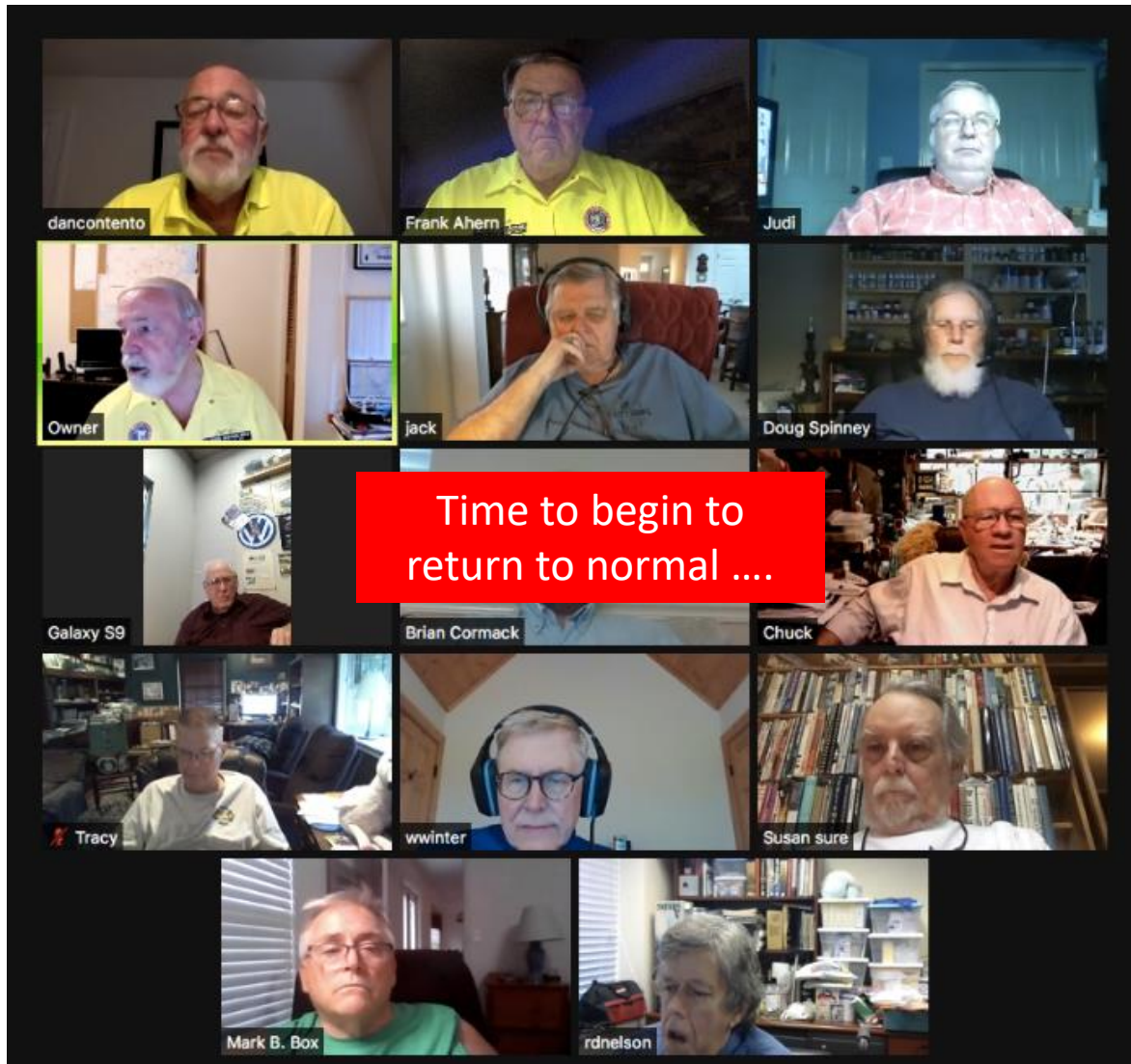




www.gatormodelers.org



Members and guest attending the April IPMS Gators Zoom Meeting!

See inside for details of the **Club Reopening Party
on Saturday, May 29 at 11 AM**



Club officers

Dan Contento

President

Chuck Lassiter

Vice President

Frank Ahern

Secretary

Bruce Doyle

Historian

Doug Spinney

Webmaster

Bill Winter

Treasurer &
Newsletter Editor

www.gatormodelers.org

Prez Sez..... By Dan Contento

It's official, we will have our first live get together at 11:00 AM on Saturday May 29th at the Condo. *Please see page 4 of this newsletter for details.* We ask members to bring their favorite "COVID-19" build (one model only please), contribute to the party (see page 4 for what we need) and RSVP to Bill (winter@pathology.ufl.edu).



Besides one model to "show and tell," we will have a club sponsored gift exchange. If you have COVID concerns or can't make that date, let us know that you wish to have a model selected for you (our choice) and we will do so.

Our normal Zoom meeting will be held May 18th and one discussion we will have is whether to try a zoom/live meeting combo. Mike says it can be done and it's not too difficult.

The first live meeting will be June 15th at Oak Hall, but we haven't verified which building yet. The usual Library may be under some renovation, so we can meet in another building.

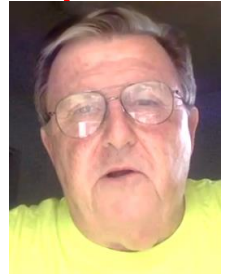
Looking forward to seeing everyone in person.

Dan

[May Meeting – IPMS Gators –](#)
Look for a zoom address from Frank Ahern.

Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Frank Ahern - Club secretary



President Dan Contento called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. There were 13 members and one guest, former member Rick Nelson (see cover screenshot). The meeting began with discussion about the upcoming live gathering at the Hardt/Winter condo. It is scheduled for Saturday May 29 beginning at 11am. The club will pay for pizza, and provide the kits for a kit-exchange game. Members are encouraged to bring only one completed model for a show and tell. There will not be a judged contest. The next newsletter page has details about RSVP'ing and bringing food/beverage contributions for the party.

The first live club meeting is scheduled for June 15, but Mike Martinez has reported that Oak Hall school has raised the possibility of a schedule conflict over the use of the library on that date. If that is the case, several options would be considered including changing the night of the meeting or delaying the first meeting until July. The Board of Directors will seek to get an answer from Mike and try to resolve the problem. **NOTE: Mike told the Officers that the June 15 meeting is expected to be in the STUDENT CENTER at OAK HALL. See the maps towards the end of the newsletter.**

Ed Ingersolle asked if the club wanted to sponsor an event category in the upcoming National IPMS show in Las Vegas. The consensus of the members in attendance was that the club should sponsor an event. There was discussion about which categories were still available. Two possible categories were selected and Ed will contact the show and see which judging category the club will be given. Money from the sponsorships is used to offset the cost of the show.

A number of members attended the rescheduled Jaxon model show on April 10 and reported on their reaction to the new venue at a church in north Jacksonville. Bob Lundeen said that he won two silver medals and Clarence Snyder won a silver and bronze. A complete report on the show was written by gold medal winner Don Martin in the latest newsletter.

Members were given the opportunity to show and tell projects they are working on or have completed. Bruce Doyle talked about his efforts to finish his collection of X-planes as displayed in a poster from 1953. He is waiting on a kit of the X-92 he bought on Ebay. He also showed his progress on a kit of the Mustang II which will complete his collection of the various versions of the Mustang.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Frank Ahern on the plans made by the Japanese at the end of WW2 to use the I-400 series submarines carrying attack planes to bomb the Panama Canal and unleash biological agents on the US. The meeting ended at 8:05pm— **Frank Ahern**

Tracy Palmer requested an addendum to the report to reflect a correction to information he provided during the meeting regarding a military museum in South Carolina. The correct link to the museum is - <https://www.scmilitarymuseum.com/>

WHAT: **IPMS Gator's Hobby Club Reopening Party**

WHEN: May 29, 2021, Saturday, starting at 11 AM

WHERE: The Condo, 2566 SW 14th Drive, Gainesville, FL

HOW: To participate, please RSVP by Monday, May 24. Once you RSVP, a map will be emailed to you.

IPMS Gators' members are invited to a re-opening party to be held in Gainesville. The festivities include:

1] Displaying your favorite COVID-19 build (for space limitations, please bring only 1 model);

2] Pizza party;

3] Door-prize model exchange.

For the "door-prize model exchange," models/supplies previously purchased by the club as door prizes will be bagged and distributed to attendees to choose/exchange/swap in the same format as used in the Christmas parties. Everybody that chooses so, will go home with a model. If you cannot attend but want to participate in the "door-prize model exchange," contact the club and we will hold a gift/model for you.

While the club is providing pizza, we ask members to bring the following items. Contact Bill (winter@pathology.ufl.edu) **NOW** about what you would like to bring as Bill will manage the list. We need to know by May 24 what you are bringing. Some members as listed below that have already indicated what they will bring.

	Club member provider
2L Diet Coke	_____
2L Coke	_____
2L Sprite	_____
Fruit bowl	_____
Salad (large)	Frank
Water	_____
Ice – 20 lbs	_____
2 coolers for ice	_____
Paper napkins	_____
Paper plates	_____
Plastic cups	_____
Dessert #1:	_____
Dessert #2:	_____

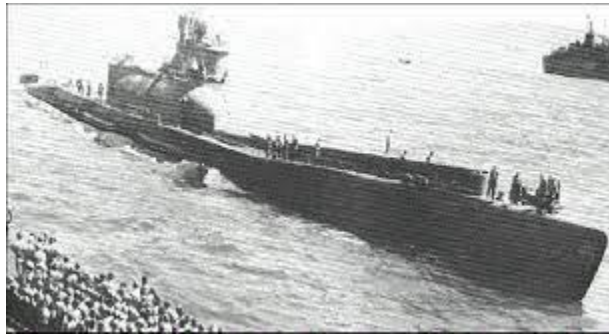
Remember to RSVP by May 24 to: winter@pathology.ufl.edu. See you May 29!



Panama Plot

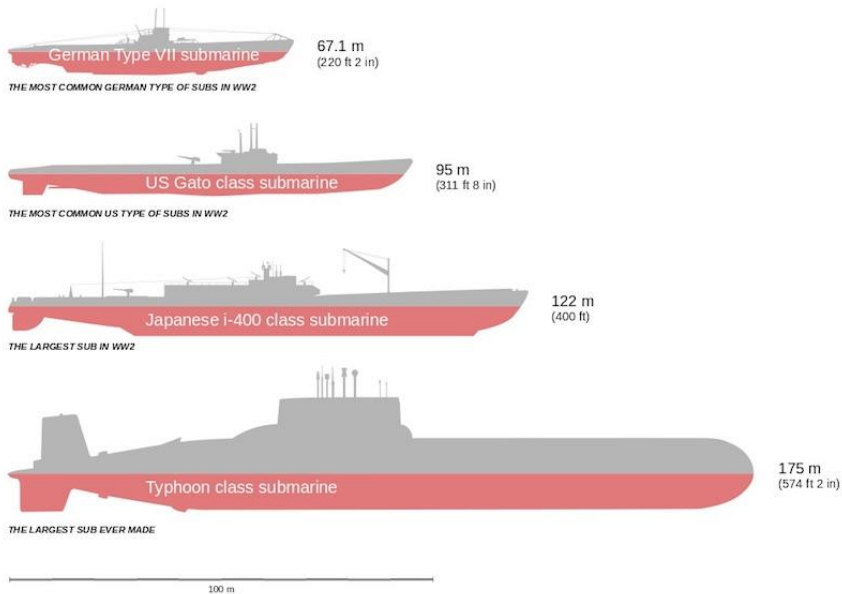
By Frank Ahern

One measure of the desperation felt by each side of the Pacific theater of WW2 is the lengths they would go to try and deliver the knockout punch. The US threw its immense technical and industrial might into the creation of a nuclear weapon. The Japanese, meanwhile, had hatched a plan to use their superiority in submarine warfare to develop and build a sub so big it could carry several attack



planes. In effect, it was an underwater aircraft carrier.

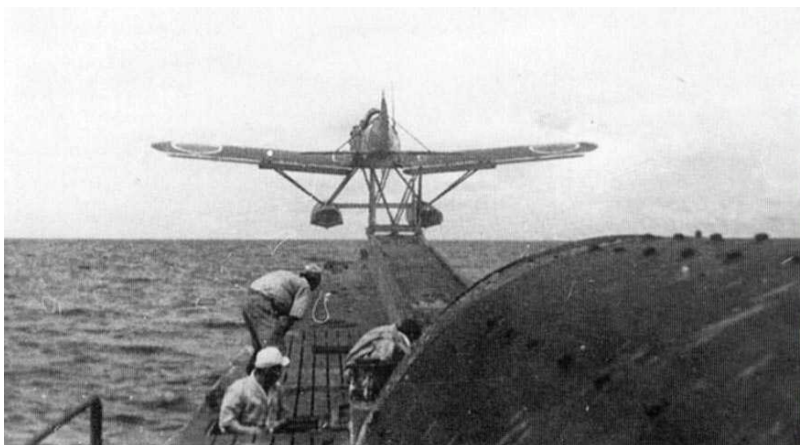
This idea was first proposed after the battle of Guadalcanal, when the Japanese general staff, including Admiral Yamamoto, realized that they couldn't stop the American advance with conventional weapons. What resulted was the I-400 series of





Panama Plot

submarines which were more than twice the size of the typical US sub and capable of carrying up to 4 attack aircraft. The theory was that a fleet of such subs could do substantial damage to vital US coastal facilities such as the Panama Canal, and cause havoc in major American cities along the east and west coast.

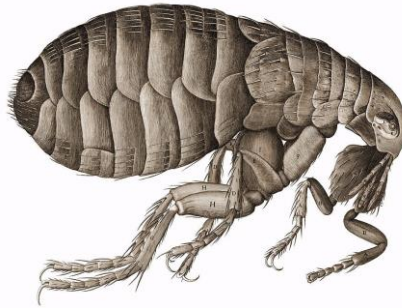


GATOR MODELERS

Now that we have experienced the chaos and fear of a pandemic we can appreciate the evil genius of a plan to use the bombs of the planes from the I-400 super subs to deliver a payload of millions of fleas infected with bubonic plague on cities like San Diego and Los Angeles. This plan had already been tested on Chinese cities by the infamous Japanese germ warfare unit #731, and it worked.



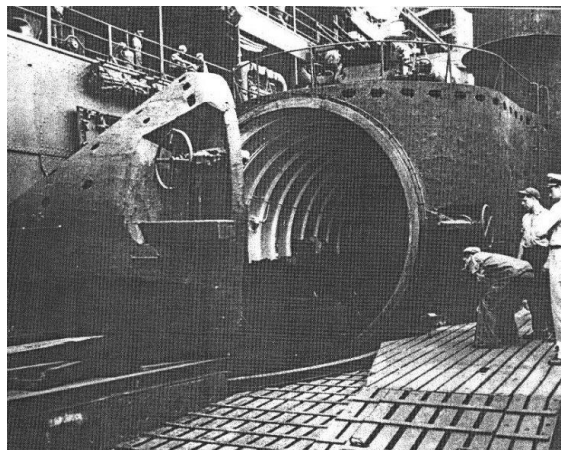
Panama Plot

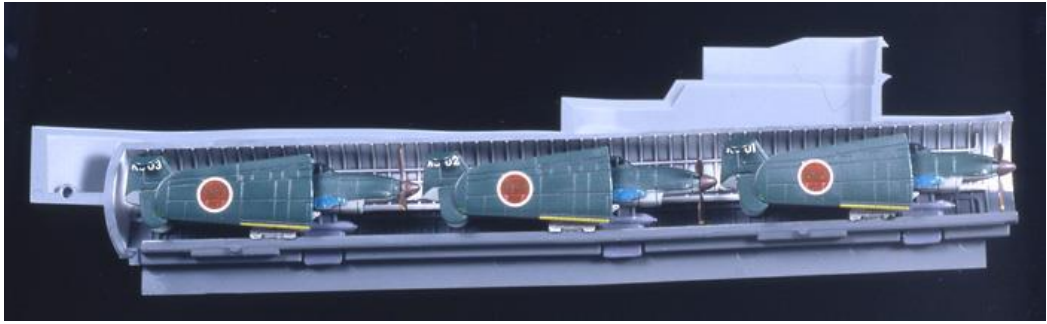


The Japanese didn't think they could win the war at this stage but hoped to avoid the unconditional surrender demanded by the U.S., which they feared would destroy their nation. The threat of the I-400 subs were to be a negotiating tool during surrender talks.



This was no idle threat. Building the I-400 series submarines was a huge undertaking that commenced in early 1943. Parallel to that was an order to aircraft maker Aichi to design and build a bomber that could be stowed in a sealed hanger on the deck of the massive sub.





This required a design that could be folded and disassembled into a shape no bigger than the arc of its propeller. Only one copy of this remarkable plane, the M6A1 Seiran, survived the war and is on display at the Smithsonian Air & Space museum in Washington DC.



I backed into this project by picking up Tamiya's kit of the Aichi M6A1-K Nanzan at Bill Winter's recent auction. This was a trainer version of the sub bomber, which showed how serious the Japanese were about this mission.



Once I was hooked by the story, I got the Tamiya Seiran kit and a small scale, 1/700, Hobby Boss model of the I-400 sub for comparison. (All the kits were good quality and went together without undue complications.



One of the most amazing aspects of this story is how it ended. Our knockout punch, the atomic bombs, ended the war before any of the planned I-400 missions could be completed. This included the last plot, which was to be a Pearl Harbor-like attack on the US fleet at the Ulithi atoll using Seiran bombers wearing American markings. All of these plans were unknown to our high command prior to the end of the war.



The final chapter was written when all 3 of the existing I-400 subs were scuttled, after the US had thoroughly inspected them, to prevent the Soviet Union from learning the secrets of the weapons that could have altered the course of WW2

Russian KV-1 by Trumpeter by Doug Spinney



Tamiya White Primer with Flat Black preshade
Painted with Tamiya Dark Yellow

San Xin Models metal tracks weathered with AMMO Track Wash
Since Germany used captured tanks frequently I used German markings

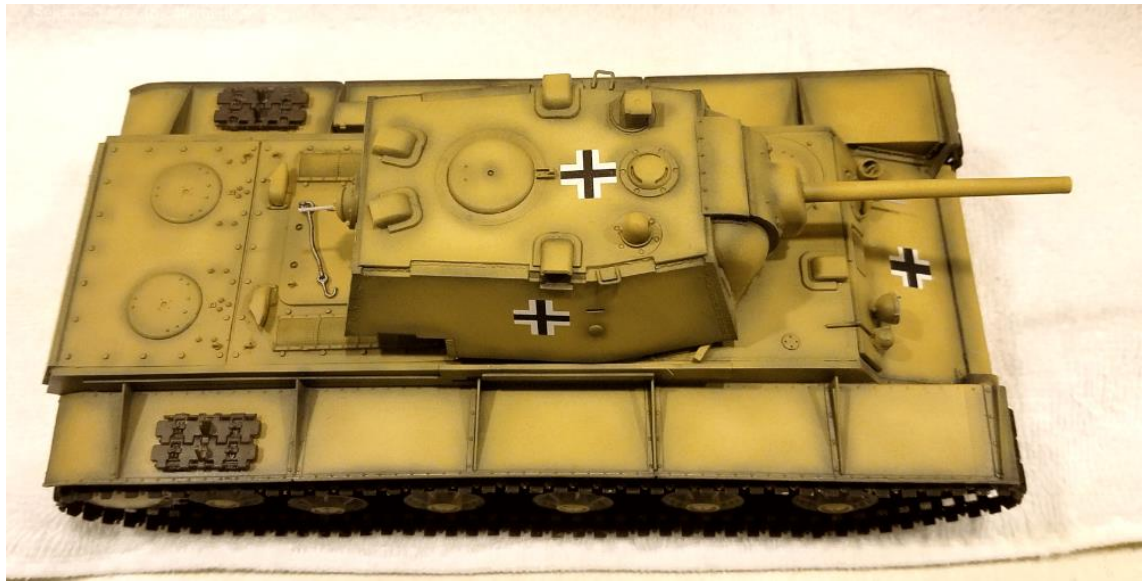
Select an area to comment on



Select an area to comment on



Russian KV-1 by Trumpeter by Doug Spinney



Chinese PLZ-83A SPH by Doug Spinney



Painted with Tamiya White Primer with Flat Black preshade
 2:1 mix of Tamiya Flat Green and Olive Green, which came out as Lime Green.
 Not the color I was looking for but I kind of like it.



Chinese PLZ-83A SPH by Doug Spinney



The Type 83 is a 152 mm self-propelled howitzer used by the People's Liberation Army of China.

This self-propelled gun system was developed by Factory 674 (Harbin First Machinery Building Group Ltd) and based on a tracked chassis. The project's development started in the late 1970s and the prototype was completed in February 1980, followed by a second in 1981. Production was authorized in 1983 under the designation Type 83. The first production run started in May 1983 and the first public display was on 1 October 1984. This self-propelled gun is similar to the 2S3, with a modified version of the Type 66 gun and a Type 321 utility tracked chassis and is the first modern self-propelled gun in service with the People's Liberation Army. Production ended in 1990, after only 78 examples were built.

Unlike the U.S. M109 howitzer, this self-propelled gun is made from steel and not aluminum alloy. It has six wheels on each side with the engine is in the forward hull. There is stowage for 30 shells, included a Chinese version of the Krasnopol laser ammunition. The elevation is 0-62° giving a range of 17 km. There is also base-bleed ammunition with improved range, cluster and fragmentation projectiles. A secondary weapon, a 12.7 mm machine gun, is also mounted on the turret. The engine is a 520 hp (382 kW) WR4B-12V150LB four-stroke, liquid-cooled diesel engine. The maximum speed is 55 km/h and range 450 km.

Adapted from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Type_83_SPH

Hollywood Heroes



Robert Preston

By Fred Horky

This month's Hollywood Heroes is from Fred Horky, former IPMS president, newsletter guru, historian and retired AF pilot. Fred has taken an interest in this column and I am pleased to allow him to contribute whenever he is so moved.



Hollywood Heroes has showcased a long series of actors of a different era who served their country honorably during WWII. In doing so, beyond the risk of war, they also put their careers at risk in a very competitive business: there were no guarantees of success on return to either the Broadway stage, or Hollywood!

One of them was Robert Preston. Born in 1918, he had already been a featured actor in several "B" movies when war came. Today, older readers will remember him for many roles in prewar movies

One was a steamy (for the era) "South Seas" 1940 epic titled "Typhoon", with Dorothy Lamourolder readers should certainly remember her!



Preston is also remembered for prewar playing a "Mountie", or Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman, in 1940's Gary Cooper movie titled North West Mounted Police. (But he did NOT play the title character in the mid-1950's TV series "Sergeant Preston of the Yukon"!)

Hollywood Heroes

Robert Preston will always be best remembered as “Professor Harold Hill” ...the role he created on the Broadway stage as the con man salesman of children’s’ musical instruments and band uniforms in “The Music Man”. When it was made into the wildly popular movie, creator Meredith Wilson had INSISTED that Preston transfer the character to film. (Studio boss Jack Warner had wanted Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, or Cary Grant to play the part. Can you imagine ANYONE besides Preston as “Professor Harold Hill”?)

“The Music Man” remains one of the most popular stage and screen musicals of all time, the ultimate compliment paid of being the movie made again, decades later, with Matthew Broderick as Hill.



Preston was born Robert Preston Meservey in Newton Massachusetts. Beginning a career in acting early, he went on to divide his time between stage and movies fairly evenly. On the advice of Hollywood insiders he dropped his last name to be known professionally as Preston.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor the actor was twenty-one years old and just starting his career as a Hollywood actor. Despite the hazard of possibly losing his place on the slippery career pyramid, he didn’t hesitate to enlist in the Army Air Forces, and Lt Robert Meservey went on to serve in Europe as a junior intelligence officer in the U.S. 9th Air Force, 386th Bomb Group (Medium), a B-26 Marauder unit.



Robert Meservey, Lt, USAAF, seen in Belgium during the winter of 1944-45. The lady with the oversized USAAF pin on her beret was unidentified on this photo!

Hollywood Heroes

By the end of the war in Europe, now-Captain Robert Meservey was stationed with the 386th at Sint-Truiden, Belgium. His main duties were briefing the bomber crews on what to expect on their missions and debriefing afterwards.

That airfield is better known in most English-language sources anglicized as St. Trond. During WWII, it had been the base of the Luftwaffe's *Nachtjagdgeschwader 1*, arguably their most famous night fighter group, with units II/NJG1 and IV/NJG1 operating Junkers Ju88 and Heinkel He219 aircraft from St. Trond in 1944.

*(The highest scoring **night** fighter pilot of all time remains Heinz-Wolfgang Schnaufer with 121 victories, most of them four-engine RAF bombers. He was feared by RAF bomber crews as "The Spook of St. Trond".)*

When the area was liberated the airfield was quickly taken over by the allied flying units. It was coded as Station A-92 but remains better known in WWII literature as "**St. Trond**". After postwar Belgian Air Force use today the airport (ICAO code EBST) is being converted to civil use as Limberg Regional Airport. For more interesting history, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sint-Truiden/_Brustem_Airfield

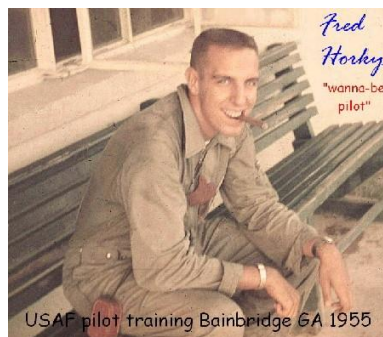
During WWII USAAF units stationed there were the 48th Fighter Group (30 September 1944-26 March 1945 with A-20 Havocs), the 404th Fighter Group (508th Squadron, 4 October 1944-30 March 1945, P-47 Thunderbolts) ...and the 386th Bombardment Group (9 April 1934 -27 July 1945, B-26 Invaders: **with, of course, Robert Preston, actor turned warrior, as an intelligence officer!**

Fred Horky

IPMS/USA 6390

Note: For more reading on the 386th, an extensive historical diary of the groups training and early operations can be found at ...

https://www.b26.com/historian/chester_klier/in_the_beginning.htm



News From Bruce Doyle and Mark Box a conversation shared:

FROM MARK BOX: Hey Bruce, my Grand Daddy on my Mama's side sold me his 1953 Buick Special 2 door hard top in 1967 when I turned 16. He bought it in 1955, used. It had a Straight-8, three on the tree with the starter button under the gas pedal. It had a push button Motorola AM radio, speakers in the rear, the antenna was centered on the roof at the top of the windshield. It had a knob inside above the rear view mirror so you could turn the antenna down to drive into the carport or garage if you had one. No power steering! The steering wheel was huge like a bus steering wheel. I remember having to adjust the big bench seat all the way up to reach the clutch and sometimes looking thru the horn rim to steer because that steering wheel was so big.

My Grand Daddy was COOL. His Buick had a Continental kit, fender skirts, curb feelers and a spotlight on



the drivers side. It had a steering wheel knob that had a hologram of a naked woman that would change her back to wearing a swimsuit, back and forth when you turned left to right. He had wide whitewalls and three bar, Spinner, hubcaps from Western Auto. If you guys remember what a '53 Buick looks like, you know it had a 300 pound front bumper. I was the talk of the school when I cruised thru Shoney's Big Boy with that customized, big Buick full of chicks! I got a lot of attention with that car amongst Mustangs and the '55-'67 Chevys all the rich boys drove. The guys actually gave it a nick name. Box's "Big White Whale". I paid my Grand Daddy \$200.00 for it in September of 1967. He replaced it with a used 1965 Mustang Fastback Pony edition with a 289 Hi-Po. Sunrise Yellow with white interior.

I drove that Buick 6 months and traded it for a '63 Chevy Impala S/S. My first car payment. \$51.00 a month.

So yes, I do remember when cars were really "HEAVY METAL" - Mark B. Box

BRUCE WROTE BACK: I worked at a Standard Oil gas station in Naples in 1963/'64 with a guy who had a straight-8 Buick (don't know exact year, probably '52 or '53) who used to take it to the drags in Lehigh Acres. The drag strip was on the old USAAF WWII gunnery base at Buckingham in Lehigh Acres. That straight-8 made a sound like no other engine! It was pea green, 2 door if memory serves. Don Garlits ran there, and a dragster named "The Green Monster" with an Alison V-12 a/c engine. My little '53 Purple People Eater Flathead Ford would vapor lock, thereby ending my all too brief drag racing career.

Did your Buick have crank vent windows? It must have had them, and cars were never the same when some idiot in Detroit decided to remove them. We had to start wearing baseball caps to keep the wind from blowing the hair into our eyes. The caps denied our brains to fully develop, therefore beginning the decline of American Civilization!

News From Jack Mugan.....

EUREKA!! I have found a paint remover for Tamiya Spray Can Paint.

While building my latest aircraft project, I had a major problem with paint wrinkles and crazing. I attempted to remove the paint with Purple Power and White Bleach without results.

I suddenly remembered I had a bottle of Scalecoat II paint remover that I purchased years ago, so I gave it a shot. **YAHOO...**the paint just floated off.

So if you find yourself in a similar predicament you better get some of this stuff ASAP.

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WORK – IN – PROGRESS!



3-d DECALS!

<https://www.lindenhillimports.com/store/c77/quinta-48th-scale-3D-decal-details#/>

GATOR MODELERS

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: Close

Please check out 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.shopipmsusa.org/product-p/adult-membership.htm>

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

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – Newsletter Editor ahernf@gmail.com

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

This list contains modeling events with the IPMS Region-11 Events listings in bold. For a complete list of IPMS events visit: <https://calendar.ipmsusa3.org/>

May 29

Gator Modelers, "Welcome Back Party", details in newsletter

June 15

Gator Modelers, "Live Meeting" 6:30pm Oak Hall school.

June 19

AMPS Mega Show, Columbia SC <https://scmegashow.com/>

August 18-21

IPMS Nationals, Las Vegas NV; <https://www.ipmslv.com/2021-ipms-nationals>

October 22-24

Orlando Modelpalooza, Kissimmee

<https://www.ipmsorlando.org/modelpalooza-home.html>

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.

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:

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

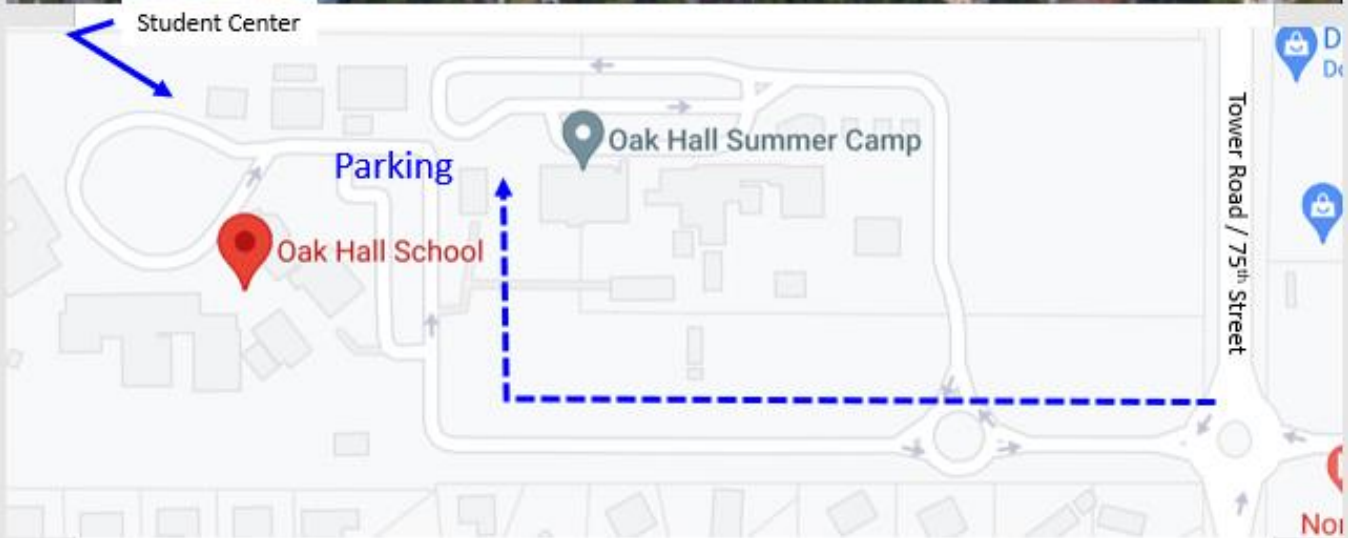
Address:

City: State:

Zip Code:

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

IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We expect to begin meeting again at Oak Hall in June 2021 (June 15 @ 6:30 PM). HOWEVER, the library is expected to NOT be available. Therefore Mike Martinez has identified another room that we can meet in: the **STUDENT CENTER**.

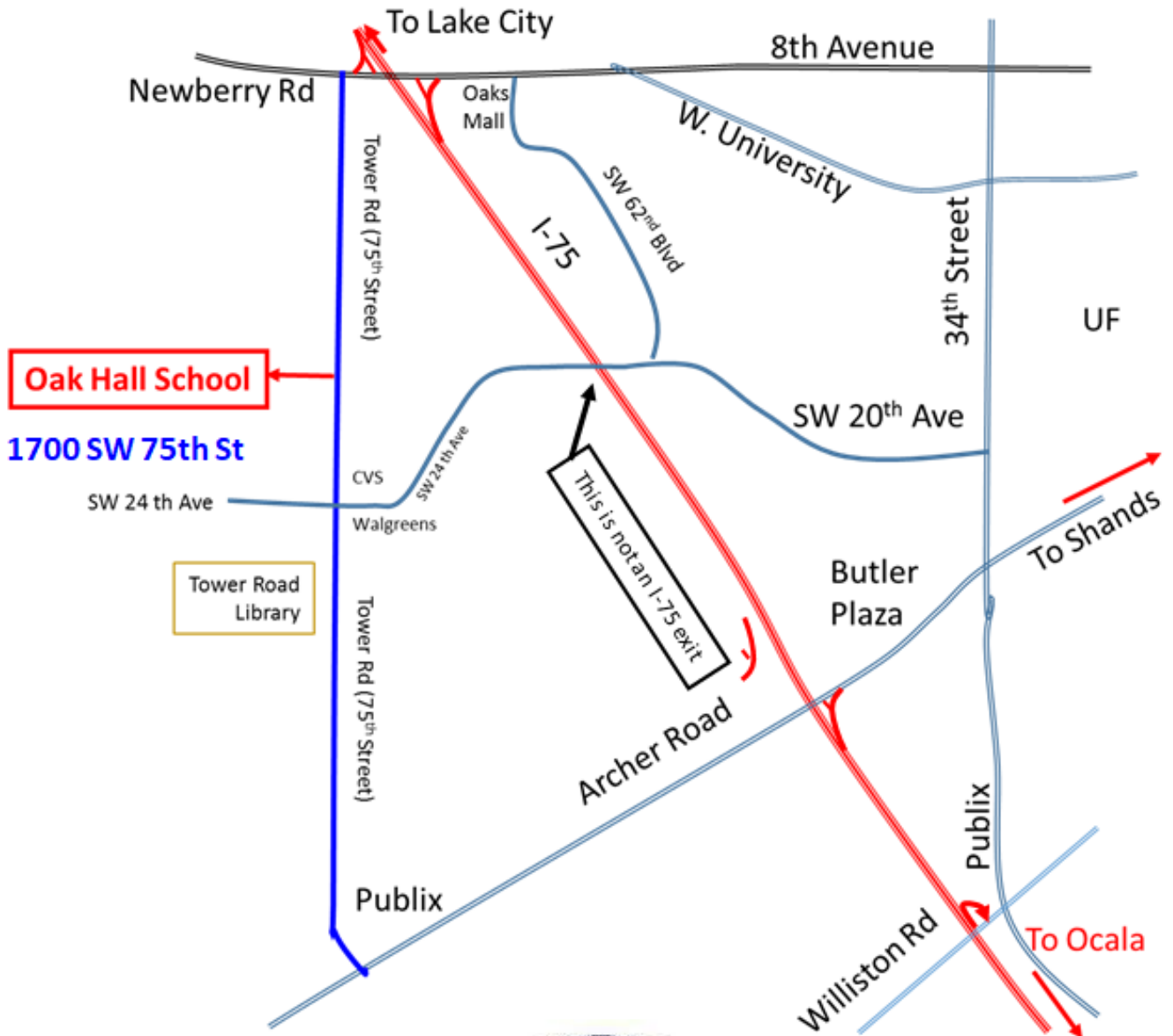


The top image is the satellite view of OAK HALL. The bottom view is a line drawing. Park in the Parking Lot and walk to the **STUDENT CENTER**.

Mike – Thanks for organizing this! ☺

BECAUSE CHECK YOUR EMAIL AS THE JUNE MEETING APPROACHES IN CASE OUR PLANS CHANGE.

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



Pretty Paint ...



A note about IPMS Gators' yearly dues

Below is the schedule of dues for people that join mid-year.

<u>Month you join</u>	<u>Your membership fee</u>	<u>Fee rounded to whole dollars</u>
Nov	\$20	\$20
Dec	\$18.37	\$18
Jan	\$16.70	\$17
Feb	\$15.00	\$15
Mar	\$13.36	\$13
Apr	\$11.69	\$12
May	\$10.00	\$10
Jun	\$8.35	\$8
July	\$6.68	\$7
Aug	\$5.00	\$5
Sept	\$3.34	\$3
Oct	\$1.67	\$2

Bye for now!