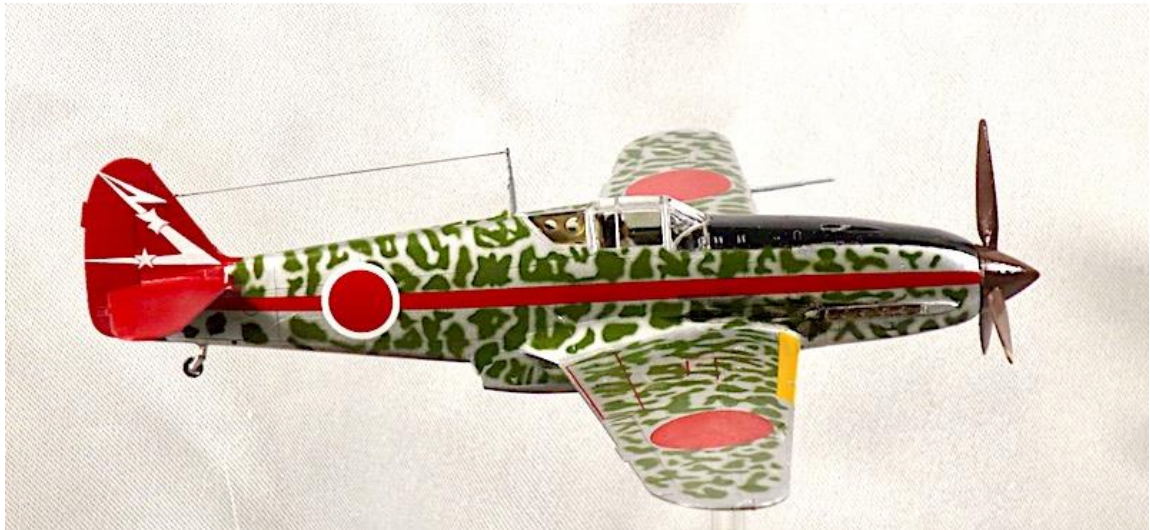




[www.gatormodelers.org](http://www.gatormodelers.org)



**Frank Ahern tells the story of Japanese  
WWII ace Teruhiko Kobayashi**





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

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

We are finally ready to meet, our first will be the Pizza Party at the Condo on May 29 – time to be decided. There we will eat pizza bought by the club. Bill will send out an email to request for drinks and desserts.

Our Zoom meeting will be held May 18 as usual beforehand.

Bring one model to show off to the club members at the condo

and we will have the club raffle kits to select blindly like at our Christmas parties where you can pick a wrapped kit or take someone else's.

Our June meeting is scheduled for June 15, but Oak Hall is not available that day. We will either be changing the day, hopefully that month only, revert to a zoom meeting or find somewhere else to meet. Let me or Frank know if you have any good ideas for a place we can meet.

Hope to see everyone May 29th. If you have concerns regarding covid and do not wish to attend yet all paid members will still get a kit at a later date.

Everyone stay safe and healthy and I hope to see. You soon.

Dan

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



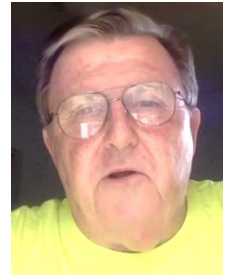
Inside see selected Jaxcon photos including Don Martin's Gold-winning BUK!



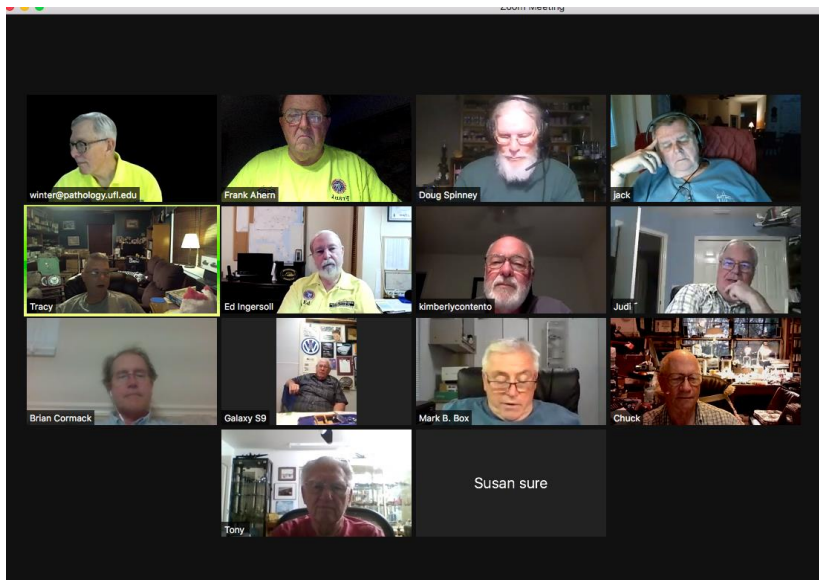
## *Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday, March 16, 2021*

### Frank Ahern - Club secretary

President Dan Contento called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. 14 members were present or participated at some point - see attached screenshot.



The meeting began with a discussion of the proposal by the Board of Directors to have a live gathering in May at Bill Winter's wife's condo and resume live monthly meetings at Oak Hall School in June. An email survey before the meeting showed that about 80% of respondents favored this plan. An informal show of hands at the meeting indicated that about half have received their vaccinations. Winter suggested that the date of the condo gathering be Saturday, May 29th with a start time of 11:00am. Club funds will provide pizza. Those who want to bring a dessert or drinks are encouraged to do so. The club's model stash will provide kits for a gift exchange game. Those who wish to bring a built model to display at the gathering can do so. Members are asked to only bring one model due to space limitations. There will not be a contest. Monthly Zoom meetings will continue as scheduled through May.



It was noted that the Jaxcon model show, which had been postponed in February, has been rescheduled for Saturday April 10 at a new location - North Jacksonville Baptist church, 8531 N. Main St., Jacksonville. The meeting was opened to provide time for members to show models. Frank Ahern did a review of the new Tamiya Ki-61 "Tony" that he recently built.

Bill Winter gave a Powerpoint presentation on the M4 Sherman tank series, including an explanation of the many variants and the types of engines used in each variant.

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm

– **Frank Ahern**



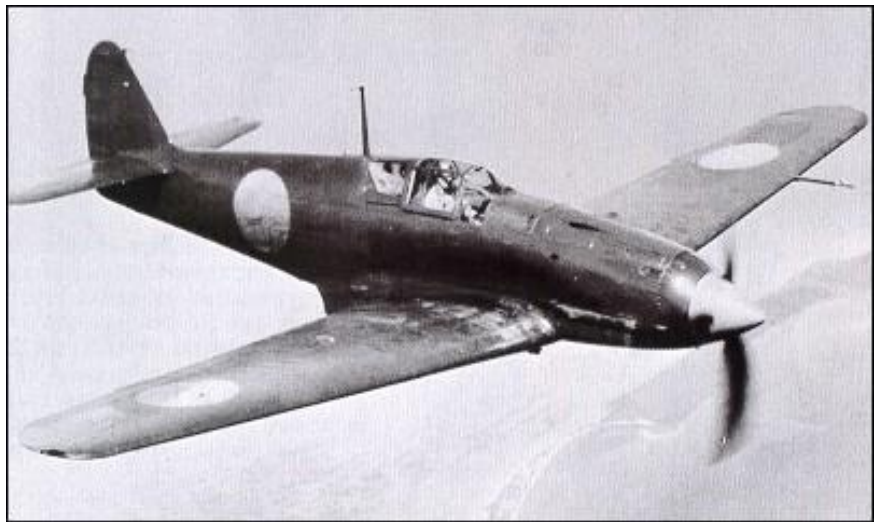
## Airplanes Of the Aces – Kobayashi

By Frank Ahern

The Japanese had a very different attitude toward aces in WW2, as you might expect. Individual awards and recognition were not in keeping with their societal code that only the Emperor and the nation were important, not individuals. This is not to say that top pilots, like Teruhiko Kobayashi, were unknown to Japanese citizens. They were mentioned in newspaper accounts of battles, but the government did not give them any special honors or awards. Their victory claims were taken at face value with no attempt to verify them by other witnesses or gun camera evidence. Their planes did not even carry cameras. As a result, the kill totals of Japanese aces are highly debatable, but there is no debate that they had some outstanding pilots.



Kobayashi rose to fame when he became the leader of the 244th Sentai, making him, at 24, the youngest Sentai leader in the IJAAF when he took command in November 1944. While leading this unit he achieved five kills. Three of these kills being Boeing B-29 Superfortresses and the other kills being two F6F "Hellcats" in the aerial defense of the Japanese Home Islands. He would survive the war and in 1954 join the newly created Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF).

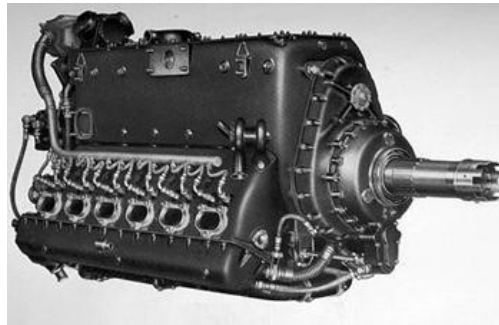


One reason I chose Kobayashi is that he achieved ace status flying the Ki-61 "Tony", which I think is one of the best-looking airplanes the Japanese produced. (see photo next page) It was called the

## Airplanes Of the Aces – Kobayashi



“Tony” because it was originally mistaken for a copy of the Italian Macchi C.202. The Ki-61 is an outlier among Japanese fighters. It’s the only one to use an inline liquid-cooled engine, have armor protection for the pilot and self-sealing fuel tanks. If the engine had been more reliable it would have



been a dangerous foe. The Japanese had a license to build the German DB 601 used in the Bf-109 and the Macchi, but they attempted to lighten the engine with disastrous results. A late variant of the Tony, the Ki-100, used a radial engine and was considered the best interceptor the Japanese produced, proving the excellence of the airframe design.



The new Tamiya kit is outstanding, but not without challenges. The term “box shaker” is sometimes applied to those who build Tamiya kits, implying that building one is so simple even a novice can do it. The truth is that fits are so precise, and parts are so small and fragile (to preserve scale accuracy) that I struggled with the construction of this kit.





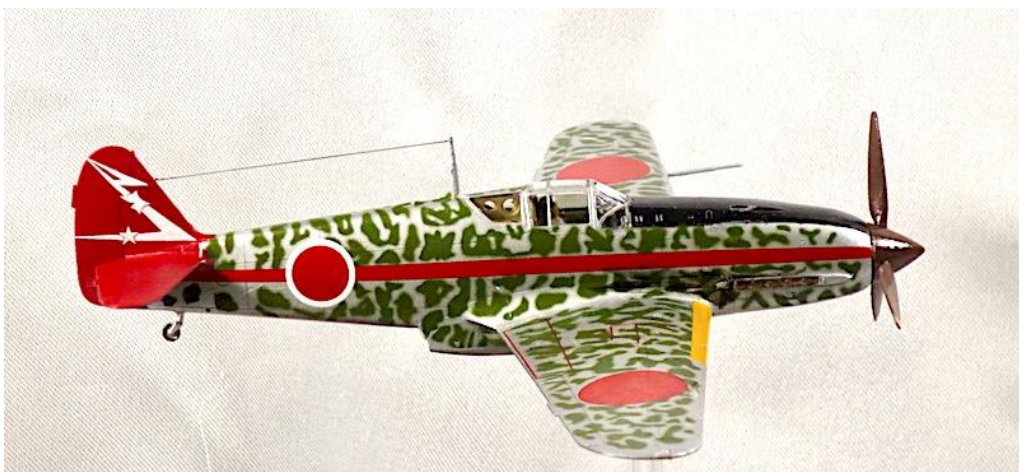
## Airplanes Of the Aces – Kobayashi



Some of it was my own fault. In my first attempt, I dropped the canopy while I was masking it and stepped on it when I reached to pick it up. Needless to say, it was ruined.



This is the second attempt, which turned out better. It's one of the most colorful combat planes I have built. I cannot take credit for the mottled camo pattern. It was provided as a decal by Tamiya and was easy to apply. I've always been fascinated by the Japanese aircraft of WW2 and this makes a nice addition to my collection.



## 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.*

## Russell Johnson

After graduating from high school, Russell Johnson enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces as an aviation cadet. On completing his training, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. He flew 44 combat missions in the Pacific Theater during World War II as a bombardier in B-25 medium bombers.



On March 4, 1945, while flying as a navigator in a B-25 with the 100th Bombardment Squadron, 42nd Bombardment Group, 13th Air Force, his B-25 and two others were shot down during a low-level bombing and strafing run against Japanese military targets in the Philippine Islands. Johnson broke both ankles ...





## Hollywood Heroes

in the landing, and his bomber's co-pilot was killed. Johnson received a Purple Heart for his injuries. He was also awarded the Air Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three campaign stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one campaign star, and the World War II Victory Medal. Johnson was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant on November 22, 1945,

## Russell Johnson

Like many of our Hollywood Heroes, after the war Johnson used his GI Bill benefits to attend acting school. He became friends with Audie Murphy, which led to many supporting parts during the 1950's in westerns and sci-fi films, usually as a villain.



His defining role was a much different one, however, playing the part of the Professor on *'Gilligans Island'* in the mid-60's. He once joked that his character could make a radio out of a coconut but couldn't patch a hole in a boat. After the show ended he went back to supporting roles but found that playing the Professor made producers reluctant to cast him as a villain. He died in 2014.





## JAXCON Report – April 10, 2021

By Don Martin

Just thought I'd send you guys a summary of local participation in JaxCon 21 if you want to put anything in one of the newsletters. Ed, you weren't there but I have to tell you the location was terrific. The display and vendor areas were huge, the bathrooms were clean and the location was easy to get to from I-95. I've never before seen a church with a soccer field (artificial turf, at that!) complete with bleachers and a pavilion with lights and overhead fans that can comfortably seat about 100 people! It's also cheaper to rent than the University location. Gil Hodges says it looks good to have next year's JaxCon (probably in February) at the church.

Anyway, Bob Lundeen won Silvers with his 1/48 ProModeller Me-410 and his 1/35 Pz 38t Panzer. Clarence Snyder won two awards (I believe they were both Silver) for two his cars. I'm not sure about that, so you'll need to check with him. I won a Gold for the Meng 1/35 BUK Anti-Aircraft System and a Gold for the 1/48 Tamiya M1A2. The 1/35 Meng WASP flamethrower Jeep took a Silver and and my Luftwaffe '46 diorama took a Bronze. Mary Martin entered a Meng "Toon" P-40 Warhawk (her first model) in Miscellaneous and was thrilled to win a Bronze! The judges may not have liked the diorama but the attendees apparently did and it was voted the Most Popular Model.

From an AMPS standpoint, in addition to the above, Stuart Kane won a Gold for his 1/35 T-90 and a Silver for his heavily-weathered 1/35 Iraqi T-69 (?). The T-90 was a finalist for Best Camouflage but was bested by an F4U Corsair in Brazilian Air Force markings.

As far as I know, these were all the local entries. My apologies if I've omitted someone or if I have identified some of the kit / award details incorrectly.

The vendors reported doing a brisk business but the food truck folks were a little disappointed - attendance was around 60 instead of the usual 100 or so they didn't sell as much as they had hoped. Food was really good, by the way - I hope they come back next year! I bought a couple of kits from Jack Ratterman's table.

Frank and Bill, thanks for taking photos of our local models!

Regards,

Don



A Pantsir built an unknown Jaxcon contestant.

## Models at Jaxcon



1:35 Buk by Don Martin



1:48 scale Tamiya M1A2 by Don Martin



Race car built by Don Martin



Most Popular model at Jaxcon



Me by Bob Lundeen





Jaxcon





## Models at Jaxcon



A “Vertijet” (builder unknown) with photos of the real deal from the Editor in 2015 ...





## Models at Jaxcon



## News from Clarence Snyder about Jaxcon:

.... I took several entries to Jaxcon: 2 in the same class, 3 older builds, and one saber tooth tiger car that I had entered last year (people liked it but there were other things nicer). I did do some good for club. The Waffle house won a bronze medal and the rig (the truck) won a silver medal.





## News from Clarence Snyder:

This his completed Cadillac!



## News from Clarence Snyder:

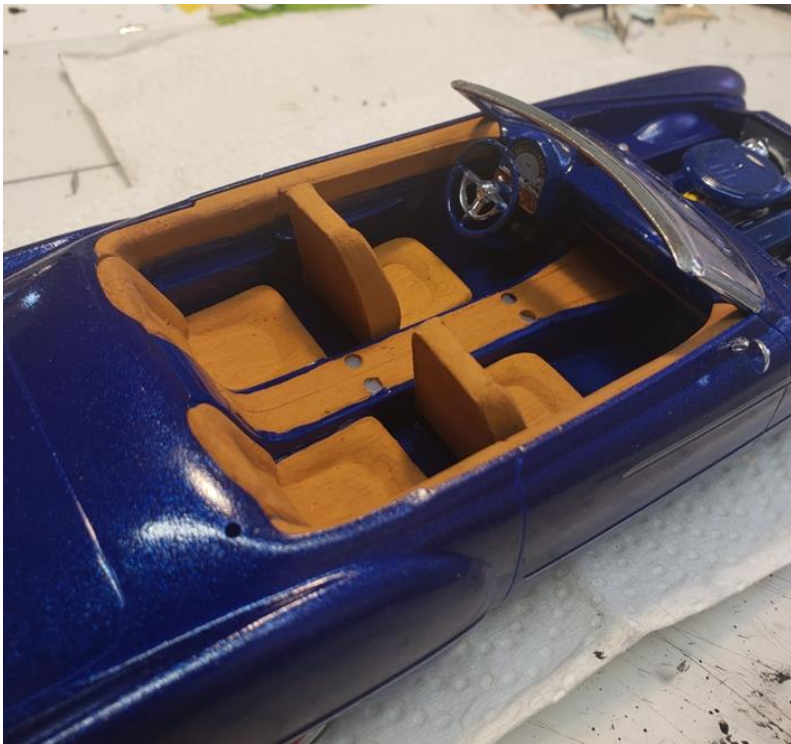
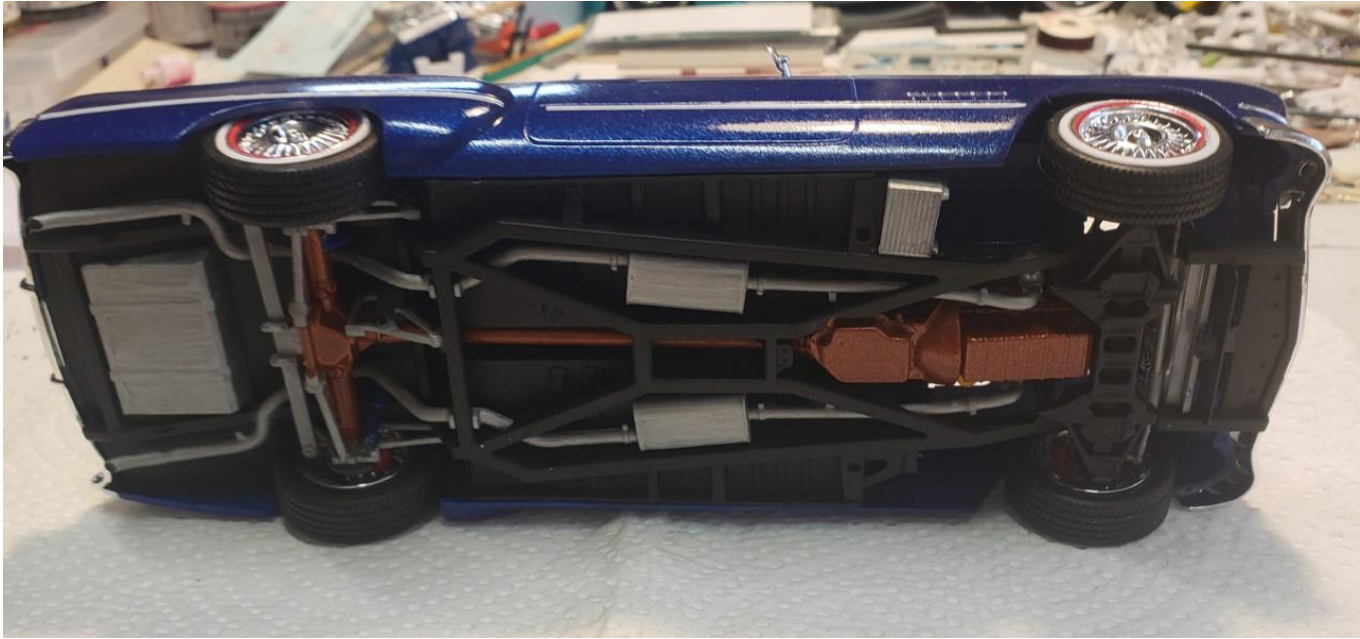
This his completed Cadillac!





## News from Clarence Snyder:

This his completed Cadillac!



This photo goes with the next page.



## News from Clarence Snyder:



## 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

## Sandpaper Base Project – Don Martin

Frank,

As you requested, attached are some photos of the sandpaper base project. They seem to be in focus - one never knows. I've also attached some captions - feel free to change the wording if you wish. The captions may be out of order with the photos but they should be easy to identify.

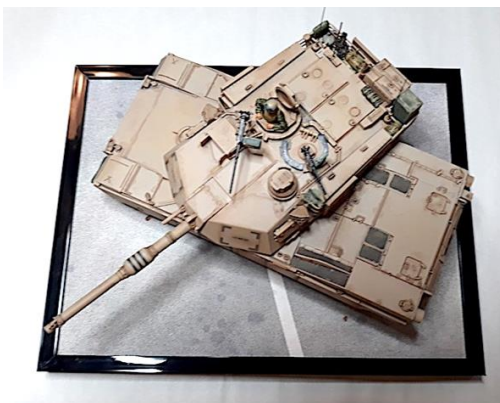
1. Tools of the trade - Tamiya paints and Micron 05 marking pen [Image 1]
2. A 1/48 Tamiya M1A2 Abrams- I've put a white line on the base to depict a highway center stripe. [Image 2]
3. A generic base - just to experiment [Image 3]
4. A 1/72 Saab Gripen on the generic base [Image 4]
5. Another view of the Gripen [Image 5]
6. The 320 grit sandpaper I used [Image 6]
7. The Luft '46 base. [Image 7]; See photo elsewhere in Jaxcon photos: Look closely at the two Brusch und Flosz SchnitzelBlitzen light attack aircraft - The Germans were pretty good with stealth technology in the late 40s.

Regards, Don

[1]



[2]



[3]





# GATOR MODELERS



[4]



[5]



[6]



[7]





## SANDPAPER TO THE RESCUE – by Don Martin

I've always been fascinated by "Luftwaffe '46" aircraft and displays at model shows, so I decided to build a Lufty '46 diorama in 1/48 scale. First off, I needed a basis for an airfield surface about 18" x 24", too big for any of the commercially available resin bases.

I looked into printed cardboard, self-adhesive vinyl sheets, Evergreen sheet styrene, etc., but nothing looked right. Then I happened to see some sandpaper while shopping at Lowe's and I thought I'd give that a try – glad I did! Turns out that the 320 grit looks really good for 1/48 and 1/35 roads and airfield surfaces.



For my diorama, I used 3M Sandblaster Pro 320 Grit for Very Fine Finishes. It's an orange-tan color, so I knew I'd need to put a little paint on it. The sheets are easily cut with household scissors. Here's what I did:

1. For a base coat, I used a Tamiya Gunship Gray (TS-48) spray can. Coverage should be pretty complete as you want a nice solid dark base from which to work.
2. Starting with this step, all steps need to be airbrushed as you want "clouds" of color, not fully covering the previous color. Step 2 is a "cloud" of Tamiya Khaki (XF-49) thinned with Tamiya lacquer thinner – make sure some of the Gunship Gray is showing through. Fun!

## SANDPAPER TO THE RESCUE

3. If you want lines on the surface (a center line on a highway, for instance), this is the step. Spray white or yellow, or whatever color you want for the lines, and then mask off the lines you want with Tamiya masking tape. Then go back to the Khaki to cover up the white or yellow so the surface will be fairly uniform – the masking tape will protect your lines.
4. Next up is a cloud of Tamiya Light Gray (XF-66). This should be another light coat, allowing the previous colors to show.
5. Next is an even lighter and thinner cloud of Tamiya Buff (XF-57). This adds a little brownish tint to the surface.
6. Next step is the last use of the airbrush – a cloud of Tamiya Deck Tan (XF-55). This is an almost off-white shade and you can use it to lighten the surface until you like the overall look.
7. Next step is to remove the masking tape, revealing your lines.
8. If you want tar strips, you can add them using a straight edge and a soft-tip Black marker. I've had good luck with a PIGMA Micron 05 (.45 mm). The black ink is waterproof and fade proof.
9. You can now add some oil spots and stains, and then sit back and admire your work!

The sandpaper is available at Lowe's and the marking pen at Hobby Lobby – Have Fun!





## News from Jack Mugan

**From Jack Mugan .....**

Recon pilot, P-38 started

**From Frank Ahern:** Check out this article on our very own "car guy" Don Martin.

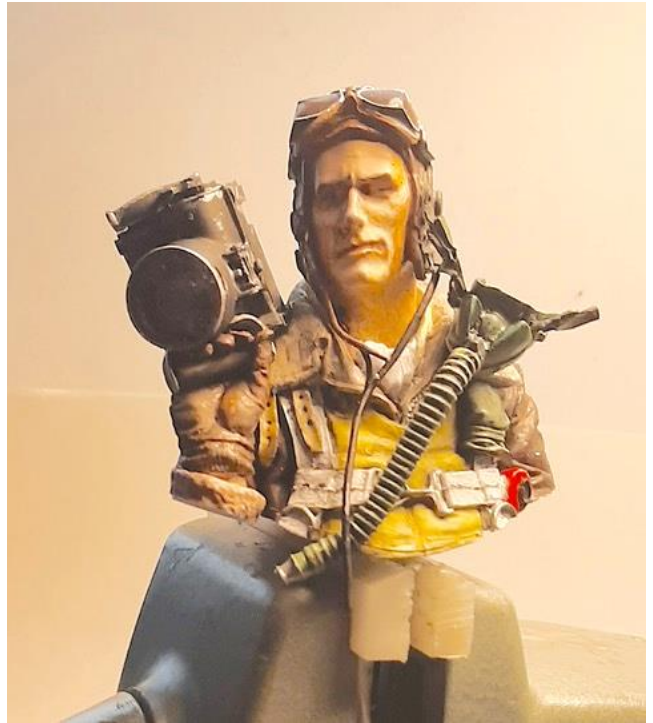
One garage, two worlds: Classic Buick Riviera and hot rod Mustang

Don and Mary Martin have been classic car enthusiasts in the Gainesville area for years, and have a couple of "sweet rides" to show for it.

Check out this story on gainesville.com:

<https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/2021/03/08/one-garage-two-worlds-classic-buick-riviera-and-hot-rod-mustang/4247893001/>

**From Jack Mugan .. #2 is done!**



## News from Jack Mugan

From Jack Mugan .....



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## 2021 IPMS USA NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 18th - 21st, 2021

at the

RIO RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER

Las Vegas, Nevada



## News from former IPMS Gators member Eugene Shek

**Eugene wrote:** Hope all is doing well in this Covid pandemic.

I just finished my 1st motorized prototype of the B-25 Mitchell Bomber of my 1/200 scale USS Hornet. Both propellers spin, the top turret can rotate 360, the rear landing wheels can rotate freely, the front wheel can steer. Also lowered the flaps and added antennas and MG barrels for the top turret and tail gunner position.

The fun part was to simulate it in taking off the flight deck. I made a replica deck With cardboard to test the ideas and machinery and it works okay. Not sure if I want to cut a long gap on the flight deck or not.

Hope you will enjoy the pictures!



# GATOR MODELERS

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: 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)  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS





## 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](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.



### 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  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 1411, Riverview, FL 33568-1411

## Wild Paint(s) ...



**B**ye for now!