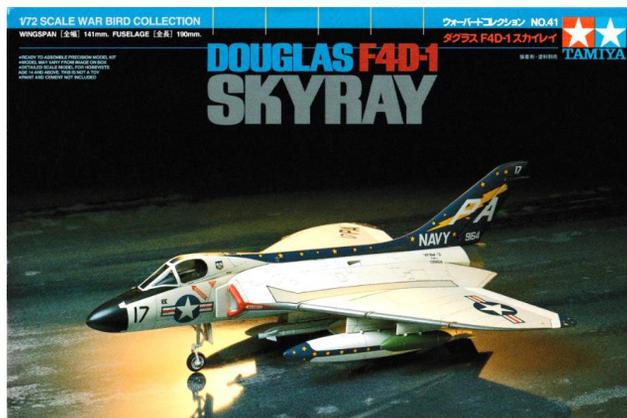




www.gatormodelers.org



Airplanes of the 1950s': Darryl Palmer's 1:72 scale Tamiya F4D Skyray





Club officers
Doug Spinney
President

Chuck Lassiter
Vice President

Frank Ahern
Secretary

Bruce Doyle
Historian

Doug Spinney
Webmaster

Bill Winter
Treasurer &
Newsletter
Editor

Prez Sez..... www.gatormodelers.org

Many years ago I remember reading an article about Patrick Swayze and Sam Elliot, that between shoots on the movie Roadhouse, they would work on plastic models. The article didn't go into specifics as to which kind of models they worked on. So I decided to do a little research to see if any other well-known folks were also interested in our hobby. My findings are as follows:



John Travolta – Cars and planes. We should send him a personal invitation to join us at a meeting sometime.

Frank Borman – Planes. Frank was a Colonel in the USAF, a test pilot, and an astronaut. I can understand why his interest was in planes.

Katherine Hepburn – Doll houses. Actress

John Harmon – Science Fiction. John was an actor for over 60 years, with almost 300 movies and television appearances. Twilight Zone and Star Trek just to name a few.

Tony Fredrickson – Science Fiction. Tony worked in the art department for Deep Space 9, Star Trek Voyager, and Star Trek Enterprise.

Adam Savage – Just about everything. Adam is a Special Effects Designer, best known for his work on MythBusters. He did model work in Star Wars II-Attack of the Clones and The Matrix Reloaded.

James May – Nothing specific. James starred in the British Top Gear, but he is renowned for building plastic kits.

George Lucas – Kit Bashing - Star Wars. I think his name speaks for itself.

Tom Hanks – Military Aircraft and Naval Vessels. Actor.

Neil Young – Model Trains. Singer and song writer

Curt Shilling – Armor. MLB pitcher and sports commentator.

Keanu Reeves – Motorcycles. Actor.

Elon Musk – Space Craft. Entrepreneur.

Katee Sackhoff – Nothing specific, but she reportedly builds model kits. Actress known for Battlestar Galactica, Mandalorian, and Longmire.

Rod Serling – Military Aircraft. Screenwriter and TV producer. Twilight Zone among many others. (I always hear his name as Sterling)

This list could go on for several more pages, but I think the above list tells us that we aren't the only folks that have a passion for model building. It is nice to know we are in good company.



July – IPMS Gators

We will meet
Tuesday, February
17, 2025, at 6:30
PM at
Oak Hall Library



Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday Jan. 20, 2026

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. There were 14 members present.

Doug reviewed upcoming model shows including Jaxcon, Feb 6-7, Pelicon in Tampa, March 14 and Scale Model Expo in the Villages, April 11.

He also highlighted the joint model contest with the Ocala club on April 4th. The theme is "Ice Age". The rules are a model kit-based on the theme with a written back story.

Doug encouraged members to participate as only 3 took part in the last contest.

Bill Winter mentioned that he receives model club newsletters from around the country on a weekly basis and could forward those to any who would like to receive them.

The meeting paused to allow time for those who brought models to make presentations.

The monthly theme was "Aircraft of the 1950's". The winner, selected by vote of those in attendance, was Darryl Palmer with a model of an F4D Skyray equipped to launch a satellite.

Next month's theme is - Vehicles that won something.

The monthly attendance raffle winners were - Darryl Palmer (Space) and Bob Lundeen (M26).



Ed Ingersoll demonstrated a new electric plastic cutting tool that he recently purchased.

The meeting concluded with a talk by Frank Ahern on the history of the USAF Thunderbirds air demonstration team.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Submitted by: *Frank Ahern, Club Secretary*

GT-40

By Frank Ahern

I was drawn to the story of the Ford GT-40 by this month's modeling theme - *vehicles that won something*. The saga of the 1966 LeMans 24-hour race was the backdrop for the movie "Ford v. Ferrari" based on the ego-fueled battle between Henry Ford II and Enzo Ferrari to win the most prestigious endurance race in the world.

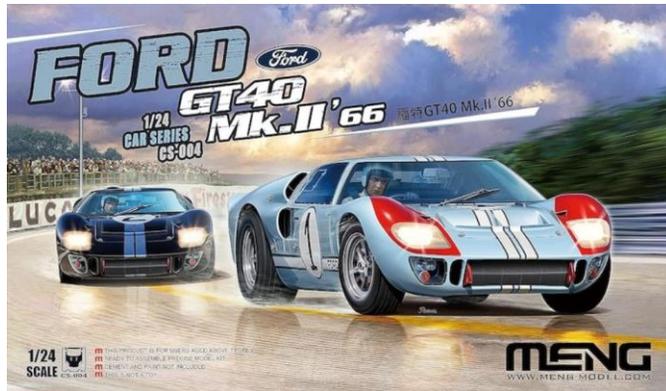


The movie focused on the human relationships that drove the plot while the car that won the race was reduced to a bit part. The GT-40 represented a revolutionary blending of European chassis and body design with the muscle of a big American V-8 engine. Only the vast resources of Ford could work out all the problems in time for the 1966 LeMans.



GT-40

My first modeling decision involved which car to build. Three GT-40's finished LeMans almost side-by-side in 1966, but due to a corporate decision by Ford the leading #1 car driven by Ken Miles finished second to the #2 car driven by Bruce McLaren. The movie and many written articles go into much detail about this controversy, but since the theme is vehicles that won, I built the number 2 car.



Meng has an expensive kit with a detailed engine, but I chose the more budget-friendly Fujimi kit which is a curbside model. I have some experience with Fujimi and have been impressed with the quality and detail of



their moldings. They are delicate and easy to break, however, so this was no Snap-Tite kit. Another complication is the fact that the instructions are mainly in Japanese, leaving me to ponder the infamous exploded diagram.





GT-40

The best thing about the kit was that it is molded in black, meaning that I didn't have to paint it. Polishing plastic is a technique I learned from Clarence Snyder and have happily used on any car where the plastic is an appropriate color. Usually, I use Novus #2 plastic polish which works beautifully on most models.



I had my share of struggles with the kit mainly due to mistakes I made with glue on the clear parts and the difficulty of fitting the body on the frame. This is a common issue with race vehicles. Overall, I was pleased with it and glad to have a model of one of history's most famous race cars.



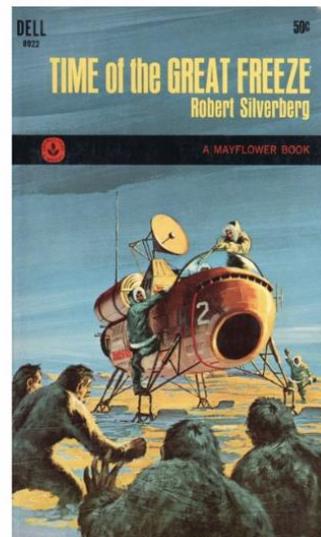
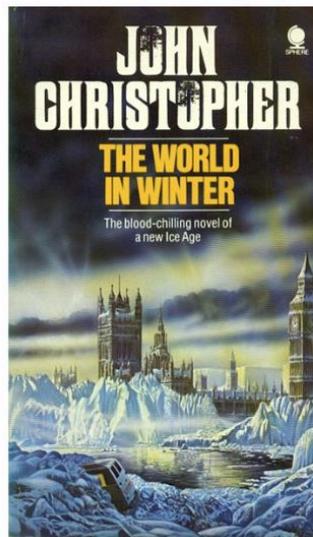
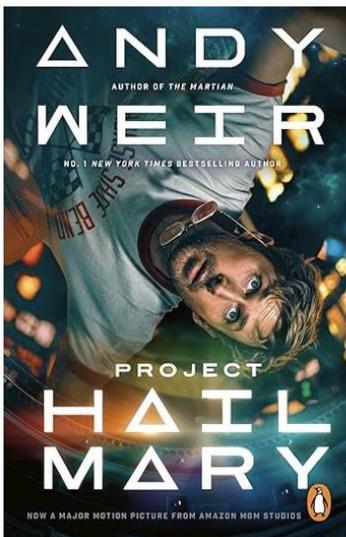


Ice to Meet You

By Darryl Palmer

Gator Modelers' ICEWORLD theme/kitbash competition with Ocala Modelers is coming up in March and April. To inspire our builds or simply establish a chill vibe for modeling, here are some real cool media recommendations.

We've been worrying about global warming for so long now that few of us ever stop to consider the OTHER climatic disaster, global freezing. Actually, it's not that far-fetched an idea: While most climatologists agree that climate change will delay the onset of a naturally occurring ice age for millennia (probably waiting until we're all out of the way) there are still several factors that can cause a chilly surprise. Fallout from a nuclear holocaust or impact with a large asteroid could enshroud the earth with UV-blocking dust, triggering a nuclear winter. Even without such cataclysms, melting ice sheets could disrupt ocean currents or the carbon cycle, leading to freezing regional temperatures and mini-ice-ages. Or...OR! an outbreak of extraterrestrial "astrophage" bacteria could eat up solar energy and blot out the sun, as in Andy Weir's 2021 SF novel, *Project Hail Mary*.

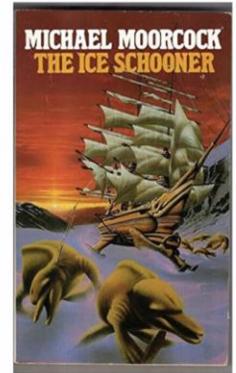
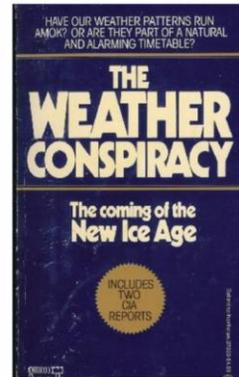


Regardless of the cause, modern ice ages have been a recurrent theme in science fiction since at least the 1950s. Arthur C. Clarke's *The Forgotten Enemy* (1949) and John Christopher's *The Long Winter* (1962) imagine a future London blanketed with snowdrifts up to the dial of Big Ben. In Robert Silverberg's *Time of the Great Freeze* (1964), a group of teenagers living under New York City intercept a radio signal from Europe and embark on a hazardous trek across the frozen Atlantic. Civilization grinds to a halt in *We Who Survived the 5th Ice Age* (Sterling Noel, 1959) and *The Day the Earth Froze* (Gerald Hatch, 1963), leading to struggles for survival, with the romantic entanglements that always ensue ("But baby, it's cold outside!").

The 1970s was the Golden Age of speculative disaster, and you can bet the ice age wasn't left out in the cold. *ICE!* (1978) by Arnold Federbush posits a day when sudden climate change caused by pollution locks up New York City and only Mark and Karen are left to huddle for warmth and sustain the human race. On the nonfiction front, *The Weather Conspiracy: The Coming of the New Ice Age* (1977) rips the lid of secrecy off the CIA's cold war coverup.



Ice to Meet You



Looking farther into time and space, in Michael Moorcock's sword-and-sorcery fantasy The Ice Schooner (1969), humanity is clustered on the plains of Brazil's Mato Grosso, where they worship the Ice Mother and hunt whales that have evolved to crawl over ice flows. Alan Dean Foster's Icerigger Trilogy (1974) takes place on the wintry planet Tran-Ky-Ky, and Ursula K. LeGuin's The Left Hand of Darkness (1969) envisions a society where the seasons never change but genders switch from male to female on a monthly cycle.

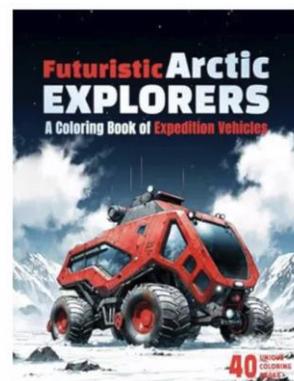
If reading science fiction leaves you cold, you can always Netflix and chill with some worldwide winter-themed movies, such as *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004) with Jake Gyllenhaall, *The Colony* (2013) with Lawrence Fishburn, or *Snowpiercer* (2013) from Korean director Bong Joon Ho, starring Chris Evans and Tilda Swinton.



Of course, if you're simply looking for inspiration to kitbash that futuristic zamboni, I recommend The Arctic Explorers Coloring Book. It features illustrations of 40 high-tech polar vehicles, and you can even test out your paint scheme. Happy modeling!



Dean Ellis cover art for *Icerigger*

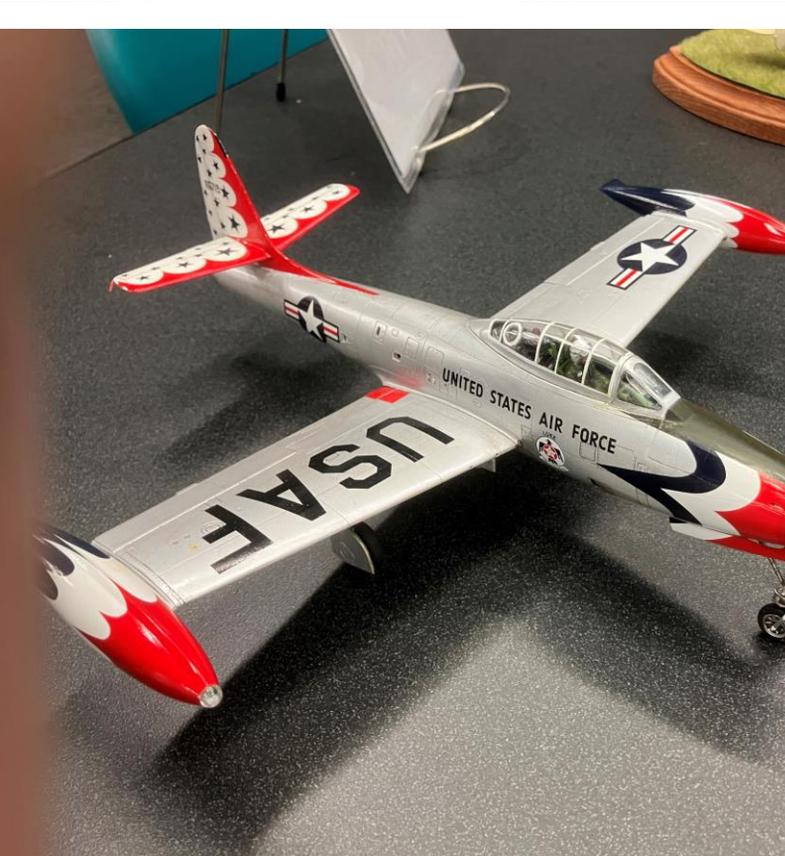


January's Theme was 1950's aircraft

Darryl Palmer's 1:72 scale Tamiya F4D Skyray with Starfighter decals and missile (attached with a magnet!)



Frank Ahern's 1:48 scale Tamiya F-84 Thunderbirds 1950's Aircraft



Ian Breheny's 1:72 scale Airfix Supermarine Swift FR.5 (WIP)



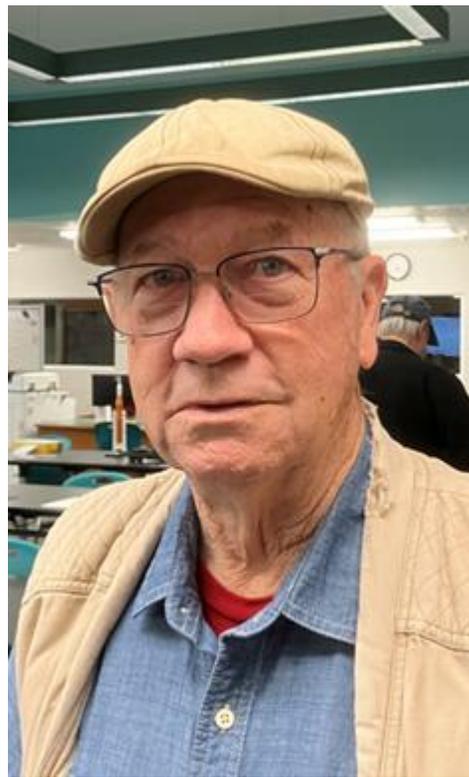
Ed Ingersoll's 1:32 scale Monogram Piper Pacer PA-22/20 which was converted from a Piper Tri-Pacer



Brian Cormack's 1:72 scale Pioneer 2 (Matchbox) Hawker Sea Fury T-20 (WIP)



Chuck Lassiter's 1:72 scale Airfix (1960's) Mosquito VI with added navigational lights



Bill's 1:118 scale (box scale) Revell PBM5 Mariner



A U.S. Navy PBM-5 of Fleet Air Wing 6 is hoisted aboard the seaplane tender USS Curtiss



(AV-4) after a mine-hunting patrol off North Korea during the Korean War (1950-1953).

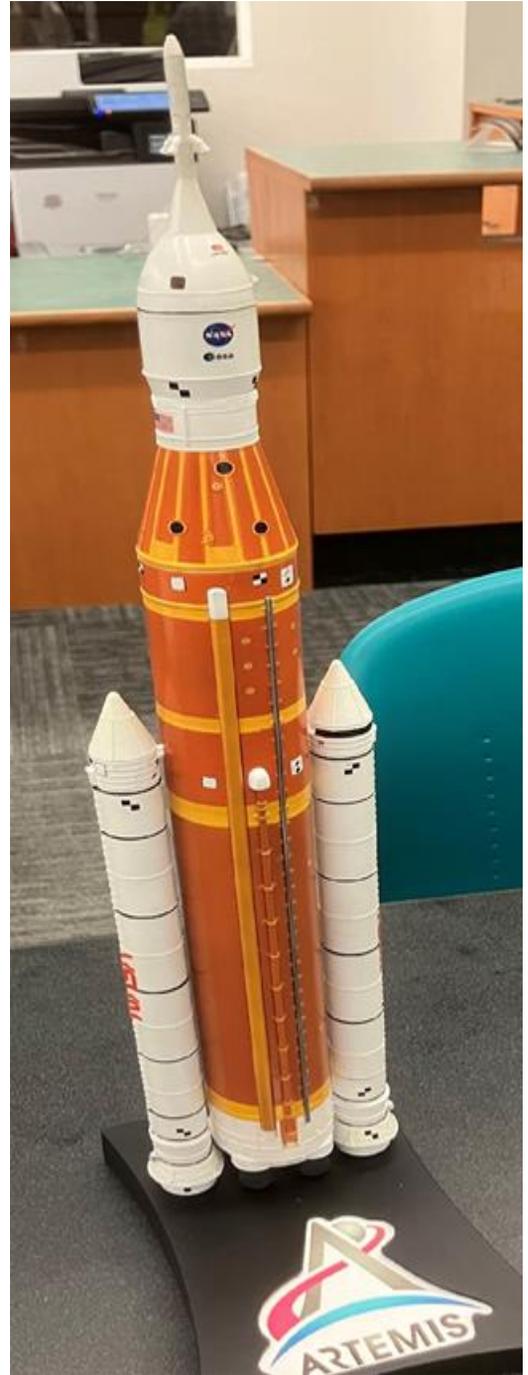




Tony Aquilar's 1:72 scale T-34s from Armourfast – the green tank is before any addition of white metal and other parts as seen on the white-washed T-34s



Darryl Palmer's Artemis space craft (the Artemis II launch was scrubbed until March 2026 because of a hydrogen fuel tank leak)



Bob Lundeen's 1:35 scale Das Werk Faun L900 truck and PzII tank



Don Martin's 1:35 scale Tamiya M4A3E8 with home-made tarps produced from coffee filters



GATOR MODELERS

The club thanks Ed Ingersoll for demonstrating the ultra-sonic cutting Hanboost cutter

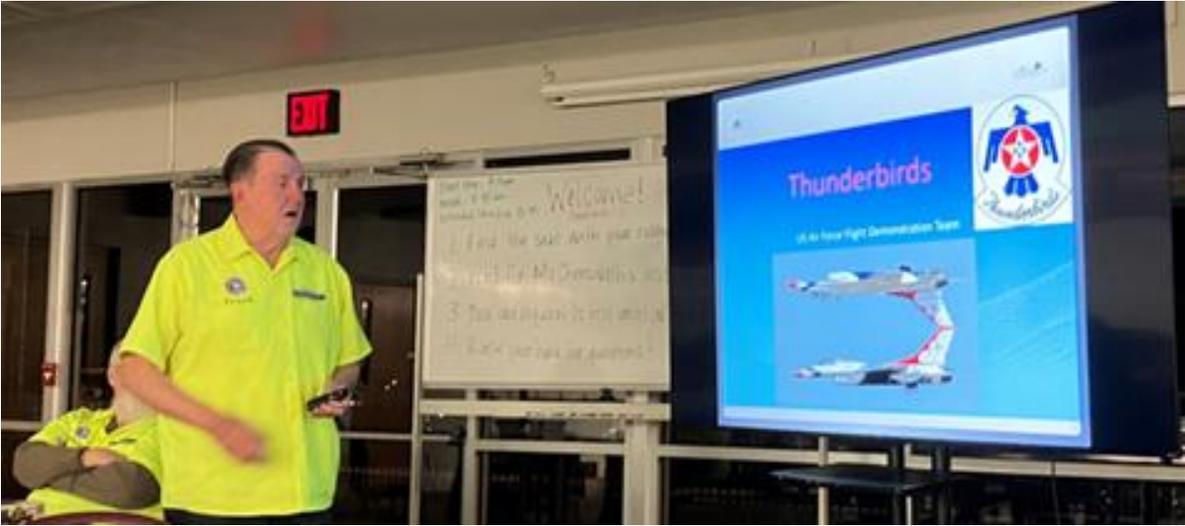


IPMS Gators and IPMS Ocala member Mark Box showed off his moonshiner distraction vehicle with home-made still AT THE OCALA MEETING



GATOR MODELERS

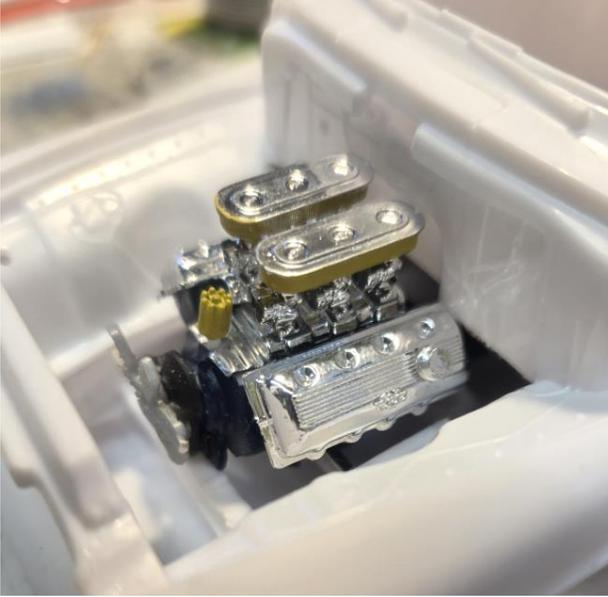
The club thanks Frank Ahern for giving a talk in January about the U.S.A.F. Thunderbirds precision flying group



From the workbench of Mark Box!



From the workbench of Clarence Snyder!



Members at the January 2026 meeting of IPMS Gators



Upcoming shows



Jaxcon 2026 will be held on Friday evening and all day Saturday Feb. 6/7th. It will once again be at the fabulous North Jacksonville Baptist Church recreation hall where it's been for the last 5 years or so. The good news is that this year there will be 75 vendor tables available!

The poster features a background of a model airplane fuselage. A paintbrush with a red handle and a white tip is shown painting the side of the plane. The text "SAVE the DATE" is in large, bold, red letters at the top. Below it, the "Pelican MODEL CLUB" logo is visible, featuring a pelican with its wings spread. The main title "Pelican '26" is in a large, stylized, yellow and red font. Below that, it says "Scale Model Convention and Contest" and "www.pelicanmodelclub.org". The date "Sat. March 14, 2026" and location "St. Lawrence Higgins Hall" are prominently displayed. The address "5225 N. Himes Ave., Tampa FL 33613" is at the bottom. A Facebook icon and the text "Check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/PelicanModelClub" are also present, along with contact information for Donn Buerger.

SAVE the DATE

Pelican MODEL CLUB

Pelican '26

Scale Model Convention and Contest
www.pelicanmodelclub.org

Sat. March 14, 2026
St. Lawrence Higgins Hall

5225 N. Himes Ave., Tampa FL 33613

f Check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/PelicanModelClub
Contact Donn Buerger for questions: donn_buerger@yahoo.com

The poster has a yellow and orange background with silhouettes of a soldier in the foreground, several helicopters in the sky, and palm trees. The title "Pelican '26" is at the top in a large, stylized font. Below it, "1965-1975" is written in large, bold, red letters with a black outline. Underneath that, "A Decade of Turmoil, Hope and Change" is written in a smaller font. At the bottom, it says "Brought to you by the Pelican MODEL CLUB" and "PelicanModelClub.org".

Pelican '26

1965-1975

A Decade of Turmoil, Hope and Change

Brought to you by the **Pelican MODEL CLUB** PelicanModelClub.org

PeliCON is back, BIGGER and BETTER, May 15-17 2026!!

Upcoming shows

Theme for the 2026 Gainesville- Ocala Interclub contest: ICE WORLD

With the onset of massive global freezing, the polar ice caps extended south and north as far as 40th parallel and resulted in freezing solid Seattle's Puget Sound, New York's Hudson River and Ports, all of the Great Lakes, even northern sections of the Mediterranean Sea (ice bergs occasionally clogged the strait of Gibraltar).



In efforts to overcome the economic constraints of a frozen world, 'brilliant' minds diligently proposed various means of developing advantages out of difficulties, addressing issues of freighters, mass transits, recreation, and the military in a frozen world.

Let the Gainesville/Ocala IPMS club challenge propose solutions to this future problem in the form of a kit-bash of two (or more) kits of which at least one is plastic; use of other materials optional. Entry to be accompanied with a narrative of no more than 3 pages explaining the presentation. Judging will be based 2/3 on the model and 1/3 on the narrative. A new category is being introduced, a Junior Class for entrants 18 years of age or younger. Judging to be done by entry members.

TBD. Contest date is possibly in May 2026 in Ocala.

Note: Interclub contest was last held in Gainesville April 27, 2024.

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – ahernf@gmail.com
Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785

If you have a modeling tip you would like to share with your fellow modelers, please send us a copy so we can put it in the newsletter. We need articles for the Newsletter and the Web Site!

If you just opened up that new kit and want to give a box or build review, write it up and we'll put it in the newsletter and put it on the Web Site. Just read a good book, tell us about it! Got a great tip, share it with your fellow club members. This is your Newsletter and your Web Site and they're only going to be as good as YOU make them so contribute something to the cause. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance if you have something you want to share, we'll be happy to assist you in making it happen!



Don't forget to support your local hobby shop: Rob's Hobby World (Rob Stevely: Proprietor 8585 SW Hwy 200 unit 14) Ocala, FL 34474 www.robshobbyworld@MSN.com; Mon.-Fri.: 10 AM to 5:30PM; Sat.: 9AM to 4PM; Sun: Closed.

Please check out WWW.IPMSUSA.ORG for the latest information from IPMS National Headquarters and for information about joining IPMS.

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – Newsletter Editor ahernf@gmail.com
Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785

UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete list of IPMS events visit: <https://calendar.ipmsusa3.org/>



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

*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: "IUJ"; which is better than ever) and the opportunity to participate in the IPMS National Convention .

Joining IPMSUSA or renewing your membership are done on-line.

<https://myipmsusa.org/join-us>



INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODELERS' SOCIETY

By Modelers, for Modelers



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

Go to IPMS/USA

Renew My Membership

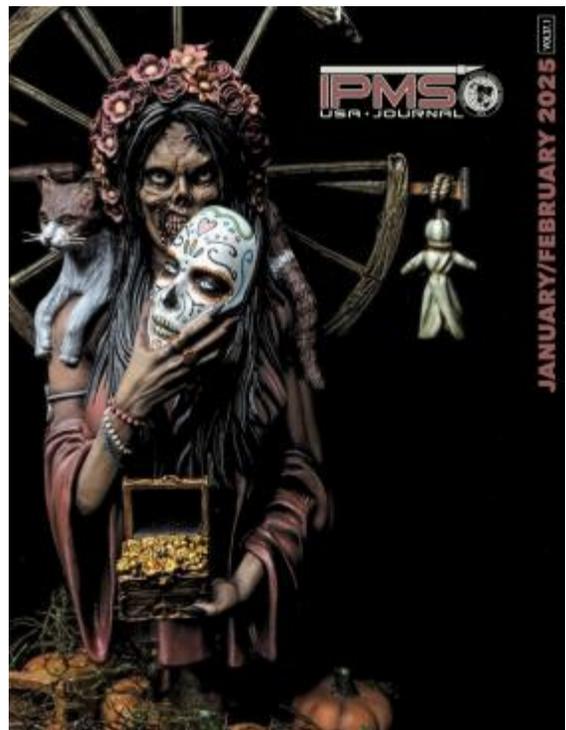
IPMS/USA

P. O. Box 45235

Omaha, Nebraska 68145-0235

Phone: 727-537-6886

Email: manager@ipmsusa.org





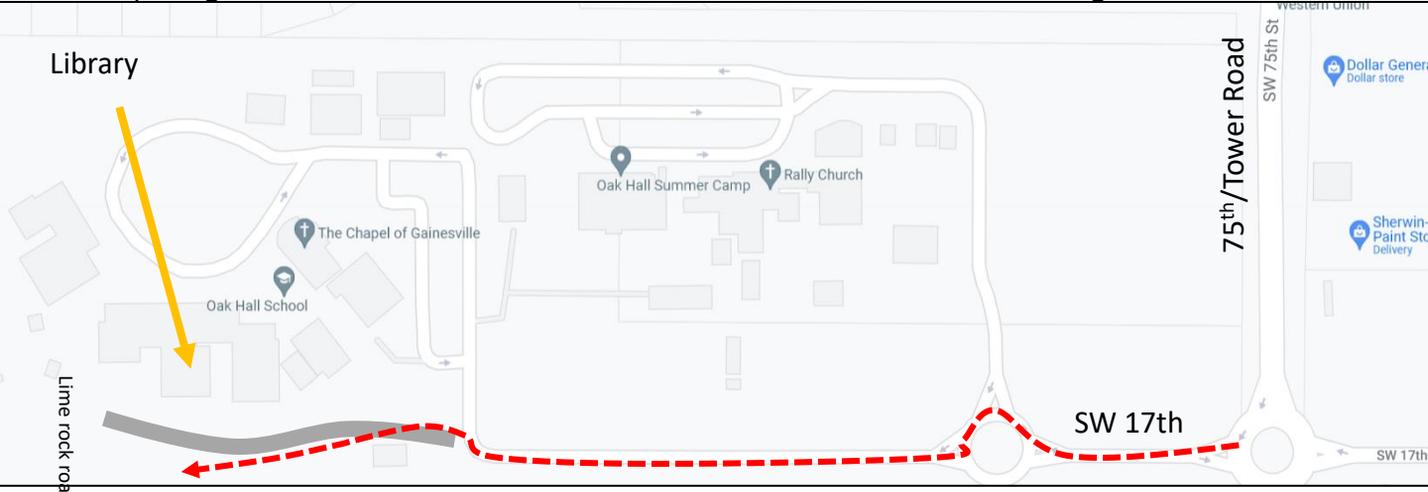
Directions to OAK HALL (1700 SW 75th St, Gainesville, FL)



IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday February 17 at 6:30 PM in the LIBRARY.

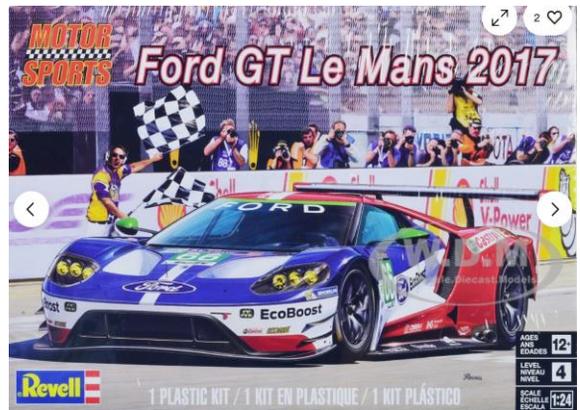


The top image is the satellite view of OAK HALL. The bottom view is a line drawing.



A note about monthly themes for 2026

- Feb.** Vehicles that won something
- Mar.** Ice Age (contest w/Ocala club)
- Apr.** 1 or 2 wheels
- May** Sci-Fi
- June** Gundam
- July** Animal name
- Aug.** Snap Tite
- Sept.** Monster
- Oct.** Real Space
- Nov.** Ships
- Dec.** Amphibious





Fancy Aircraft ... inspired by 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 March 2026 newsletter. - Bill