





Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

October 2009

XAMINEF



Building Hobbycraft Canada's 1/48th Spitfire XIV

By Tim Robb, IPMS 34705

Early this year I set a goal for myself to finish ten model airplanes in 2009. I knew some of the models would have to be quick and easy builds if I were to reach that goal. This is one of the kits I pegged as a quick and easy build, and it did not disappoint me.

The kit has only 42 parts. It has the correct gull wing shape at the trailing edge where the wing joins the fuselage. The interior is accurate though not finely detailed. There is neither a decal for the instrument panel nor a nice raised detail instrument panel suitable for a good drybrush paint job. So I raided my decal box for some instrument decals to put on. The level of cockpit detail is adequate for a model displayed with the canopy closed, which is what this kit comes with.

I used to want to pose all my models with the canopies open but not any more. Many

photographs of parked aircraft show canopies closed, so it is entirely accurate to build a model this way. Additionally, I remember talking to Lt. Col. (Ret.) James E. Carl when I built a model of his P-51 a few years ago. When I asked him if he would like the canopy closed or open he emphatically said "Closed. It would only be open if I was standing in it." So I have come to rethink closed canopies for some of my models, particularly the quick builds.

The kit fits together very well. The only gap was where the trailing edge of the wing joined the fuselage. This was easily filled with plastic card and gap filling super glue.

I painted the model with Model Master enamels and chose a decal sheet from Eagle Strike for a RAF 610 Squadron machine from 1944. The model surface has recessed panel lines that seem on the heavy side to me. I ran a gray-brown wash into them all over. To my eye it looks OK on the upper surface but too pronounced on the light gray undersurface.

The only enhancement I made to the kit was adding Quick Boost exhaust pipes. They are a fantastic addition and also just as easy to install

(continued on page 4)



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(a)

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Email: wmbros@sbcglobal.net www.williamsbrothersmodelproducts.com

Phil Brandt Kachoris Family

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upcoming Events

Model Shows

AMPS/AABS Centex South Central Regional, Cedar Park, TX	Oct 24
IPMS/MCMA, Texas NNL #5, Irving, TX	Nov 7
IPMS/Acadiana Plastic Modelers, GatorCon 2009, Lafayette, LA	Nov 7
IPMS/El Paso, Bassett Place Veterans Day Event, El Paso, TX	Nov 8

Local Events

Ft. Worth Alliance Airshow, Ft. Worth, TXOct 24-25Wings Over Houston, Ellington Field, Houston, TXOct 31-Nov 1Randolph Air Force Base Airshow, San Antonio, TXNov 7-8



Support Our Troops!

In support of the initiative to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones in Iraq,IPMS/USA has elected to have the following contact points for **The Iraq Model Network**. Any individual, IPMS chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please contact:

SFC Fleming, Leighton O. leighton.fleming@us.army.mil

-or-

Michael DeWalt michael.dewalt@iraq.centcom.mil

-or-

MWR c/o G. Vickers KBR/C-5, Unit 6012, APO AP 09378



ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2009-10

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Milton Bell	
IPMS/USA coordinator, mbell6@austin.rr.com	454-2395

Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is affiliated with the International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS) as the Republic of Texas Chapter. ASMS meets the second Tuesday of each month except December. Dues for full membership are \$20 yearly. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Mike's Montage...

I have been a member of ASMS for over fifteen years. During that time, I have always volunteered to man the admission table at our annual shows. This year being the president of ASMS, I thought I should participate in more of the show duties. All I can say is "holy mackerel!" What a lot of work to do during the show. From the time I arrived to the time the doors were closed, I was constantly on the go, and this happened not only to me but to several others as well.

I would like to thank everyone that worked and helped to put on this successful event. I especially like to thank Kenny and Kathy for their hard work in organizing the show and the vendors, Jeff and Angie for coordinating the trophies, great looking signage, and all the other little things that popped up.

Besides the people I just mentioned, has anyone noticed how hard our photographers work? Taking hundreds of photos in a couple of hours was a daunting task. Between Milton Bell, Bill Delk, Eric Choy, and their helpers, they did a great job.

Last but not least is my VP Rick Herrington. After working the front, judging the contest models, and being a head judge, I asked for his help to present the trophies with Tim and myself. Without hesitation, he said "yes." Thanks, Rick.

Realizing how much work is involved in putting on a successful show, it takes a lot of man and woman power to accomplish this task. So if you were not able to come and help out this year, please be ready to volunteer at our 2010 show.

Mike



Volunteer Modelers Needed for USS Lexington Museum Display

Recently, I had contact with Mr. Randy Barnes, an IPMS member out of the Corpus Christi area. He is working with the Lady Lex Museum On The Bay Association to redo the museum on USS Lexington. He is asking for volunteers to build and donate models for the museum's new display.

If you are interested in participating, please contact me (**Mike Kachoris**, **mjk05@excite.com**) or Mr. Barnes directly (**shspr@shsrockport.org**) for more information and the criteria of what is acceptable.

Mike Kachoris

Sprue Examiner Claimed IPMS/USA Newsletter of The Year Award

For the second time in last three years, ASMS received yet another top honor from IPMS/USA.

Back in 2007, our webmaster **Mike Gilsbach** received the **Webmaster of Year** award for his most excellent work on our website. This year IPMS/USA again recognized the outstanding achievement of our publication, *Sprue Examiner*, and awarded the **Newsletter of the Year** trophy to ASMS. **Bruce Burden** was kind enough to accept it on our behalf at the Nationals banquet in Columbus, OH and bring it back safely to us.



Now that there is only one trophy left (Chapter of the Year) that we haven't won, how about it, folks?

Editor

2009-2010 Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

October Quarterly Contest
Presentation by Kathy Roady

November White Elephant Contest

Presentation by Mike Kachoris

January Presentation by **Eric Choy**February Presentation by **Tim Robb**

(Building Hobbycraft Canada's 1/48th Spitfire XIV continued) as the kit parts. I also added wing tip lights made of plastic rod inserted into holes drilled into the wing tips since these were not molded onto the kit.



This isn't the most detailed Spitfire kit on the market, but it does build easily and it looks like a Spitfire when it's finished. I like it! It looks good in my collection of RAF fighters.





I have another one in my stash and another set of decals for it from the Eagle Strike sheet. I'll probably build it sooner or later.

Go build a model!

Tim



2009 Show Report

by Kenny Roady

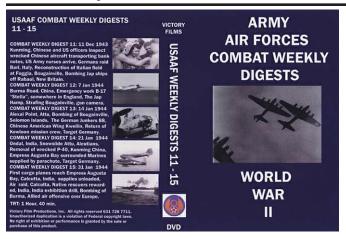
Bravo Zulu and congratulations on a job well done.

Well, that's the Navy version. From all the comments I got and judging by the attendance and number of entries, I would say that the show was an unqualified success. Kathy reports that the vendors were very pleased and also most appreciative of the coffee and doughnuts. They commented that everyone was cheerful and helpful, and they were pleasantly surprised by that. Also, I was personally given several compliments about the show.

My numbers showed that 408 models were entered and only one category was empty. This means next year's trophy costs will be higher due to the lack of leftovers from this year. Eric provided me some rough statistics during the show. He figured that Houston area entrants were fewer than Austin area entrants (24 vs. 34,) but they entered more models (134 vs. 121). Hopefully we can correct this little error next year. While we have many entrants from around Texas, one came all the way from Mexico City! Eric reported that we had 99 total entrants, and all I want to say is (paraphrasing from my favorite zombie movie) "Send more modelers!"

I have worked with the management of the Crockett Events Center to put us on the schedule for 2010. He feels we could fill up the "A" side, and I think he is right. I will put forth a proposal for a regional show for next year. It doesn't involve much more work, and I think the extra attention it would garner would be very beneficial. So, until I see you at the meeting, keep safe and never try to catch a falling Xacto knife.

Kenny



Victory Films Army Air Forces Combat Weekly Digests 11-15 MSRP \$29.00

Reviewed by Floyd S. Werner, Jr., IPMS #26266

The latest release from Victory Films is the next installment of the USAAF Combat Weekly Digest covering the period from December 1943 to January 1944. Contained on one DVD, this one hour and 37 minute newsreel compilation contains everything. Remember during the war the only way people got news and information was from the movie theater. Not only do these newsreels contain combat footage that we know and love, they also have day-to-day things that have long since been forgotten except by those who were there. That is what makes this video so interesting. There is a little bit of something for everyone.

The DVD starts off with some airfield construction on 11 Dec, 1943. There is a Ju-88 with some really interesting markings at the airfield in Foggia. Also in this section are footage shot in China on the building of the Burma Road. One particularly interesting sequence is the salvage of a B-17 by a mobile repair unit constructing a new runway to recover the bomber.

There is a section which contains some really impressive footage of a Japanese Hamp, a square tipped wing Zero. For those of you who are into Japanese aircraft, it will be hard to find better footage than the air-to-air footage presented here. There is a low level flyby that is impressive to say the least.

For those who love combat footage, there is a beautiful collection of P-38s strafing everything that moves. The teamwork is





exciting as you see both aircraft doing their thing as one comes from one direction and then other from another. You see the flak burst right in front of you. Really exciting stuff.

There is comedy included as well, with digging out huts on Attu. Funny stuff.

A captured Ju-88A-5 with squiggle pattern and yellow over the national markings with bright red cowlings is seen flying and from every angle. Another thing that is unique about this aircraft is it has P-38 style drop tanks. Not German mind you, but American P-38 tanks. This would make a great looking model.

Another sequence has some Chinese pilots flying B-25s and P-40Ns. There is another one with some excellent close ups of a P-40K that has ground looped. The recovery affords some great shots, including many up close ones. Perfect for the Hasegawa kits.

There are a lot of interesting things included on this DVD. One that I thought was interesting is a sequence with an AAF C-47 being escorted by a Hellcat. The Hellcat even has nose art on it. The B-26 bombing sequence is also really interesting with lots of flak and fighters. Some Dutch B-25s are in another sequence.

While this is not a 'themed' title, it contains lots of material with something to please everyone. Both modeler and the historian will enjoy this offering. It is interesting to see what was happening during this time period in the world. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Wade Meyers and Victory Films for the review copy.

You can only get your copy by contacting Wade Meyers Studios at http://www.wademeyersart.com/id69.html or Victory Films at http://www.victoryfilms.us/

Floyd



Recent Tamiya Product Review

by Eric Choy, IPMS #44323

Here's a review of two recent Tamiya products I bought during my recent trip to Canada:









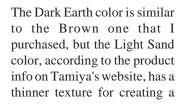


Diorama Texture Paint - Brown (87108), Dark Earth (87109), Light Sand (87110), and Green (87111)

The company that brought us "weathering makeup" has released a new line of water-based paints to create diorama ground textures. All four colors listed above have resin particles mixed in with the paints that allow modeler to build up soil, grit, or grass effect. Each 40ml bottle has enough material to single-coat a B4-sized area (9.8" x 13.9").

I was skeptical at first of spending CAD \$13 (USD \$12) for what I thought to be a bottle of paint mixed with sand-like material. Since someone has to be the sucker to review this product, I decided to be one and gave the Brown one a try. It turns out the stuff inside the bottle is more like a paste than thick running paint. Following the instruction, I applied the paste with a spatula onto a piece of sheet styrene, and I was able to build up a layer of ground work with some contour. It took almost six hours for the paste to dry, and once dried it was rock solid with no shrinkage. Since the paint is water-based,

supposedly one can thin the paste with $\rm H_2O$ if too thick of a coat is applied, and custom color can be realized by mixing with Tamiya's acrylic paints. I did not have a chance to try any of that.







sandy pebbly surface. I can see the potential of using it for making non-skid surfaces on modern tanks.



No doubt the strangest of the four colors is the Green one. It has additional 5mm long colored fibers mixed in with the paste to create grassy texture. From the photos posted on Tamiya's website, the

pasture scene looks quite convincing. I can also see the potential of using this color to dress up a camo net on an AFV.

Make no mistake, these texture paints are not cheap. But if you want a fast and convenient diorama, they seem to fit the bill just right. Be sure to check out the YouTube videos posted on Tamiya's website on how to use this new product line of paints.

Recommended, if price is no object.

0.2mm Fine Drill Bit (74090)

You can never have too many drill bits, especially the tiny ones. So when I saw how small these Tamiya bits were, I did not hesitate to make my purchase despite the murderous 12% sales tax rate in British Columbia. The only regret I now have is that I only bought one pack, which happened to be the last one in all Metro Vancouver hobby shops!



So how tiny are these Tamiya drill bits? The smallest gauge drill bit you can find at most hobby shops is 80. That's roughly 0.0135" or 0.343mm. This Chinese-made "極細" (extremely small) drill bit set contains a pair of 0.2mm bits made from High-Speed Steel that Tamiya claims can drill through most modeling material including aluminum. For the price that I paid (CAD \$9 or USD \$8.37), I think I'll stick to drilling plastic!

According to Tamiya, these drill bits are intended for "enhancing details on 1/350th and 1/700th scale ship models, such as making attachment holes for photo-etched parts, mast ropes, and recreating gun muzzles." I can see many other applications in armor (e.g. drilling out holes on barrel jackets) and aircraft (e.g. biplane rigging) modeling as well. Highly recommended.

So far I'm not aware of any hobby or mail order shop in the US that stocks both of these products. One source you might try is **Lucky Model (www.luckymodel.com)** in Hong Kong. It has the drill bits in stock for USD \$5.99 and the texture paints for USD \$7.69 each. Naturally, don't forget you have to pay international airmail shipping to get them over here!

Eric

(All photos copied from Tamiya's website)

SuperCon 2009 Highlights



Best Armor Award went to this DML 1/35th T-34/85.



Nicely finished Italeri 1/35th WC-56 Staff Car.



Scratchbuilt 1/35th M728 CEV (Combat Engineer Vehicle).



Hasegawa F4-J in the very competitive 1/72nd Jet category.



Check out the nice paint job on this Italeri Mirage F1.



Marine One diorama in 1/48th scale. The VH-3 is a Hasegawa kit, and the figures are Preiser and CMK conversions.



The photo does not do justice to show how tiny this Monogram 1/87th Mini Ferrari F40 is.



This 1/35th "Barrack 13" diorama won the Greatest Generation Award for Best WWII subject.



A very clever in-flight refueling diorama in 1/144th scale.

The Best of Show award went to Doug Cohen's "Fight In The Black Forest" diorama.

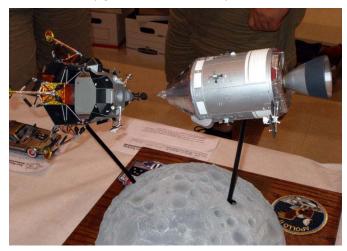


Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, the show theme "The Space Race" attracted unusual number of space program models:

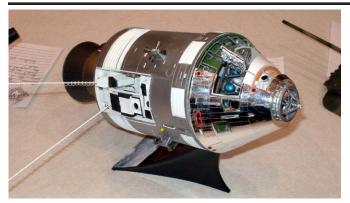




Space shuttle commander John Young and Mercury Space astronaut. Both figures are 1/12th model from Reheat.



Docking of the Apollo modules (Revell 1/32nd).



Revell 1/32nd Apollo Command Service Module.



Revell 1/48nd Gemini Capsule.





GatorCon 2009 Model Show and Contest

From Kaliste Saloom GatorCon Contest Chairperson

Well its that time of year again! The IPMS/Acadiana Plastic Modeler's Society's **GatorCon 2009 Model Show** and **Contest** is set for Saturday, **November 7** at the Cajundome Convention Center.

In keeping with the November Thanksgiving tradition, our theme this year is "Turkeys" - any subject which showed promise but flopped.

We are very fortunate to be able to host our show at the Cajundome Convention Center (http://www.cajundome.com) in the heart of Lafayette. For those of you who are not familiar with the Cajundome or its Convention Center, the facilities represent some of the premier and most modern convention space in the state. (It would be a great place to host a Regional show - and dare say a National?) Anyway we have secured the upstairs convention hall which just about doubles our space from previous shows. Ample parking and a hotel across the

street, too - the Hilton Garden Inn. (http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=LFTCDGI)

We are working on a hotel contest rate, so don't forget to ask for it if you book a room. We have secured a good list of vendors and some really nice awards, too.

Our show is partially sponsored by a generous donation from Big Boy Toys of Lafayette (http://www.bigboytoyslaf.com/).

I hope to see you there!

Kaliste



A Thank-You Note From The Troops





Mr. Ron Bell,

The Soldiers of MNC-I JFEC FFA would like to sincerely thank you for sending us the models that were donated at the 2009 IMPS/USA National Convention. We are so very grateful for the support of you and those at the convention. We wish you all the best and hope you know that many hours will be spent enjoying the many models that we received. The office environment temporarily felt like we were all 10 years old again and it was Christmas morning. There are many people like you and those at the convention who donated that really help to pass the time and give us that extra push to do our jobs that much better. Little things like the models may not seem like much to some but to us, just knowing that you thought about us and did something for us out of the goodness in your heart really sets us all back a little and tells us that there are still Heroes in the background who support and care for us. Our Soldiers truly appreciate you taking time out to send us the models and we cannot thank you sincerely enough. Already some of the soldiers have begun projects with the models and they are a sense of pride and esprit de corps within the office. We come in and ask each other how the models are coming along and are often showing each other the progress that has been made. Having a hobby really helps to pass some of the long hours when there isn't much to do and everyone is a little homesick. Again we cannot thank you enough and we truly appreciate all that the folks back home do for us.

Sincerely

The Soldiers of I Corps MNC-I JFEC FFA

America's Corps

Many thanks to Dick Montgomery, outgoing DLC and incoming IPMS/USA Prez, for sharing this email with us.

Editor

Old Rumors & New Kits

I hope you all attended and competed in our annual scale model show last month. We had a good, though not a record, turnout. I have to say I was pleasantly surprised with my wins. I entered seven models and won with three of them so that's a pretty good average. To tell the truth, I was competing against myself in one category but that's just because I really like the category.

Now it's time to consider what we want to do for next year. Our president Mike will be appointing a new show coordinator soon. So, whoever gets the job will need our help to pull a successful show.

Now on to models. I'm working on an old Monogram B-25J just so I can do a review of a new decal sheet. Often the decals are what make the kit interesting. In this case the subject is one of the B-25Js flying from Corsica in WWII. You remember the book and the movie "Catch 22," right? Well, that's the group depicted in the three sheets of decals by Bombshell Decals. Haven't seen them yet but I'll let you know later on. I've discovered that model manufacturing has come a long way since Monogram released the last of its B-25 series.

I've had the old B-25 on the shelf for years because of its size. I should have just done armor or cars. They are all about the same size but twin engine bombers usually take up a lot of bench space or shelf space. Now comes more temptation in the form of an all new tool $1/32^{\rm nd}$ *Shinden*. The *Shinden* was the experimental pusher canard that some say would have been the fastest piston engine interceptor of the war. Thankfully, the war ended before we had to find out and only a handful of airframes were completed with two brought to flying status. Neither were armed.

The new kit is from the Volks company, a Japanese organization that operates several stores. One question that remains unanswered is who will be the distributor besides Volks.

The kit appears to be very complete with a detailed engine compartment, detailed cockpit, as well as a weapons compartment with 20mm guns and ammo. The early photos of the kit look really promising. So far we think the kit will be available around the end of the year and it's likely that Hobby Link Japan at least will carry the kit. The price is expected to be about \$90. So, that's the big surprise this month.

For another big model that's not a surprise, we look to Tamiya and their $1/32^{nd}$ Spitfire Mk. IXc that was announced back in the summer. Well, it's almost time for the kit to make its appearance. Look for it in late November.

Tamiya goes all out on this one. First off, the kit contains a fully detailed Rolls Royce engine that's correct for the type. I remember kits with detailed engines that were to be built either/or. That is, if you want the engine exposed, you have to leave off the cowl

panels. If you want a smooth body, leave out the engine. With Tamiya's Mk. IX, you build with the engine and use the ultra thin molded cowl panels. Thin? They are only 0.4mm thick and they are removable. They are held in place on the model with magnets. Now I believe that's a first!

Tamiya has a very well detailed cockpit and gives the modeler some PE for extra detail. Two figures are included; one seated pilot and one standing pilot. In addition, two rudders and two different wing-tips round out the modelers choice. Sounds like a great kit.

Hasegawa's new F-22A Raptor is set for March 2010. Publicity photos show a pre-production version but the kit will be the A production version. In case you really have to have the kit sooner, Hasegawa will market an Idolmaster Haruka Amami version with the Haruka graphics, available "much earlier." Good news is, it's the same plastic but you will have to rustle up some aftermarket decals.

Like big rough looking Russian Armor? Tamiya is doing a 1/35th JSU-152 monster tank which should be on the shelves in November. This kit features the same track choice that was used on the very nice JS-2; either one-piece flex or molded link and length with the sag molded in. The kit will have PE details, markings for four tanks and two half-figures.

Skywave has announced a $1/35^{th}$ IJA Kurogane, small personnel carrier, but I have no date for it. For soft-skin modelers, this might be a popular kit. If you aren't familiar with the Kurogane, it has been offered in $1/48^{th}$ by Hasegawa. It looks like an early Jeep idea with some definite Japanese influence.

For scale armor builders, $1/35^{th}$ has long been the standard, although $1/72^{nd}$ and $1/48^{th}$ are also popular. Once in a while you see a monster $1/16^{th}$, especially popular with the RC crowd.

Now Tacca has announced a November release for a 1/24th Panzer II which sounds like a super-detailer's delight. The kit features individual track lengths held together by metal pins, adjustable track tension, leaf spring suspension made up of six pieces, PE used for clamps, tool box, exhaust pipe covers, etc. I've heard that the reason for going to 1/24th was because some details could not adequately be shown in 1/35th. Sounds promising. No word on price but hey, it's only money!

For ship builders, Revell gives you a couple of choices of the same subject. The *Queen Mary II* was the largest, tallest, longest, and widest passenger vessel ever built. Revell will offer it in 1/700th scale in December, 2009 and if you are in a hurry, and will settle for something smaller, you can get it in 1/1200th. At least that's what I've heard.

And that's all for October. We have one more regular meeting for the year so let's get busy and have a model or two for the show table next Tuesday.

Milton



In the latest issue of...

IPMS Journal

September/October 2009 Volume 21, Issue 5

- **Grassroots Modeling** One way to give your diorama perfect turf, by Mike Fleckenstein;
- Martin's Mediocrity Crafting the ill-starred AM-1Q Mauler from Siga's 1/72nd kit, by David Geldmaoher;
- One 54mm Step for Man... Building Buzz Aldrin from Andrea's Apollo astronaut figure, by Rick Jackson;
- **Z Force** Making Hasegawa's 1/24th 240Z rally racer road ready, by Jim Priete;
- Rockets to the Final Frontier, Part 2 Mercury Redstone to the Shuttle: Six 1/200th US launch vehicles, by Mike J. Idacavage;
- The Best Laid Plans Scratch-building a Russian cruiserminelayer project in 1/700th, by Vladimir Yakubov;
- Visiting a Fallen Falkland Skyhawk The short combat history and loss of A-4B C-215, by Adam Coleman;

And much, much more!



Join IPMS/USA!

IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1963, there are now branches of IPMS all over the world.

As part of your IPMS/USA membership, you will receive *The IPMS Journal* six times a year. In it you will find stories of interest on subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, and figures. You will also find listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned Regional Contests, as well as our world-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online **Member's Forum** where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the county offer **discounts** to IPMS/USA members.

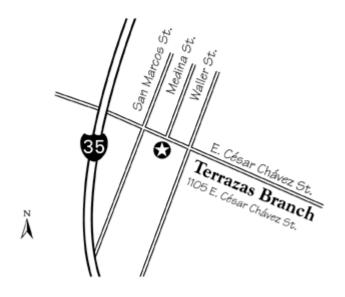
To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or go to **www.ipmsusa.org** and click **Join IPMS/USA!** Payment may be made via personal check, money order, or credit card. Applications using Check or Money Order should be printed upon completion of the registration process and mailed to:

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For any questions or problems with your membership application/renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Officer Manager, Ms. M.J. Kinney, at manager@ipmsusa.org

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Next Meeting:
October 13th, 2009
at
Austin Terrazas Library
(1105 E. Cesar Chavez Street)



Austin Scale Modelers Society Eric Choy 13213 Marrero Drive Austin, TX 78729

