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Doug Spinney's Winning Gundam Mech from the June 2026 intra-club contest!



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Doug Spinney
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Frank Ahern
Secretary

Bruce Doyle
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Prez Sez.....

I don't know about the rest of you, but this heat seems to bother me more as I get older. Thirty years ago, I would get up on a Saturday morning, fire up the motorcycle and ride in this heat until I started to melt. Then head home for a cold one. Not so much anymore. Now I get up on a Saturday morning, look at the bike, and head for the air-conditioned hobby room. My Saturday is now filled with the smell of paint, glue, and plastic. Someone once told me that the older you get the colder you get. That might be true, but the heat still bothers me these days.

As of this writing we are a bit past the half-way mark of the year. Today we celebrate the 4th of July. The neighborhood that we live in has 5 cul-de-sacs, each one tries to outdo the others with fireworks. It should be an interesting evening. Most people have dogs that hide under what ever furniture they can fit under, ours could care less about the noise.

The model that I'm currently working on has been put on the back burner - the wiring directions are terrible. I've watched 10 videos on Youtube, eight of the ten had issues getting everything to work. So, I decided to do my own wiring. I am not an electrician, nor do I have much experience with hobby wiring, but each model that I have self wired works just as I imagined. Fortunately, the soldering that I have done is well hidden, it is actually a goober of a mess. Some how it all works. I had to order some additional wiring, lights, and connectors. More to come in the future.



The theme for this month is Animal Name. Hope to see many of you at the meeting, and remember, Oak Hall is air conditioned. – **Doug**

July – IPMS Gators

**We will meet Tuesday,
July 21, 2025, at 6:30
PM at
Oak Hall Library**



F9F-8P Cougar



F-16I Sufa (storm) Falcon

Minutes of the Club Meeting from Tuesday June 16, 2026

President Doug Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. There were 15 present including visitor John Wegenka.



Doug highlighted upcoming meetings and shows. On June 25 the Ocala club is having a Swap & Sell at the Trinity Lutheran church at 6:30.

PamsCon takes place June 27 in Plant City. The Blue Angels modelfest is Sept.12 in Milton FL. Modelpalooza takes place in Kissimmee Oct.9-12. Ed Ingersoll mentioned the AMPS FloridaCon in Orlando Nov.7-8 at the SeaWorld Renaissance Hotel. He and Bill Winter are hosting a reception.

The meeting paused for presentations by those who brought models.

The monthly theme was Gundam and the winning model, chosen by vote of those present, was a Gundam Mech from Doug Spinney.

Next month's themes are Animal Name and America 250.



The monthly attendance raffles were won by Chuck Lassiter and Joe Swails.

Club historian Bruce Doyle told the club he has been transforming his house into an aviation history museum by displaying his collection of signed aviation art that had been packed away for years. He invited club members to come by and get a personal tour at his house - 2881 SE 20th Ave., Gainesville. He urged visitors to call first: 352-377-1659.

The meeting ended at 7:40pm.

Submitted by: *Frank Ahern, Club Secretary*

**Bruce Doyle's aviation gallery: 2881 SE 20th Ave., Gainesville.
Please call first before visiting: 352-377-1659.**



News from Joe Swails --- >

Hello, friends. By now, we are hitting the peak of the summer heat and humidity that will linger on with us well into October. I tell anyone not familiar North Florida that it is called 'The Swamp' for a reason. About all we can do is seek out as much cover under air conditioning as possible and dunk ourselves in cooling waters, wherever we can find it.

As a newbie, I am still learning about applying paint to my model kits. I am planning to commit to airbrushing, very soon, but as of now, I am relying on spray cans and brush paints. I am learning quite a bit from this process and can see where switching to an airbrush will lead to improved finishes.

I have been watching some YouTube videos, which have been helpful, but I'd like to solicit input from you. Please share with me what your experience has been in using a variety of airbrush brands and styles. What do you consider to be the pros and cons of the different airbrush brands and systems?

If you like, you can send your responses to my e-mail: jlshotrod@hotmail.com

Next month, I'll continue seeking answers to my airbrushing questions with the topic being airbrush paints.

In the meantime, keep bonding your favorite sprue with your favorite glue!

Thank you! See you next month! - Joe

The Flying White House

By Frank Ahern

Could our Founding Fathers (Ben Franklin?) have imagined that 250 years later one of our national symbols would be an airplane? Watching a story about President Trump's visit to China a few weeks ago, I was struck by a shot of thousands of Chinese at the airport with their phones out recording the arrival of Air Force One. For most of the world this airplane is their tangible image of the United States. I will delve into the history of Presidential air travel in a presentation in the July meeting. This story will be a brief look at the massive effort involved in flying the President around.



For starters, the plane you see above is just the tip of a huge iceberg of personnel, machinery and logistics that are involved in flying the President. It begins in a private hangar at Andrews AFB built for the



Boeing 747 jumbo jet that became Air Force One in 1990. Calling it Air Force One is technically a misnomer, because that is the call sign of any plane that bears the President, but for simplicity's sake that's what we'll call the VC-25A -tail number 28000 in this article.

The Flying White House



On the outside it looks like any other 747. That's where the similarities end. Inside it has been completely redesigned to accommodate the needs of the President and his large entourage. No other airliner has a full-time doctor with an examination room that can be converted into an operating room in an emergency. There are a bedroom suite and office for the President and a meeting room/dining room. It also has two complete galleys and a workout room. Nor does the typical 747 have in-flight refueling capabilities, extensive electronic counter-measure equipment to ward off enemy attacks or its own onboard retractable stairs and baggage handling gear to avoid the need to rely on any help from local airports.



Each flight is considered a military mission and is accompanied by a backup 747, 2 huge C-5 cargo planes that carry all the other stuff (above right) needed including the president's limo (the "Beast"), Secret Service agents and several other vehicles. A new era begins this month as President Trump has unveiled his upgraded version of Air Force One which includes a new paint scheme and new amenities, but the basic layout is similar.

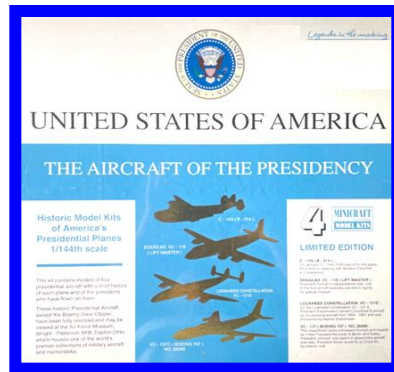
The Flying White House



redesigned by Raymond Loewy. He took the job so seriously that he even copied the typeface used on the Declaration of Independence.



My modeling involvement was triggered by interest in the Presidents from one of my sons. He was particularly taken with JFK, so I decided to build a model of the Boeing 707 that became the iconic symbol after it was



The kit came from a set of Presidential planes issued by Minicraft in 1/144 scale. These are simple kits without interiors and go together easily except for the decals, which didn't want to lay down.



My latest effort is the DC-6 used by one of my favorite Presidents - Harry Truman. He named it for his hometown, Independence Missouri. Now, Presidents don't get to name the plane, which probably bothers the current occupant. From now on it will always be known as Air Force One, the Flying White House.

The return of Fiddly Bits after an extended sabbatical

Bruce "Yard Modeler emeritus" Doyle
a.k.a. Stretch Spruman

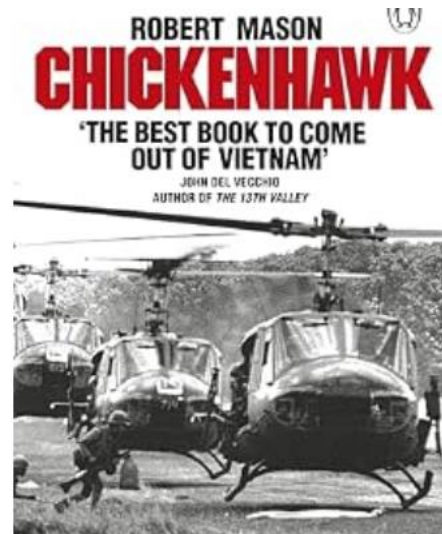
It gives me great pleasure to proudly announce the Grand Opening of "***The Prop Art Aviation Gallery and Museum***."

We had a "soft" opening on June 20th with three guests attending: my brother-in-law *Bob Mason*, author of the Vietnam War memoir "*Chickenhawk*", and club members *Frank Ahern* and *Mike Martinez*. Mike shot a walk around video with my narration to be shared with the club at future meetings. It was ironically appropriate that the opening fell on the 81st Anniversary of my father, **Lt. George E. Doyle**, being shot down over Quang Tri, Annam, French Indochina.

The Museum is dedicated to him, and his death was the impetus for my life-long passion to learn about World War Two, and more specifically the Air War. As Ian Brehany so profoundly observed after he and Darryl Palmer visited in May: "*Your obsession, and I think that's a fair description, is very much based on your life experiences.*" Exactly. I couldn't have said it any better.

Highlights of the museum are three dozen signed works of art, over a dozen of which are original paintings and sketches. There are many 8x10 signed photos of Aces that I've befriended over the decades, my Aces-on-Aces Album with over 534 (out of 1442 American Aces) signed Ace cards; a piston from a Wright Cyclone R-2600 radial from a B-25; sand from Omaha Beach; paint flakes from the Enola Gay; a WWII USN kill marking decal for the pilot to put on his 1 to 1 scale Hellcat or Corsair; dozens of silk Escape and Evasion maps; a B-17 spark plug; a 'Short Snorter' \$1 bill signed by Joe E. Brown, and hundreds more unique wartime items.

Joining the artwork, ephemera, and artifacts on display are over two dozen of my unusual, eclectic, and one-off buildups. Among them are the first jets to fly for Germany, England and America; the ill-fated Northrop XP-79 flying wing and its XB-49 big brother built by Jack Mugan; many "X" planes, with more to go on view as shelf space becomes available. The Gallery / Museum is still evolving as I discover more treasures every day that I acquired over several decades, hidden away and forgotten due to some unfortunate family situations. A Voyage of Discovery if you will.



The return of Fiddly Bits after an extended sabbatical

So, all of you are invited to please come by and visit and have me relate the history and the stories behind the items on display. But first I have some homework that I'd like for you to do. [It won't be on your finals, and besides, it'll be an open book (computer) test.] If I send the links correctly to our editor, you should find them somewhere in this article. A name that will appear frequently in the future when I write about each signed original piece of artwork will be *Ray Waddey*. He's been a friend from the day we met in 1987 and is one of the finest aviation artists around. Ray has done the artwork for two of Squadron's In Action publications: the B-26 and A-10; painted a mural in the Lakeland Airport lobby; the cover art for Bud Anderson's and Adolph Galland's books; (Galland even had Ray's painting of his Heinkel He-51 that he flew in the Spanish Civil War hanging in his office); box art for Trumpeter's 1/72 Bear; WWII American fighter plates for the Hamilton Collection; literally hundreds of paintings for private collections...Phew! You get my drift.



Prolific is an understatement. I wrote a bio on Ray for our November, 2018 Newsletter that goes into much more detail. https://www.gatormodelers.org/files/ugd/e84a19_81b4fd891035476893f376f02d209acb.pdf The article starts on page 12 about the multi-talented Ray Waddey, with a little help from the subject.

And please also read an article that appears in the next issue - December, 2018 - that details briefly the search for my father, and how I started my Aces-on-Aces Collection. (Just kidding. There will be no test. I mean it's Education 2026 style. What? Tests?)

https://www.gatormodelers.org/files/ugd/e84a19_4693dfa00e89468189b5197df1854882.pdf
Article Genesis for my Aces-on-Aces starts on page 9.

The return of Fiddly Bits after an extended sabbatical

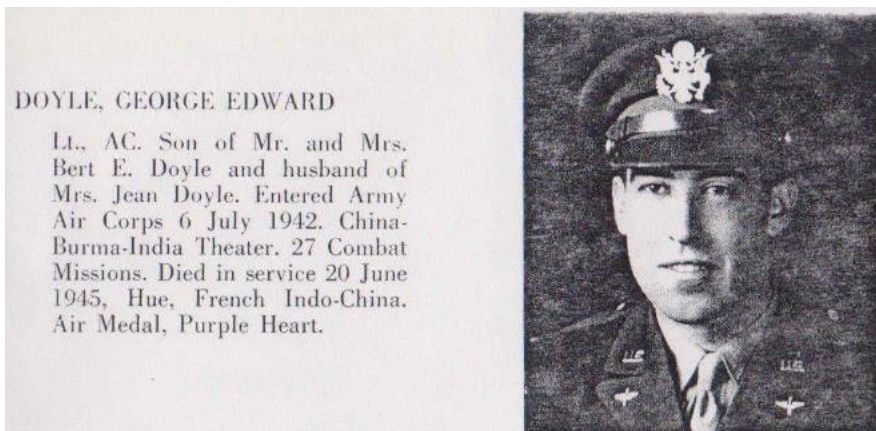
So just call me ahead of time so we can make arrangements for you to come by. Bring a friend or a young person. The more the merrier. My phone number is: 352 377-1659. Address: 2881 SE 20th Avenue (just look for the Luftwaffe Squadron Commander's chevrons on the speed bump in front of the house.) I'm in the process of cleaning my office so more wall space will be available soon to hang the prints I recently discovered. Plus, I'm going to have track lighting installed to better illuminate my collection.

And there will be a gift shop opening soon too. BYOB. But don't delay until I'm completely finished with my project. I plan on rotating items because I have so many it would be impossible with the space I have to show them all. I hope to see you all soon. So as my Fighter Ace friend and Gainesville native Joe Forster always used to say when signing off - stay tuned...

P.S. Please don't call between 3 and 4 as I will be taking my daily nap. I unplug the phone because of the obscene number of Robocalls!

Bruce, Club Historian

P.P.S. For the first ten visitors there will be a choice of five free water damaged American Fighter Aces Association (AFAA) autographed biographies. The roof over my office sprung a leak in 2025, ruining over 100 AFAA biographies, both signed and unsigned. I will be bringing the unsigned ones to the next meeting to take for free to whomever wants them. I say if you can't sell something, you can always give it away!



George E Doyle was serving his country during World War II when he gave his all in the line of duty. He had enlisted in the United States Army. Doyle had the rank of First Lieutenant. Service number assignment was O-766226.

★ World War II Victory Medal ★ Purple Heart ★ American Campaign Medal ★ Army Presidential Unit Citation ★ Army Good Conduct Medal



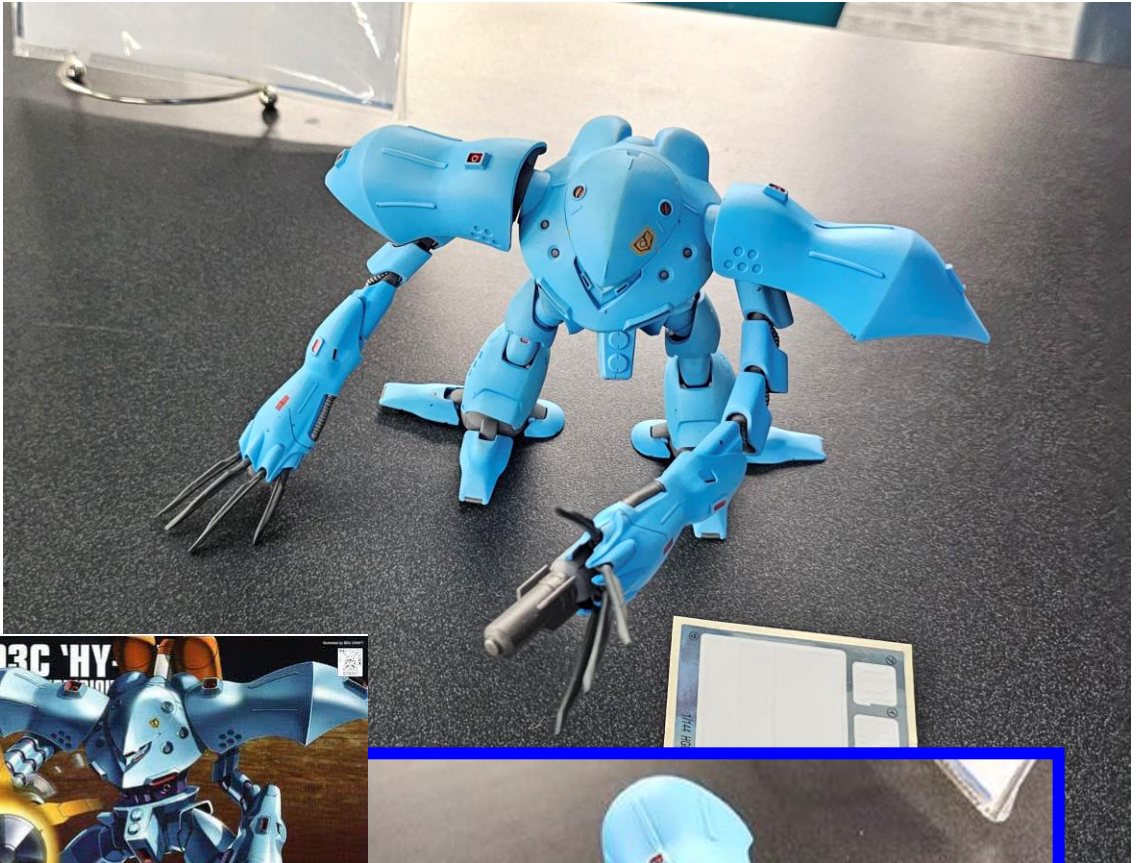
Doug Spinney's Winning 1:16 scale Gundam Mech by 3D from the June 2026 intra-club contest



Mech most commonly refers to a giant, pilutable robot or machine. Widely used in science fiction, gaming, and anime, these walking combat vehicles are operated by an internal pilot.

Source:
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/mech>

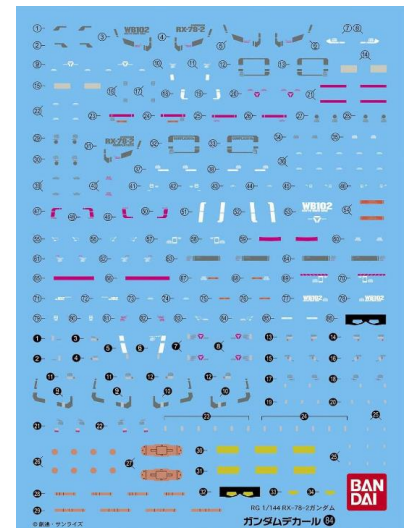
Pete Dawson's MSM-03C Hygogg 1:144 scale Bandai kit



Ed Ingersoll's Gundam RX-78-2 by Bandai Namco with after market decals by Bandai



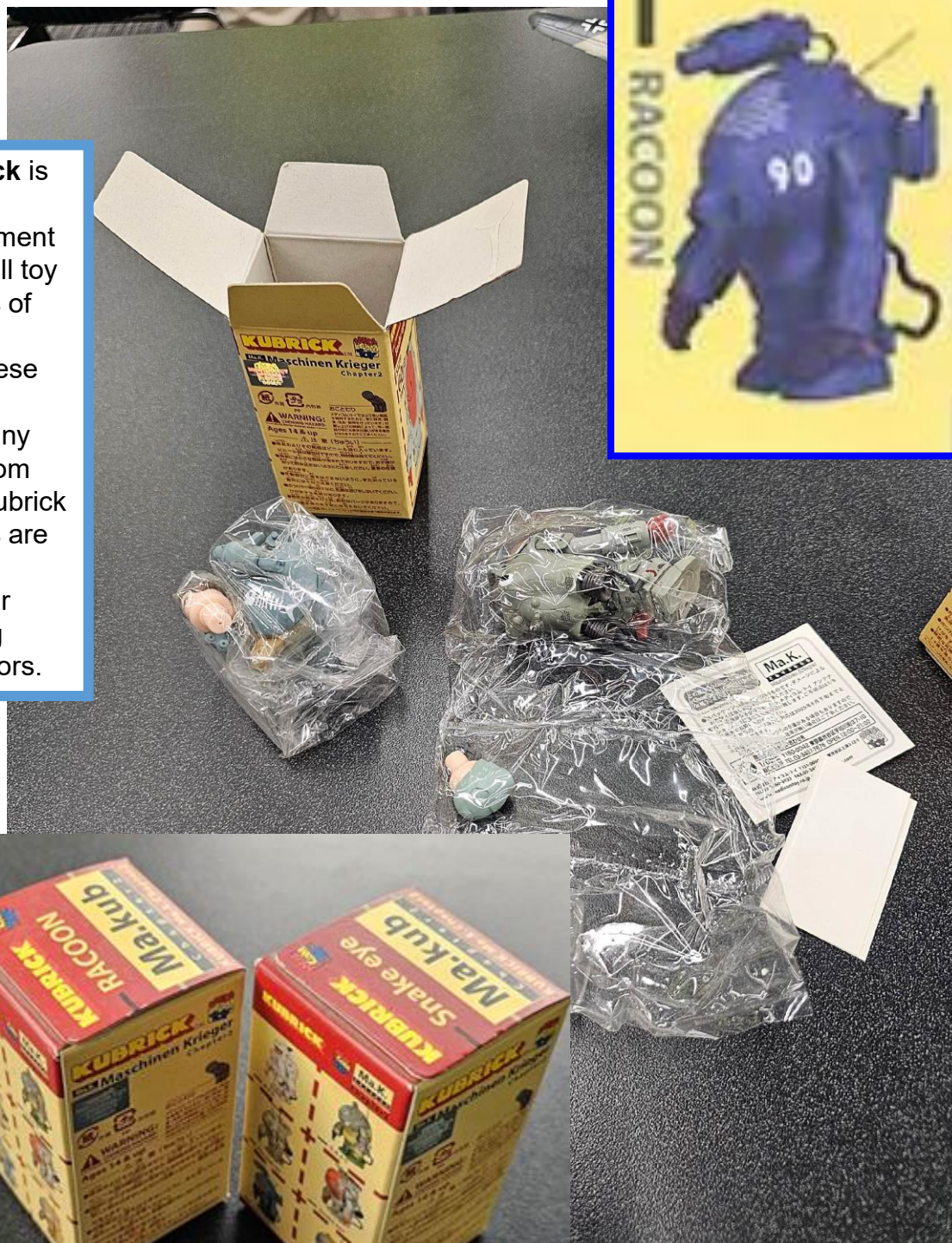
Gundam is a legendary Japanese military science fiction media franchise created in 1979 by Yoshiyuki Tomino. It revolves around giant, human-piloted robots called Mobile Suits. The original show revolutionized the "real robot" mecha genre by grounding these massive machines in realistic, often political, wartime settings rather than magical fantasy.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gundam>

Ian Breheny's Kubrick Racoon Ma.kub

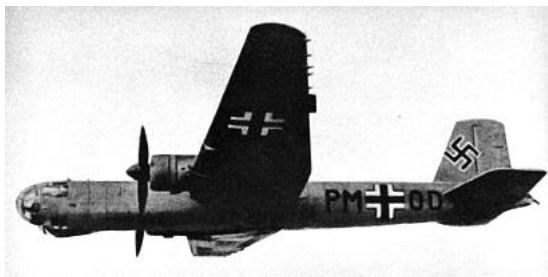
Kubrick is an assortment of small toy figures of the Japanese toy company Medicom Toy. Kubrick figures are highly popular among collectors.



Brian Cormack's 1:72 scale La-5FN by Zvezda – presently re-scribing panel lines



Frank Ahern's Heinkel He 177 Greif



The Heinkel He 177 Greif (Griffin) was a long-range heavy bomber flown by the Luftwaffe during World War II. The introduction of the He 177 to combat operations was significantly delayed by problems both with the development of its engines and frequent changes to its intended role. Nevertheless, it was the only long-range, heavy bomber to become operational with the Luftwaffe during the conflict. The He 177 had a payload/range capability similar to that of four-engined heavy bombers used by the Allies in the European theatre.

Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinkel_He_177_Greif



Pete Dawson's Ford (1:24 scale) Revell stake truck with scratch-built bed



Joe Swail's 1:25 scale 70 ½ Camaro – tow car for funny car (Monogram)



Joe Swail's 1:25 scale '39 Chevrolet Sedan Delivery truck – 250th USA anniversary edition by Monogram

MONOGRAM '39 CHEVY SEDAN DELIVERY

English instructions included.
Nederlandse handleiding bijgesloten.
Notice en Français incluse.
Mit deutscher Bauanleitung.
Istruzioni in Italiano incluse.
Contiene instrucciones en español.



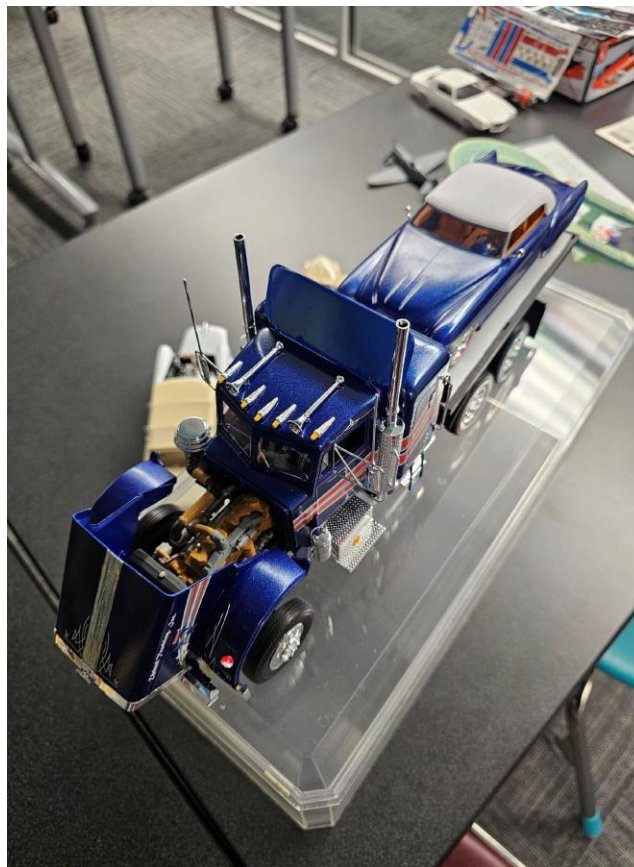
1/24 scale unassembled model kit
Modèle réduit pour assembler
MOLDED IN COLOR



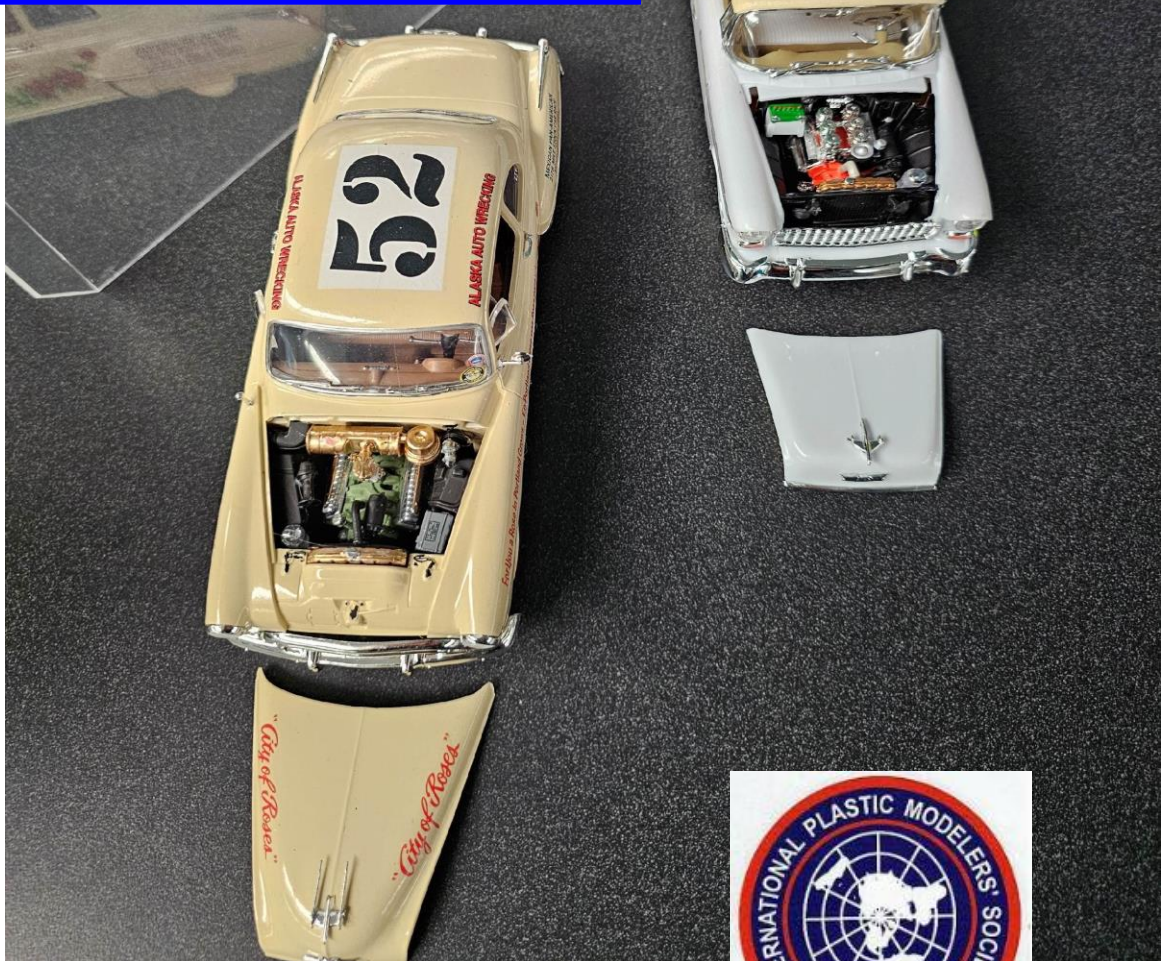
Bob Lundeen's 1:48 scale Tamiya M10



Beautiful hauler and vintage automobile



1950 Rocket-88 Oldsmobile and '55 Chevy (?)



USS Enterprise NCC-1701-C



The USS Enterprise (NCC-1701-C) is an Ambassador-class Federation starship commanded by Captain Rachel Garrett. Serving as Starfleet's flagship, it famously sacrificed itself in 2344 to defend a Klingon outpost from Romulan attacks, an honorable act that directly inspired the historic peace alliance between the Federation and the Klingon Empire. [https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/US_S_Enterprise_\(NCC-1701-C\)](https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/US_S_Enterprise_(NCC-1701-C))

From the workbench of Clarence Snyder!



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: ingersollle2@gmail.com.

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/>





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
Adult US Address One Year	☐	\$30.00
Two Years	☐	\$58.00
Three Years	☐	\$86.00
Canada or Mexico One Year	☐	\$35.00
Three Years	☐	\$101.00
Canada or Mexico Family		
One Year	☐	\$40.00
Three Years	☐	\$115.00

Family US Address One Year	☐	\$35.00
Two Years	☐	\$63.00
Three Years	☐	\$101.00
International One Year	☐	\$38.00
Three Years	☐	\$110.00
International Family		
One Year	☐	\$43.00
Three Years	☐	\$125.00

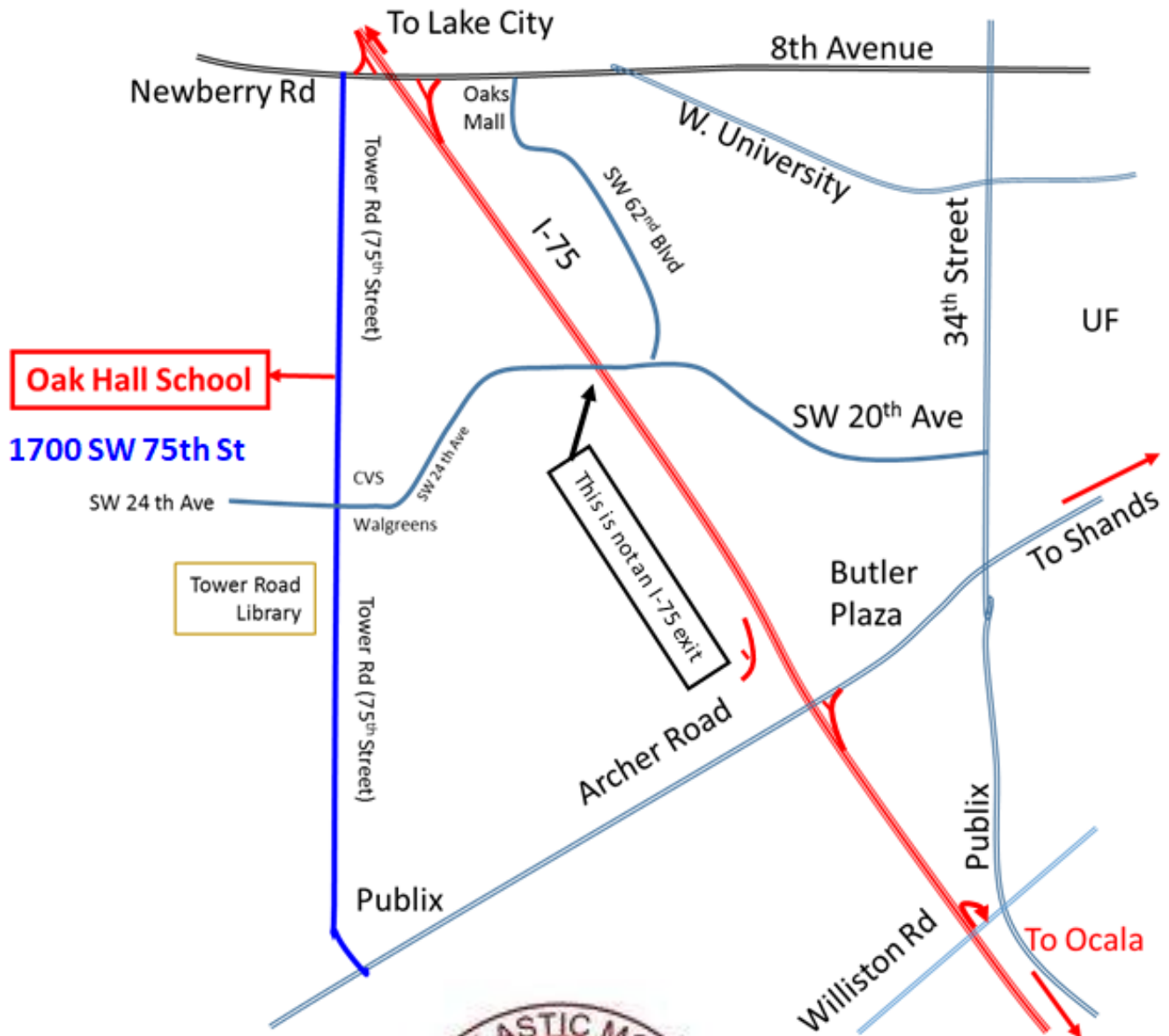
Pay by credit or debit card online, by PayPal to Treasurer@ipmsusa.org, or mail a US Dollar check with your application to:

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Join IPMS/USA
Today!

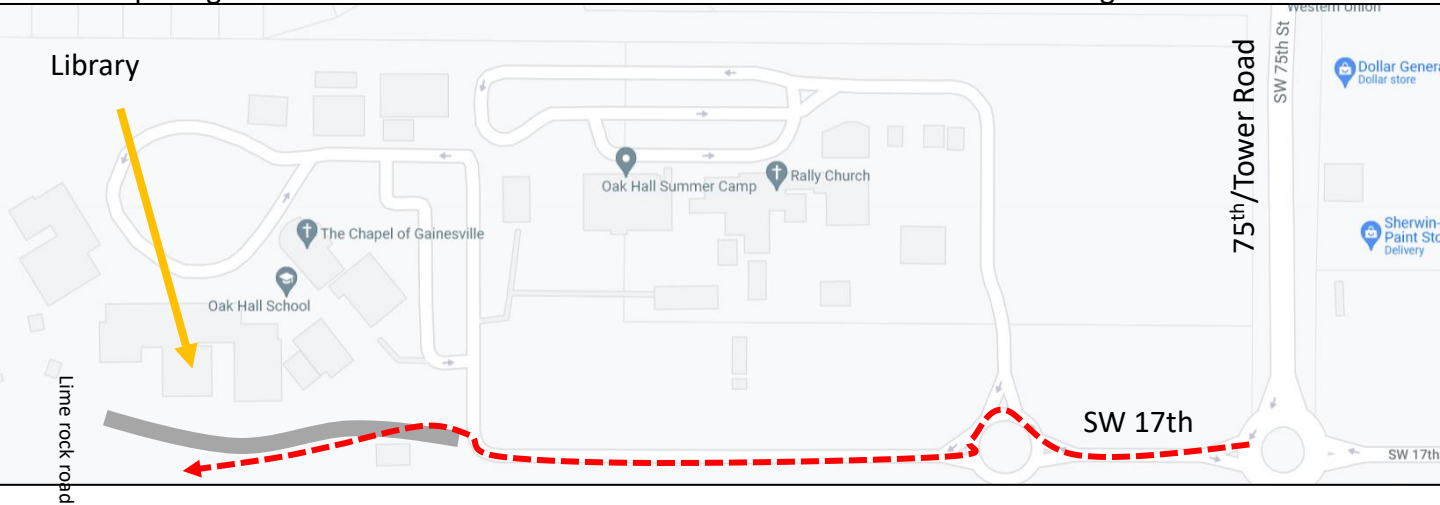
Directions to OAK HALL (1700 SW 75th St, Gainesville, FL)



IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday July 21 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



July Animal name

- Aug. Snap Tite
- Sept. Monster
- Oct. Real Space
- Nov. Ships
- Dec. Amphibious

< --- Additional July theme:
America's 250th birthday celebration



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 August 2026 newsletter. - Bill

THE END