Tracy's cockpit.



Tracy Palmer memorial build project





Errol Whisler's in-progress Tamiya Panzer III (1:35 scale) – Built for Tracy's display.



Tracy Palmer memorial build project





Clarence Snyder's Camaro (1:25 scale)





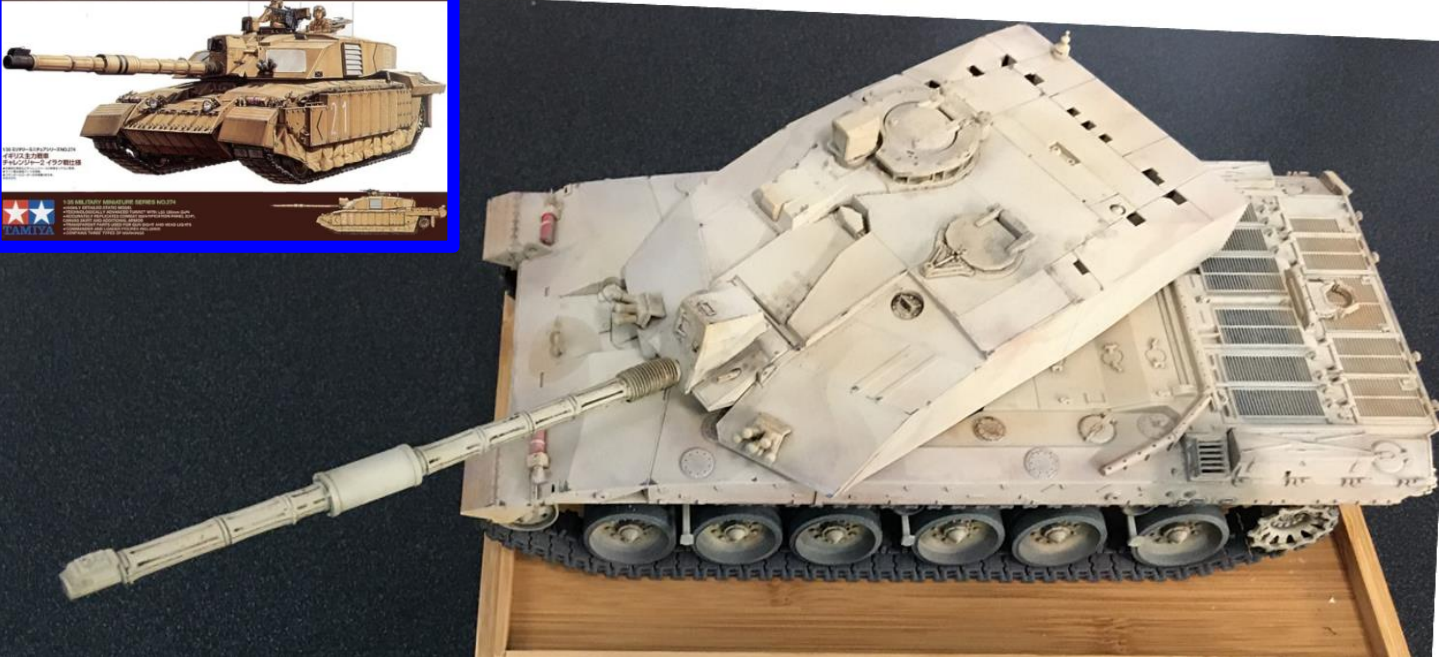
Ed Ingersoll's completed Tamiya Sd.Kfz 222 Leichter Panzerspähwagen (4x4) (1:35 scale) – drilled out barrels and mufflers.



Tracy Palmer memorial build project



Bill's in-progress Tamiya Challenger 2 (1:35 scale) – back dated to an early Challenger 2; built for Tracy's display.





## Tracy Palmer and Our Guest Columnist Fred Hbrky

Dear Frank Ahern, et. al.; \*

Pardon me for butting into your Gator Group, but I DO have sort of a connection. (*My wife is a Gator, class of 1959.*). But anyway, I'm the guy who Frank asked if he could use one of my emails to stuff this issue of your Gator Modelers newsletter.

I did try, but in my writing style it became such a war story that I felt decided NOT to send it. But today on noting the mention of the loss of gator member Tracy Palmer, it was mentioned that he was an armor modeler, despite being retired Air Force, stirred this response.

There was an instant connection, since I'm also a retired four-button-[blue-suiter](#). (Actually, not so much that; it was usually either green Nomex panamas (the flight suit) or O.D. fatigues). My career was mostly in the non-Zoomy-Zoomy Air Force called Trash Carrier ...what we used to nickname tactical airlift ...beginning with dollar-nineteens (C-119) almost seventy years ago.



Even flew the C-141 jet, but that strategic, long range airlifter was in depot Flight Test, not operationally, But I digress.



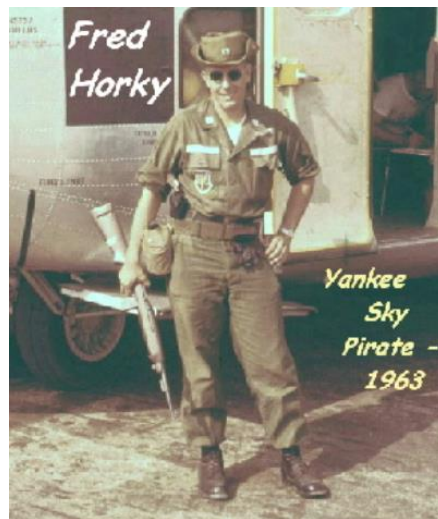


## Guest Columnist Fred Horky

In between I flew both the -123 and -130 on extended visits to the Land of the Burning Outhouse ...and the Herk (C-130) from "Berlin to Bangkok to Bukavu", to use a favorite mantra. (Anybody who has been to 'nam will understand the "why" of the expression.)

Also France: for my cross-cockpit shot below, I reached into my helmet bag for the camera while Jim Richards, my copilot, was taking his turn flying the airplane on a training sortie. We were on a three-month squadron "rotation" deployment to France, This was 1964, before Charles de Gaulle kicked American Forces out in 1967 ...my version on that being he had finally gotten secure enough to not worry about the Germans coming over the border again, as they had kicked French butt in 1870, 1914, and 1940.

There is an illusion of altitude in my picture: our then-brand-new-Herks were actually flying at fairly low level over the "bocage country" of Normandy: tiny fields divided by the thick hedge rows. Armor modelers will be able to quote line and verse about how those hedges had stopped advance of the Normandy invasion, until a sergeant invented "tusks" welded up of Rommel's beach defenses onto the snouts of our Shermans, so they could go THROUGH these hedges, instead of getting picked going off OVER them.



But about **Tracy**, who started my extended reverie. Finding his obit was remarkably easy. There I found how tragically young he had been when he passed: he was born eight years AFTER I RETIRED!

Just another reminder of just how old I am....

The obit picture of **MASTER sergeant Tracy Palmer** sort of made me feel like I knew him. And while when I was building models before just talking about them, I DID build ONE tank that somebody gave to me a half-century ago ...the truly OLD Renwal Patton in 1/32nd. (Just checked: the kit was already old when I got it: Scalemates says it dates back to 1955!).

Please pardon my buttinsky intrusion, but I felt compelled to write..... **FRED**





## Guest Columnist Fred Hbrky

\* I've always wondered who in the hell "et. al." was. So, I looked it up. It turns out that we can blame Romans.... "Et al." is short for the Latin term "et alia," which means "and others." It is used in academic citations when referring to a source with multiple authors.

..P.S. The "Sky Pirate" reference in my signature block picture goes back to that 1963 tour when the C-123's plus Air Commando B-26's at AT-28's were the first USAF resources "in country" ....



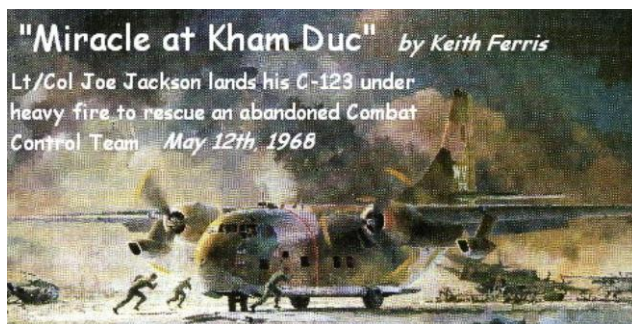
I deployed with the 2nd C-123 squadron to Danang in April of 1963. (Took us ten days and eighty hours flying time just to herd those old turkeys from North Carolina to Danang!)

But that was so early that nobody in the 'states even knew we were there, other than our families. But the lady radio propagandist in Hanoi had noticed. (She was later known to America troops as "Hanoi Hannah") She announced our arrival in South Vietnam as being the "Yankee Sky Pirates".



So we took the phrase as a badge of honor, some guys even having the phrase embroidered onto (illegal) patches to be sewn onto our (illegal) locally made Aussie bush hats, like mine in the picture.

My signature block picture was taken at a place that later became quite famous. While quiet enough for a hero picture when I was there, later Kham Duc special forces camp became quite famous ....several years later a C-123 pilot even won the Medal of Honor there! My text is added to famous aviation artist Keith Ferris painting of a truly Big Brass Balls action ....read more here .... <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1736007/remembering-a-legend-air-force-medal-of-honor-recipient-col-joe-jackson/>





## Guest Columnist Fred Horky

About what we called our "Go To Hell" hat ...the title for the expected response to anybody pointing out that it was non-regulation ...when I left 'nam I threw my rather sweat-soaked hat (and its patch) in a waste basket. Wish I hadn't: authentic such items like that are very collectible these days .....

So anyway, if you've gotten this far; like the guy says on the ESPN sports talk show, "...PARDON THE INTERRUPTION!"

One last picture: the Charlie Ace Deuce Trey at Pope AFB, just before I thrashed it all the way to 'nam in April 1963



### Info on using spray cans from Andy Renshaw

- Warm the can in the sink with hot tap water before spraying. Warm paint always flows better. Just fill up the sink, let the can sit in it while you gather the rest of your stuff.
- For primer, check out the various automotive primers available. There are some great grey primers, as well as white. Look in Autozone, etc. Some of the greys I have found spray as nice as Tamiya but at a fraction of the cost!
- For White, also check out the various rustolium/kylon plastic compatible whites, including gloss. Many of these can be sprayed on as smooth as the best model paint, right from the can. And again, a fraction of the cost.

As an aside, at present my favorite white combo is using a white rattle can primer then Model Master Gloss white (airbrush). I also try to follow up with a UV protective clearcoat (Gunze/MR Hobby makes some) as the white will yellow over time if exposed to sunlight. Later! Andy



## Clarence Snyder's GTO



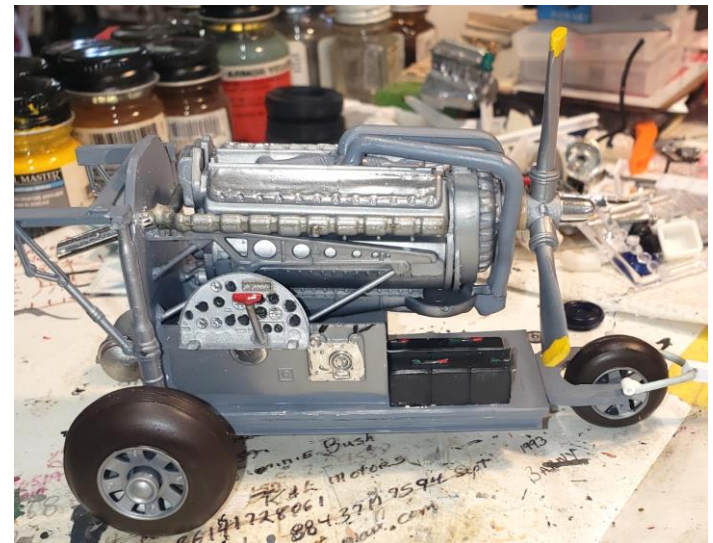


Clarence Snyder's completed AMT 442 Oldsmobile (1:25 scale) –  
Made his friend's 442 – cut off the top to make a convertible.





## From the desk of Clarence Snyder





From the desk of Clarence Snyder



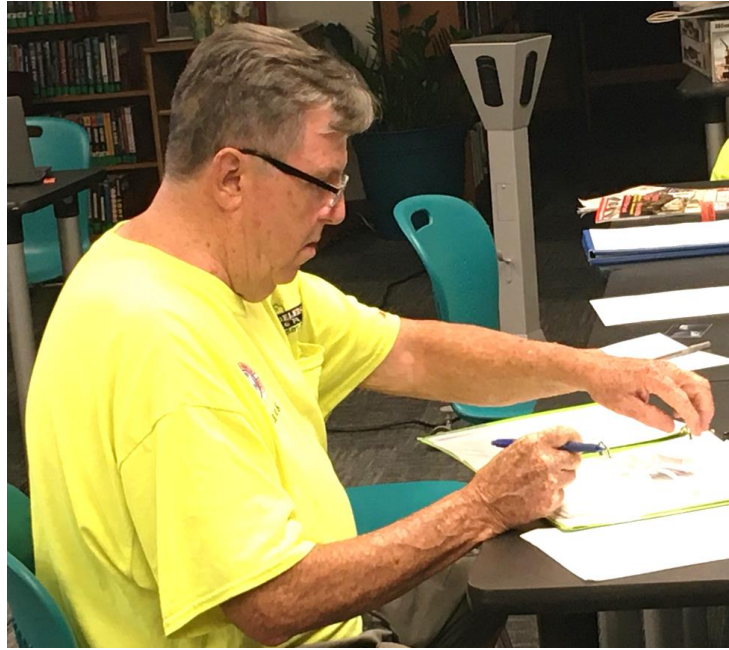
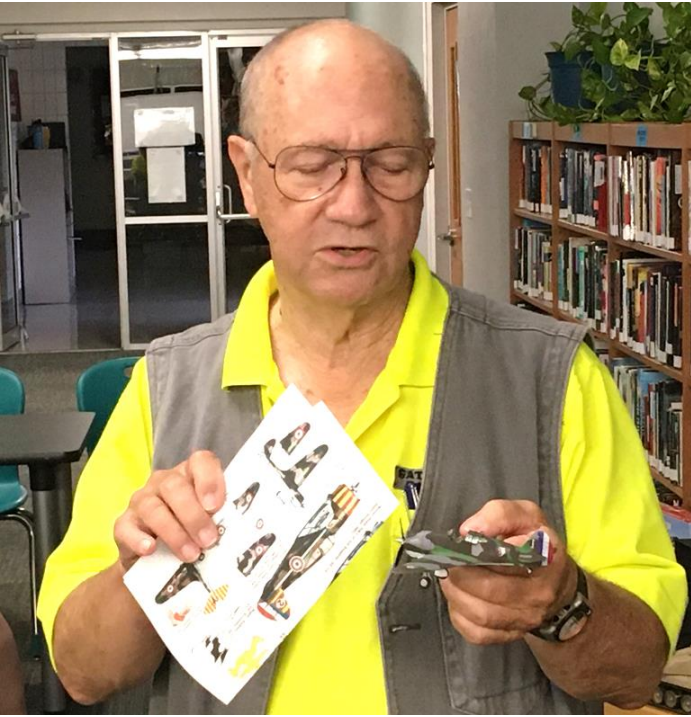


From the desk of Mark Box





## Members and Friends at the August meeting





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!

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](mailto:www.robshobbyworld@MSN.com); Mon.-Fri.: 10 AM to 5:30PM; Sat.: 9AM to 4PM; Sun: Closed.

Please check out [WWW.IPMSUSA.ORG](http://WWW.IPMSUSA.ORG) for the latest information from IPMS National Headquarters and for information about joining IPMS.

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**

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. 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.

## IPMS Membership



### 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:

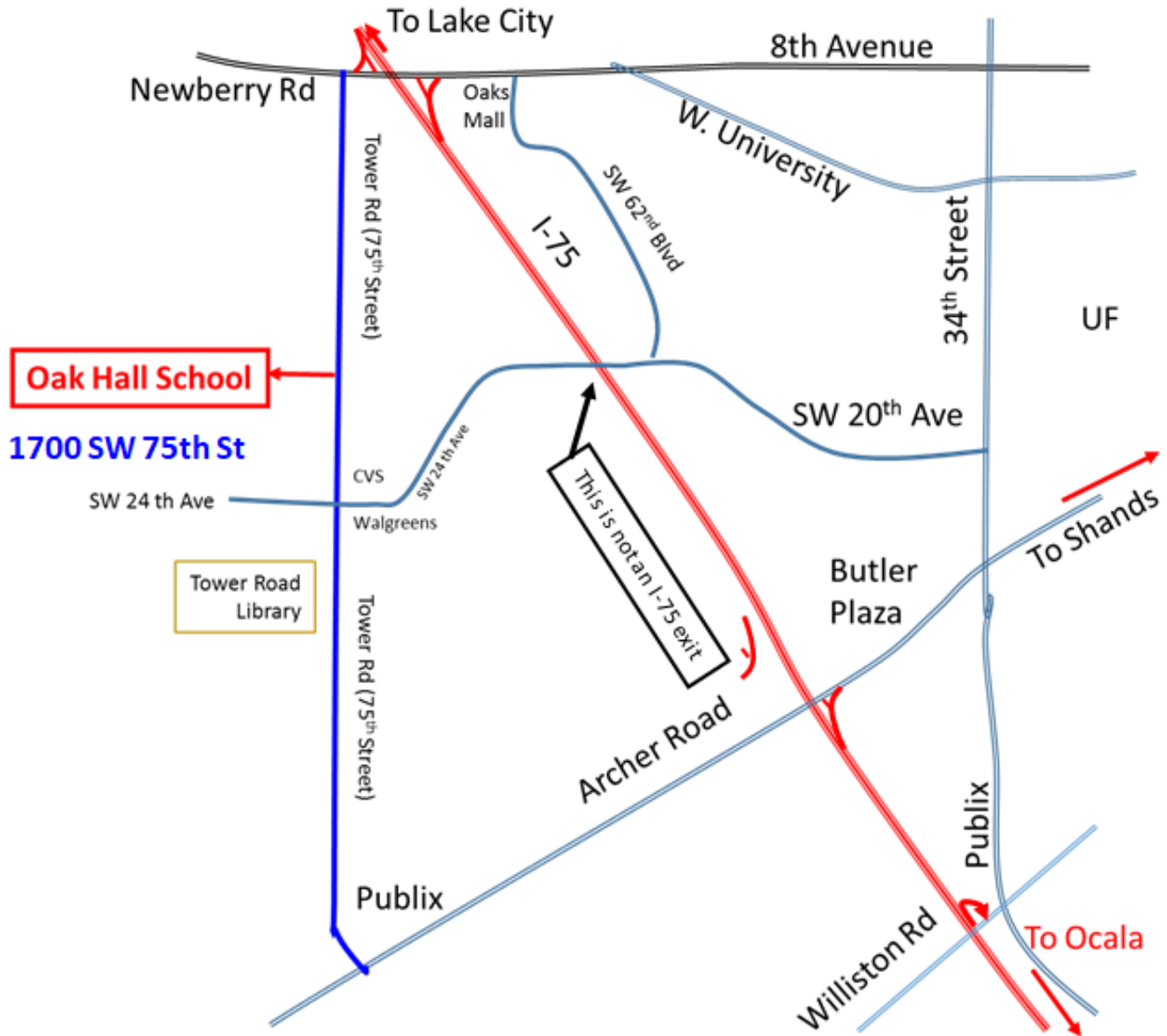
City:  State:

Zip Code:

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



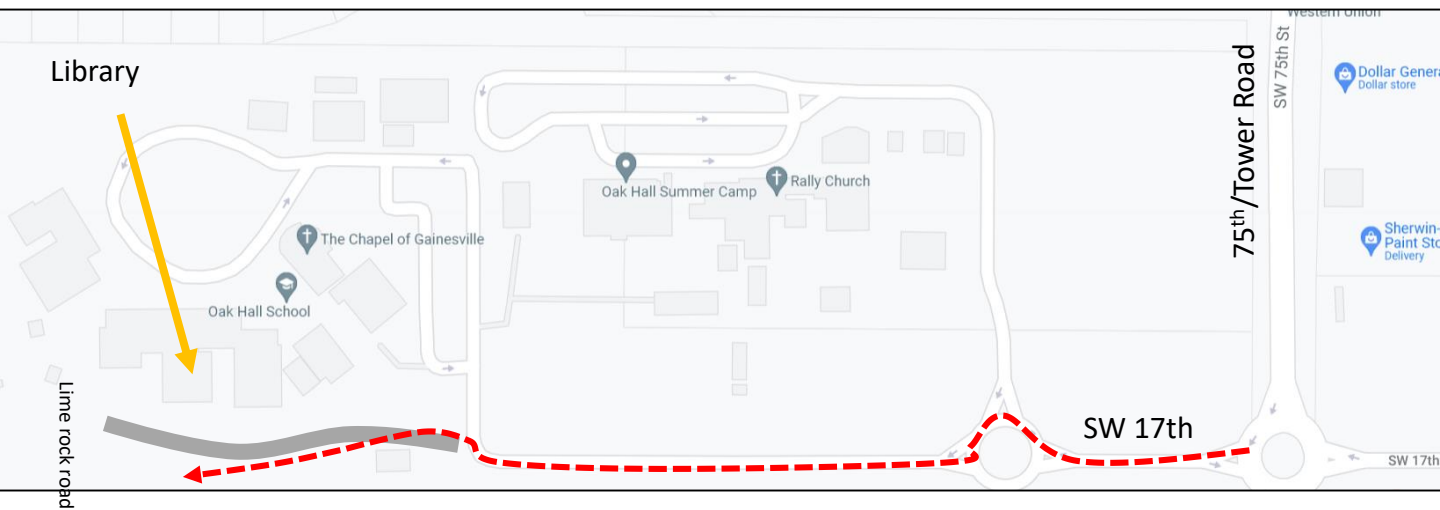
## Directions to OAK HALL (1700 SW 75<sup>th</sup> St, Gainesville, FL)



### A note about monthly themes for 2023

- Sept. *Operation Torch WW2*
- Oct. Dioramas
- Nov. Sci-Fi

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

***Dear Readers – If you sent me something for the IPMS Gators' newsletter and I missed it, please let me know. I'll put it in the October newsletter. - Bill***



**Wild Paint ... from Jack Muga!**

