



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



The January Club Contest theme was "Aircraft" that was won by *Jack Muga* with his vacu-form Sky Shark.

## **IPMS Gators- IPMS Ocala contest**

The IPMS Gators- IPMS Ocala contest AND the IPMS Gators auction will be held at the "condo" APRIL 11, 2020 (Saturday), We will start about 10:30 AM with the auction (please bring kits to auction). We will break for lunch. Gators' will supply barbeque. Everybody – please bring a salad, fruit, side dish and/or drinks. We will then hold the contest. After the contest we will complete the auction and then finish with dessert. TALK IT UP!

**Inside:** Outstanding technical articles from Paul Bennett and Frank Ahern inside!



**Club officers**  
**Dan Contento**  
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**Chuck Lassiter**  
Vice President

**Frank Ahern**  
Secretary

**Bruce Doyle**  
Historian

**Paul Bennett**  
Photographer

**Tracy Palmer**  
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**Bill Winter**  
Treasurer &  
Newsletter  
Editor

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[Next meeting:](#)

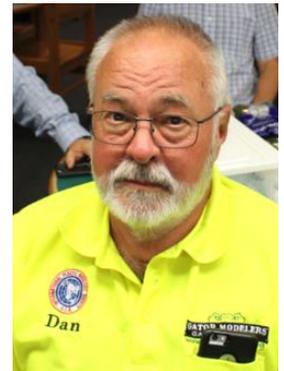
**Tuesday February 18, 2019 at: 6:30 PM**

**Oak Hall Library**

**1700 SW 75th St, Gainesville FL**

(See the map on page 22)

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



Jaxcon was February 8 and we had a good turnout of Club members in our distinctive shirts. It seems that anytime I've attended someone has commented on being able to tell who the Gator Modelers are. I'm still a little taken aback when someone I don't know calls me Dan, but I'm adjusting. Hopefully we have some winners in the Contest, but I haven't heard at this writing.

Some good news is that we have a contract with Oak Hall to have our meetings there through December. We are paying more than we would like to, so please be on the lookout for a possible replacement venue starting January 2021. Possibly a community center, church, library or store that has a meeting room available that will hold the club in our evening timeframe. Free is preferred but we can pay a reasonable fee.

Our yearly Auction is April 11th and this is our biggest fundraiser. The proceeds will be our working funds to pay for our meeting site and anything else we decide to do during 2020 and the beginning of 2021.

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## Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2020

By Frank Ahern

President Dan Contento opened the meeting at 6:45pm welcoming 19 club members.

He talked about the upcoming club auction, which is now scheduled for April 11. Based on past auctions and problems with kits from the Christmas party gift exchange, Contento urged members to clearly label any kits submitted for the auction if they have been started or are missing parts or decals. To solve the problem of items at the Christmas gift exchange he suggested that next Christmas only factory-sealed items be allowed in the gift exchange.



Bruce Doyle initiated a discussion of issues with the club display at Collectors Day at the Florida Museum. Due to illness he was unable to coordinate the setup of the display which resulted in a last-minute scramble to get models and other materials for the table. Mike Martinez took over the setup and all agreed that the display, on the theme Battle of the Bulge, was good and generated many favorable comments from the public.

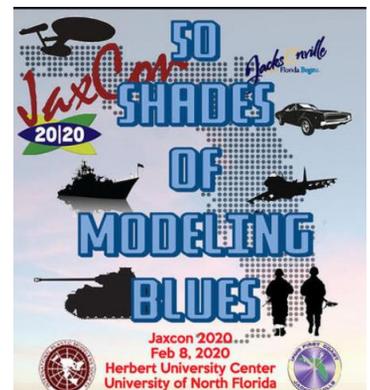
It was also noted that Tony Ivone had a well-received display of his ship models at the event for the first time. It was suggested that planning for next years display begin earlier and with more involvement from the whole club.

The President talked about upcoming presentations on modeling topics and who would be willing to present a topic on a subject they would like to talk about. Tony Ivone was asked if he would present a tutorial on rigging. He asked how relevant it would be for most car, tank and airplane modelers. He agreed to consider it and let the club know.

Jack Mугan is scheduled to share his knowledge of the use of Alclad metal paint at the March meeting. Tracy Palmer was set to talk about figure painting, but problems with his computer presentation forced a delay until next month. Frank Ahern said he would have an historical theme presentation on the subject of the Japanese kamikaze program later this spring.

There was discussion about the annual Jaxcon model show on Feb.8 in Jacksonville , and a number of club members said they were planning on attending.

There was a break in the meeting as members gathered at the model table to talk about models they brought. The monthly theme for the contest was airplanes and members voted for their top two choices. Jack Mугan won the contest with his vacu-formed model of the Grumman Skyshark.



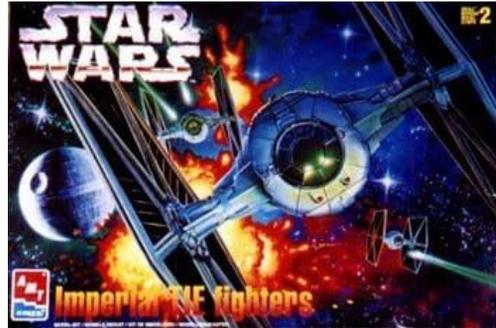


## Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2020

After show & tell discussion the attendance raffles were drawn. Ethan Alt won the first drawing and selected a Star Wars Tie Fighter kit. Bob Lundeen won the second drawing and picked a Panzer III kit.



Panzer Kampfwagen III  
Ausf M/N; Tamiya; 1:35;  
Awarded to Bob Lundeen,  
Jan 2020



Star Wars Imperial TIE  
Fighter; AMT; Awarded to  
Ethan Alt, Jan 2020.

Finally Tracy Palmer held a discussion on how to use figures in a model display. He will continue the topic next month with further detail on painting model figures which was delayed this month due to problems with his computer flash drive.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

### Jack Muga's January 2020 aircraft was the "Sky Shark." What is a Sky Shark?

The Douglas A2D Skyshark is the answer to several aviation trivia questions. What aircraft came between the Douglas AD Skyraider and the A3D Skywarrior? The A2D Skyshark of course. What was the first gas turbine-powered prototype built for use on escort carriers? Also the A2D Skyshark. What Douglas product broke the streak of highly successful Navy and Marine Corps attack aircraft from the Skyraider to the Skyhawk? You guessed it- the Skyshark. But the Skyshark wasn't a total waste...

The A2D was developed in response to a Navy Bureau of Aeronautics (BuAer) request for a turbine-powered, propeller-driven attack aircraft. The request, put forth on June 25th 1945, came in part because BuAer realized that the jet engine designs of the day were far from fuel efficient enough to make operation of aircraft powered by them from aircraft carriers practical. June 11th 1947 was the next significant date in the Skyshark's development- the Navy gave Douglas an initial order for a total of 12 A2D Skysharks. There was a plan in place to order 331 more of them...but the aircraft had to prove itself first. ... Which it didn't ... (Ultimately) ... Douglas built 12 A2D Skysharks- the two prototypes and 10 preproduction aircraft. Adapted from:

<https://www.avgeekery.com/douglas-produced-lots-of-great-aircraft-but-their-a2d-skyshark-want-one-of-them/>

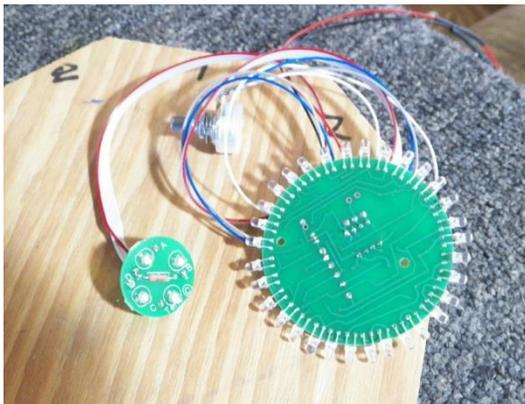
## SFX!!

By Paul Bennett

Or, more completely, Special Effects. They can extend and improve any model and can include not just lighting but sound effects as well. In many cases there are limited uses, but once you get into things like Fantasy and Science Fiction, and even creative scratch building they can take the model anywhere.



Sometimes special effects can be purchased, as in the VoodooFX™ lighting kit I used in the Flying Sub model. Another couple examples would be the lighting kits I purchased for the Jupiter 2 from “Lost In Space”. A couple of examples below. And the “Tale of an OOPS!” to serve as a cautionary note.



The Tale of the OOPS! And why you need to read carefully.

A friend of mine asked me to build his Jupiter 2, so I decided to go a little further and get the lighting and photoetch kit. I did not really pay attention to the manufacturer. At this point I would add that both Polar Lights™ and Moebius Models™ make a kit. And there all similarities stop. The Polar Lights™ is a 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale and has a complete lower deck. The Moebius™ is a 1/32.

You can probably see it coming... I ordered for the Moebius™... His was the Polar Lights™...

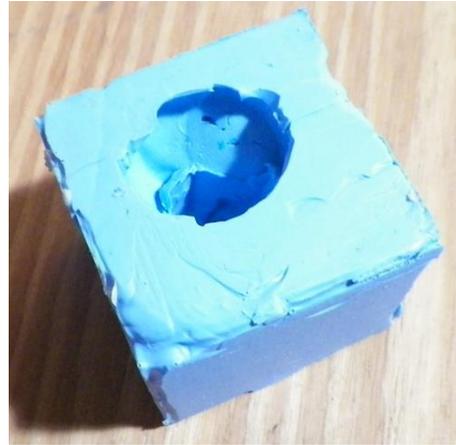
Whimper... So I did find a lighting kit for the Polar Lights™ from Tenacontrols™, however there does not appear to be a photoetch kit.

Just an example, for there are loads of other special effects kits, and vendors, out there.

Then there is scratch building and kit modification, a disturbing habit I have.

## SFX!!

While I was pondering an upcoming build, I had a notion to make a “Magic Crystal,” the figure could use to imbue potions with power. How? Well, turning to my collection of mineral specimens, I found a nice crystalline smoky quartz specimen (below left). I then turned to my mold making supplies to make a mold (below right).



I then used some optically clear resin to make a crystal by pouring the material into the mold, filling the clear part of the crystal. Now we wait as it can take several days for the clear resin to fully cure.

While I was waiting, I took one of my flashing RGB LED's, an 0805 SMD size, attached the wires, and tested it. Here is the 0805 LED, it is photographed against a millimeter scaled ruler. As you can see, not very big, but very, very bright!



Once the clear resin had fully hardened, I placed and glued the LED and leads against the base of the crystal and then filled the rest of the mold with standard white resin. Here you see the rough product.



## SFX!!

I still need to do painting and final shaping, which will wait until I am finishing the figure, but here is how the crystal looks with the LED working. Note that while you only see one color, the crystal cycles and flashes over time. I might add, with the constant cycling of color and brightness it was quite difficult to photograph as during peak intensity the brightness would wash out the picture.



Once the figure is completed and I begin to add the crystal I will need to shape and paint the white area to give it a rocky appearance.

Will I have it at the next meeting, where the membership can experience the full ambience? Yes.



## Technique Topic:

# “Tinted Canopies”

By Frank Ahern



The Vietnam War brought dramatic changes to aerial combat. No longer would pilots roam the skies looking for “bogies” and dogfights, now they searched for targets on the ground while dodging radar-directed surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery.

A result of this was the development of aircraft containing Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) equipment which could jam radar and disrupt enemy communications, clearing a path for the high-speed fighter bombers. (see Prowler in flight below) One of the most successful of these was the EA6-B Prowler, which started as an adaptation of the A6 Intruder, and grew into a 4-seat beast full of the latest ECM hardware.



My latest project, which is another edition of my Models for Vets program, is a Prowler I am building for my cousin John, who served in the Marines as an air-traffic controller.



His favorite aircraft was the EA6-B. I was astounded to find that, not only did Hasegawa make a 1/72 kit of it, but it also contained the correct decals for his old unit – VMAQ-2 “Playboys”. I was tempted to go buy a lottery ticket after that stroke of luck.

## Technique Topic:

### *“Tinted Canopies”*



Diving into construction I found that, like most modern products from Hasegawa, it was a nice kit with good fits and excellent surface detail. Most of the difficulties came from the Marine’s paint scheme which included 5 different colors on the fuselage and 2 different shades of tint on the massive canopies.



The reason for the tinting (see above) was that the main function of the crew, as noted above, was not looking out but looking in at their ECM screens.

Since I am primarily a WW2 guy the idea of tinting canopies was a bit of a new challenge. Here’s what I found. (See photo right) By far the best tint for the main canopies is Tamiya X-19 “Smoke”. It is a brownish-grey and very transparent, which is what you want in a tint color. I tried brush painting the inside surface only, but couldn’t get a smooth, even look so I used the airbrush, again only inside, which worked well. The trick is to get the right level of tint - dark but not opaque. My first attempt was too light.



Tinting the front windscreens called for a blue color. Some experts advised tinting Future with blue acrylic paint. For some reason this did not work well for me, so I fell back on something I had used before – liquid mask fluid. Micro Mask comes in a transparent blue which is exactly the color I wanted.

## Technique Topic:

### *“Tinted Canopies”*



What I didn't want was a blotchy look caused by uneven thickness of the mask, which is what happened on the first couple of tries. (see photo of Prowler model canopy below). Suspending the canopy in a level position enabled the mask to dry flat and resulted in the right look.



As with all my techniques, I don't present this as the only – or even the best – way to do it. It is just a way I found that works well enough to satisfy me. Feel free to chime in with your own experiences in this forum.



## Show and Tell



Jack and his Sky Shark



Doug's Freddy Flameout (by Hawk)



Paul Bennett's F-16 (Hasegawa, 1:48)



Howard's A7-D Corsair II (1:48) in Vietnam paint scheme.

Show and Tell



Ethan Alt's Panzer IV.



Figure by Paul Bennett



Elf & Fox



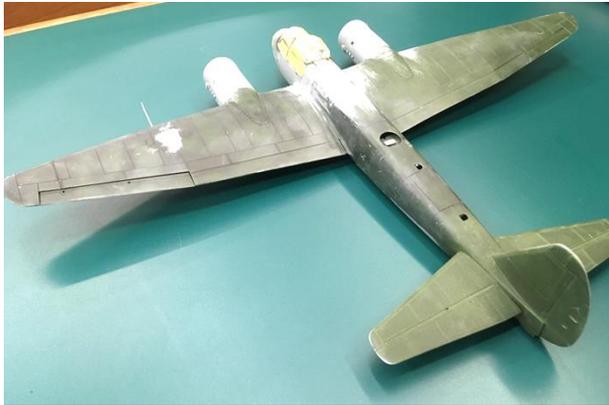
Bill's Panzer II in progress



Frank's collection of Kugelwagen & VWs.



## Show and Tell



Tracy – I think this is your's.

If not, who brought this?



Paul Bennett's Rodan C-133 (1:144) in progress



Errol's spaceship (a Cylon Raider)



Bob Lundeen's Monogram 1:48 scale Apollo LEM  
(in progress)

## Show and Tell



Chuck.... Is this your's?



Bill's 1:32 scale F-18C



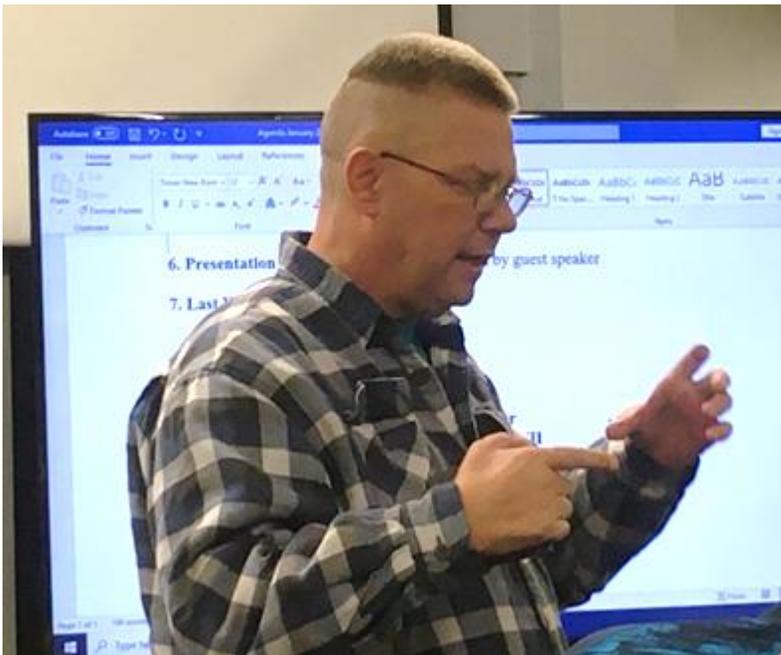
Errol Whisler's Italeri P-51 Mustang (1:72) with a DIY desert base.



Ed's WWI aircraft (Fokker DR.I)



## Members in Attendance



Tracy Palmer from Lake City gave a presentation that included a discussion of bases.





## Hollywood Heroes



*By Frank Ahern*

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

### Audie Murphy

This is the unique case where the Hero precedes the Hollywood. Audie Murphy, born to sharecropper parents in Texas, enlisted in the Army in 1942. (see Murphy with family, photo right) Despite being underweight and underage he went on to become the most highly decorated American soldier in WW2.

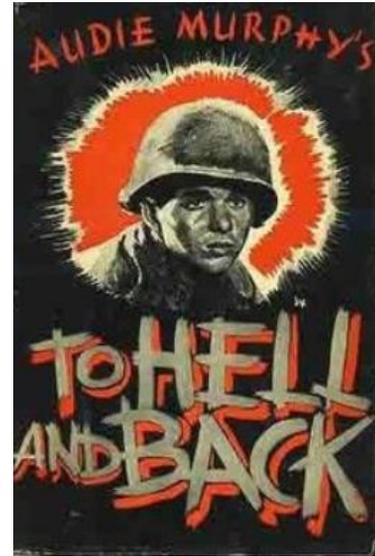


He won the Medal of Honor for an incident in the Colmar Pocket in France in January 1945. Although wounded, he single-handedly held a German infantry company at bay while his unit escaped. This was just the last of a series of heroic actions that began when he was shipped to North Africa with the 3rd Infantry Division in 1943 resulting in Murphy receiving every medal the US Army could offer.

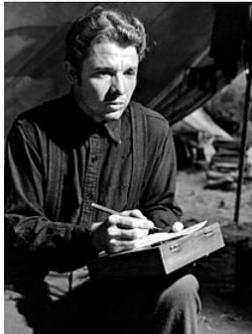
## Hollywood Heroes

### Audie Murphy

After the war he received offers from Hollywood to become an actor, his (see photo, right) breakthrough came after he wrote a book about his war experience – *To Hell and Back* – which was made into a film in



which he played himself (see photo above). Murphy was also given the lead role in John Huston's adaption of *The Red Badge of Courage* (photos below).



He went on to make 40 films, mostly westerns, and a TV series. He also wrote songs and raised race horses.

He suffered from the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome his entire post-war life and pioneered efforts to provide treatment to veterans who also endured the lingering mental turmoil caused by combat action.



VA Medical Center

He died in the crash of his private plane in 1971.

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

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**

This list contains modeling events with the **IPMS Region-11 Events listings** in bold.

**March 28, 2020 – Caloosacon, Venice Fl**

**April 11 @ 10:30 AM – GNV-Ocala Interclub Contest and Auction**

**July 29-Aug 1 – IPMS Nationals – San Marcos, Texas**



## MONTHLY CLUB THEMES

<b>Feb -</b>	<b>WW2 &amp; post war (to 1949).</b>
Mar -	Armor
Apr -	Korea & Cold War (to 1962).
May -	Club contest
June -	Ships
July -	Vietnam to 1980.
Aug -	Cars
Sept -	1981 to present
Oct -	Figures/sci-fi/what-nots
Nov -	Club contest



## 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



**IPMS Membership**

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



It is of great importance, both at the local level (IPMS Gators) and at national level. The Club officers strongly recommend joining IPMS as an individual which provides yearly six 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.

New  Renewal  IPMS #:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

**Junior** (17 years or younger) \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult** One year \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Two years \$58.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Three years \$86.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Canada & Mexico** \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Foreign** Surface \$38.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

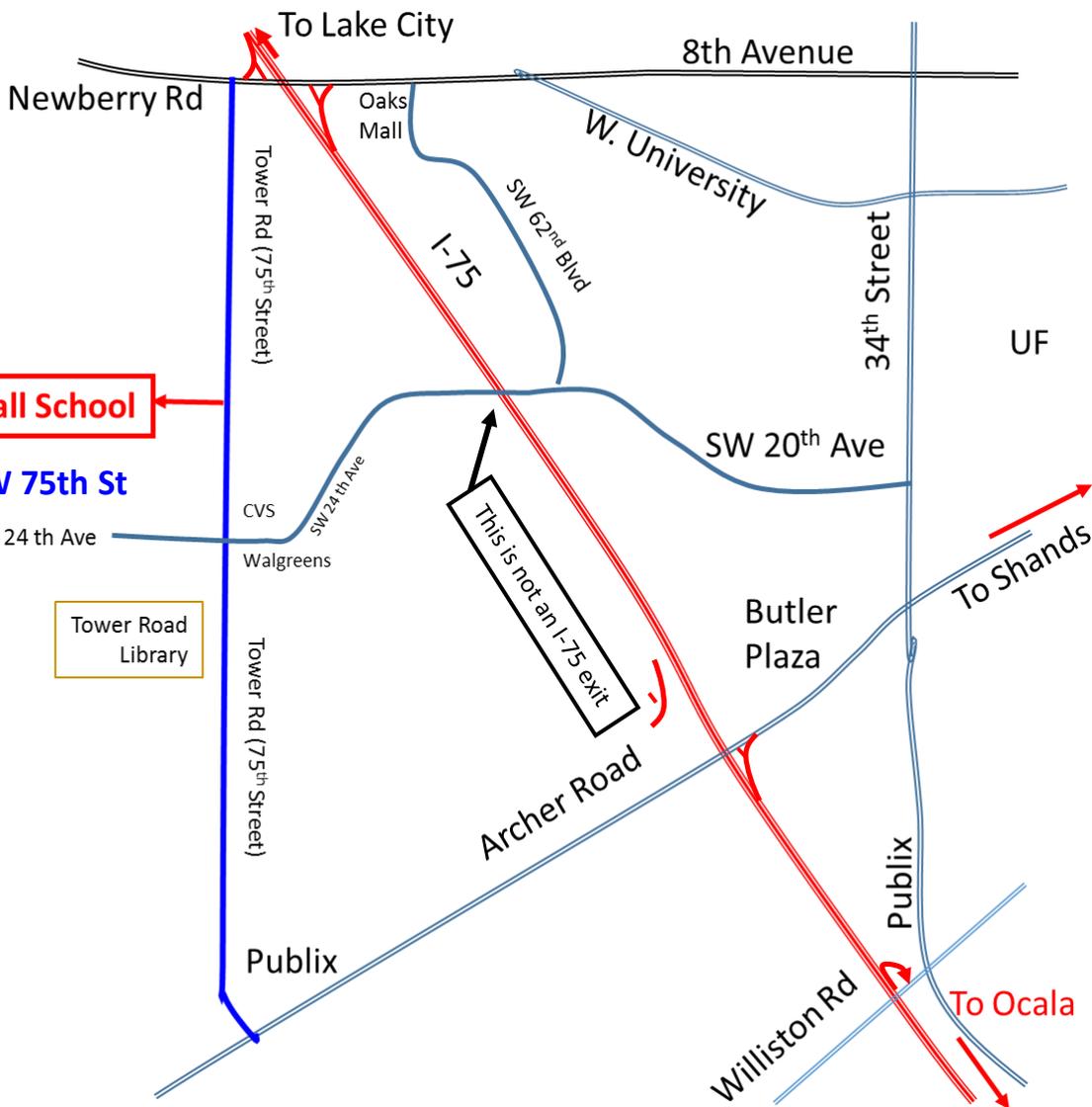
Applications should be printed and mailed to: IPMS/USA, PO Box 56023, St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023.

For folks renewing on-line: <http://www.shopipmsusa.org/category-s/100.htm>



*How to get to the meeting . . . .*

**Oak Hall School**  
1700 SW 75th St



Note: The entrance is off of a roundel on NW 75<sup>th</sup> Street (a.k.a. – Tower Road).



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

## **Wild Paint**

By Jack Mugan



**MARCH MEETING:  
TUESDAY, MAR 17, 2020!**