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***Pat Loyacona's 1:32 scale Aoshima Snap Kit
1955 Ovalwindow VW Beetle***



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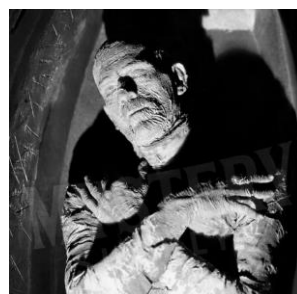
Bill Winter
Treasurer &
Newsletter
Editor

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

I have been so busy with the 3d printer that Bill and I purchased, that I have pretty much put my model building on the back burner. I did, however, manage to print, paint, and build an airship this month. I'm just not sure that it will fly, pardon the pun, for the November Ships theme. We shall see.

This month's theme is Monsters, in which I have several, but I will miss the September meeting. Don't forget that in October, Jack Mugan will be joining us for dinner before the meeting and will attend the meeting as well. Hope you have a great meeting, see all of you next month.

- Doug



July – IPMS Gators
We will meet Tuesday,
September 15, 2025, at
6:30 PM at
Oak Hall Library

Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday August 18, 2026

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:35. There were 15 members and one guest present (John Wegenka).



Doug explained that former President Jack Mugan was unable to attend and the presentation of his Hall of Fame award was postponed until October.

Upcoming model shows include the Blue Angel modelfest on Sept.12 in Milton FL. Modelpalooza in Kissimmee Oct. 9 - 11. Ed Ingersoll and Bill Winter are hosting AMPS Florida Con in Orlando November 7 & 8.

Doug mentioned that he is changing the photos on the club flyer to update the look of the flyer.

Bruce Doyle encouraged members to read the club newsletter and offered a prize to those who could answer a question based on his article.

Doug reminded the group that there is a club build contest in September for those who took a 1/144 scale kit in April.

The meeting paused for presentations by those who brought models. The monthly theme was Snap-Tite. Next month's theme is Monsters.

The theme contest was won by Pat Loyacona with a yellow VW.

Doug told the club that once a model has won a theme contest it cannot be submitted in another contest.

Ed Ingersoll demonstrated a new paint mixing machine he purchased online.

Finally, the meeting ended with a presentation by Joe Swails on cars and limousines used by the Presidents.

The meeting concluded at 8:15pm.

Submitted by:
Frank Ahern,
club secretary

Grumman's Ace Maker

By Frank Ahern



It wasn't sleek, stylish or sexy, but the F6F Hellcat perfectly embodied the philosophy of former Navy pilot Leroy Grumman. Simple, reliable, rugged and easy for a new pilot to fly. The result was a fighter that produced more aces than any other U.S. airplane in WW2 and tilted the war in the Pacific to the US. The emphasis on pilot safety with features like armor plating around the cockpit and self-sealing fuel tanks was a major difference between the Hellcat and the Japanese Zero, which could turn on a dime but couldn't survive a bullet to the fuel system.



The Hellcat was an upgrade of the F4F Wildcat, which was outclassed by the nimble Zero in dogfights early in the war, so Grumman narrowed the gap with a bigger, more powerful version they called the Hellcat. The key was the addition of the Pratt-Whitney R-2800 engine, a 2000 hp brute that was arguably the best radial engine of WW2. This allowed the Hellcat to out climb, out dive and out run the Zero, changing the dynamics of aerial combat in the Pacific.

Grumman's Ace Maker



The ultimate winners were the hundreds of young American pilots who lived to fight another day while their Japanese counterparts were going down in flames. Over 300 Navy pilots became aces in the Hellcat, which owned a 19-1 kill ratio over the enemy - the highest ratio of any US aircraft.



The first of those aces was a young Georgia farm boy named Hamilton McWhorter, who later achieved double ace status. Thanks to Grumman's focus on pilot safety he, and many of his buddies, survived the war and he lived 87 years.



Grumman's Ace Maker

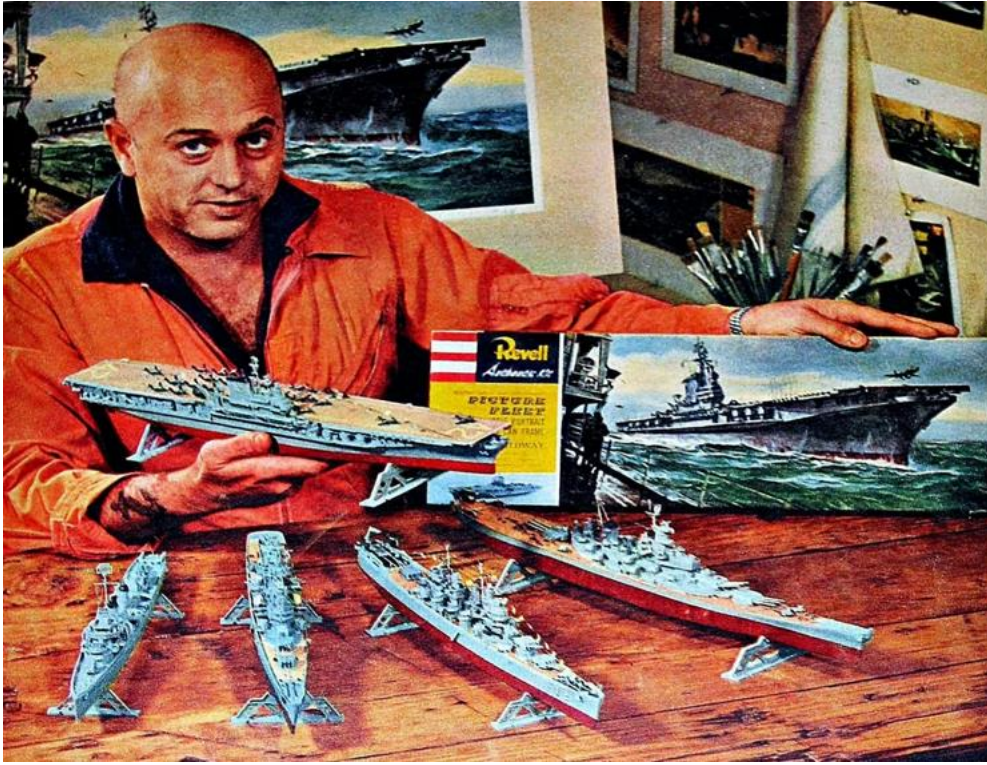
Long enough to give his autograph to Bruce Doyle for his "aces on aces" collection. As we celebrate America's 250th birthday special recognition must go to those brave men who put their lives on the line when our nation's freedom was in real peril.



I built "Mac" McWhorter's number 12 Hellcat to honor him and showcase Bruce's amazing collection.



It was an Eduard kit and lived up to my expectations for that brand. Excellent fit, good surface detail and a nice selection of decals to choose from. The three-color camouflage scheme used by the Navy in 1943 was a pain to lay down but makes a more colorful model than the all-blue used later in the war. Overall, a fun project. Thanks again to Bruce for the "ace" card.



Picture Perfect: John Steel at Revell

By Darryl Palmer

Revell was the first model company to acknowledge that box art was real art, worthy in its own right and suitable for framing.

In 1960, Revell's long-time art director Dick Kishady was bringing new talent into the company so that he could retire. He found two outstanding illustrators, both "men's men" who liked to trade war stories with him. One was Jack Leynwood (see July 2025 newsletter); the other was John Steel.

Steel was born in New York City in 1921 to a family of theatrical performers. As a child he had a brief stage career, acting in *The Dead End Kids* on Broadway. After his parents separated, he traveled in Europe with his mother and spent part of the year at a boys' school in Florida. It was there that he discovered a lifelong love of adventure, the outdoors, and painting.

During WWII, Steel served in the Marines, seeing combat at Guadalcanal and Peleliu. He sketched what he saw, documenting some of the bloodiest battles of the war. LIFE magazine artist Kerr Eby encouraged him to send his work to Leatherneck, the USM's magazine, and that was how Steel began his career as a professional artist.

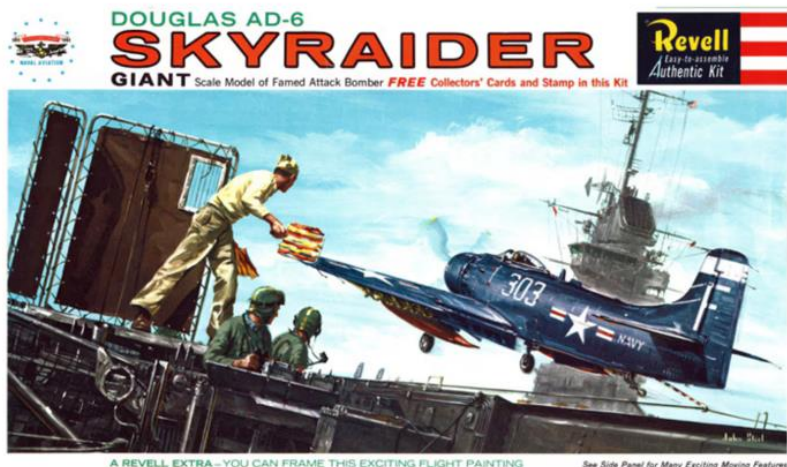
Picture Perfect: John Steel at Revell

After the war, he enrolled at the Art Center School in Los Angeles; however, he soon returned to duty in Korea, fighting with the Marines at Chosin Reservoir. After Korea, he returned to LA and worked for Disneyland, sketching designs for the Matterhorn and Westernlands; he also drew storyboards in Hollywood for movies like *Ben Hur* and *Mutiny on the Bounty*.



Left: John Steel spearfishing off Rodono Beach; Right: Steel cover art, *Skin Diver*, June 1955

During these years, he returned to night school at the Art Center and took up a new hobby: spearfishing off Redondo Beach. Steel said that he wasn't getting enough to live on from the GI Bill, so he fed his family with abalone. But the friendships he was forming with fellow divers led to his first significant job, painting covers for *Skin Diver* magazine and ads for Voit Swimaster. Like most artists, he also freelanced a lot, working for other outdoors magazines, North American Aviation, the Strategic Air Command, and eventually Revell.



The low, tilted angles, the figures whipping their heads around to draw sight lines on the AD-6 just as it catches the arresting wire--Steel knew how to create action on the canvas.

Picture Perfect: John Steel at Revell

Taking over from the retired Dick Kishady, new art director Howard Goldstein wanted to redesign Revell's boxes. Text and logos were to be set off to one side—meaning that the box art, while smaller, would stand on its own. Revell hoped that modelers would re-buy some of their old kits, and they knew that many of them liked to cut out and save box art. They had two of the most talented box artists in the business, so why not sell it as a feature? Goldstein called the new campaign the *Famous Artist Series* (for airplanes) and *Picture Fleet* (for ships).

Steel was featured on *Picture Fleet*, and his box art is still some of the most sought after by collectors. He tended to work in muted colors, using a milk-based medium called casein that gave his steel hulls and ocean waves a somber depth. From his kitchen studio in Palos Verdes, Steel produced hundreds of suitable-for-framing box covers for Revell.

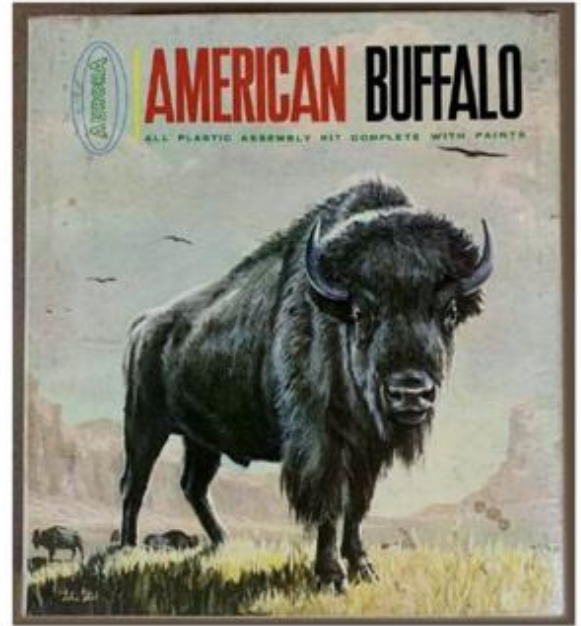


Steel uses a low, head-on perspective and grays and blues against a warm background to show the U.S.S. Saratoga looming over the skyline of a busy port.

Then one day in 1966, he disappeared. After a few months, rumors began to spread that he had gone to Mexico; then Jack Leynwood heard that he had drowned. Eventually, they found out what really happened: At age 45, Steel had returned to the Marine Corps as a combat photographer and artist, serving five tours in Vietnam. Over his service in three wars, Steel received the Bronze Star, the Navy Cross, and three Purple Hearts.

In 1970, he settled in Santa Rosa, raised a family, and did commercial art for another decade, working for Monogram, Aurora, and Lindberg. After retiring, he turned to wildlife art and Bible illustrations. He continued to be an avid diver and world traveler, painting fine art from the thousands of photographs he collected in his studio. He died in 1998 at age 77,

Picture Perfect: John Steel at Revell



Left: Steel in his studio in the 1990s; Right: Boxart for Aurora, reflecting Steel's interest in wildlife art.

"I've been lucky," he told author Eric Hanauer. "I know a lot of better artists who haven't been as lucky. I've had nine lives, still got about two left...I'm happily married, got four kids, and live in a beautiful spot. I paint every day and wouldn't trade with anybody I know in the world."

References:

Eric Hanauer. 1994. *Diving Pioneers: An Oral History of Diving in America*. Aqua Quest Publications.

Thomas Graham. 2004. *Remembering Revell Model Kits*, 2nd ed. Schiffler Publishing.

Max's Models. Box Top Artists: John Steel. YouTube.

https://youtu.be/uUGe7vT7kgQ?si=uOXT4TmCp_VDHUoF

Harry Anderson Artwork. John Steel art: <https://harryandersonart.com/john-steel-art>



Newbie Corner By Joe Swails



Greetings, fellow Gator Modelers! September is here, which as we all know, means that it is only three more months until we feel the cool, brisk days of autumn here in the Swamp! At least Gator football has returned to the land of Orange and Blue! Chomp! Chomp!

This September has an added special meaning for me, since it was one year ago this month that I attended my first Gator Modelers meeting. I was warmly welcomed by so many of you that I at once felt a unique comfort and camaraderie within this group. I knew I had found a club that I wished to join to learn new skills, take part, and share my time. It has been a fun-filled year, which has flown by in the proverbial blink of an eye.

My first outing came the following month when Doug generously allowed me to go with him to *Modelpalooza* in Kissimmee. WOW! What an introduction to the current state of model building it was! In addition to the aisles of vendors with kits and wares that staggered my imagination, there were built kits on the judging tables that were stunning to behold. It was both inspiring and intimidating for me, as I was just reentering the model-building realm after a lapse of so many decades. The standards were set incredibly high by the build quality of those kits sitting on the tables.

Not long after, there was the annual Christmas party, generously hosted by Bill and Nancy Winter at their terrific condominium. This was such a nice venue and opportunity to socialize and mingle with my new friends, whom I was just getting to know. The gift swap was fun and entertaining, wrapping up (pardon the pun) a great afternoon.

Soon after the new year rolled around, I was off to my second convention: *Jaxcon*, with Frank serving as my pilot and sage guide. It did not disappoint, as there were so many vendors and contest models on the judging tables there, as well. I was starting to get used to the model shows and loved what I was experiencing.

Over the next few months, I was able to attend more events, such as the *Villages show*, *Southlandz*, and *Pamscon*, always traveling with a club member. Thanks, Doug, Bill, Pat, and Ed for taking me with you and for the enjoyable discussions we had about the world of modeling during our travels.

In reflecting back on the course of these last twelve months, I have joined Gator Modelers as an official member, bought a bright-yellow club shirt, joined IPMS, attended the biannual contest between Gator Modelers and the Ocala club, judged models at one of the contests, toured Bruce's home and model workshop, and even had both knees replaced along the way. The best part, however, has been getting to meet and know each of you. I am proud to be a member of the Gator Modelers club and call you my friends.

Thank you for a wonderful first year. I am anxious to see how the next twelve months play themselves out, and I have no doubt that it will be another great year as I dive even deeper into the world of scale modeling!

Fiddly Bits: a Two-fer

by Bruce Doyle
Club Co-Founder and Club Historian



Errol Whisler sent me an email a while back that led me on a timely Google Search. He wrote that the last living WWII German fighter Ace was a 105-year-old named *Norbert Schücking* (photo above right) who had either 9 or 13 victories flying with JG11. He flew in the surprise attack on Allied Airfields on the morning of January 1, 1945. *Operation Bodenplatte* - Base Plate - was aimed at catching hungover flyers sleeping in at their airfields on the Continent and annihilating the parked Allied aircraft by using what was left of the Luftwaffe's fighter strength. Instead, the Germans lost many of their squadron leaders, and the Allies quickly replaced the aircraft destroyed that morning. But I digress.

That then begged the question – “*Are there any living American WWII Fighter Aces as this is written (September 1st)?*” Sad to say – “No.” Navy Ace Donald McPherson, who had 6 Victories flying with VF-83 off the Essex, died 12 months ago. There have been 1,442 Americans who have become Fighter Aces during five wars, but there is only one American Fighter Ace left - Gen. Steve Ritchie, USAF (ret.). Ritchie was the only Air Force Ace of the Vietnam War, joining Navy Ace Randy "Duke" Cunningham as the only two American Aces of the War (Cunningham passed away last December). There is some conjecture that Robin Olds shot down more than five enemy aircraft but didn't count them so as to remain on duty and not be sent home to go on publicity tours.

Now that I have included the Vietnam War, what about the pilots on the other side? The Vietnamese People's Air Force (VPAF) produced 19 Fighter Aces flying against a target rich environment of both American Air Force and Navy planes - F-4's, F-105's, A-6's, A-7's, et cetera. There were 13 Mig-21 Aces, and 6 flying Mig-17's. Today three VPAF Aces survive, including the top two: Nguyen Van Coc, 9 Victories; Pham Thanh Nuan, 8 Victories; and Nguyen Duc Soat who shot down six Americans.

In conclusion, there are no other surviving WWII Allied or Axis Fighters Aces alive making Schücking the only one left in the entire World. And by some strange and somewhat ironic twist, there are more surviving Fighters Aces in the East - the three VPAF pilots - than in the West - Schücking and Ritchie. (Also sadly, according to the VA there are only 31,000 American WWII Veterans alive, making them 0.02% of the 16 million who served.) I thought you might like to know.

Now I'll put down my Google "Mouse" and pick up my Roku "Remote", and detail a few of my favorite YouTube Channels that I like for modeling, for WWII history, and for airshows and airplanes.

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1. "**Maxsmodels**", 35K subs, 3.2K Videos - Being an unreconstructed Luddite - I haven't had a computer for a full decade yet, and I just got an Iphone in December - I mistakenly thought that when you subscribed to a YouTube Channel it was like subscribing to the Gainesville Sun: you sent them \$20 and got a month's worth of newspapers. I had no millenial or Gen X, Y or Z to coach me up on the subject, so I wasted many

Fiddly Bits: a Two-fer

years not taking advantage of what the Channel had to offer. But when the light bulb in the refrigerator finally went on, I was off to the races (sorry, I'll skip mixing metaphors.) Plus, I got the Premium YouTube Channel option which lets you watch it commercial free (\$18 / month.)



Max Kohnke is an interesting dude. A four-year Army Veteran (1979 - 83), a 1995 graduate of Florida State, and a recently retired JetBlue Airbus Captain with over 18,000 flying hours. Plus, he lives nearby in the Jacksonville area (maybe invite him to speak at a meeting?). Max has an avuncular charm, and great sense of humor, and more than average - and prolific - video production skills. I enjoy nothing better during my morning wakeup than turning on one of his daily videos while enjoying my coffee and English muffin breakfast. *(Hint: the detailed description of what I make for my morning meal will be the question I'll ask at the next meeting. If you can answer it correctly you will win a Ray Waddey print.)*

The Gatormodeler's Godfather - the late and very much missed Joe Caputo - once said to me that there are two types of model builders: "assemblers" and "modelers." "Assemblers" go straight through the direction sheet, not enhancing their build very much with add ons, and doing it just for the fun of it. By contrast, examples of "modelers" are Joe, Don Martin, and Jack Mugan. They take a basic box of plastic, add resin and PE and skill, and turn it into a small work of art. May I quickly add that both types are perfectly okay. Max is an assembler and is not really worried about seamlines, canopies attached akimbo, wing leading edges not puttied - he needs video content for his daily episodes, and so passable not perfection is the goal.

While he does give a kit a "how to" build talk, Max usually gives an interesting genealogy of the aircraft, or tank, or sci-fi subjects he's putting together. And there are one-off episodes on topics that interest him as both a modeler and pilot. These are usually very informative and spiced up with his sense of humor. It's a great Channel, and the perfect way to get your day off to a good start. Max's signoff: "Okay Gloo Troopers. Model On!"

2. **"Celebrating Aviation with Mike Machat"** 36K subs, 191 vids. Mike is another renaissance man like Max: Air Force veteran and pilot, staff illustrator for Douglas Aircraft and the Edwards Test Flight School, editor for Wings and Air Power aviation magazines, and today curator of the Museum of Flying in Santa Monica, Ca. His Channel is more than just about modeling. He is into the modeling sub hobby of collecting vintage kits, mostly from the 1950's - Revell, Monogram, Lindbergh, Aurora, and Hawk. It was a hobby that I didn't realize that I was a member of until I looked up and saw on the top shelf in my model room a collection of over two dozen vintage 1950's kits on display. It can be really fun reliving your younger years. Great memories.



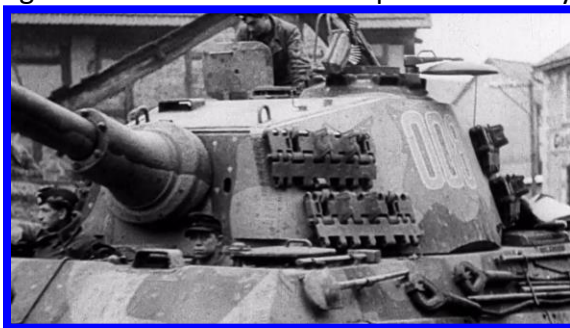
Fiddly Bits: a Two-fer

Mike is foremost an Aviation Artist, and he was taught in art school by one of the very best model box art illustrators - the legendary Jack Lynnwood who did the artwork for the Revell 1/72 B-17 Memphis Belle kit. His episodes on vintage kits is what might interest you most (Darryl), but Mike covers the whole gamut of Aviation. For instance: all the aircraft using the P&W R-4360 engine; stories on rare planes like the Republic "Rainbow"; classic prop driven airliners and the airlines that used them; how he plans and executes an illustration; his collection of manufacturer's display models; the careers of famous test pilots that he has known and has worked with; and a host of other eclectic aviation subjects that I find fascinating. Now on to my favorite channel that is devoted to the Second World War.



3. **"WW2 Wayfinder"** 250K subs, 906 vids. Growing up in New Hampshire we didn't get a television until I was 10 years old. So, for entertainment I listened to the Lone Ranger, the Shadow, Amos and Andy on the radio (I know, you walked to school in the snow, uphill both ways.) So, when I read books on WWII - it got dark before 4 PM during the winter where I lived - I used my imagination that had been developed by listening to the radio. I was able to visualize images of famous battles like on the Rapido River in Italy, Malmedy in Belgium, and St. Lo in France. Then the YouTube algorithm kicked up WW2 Wayfinder about a year ago and my youthful visualizations were replaced by a full, in color reality! My world changed. Believe me, it was a very special moment for this old man.

Jon Hunt is responsible for this Channel. He retired after 20 years as an RAF Engineering Officer and has a real passion for WWII history and historic battle sites. We struck up an email exchange for a number of months, and as a "Thank You" for me finally being able to see all these sites that I only saw in my imagination, I sent him a baker's dozen Aces-on-Aces cards and AFAA Album that I picked up cheap from Kitlinx (postage across the pond is another story.) Jon has a PhD depth of knowledge about the war in Europe, and he has a really professional video production setup with drones and Before and After the Battle, Then and Now type episodes. He also has a huge archive of Official Wartime maps, photographs of officers and soldiers, Unit Histories, and assorted ephemera. And he can jump in his car in Boxford with all his cameras and drones and drive through the Chunnel and be in France in no time. Lucky guy! If you want to see the exact spot where the famous shot was taken of the King Tiger 003 heading to the Battle of the Bulge through the village of Tondorf - Jon has an episode where you can see that same spot today - "Then and Now."



Tiger 008 in Tondorf

Fiddly Bits: a Two-fer

WW2 Wayfinder is one of my favorite Channels period, and by far my favorite Second World War Channel. If you want to take a more academic approach to WWII History however, there is none better than the one done by the "*World War Two Museum*" in New Orleans. With 102K Subscribers and 160 Videos they have had numerous symposia on famous Battles like D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, V.E. and V.J. Days. Several well-known military historians discuss each battle in great detail. I believe you can still find an old video with Stephen Ambrose talking about his book "Band of Brothers" if you look hard enough. The Liberation Trilogy author Rick Atkinson is a frequent contributor, both on WWII and the American Revolution. It's excellent! But what about airplane channels?

4. "**FRA Productions**", 188K Subscribers, 127 Videos. There are literally hundreds of aviation channels, like there are hundreds of WWII and model Channels. One of the most popular is "Kermit Weeks Channel" with 214K Subscribers, and as he so often points out 491 Kermit Cam videos. If you want to really go into minute detail about rebuilding classic and warbird aircraft this is your spot. But there is so much more to his channel that I'll leave it for another day to tell you about. Then there are two Channels that cover mostly Air Shows like EAA Oshkosh and Lakeland's Sun N' Fun: "AirshowStuff", 400K Subscribers and 2,800 Videos, and "Airailimages" 131K Subscribers, and 2,400 videos. They are great, but sometimes the videos are a little herky / jerky and you often see the back of someone's head blocking the view. Only a few of their videos have what the next Channel, and my new favorite, does in spades - identifies the aircraft that they are filming in great detail.



The "FRA Productions Channel" was a revelation. I seemed to have developed a prejudice against late 20th Century and 21st Century jets. Just ask Brian Cormack. Maybe it stemmed from my asking my friend P-38 Ace Joe Forster what his favorite jet fighter was. His amusing response was that he preferred to fly planes not already 'on fire.' But this channel changed my appreciation for planes not built between 1939 and 1945. Radically.

Using incredible, professional videography, FRA films from airports and air bases in Europe - like Frankfurt, Munich, Moscow.

They must have an excellent working relationship with the various European Air Force Public Relations Officers, because they are given access to these bases and given optimal filming locations. They also get to film certain aircraft in the air from a Short SC-7 Skyvan. Getting great closeups of the planes, the cockpits with the pilots and their gear, refueling probes, plan views. And this Channel does on a consistent basis what no other channel does: in a two line banner that pops up they then identify the plane, make and model (production block for a F-16 for instance); the serial number for both civil and / or military; the airline the plane flies for and it's civilian I.D. number; where the plane took off from, and the time it took to reach the airport or air base (i.e. Dubai - with the airport's abbreviation - to Frankfurt: 15h, 15m). It's been a graduate school education for me, and seeing the various military anniversaries artwork, and the livery for airlines - most of which I never heard of before - is absolutely stunning! There is a gorgeous "Save the Tiger" motif for a Ukrainian C-130H that covers the whole front of the fuselage and cockpit, with the radar dome as the tiger's nose. It's breathtaking! I am now officially a fan of modern airplanes, be they jet, turboprop, or prop.

Fiddly Bits: a Two-fer

But the World's airliner livery is what really stands out, and a lot of them, once again, I was completely unaware of. It's like going to a fine art gallery from the comfort of your couch. Seriously. You need to check this channel out. It's 'planespotting' on steroids, and many planes would qualify for our "Wild Paint" feature at the end of each of the Newsletters. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

"And just what is that Chinese Air Force four engine cargo jet that just landed in Moscow from Beijing? Beat's me. I've never seen one before. I'm going to have to look it up. "

Stay tuned for more YouTube Channels...

* * * * *

So just what's on the breakfast menu for kicking back and watching Max in the morning? With an homage to the legendary Tampa Tribune Sports Editor Tom McEwen who would start his Sunday morning column with what he enjoyed that day for breakfast: I brew myself a fresh cup of Colombian 100% Arabica Coffee with a splash of half and half and two teaspoons of sucralose (got to watch the diet); split and then toast a Thomas Original English Muffin; spread both halves with Kerrygold unsalted Pure Irish Butter; then a generous amount of Smucker's Natural Peanut Butter, with a 50 / 50 mixture* of Creamy and Chunky.

And sometimes I splurge on the weekends by spreading one half of the muffin with Stone Wall Kitchen Seedless Raspberry Jam that I 'BOGO-ed' from Publix!

BON APPETIT!

* Octogenarian teeth need to avoid eating almonds and opening beer bottles. I did the former but never the latter. One day I mistakenly picked up a jar of chunky PB and mixed it with some creamy, and eureka! No trip to the dentist, and it tasted extra special yummy good. So now I mix a jar of each and then enjoy the results by watching Maxmodels.

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Andy Renshaw and family have a one o'clock, 4 September date to come by and visit the Gallery / Museum. Come join us if you can.



Pat Loyacona's 1:32 scale Aoshima Snap Kit 1955 Ovalwindow VW Beetle in yellow earned the praise of his fellow modelers with being recognized as the best snapтите build in August 2026.
CONGRATULATONS!



Ed Ingersoll's Meng World War Toons Sherman-Firefly Snaptite kit



Clarence Snyder's 1:20 scale Lindberg The Flintstones The Flintmobile



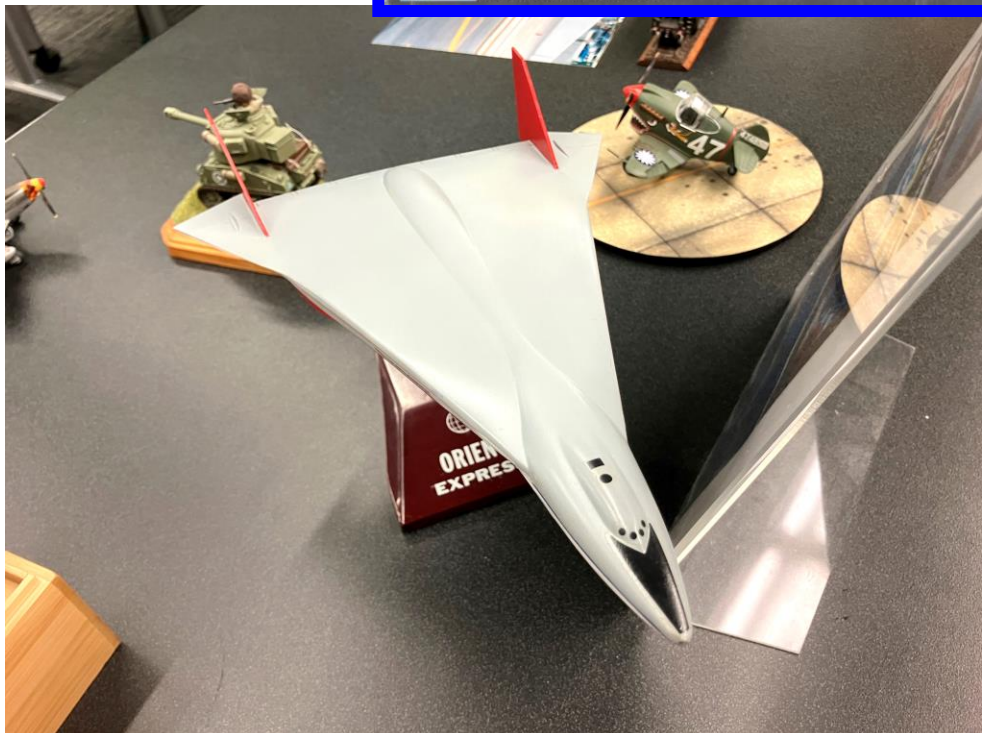
Mary Martin's Meng P-40 Toon Aircraft



Doug Spinney's 1:25 scale Ghostbusters ECTO-1 by Polar Lights WITH 3D printed Slimer!



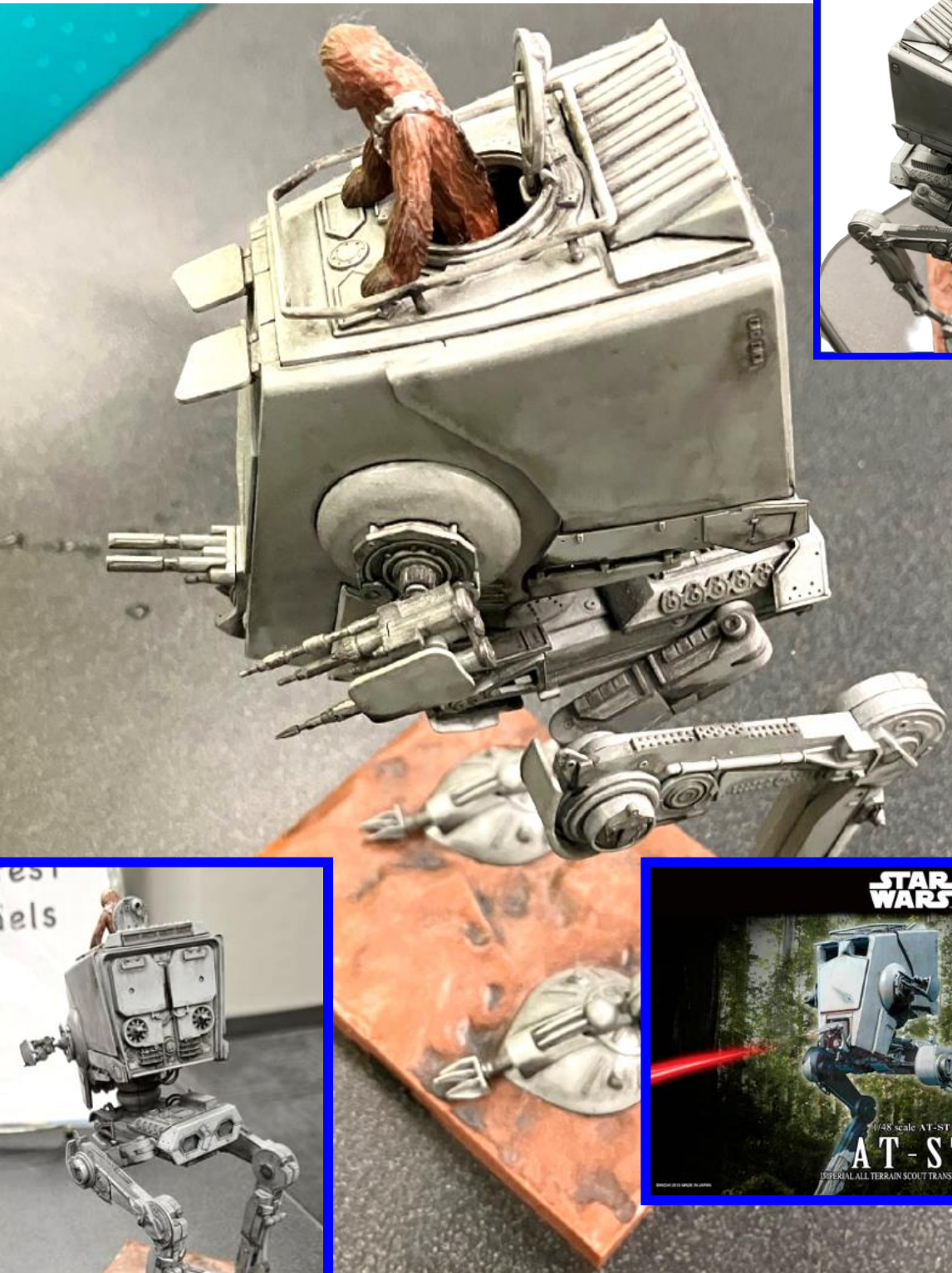
Darryl Palmer's X-30 Orient Express by Monogram



Joe Swails' Revell Snap-Together Ford Boss Mustang; Revell | No. H-1132 | 1:32 PLUS USAF decals!



Bob Lundeen's 1:48 scale Star Wars AT-ST (Imperial All Terrain Scout Transport Walker) by Bandai

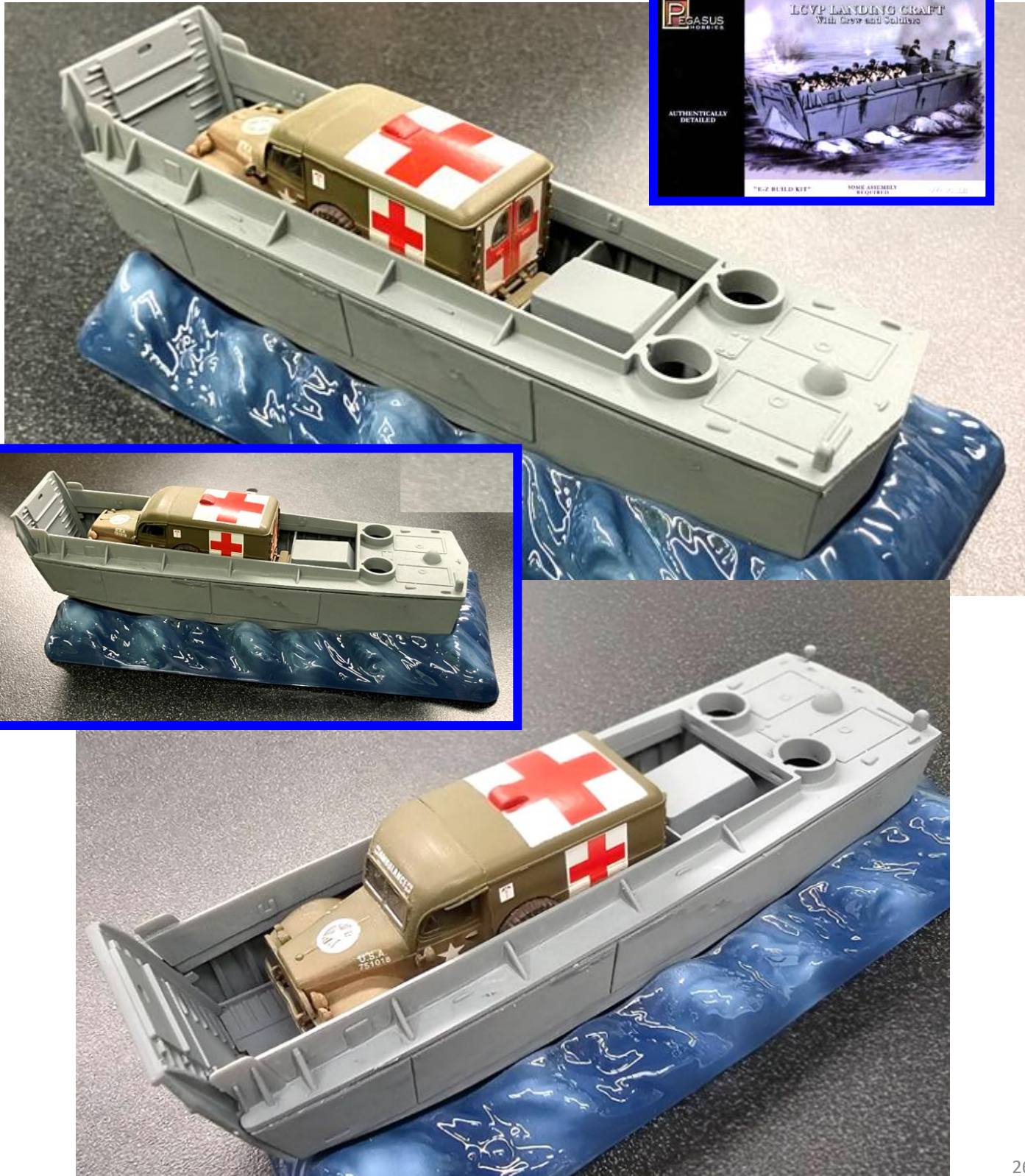


Bruce Doyle's P-51D - the wings snapped into the fuselage

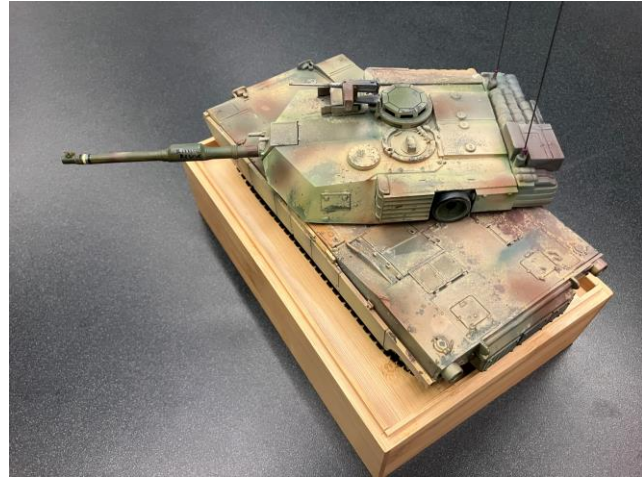
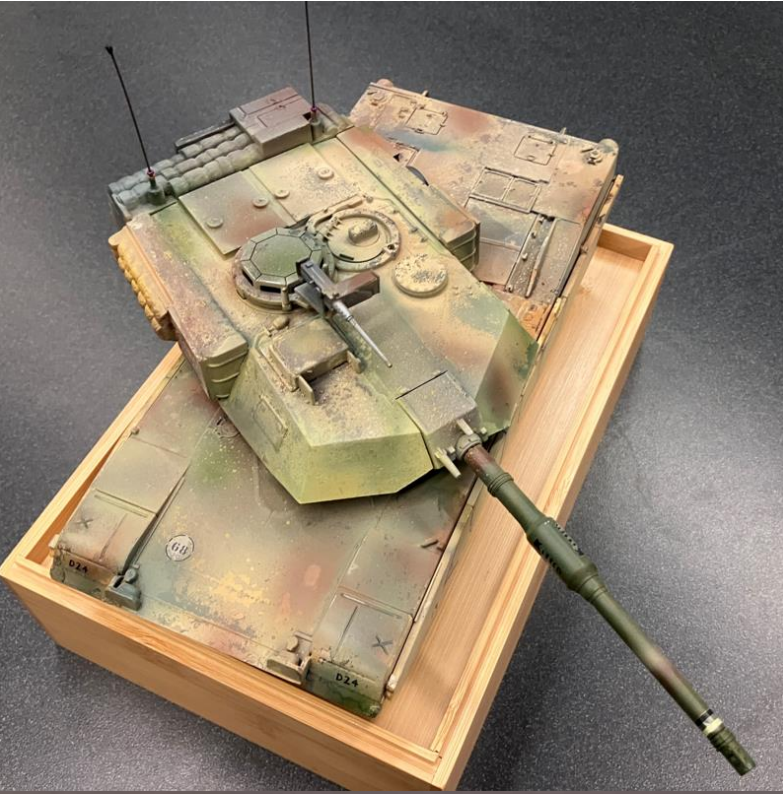


Airfix, 1:72 scale P-51D from A. J. Kwan

Chuck Lassiter's 1:72 scale Pegasus LCVP – snapтите kit (with WC-54 ambulance)



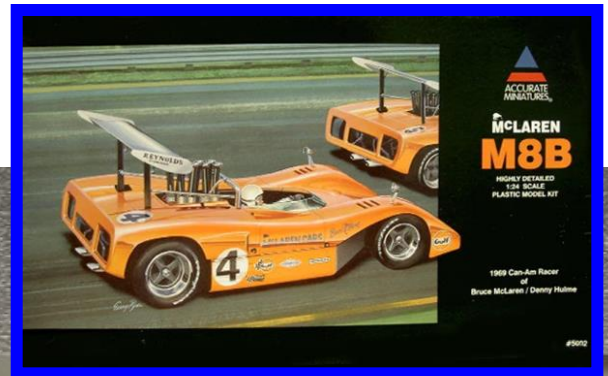
Bill's 1:35 scale M1A1 Abrams SnapTite by Revell



Pete Dawson's Revell Plastic kit in 1/87 Scale (H0) of the BR 18 of the Deutsche Bundesbahn (German Federal Railway). Pete added H0 scale coal to the tender and added a real wood side extension to the coal bunker in the tender.



Mark Box's 1:24 scale, Accurate Miniatures #4 Orange McLaren M8B 1969 Cam-Am Racer of Bruce McLaren / Denny Hulme



Ian Breheny's concept spaceship (Yooby Interceptor) – scratch built!



Clarence Snyder's Ghostbusters ECTO-1A; AMT | No. 750 | 1:25 WITH engine (not included in kit) – W I P



Clarence Snyder's Flinestones' car with engine!



Clarence Snyder's Flinestones' car



Frank Ahern's P-40 from the Flying Tigers



IPMS Gators sponsored Category 217, 1/72 Military Wheeled Vehicles at the 2026 IPMS Nationals in Fort Wayne, Indiana



Members and Friends in attendance at the August meeting



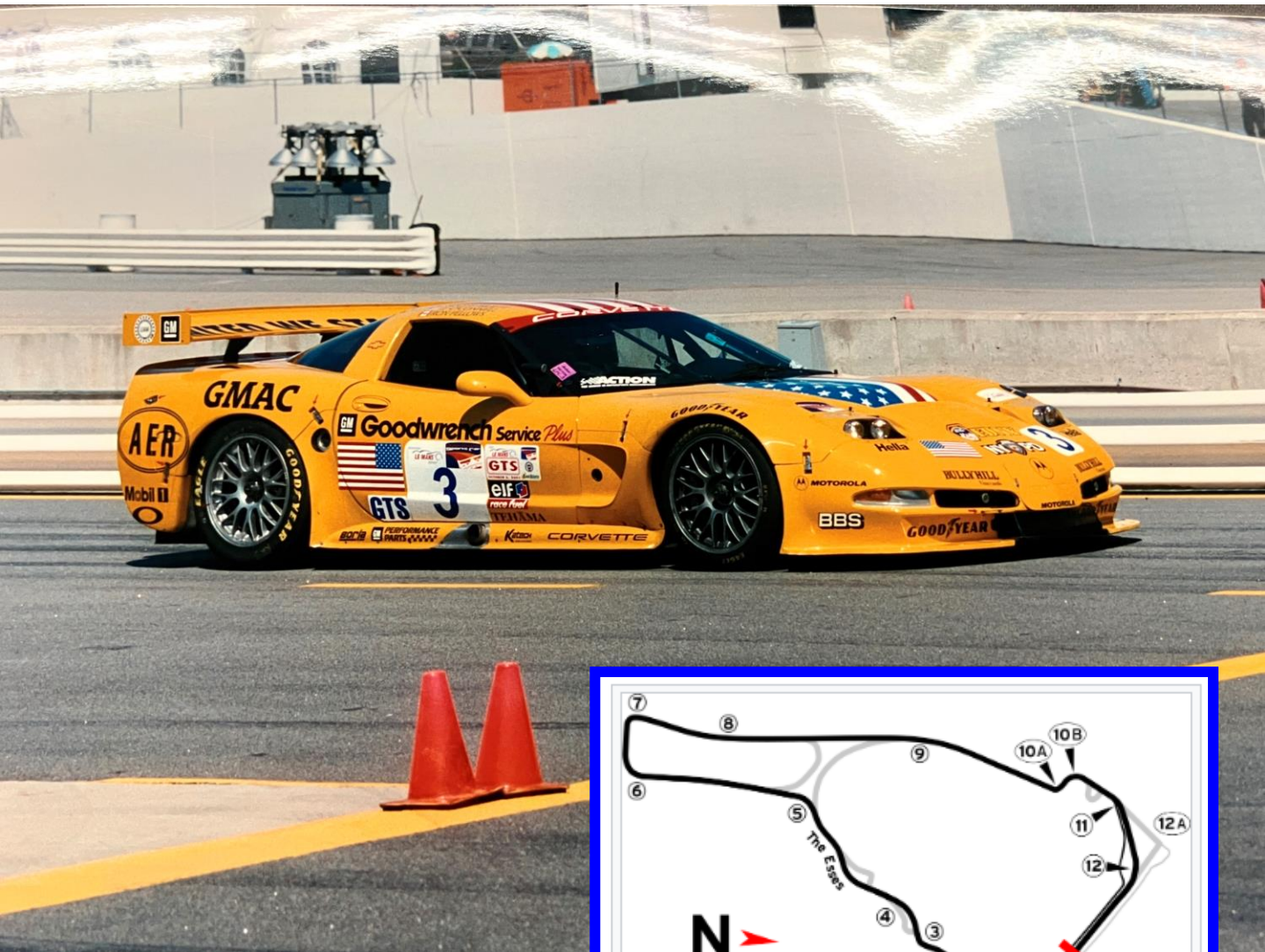
From the workbench of Clarence Snyder!



Kit shared by Pete Dawson



Shown by Pete Dawson -- > C5R Pratt & Miller Corvette Racing entry in the 2001 Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta, Georgia. The race was either 1000 miles or 10 hours in length, whichever came first.



The 2001 Audi presents Petit Le Mans was the fourth running of this event. It was the tenth and final round of the 2001 American Le Mans Series season as well as the seventh and final round of the 2001 European Le Mans Series season. It took place at Road Atlanta, Georgia, on October 6, 2001.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001_Petit_Le_Mans

Upcoming shows



AMPS Florida Con



AMPS Florida and the Central Florida Figure Group present the **AMPS Florida Con / Figure World Orlando Show** on **November 7th and 8th, 2026** at the **Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld** (6677 Sea Harbor Dr, Orlando, FL 32821). Hotel rooms are \$169/night plus a reduced resort fee of \$15/ night.

<https://book.passkey.com/go/figureworldorlandoamps>

The hotel is immediately across the street from Sea World. By car, Disneyworld's Magic Kingdom and Universal Studios Orlando are each no more than 20 minutes away.

Contest registration will be *on-site* and will be open from 8AM until 3PM on Saturday, November 7th. Blank entry forms can be found at AMPS North Florida Facebook page. Vendor tables are available at \$55/table for the two-day show.

AMPS categories will include :

- Tracked armor through 1945, allied (as marked)
- Tracked armor through 1945, axis (as marked)
- Tracked armor, 1946 - 1991 (based on markings)
- Tracked armor, 1992 - present (based on markings)
- Wheeled vehicles and halftracks
- Ordnance
- Fictional, futuristic or proposed land-based vehicles (e.g., Mechs & Gundam on the ground)
- Vignettes
- Dioramas



You may register up to 4 entries that will be judged. AMPS volunteers judging 2 shifts (or the equivalent) will be provided with raffle tickets.

For more information see the AMPS North Florida Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1617151505610642/>) or contact Ed Ingersoll at: ingersoll2@gmail.com.

Pelican 27
Scale Model Convention and Contest
50th ANNIVERSARY
MAY THE SCALE BE WITH -YOU-
OF STAR WARS
Brought to you by the **Pelican MODEL CLUB**
PelicanModelClub.org

Upcoming shows



VILLAGES
SCALE MODEL CLUB



IPMS FRESNO

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

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AIR MUSEUM PRESENTS

SPRUE BOWL III

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH 2027

THEMES:

80TH ANNIVERSARY USAF

50TH ANNIVERSARY STAR WARS

AMERICAN MUSCLE

SEMINARS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

PLEASE SCAN QR CODE FOR
FURTHER DETAILS



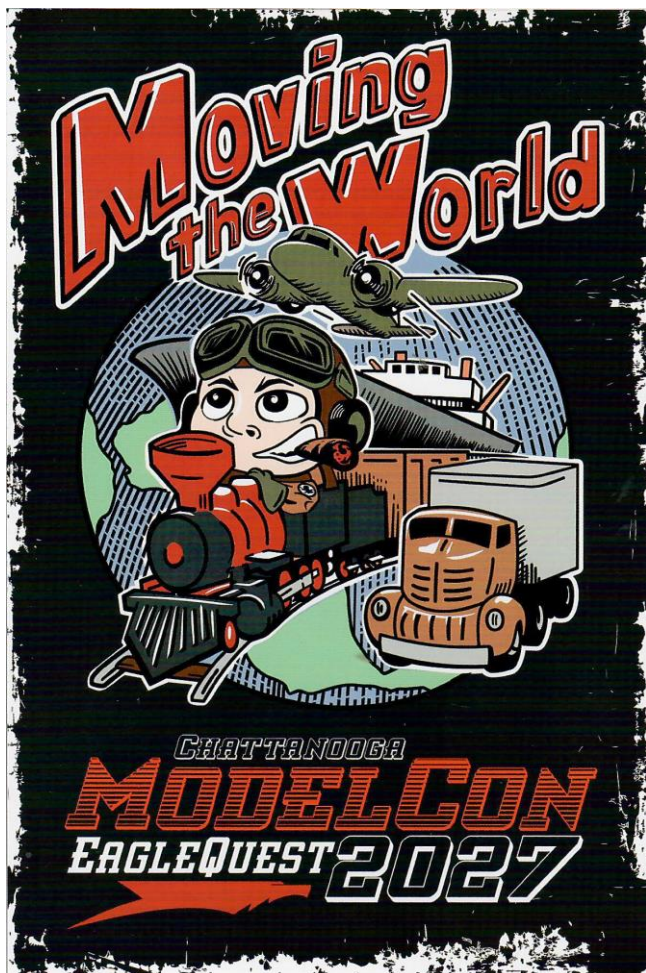
Scale Model Expo '27

April 24, 2027 @ The Savannah Center in The Villages



2027 IPMS-USA Nationals
14-17 July 2027 • Huntsville, AL

Upcoming shows



The image shows a poster for the Chattanooga Model Con Eaglequest 2027. At the top, the text "CHATTANOOGA MODEL CON EAGLEQUEST 2027" is written in a bold, red and white font. Below this, there is a QR code. The poster also features logos for "Scale Models Chattanooga", "TAMIYA", and "MMD DISTRIBUTORS". The event is presented by the Chattanooga Convention Center, located at 1 Carter St. Chattanooga, TN 37402. The dates are April 2-4, 2027, with hours of operation: Friday 1:00 - 6:00, Saturday 9:00 - 5:00, and Sunday 9:00 - 1:00. The show theme is "Moving the World", which means, if it carried cargo of any size we want it. From a dog with a pack to a super tanker, from a C-47 to the sci-fi space freighter and everything in between. Cargo carriers make the world go round so lets see what you've got! The poster also mentions "SEE EXHIBITORS, VENDORS, GUEST SPEAKERS, AND THE FULL SHOW DETAILS AT www.Model-Con.com".



AMPS 2027 International Convention

Thu May 20, 2027 to Sat May 22, 2027

Penn Harris Hotel, Camp Hill, PA



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: 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 IPMS EVENTS

October 9, 2026

Modelpalooza
Kissimmee, FL
Website: Modelpalooza.org

February 5-6, 2027

Jaxcon
Jacksonville, FL

March 6, 2027

Pelicon'27
Tampa, FL
Website: Pelikanmodelclub

March 20, 2027

AtlantaCon 2027
Marietta, GA

April 2, 2027

Chattanooga Modelcon 2027

April 24, 2027

Model Expo '27
The Villages, FL
Website: Scale Modelers of The Villages

UPCOMING AMPS EVENTS

Nov 7-8, 2026

AMPS FLORIDA CON & FIGURE WORLD ORLANDO
Orlando, FL
Renaissance Orlando at Sea World
Contact Ed Ingersoll for details
ingersollle2@gmail.com



GATOR MODELERS

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 (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 (or via hard copy – see form below). <https://myipmsusa.org/join-us>



Join IPMS/USA Today!

Join online at [MyIPMSUSA.org](https://myipmsusa.org), scan the QR code below, or mail in this application.

New ☐ Renewal ☐ IPMS #

Name:

Address:

City: State/Province: Zip/Postal Code:

Phone: Email:

IPMS Chapter Affiliation (if any):

Junior (17 years or younger)	☐	\$17.00	Family US Address One Year	☐	\$35.00
Adult US Address One Year	☐	\$30.00	Two Years	☐	\$63.00
Two Years	☐	\$58.00	Three Years	☐	\$101.00
Three Years	☐	\$86.00	International One Year	☐	\$38.00
Canada or Mexico One Year	☐	\$35.00	Three Years	☐	\$110.00
Three Years	☐	\$101.00	International Family		
Canada or Mexico Family			One Year	☐	\$43.00
One Year	☐	\$40.00	Three Years	☐	\$125.00
Three Years	☐	\$115.00			

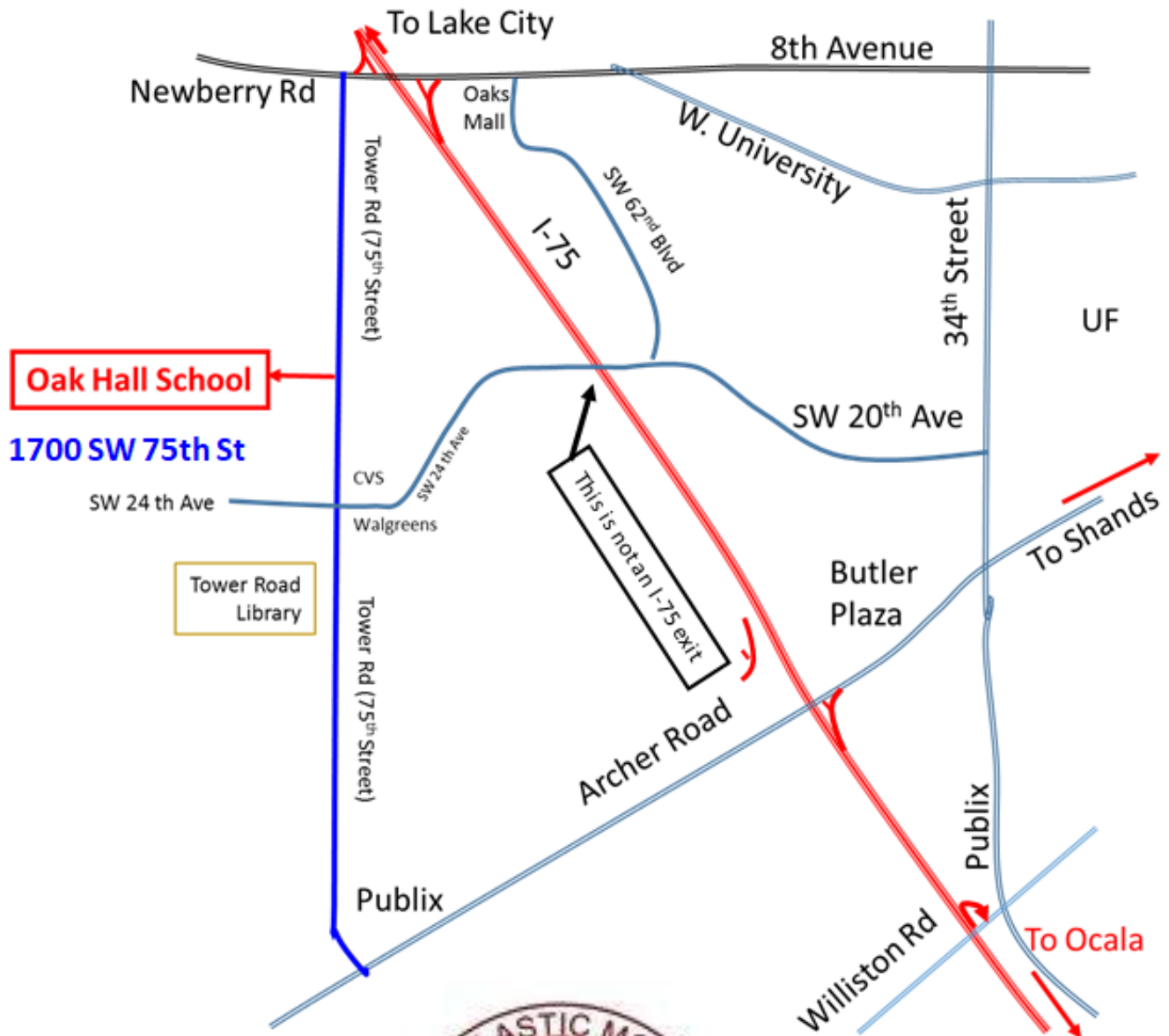
Pay by credit or debit card online, by PayPal to Treasurer@ipmsusa.org, or mail a US Dollar check with your application to:

IPMS/USA
PO BOX 45235
Omaha NE 68145-0235



Join IPMS/USA
Today!

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

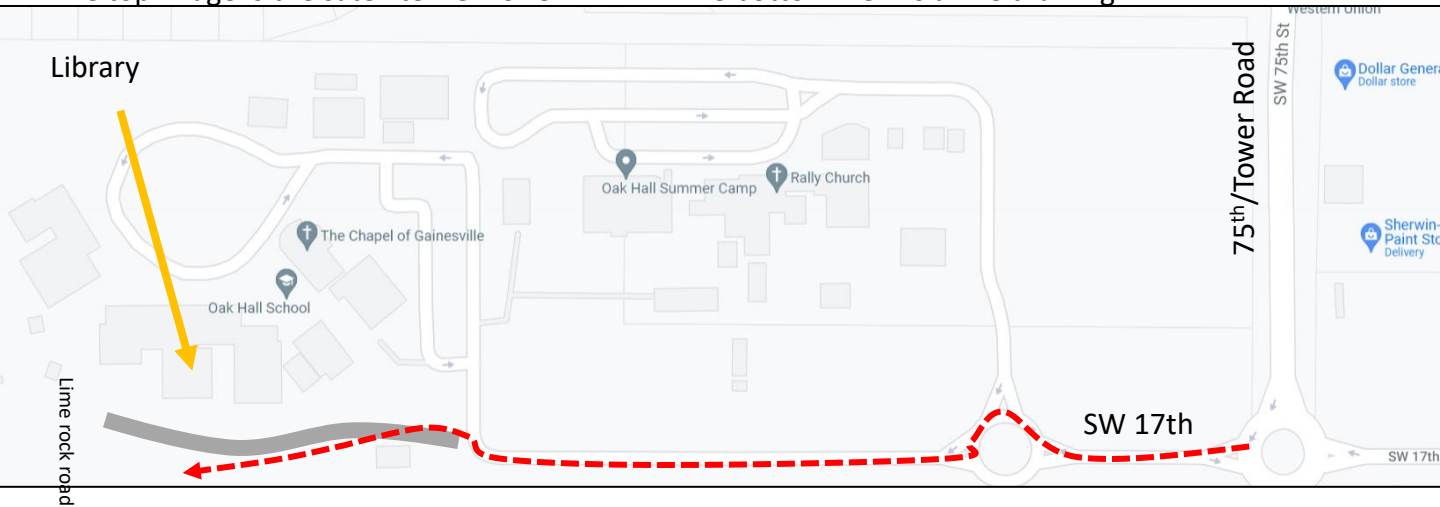


GATOR MODELERS

IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday September 15, 2026 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

Sept. Monster + **1:144 aircraft build**
 Oct. Real Space
 Nov. Ships
 Dec. Amphibious



Great Box Cover Art ... inspired by Jack Mugan



IPMS GATORS



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 try to fix it in the October 2026 newsletter. - Bill

THE END