

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year 2009 IPMS Region VI Website of the Year





Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

April 2010

EXAMINER



Building Mach 2 1/72nd NC/AC-123K ''Black Spot'' Gunship

by "Bondo" Phil Brandt, IPMS #14091

The long developmental line of Fairchild 123 "Provider" cargo aircraft (which actually began as a glider!) peaked with the 1968 conversion of two jet-recip.-powered C-123K airframes into long-nosed, esoteric Project Black Spot NC-123K test vehicles meant to hunt and kill enemy trucks and boats operating under the cover of darkness. The "killing" was done via twelve cargo floor-mounted tubes which dispensed various CBUs via computer; no actual "guns" were involved.

Equipped with Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR), Low Light Level TV (LLLTV) and a "Black Crow" vehicle ignition sensor, the only two converted tail numbers (54-691 and 54-698) were first tested in the waters of South Korea where small North Korean vessels would attempt to blend in with fishing fleets and then

make secret agent drop-offs and pickups from the South Korean coast. Although the Black Spot sensors could "see" the various boats moving about at night, they couldn't establish friend from foe, and the South Korean Navy had to perform interceptions.

The Black Spot aircraft then moved to South Vietnam's Phan Rang AB in November 1968 and, through January 1969, flew 186 missions, destroying some 415 trucks and damaging another 273. Further south in the Mekong Delta, these aircraft were credited with 50 sampans destroyed and 24 damaged.

The two Black Spot aircraft were recalled to the CONUS (Editor: term used by Department of Defense when referring to the contiguous 48 states) in 1969, and four additional aircrews were trained at Hurlburt AFB by the same crews that had just test flown the birds in South Vietnam. After being additionally equipped with electronic countermeasures (ECM) and Radar Homing and Warning Systems (RHAWS), the redesignated birds (now known

(continued on page 4)





ASMS is on the Internet @

www.austinsms.org

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Phil Brandt **Eric Choy Rick Cottingham** Bill Delk Jeff & Angela The Kachoris Forster Family Adela Huerta **Larry Jones** Pat Olsen **Dennis Price Lindsay Renfroe** Ion Tesu John Seaman Rick Willaman

upcoming Events

Model Shows

IPMS/Houston, Model Mania 2010, Stafford, TXApr 24IPMS/NCT, Scalefest, Irving, TXJune 5Squadron Eagle Quest XIX, Grapevine, TXJune 24-26

Local Club Meetings

Lone Star Military Miniature Society, Shady Hollow Community Center

Apr 17

Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin Public Library Yarborough Branch

Central Texas Scale Modelers Society, Harker Heights Activities Center

May 20

Other Events

Alamo Liaison Squadron Bluebonnet Picnic, Cannon Field, San Antonio, TX
American Heroes Celebraton, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX
AirFair 2010, Pioneer Flight Museum, Kingsburg, TX
ReaperCon 2010, Denton, TX
Apr 17-18
May 8
May 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 point for **The Iraq Model Network**. Any individual, IPMS chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please contact:

SFC Fleming, Leighton O. MNC-I Sensor Management NCOIC DSN 485-3344 leighton.fleming@us.army.mil

For more info, please contact IPMS/USA 1st VP John Noack (jnoack@ipmsusa.org).





ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2009-10

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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month except for December. Annual dues for full membership are \$20 (individual) or \$25 (family).

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Mike's Montage...

Driving to work the other day, I was tuned to the oldies station. I was listening to the lyrics from the song "Ballroom Blitz" from the group "Sweet," and one of the lines in the song was "Cause she thinks she's the passionate one..." The word "passionate" stuck in my head and got me to think about the word passion as it applies to our lives.

Passion can be expressed as a feeling of excitement, enthusiasm, or emotion towards a subject, person or object. We all have seen the big sports fan with all his/her data/stats and memorabilia on their favorite team. The same holds true in our hobby. You get the new kit that you have been waiting for, and you're all excited to build it. You find all the reference materials; you have all our tools, glue and paint ready. You put all your effort and passion into every single detail to make sure every piece falls perfectly in place. You work tirelessly until it is finished. Then suddenly you feel like you just lost something. You can't help but feel let down somehow.

Sometimes this can happen. If it does, just think back on what made you so excited or passionate about your hobby. Was it the research on a new subject? Was it the challenge of the build, or seeing the end results of your work? Whatever it is, draw back upon those memories and you will again feel the passion that you may have lost.

This not only applies to your hobby but your life as well.

Mike

Back In The Saddle Again — VP Tim Robb

Tim Robb, our "go to" guy when it comes to filling the VP position, is back as our veep to finish **Rick Herrington**'s term. In response to my request of an inauguration speech, Tim wrote:



I'm happy to do what I can to help the club. If anybody has an idea for the club, please bring it forward at the meeting or feel free

to contact me any time. And if you are thinking of running for office, please know that I have always found this campaign slogan works: "I'll do it if nobody wants to."

Go build a model!

Congratulation to Tim and thanks for stepping up to fill the position.

Editor



2010 Monthly Meeting Program Schedule



April May* June July August* September October November* Ron McCraken Eric Choy Mike Kachoris Ken La Ronde Phil Brandt Mike Broussard Karl Leidy Angie Forster

* denotes Quarterly Contest Nights

Rom McCraken will present his program on "Biplane Rigging" at this month's meeting.

If your name is on the list and your know your program topic already, please notify your editor (**Eric Choy**) or webmaster (**Mike Gilsbach**) so it can be published in this newsletter and on our website.

Editor

The Glossy Side

by Michael Broussard

Welcome to The Glossy Side! Well Easter has passed, what did you find in your Easter Basket?

April 10th is the **Lonestar Rod & Kustom Round Up** at the **Travis County Expo Center**. I will be there to get reference pictures. It will be a tough job, but somebody has to do it. It's a Texas-sized weekend of loud pipes, lead sleds, rat rods and more. This is the ninth year for this event. They have cruises on Congress Avenue on Friday and Saturday night. Next month I will report back on my findings.

Car shows are a good place to get ideas and reference material for stock and custom vehicles. Do you need ideas for the 2010 Austin Scale Model Show theme "Anything 10?" Here are a couple: C10 Chevy pickups, Dodge Viper SRT-10. Hope this helps and see you at the show.

If you have a question or a suggestion on a topic, just email me at MBTX08@gmail.com.

Enjoy the hobby!

Michael

(Building NC/AC-123K "Black Spot" Gunship continued)

as AC-123Ks) returned to Southeast Asia in October 1969, this time to Ubon Royal Thai Air Base. Unfortunately a serious altitude limitation of 5,000 feet above ground level for the Black Spot electronic sensors put the attacking aircraft in the effective fire zone for enemy AAA, and most missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail required them to be escorted by 8th Tactical Fighter Wing assets, usually Thai-based A-1s.

Black Spot missions ceased in June 1970, and both airframes were put in storage at Davis Monthan AFB, supposedly waiting for re-entry into the trash hauling business. Then, according to author Wayne Mutza (in his excellent book, Gunships) both Black Spot birds—they were now minus their distinctive radomes, but still wore highly unusual four-color wraparound camouflage—were transferred to a company in Alabama which does "modifications" for the U.S. Government. According to Mutza, some twenty production Black Spots had originally been planned in 1966. The Black Spot program and its aircraft simply faded away, perhaps into the "black world."

In any event, the innovative systems of the program were invaluable to the development of the long-lived AC-130 Spectre gunship platform, which carries on to this day in Middle East combat operations.

The Kit



As this writer is fond of saying in the forums of HyperScale, "The brand name 'Mach 2' sez it all." That is, with most Mach 2 kits the builder may reliably expect very ill-fitting parts, thick, cloudy clear

components, "short shots" and lots of flash. This C-123 kit doesn't disappoint in those respects. Unfortunately, except for the ancient Airmodel vac kit, there's essentially nothing else available in 1/72nd scale, so if ya really want a 123, you're stuck with all of Mach 2's Gallic short-run idiosyncrasies.

The most egregious fit problem was the concave underfuselage warpage in both fuselage halves. In the real deal, the bottom of

the fuselage is flat—I actually laid in the dirt under the 123 on display at the March AFB Air Museum to verify that flatness; it's real!

After slicing transversely through the bottom of each fuselage half (to ease the force needed to get the warped halves back into accurate position), the bottom mating edges of the Mach 2's fuselage halves had to be forcibly jacked outward about 1/8";





then 1/8" thick scratchbuilt formers were CA'ed to said jackedout halves to keep em that way when released. Thin plastic tabs were installed on various fuselage mating edges ala vacuform practice to further aid alignment. After gluing, this plastic manipulation was all followed by multiple iterations of auto lacquer primer and Blue Acryl putty.



One auxiliary J60 jet pod was "short shot" at its aft end, requiring rebuilding with A&B epoxy putty. Thinwall plastic tubing formed the jet exhaust outlets, and brass tubing (cut with a cutoff disk in the Dremel, don'cha know)

replaced the plastic recip exhaust pipes. The nacelle depressions just aft of the cowlings (in which nest the exhaust tubes) were also deepened and lengthened.

Fixing the incorrect canopy profile—it's been criticized by folks who actually flew the 123—would've required total scratchbuilding of a new master and then vacuforming. I just didn't feel like such a drill after the laborious



fuselage scene; fairing in the cloudy, crude canopy to the fuselage was quite enough work.

Various windows in the cargo version had to be filled in for the NC/AC.



Finishing

The unusual, stand-alone color scheme of these two airframes was somewhat more SAC-like (SIOP) than TAC. I worked

from two color shots of the real thing, but it was still tough to figure out if the darkest color was a very deep blackgreen, or was actually black (I settled on black). I also used Don Greer's beautiful color illustration of a Black Spot



bird on the front cover of the Squadron In Action No. 1124, C-123 Provider.



Four iterations of airframe masking made necessary by the unique wraparound four-color scheme was the main element in completing the kit. In 1/72nd scale, it's difficult to portray a realistic delineation between colors, even with a

high quality airbrush; many models in this scale have much too gradual color "breaks" that in real life would be about twelve inches wide! While a hard line between colors would probably be closest to reality in this scale, it still looks a bit odd to these elderly eyes. So, I lift the edge of the masking tape ever so slightly with the tip of a Number 11 blade and then spray gently across the lifted edge.

Conclusion

Another tough build from the employees of the Difficult Kit Division of Bondo Industries; I won't deny that we love the weird stuff!

Bondo Phil





Modeling Day

from Bob Bethea

The next Lone Star Military Miniatures Society Modeling Day is set for Saturday April 17th, 2010 from 10:00 AM until 4:45 PM. It will be held at the Shady Hollow Community Center on Doe Run off of Slaughter Lane in South Austin.

We would love to have anyone interested in ANY kind of modeling to show up. There are plenty of tables, chairs, and room. Bring along your own extra lighting if the fluorescents aren't enough for you. We have a refrigerator and a microwave available. You're welcomed to bring any food item for yourself or others to share. However, we traditionally order pizza for lunch. Everyone throws in some money so we don't have to leave to eat.

DIRECTIONS:

From MoPac: Take **MoPac** (Loop 1) south and exit on to **Slaughter Lane**. Go LEFT (east) for about 1.5 miles, and at the **Brodie Lane** traffic light, turn RIGHT onto Brodie. Go down into the Shady Hollow Subdivision to **Doe Run** and turn LEFT. Go two blocks down Doe Run and the Community Center is on the right.

From Interstate 35: From either direction take the Slaughter Lane Exit off of I-35. Go EAST on Slaughter Lane (left if you're coming from San Antonio or right if you're coming from Austin) and go about 5.5 miles to Brodie Lane. At the traffic light, turn LEFT (south) onto Brodie. Go down into the Shady Hollow Subdivision to Doe Run and turn LEFT. Go two blocks down Doe Run and the Community Center is on the right.

Parking is available on the side and behind the community center. Give me a call at (512) 784-7002 if you get lost.

Bob



Upcoming Releases from New World Miniatures

Here are some of the upcoming releases from **New World Miniatures** (**NWM**).





NWM-35059 Wehrmacht PanzerJäger Crew

Of note is a big scale 1/9th bust of "Desert Fox" Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. The figure is sculpted by Randy Myers, and he also painted it for the boxart.

Kudos to Chris Mrosko, President of NWM, for sending us these pix.

NWM products are available locally at:



King's Hobby 8810 N. Lamar Austin, TX 78753 (512) 836-7388

Hill Country Hobby 9355 Bandera Road, Suite 109 San Antonio, TX 78250 (210) 681-2007

You can also order on-line directly from NWM's website:

shop.newworldminiatures.com



ASMS Meet The Kids

by Eric Choy, IPMS #44323

Several weeks ago Emily Bartlett, a Program Coordinator from Boys and Girls Club of Austin, contacted us to see if we can arrange an hour of activities with the kids after school. Seldom do we hold any event for young modelers outside of our annual shows, so Russ Holm and I volunteered to go out to the school to conduct a Make & Take session with the lads.

Having never worked with Snap-Tite kits before, I figured no tool was necessary other than a pair of clippers. I was wrong. You do need some sanding and drilling to help the kits' fits. Although there was no need to use glue to put the kit parts together, small screws were provided instead to mate the major components of the model. In a hurry to get to the school, I failed to notice that, and we were stuck without screwdriver!











The biggest challenge for the kids was to learn how to follow instructions. One of the girls in Russ' team had taken a model building class before, so she knew the instruction sheet held the secrets to putting the model together. The others... well, let's just say they all assumed the model will build by itself and were somewhat overwhelmed by the small parts.

Despite all the shortcomings, everyone had fun, including Russ and me. For an hour we managed to keep a group of eleven to fourteen-year-olds in their chairs building a model kit (Revell 1/25th Camero Concept Car). Hopefully they will remember the experience and some day either pick up the hobby or pass it on to their children.

Many thanks to Ms. Bartlett and Mr. Ramiro Guerra for having us at Gus Garcia Middle School.

IPMS/USA Latest News

Recently we received two communiqués from IPMS/USA. The first one came from President **Dick Montgomery**:

I am the Point of Contact for the IPMS Support The Troops program for Brooke Army Medical Center and Warrior Family Support Center (WFSC). IPMS asks for donations of hobby related items to be sent to me for delivery to the WFSC. I do all the required paperwork and hand deliver the materials to the staff at WFSC. You can visit the IPMS website and read all about this program.

I will have a donation station at the upcoming shows in Baton Rouge and in Houston. If anyone wishes to donate a kit, paint, tools, or magazines, I'll be pleased to haul it back to San Antonio and deliver it to WFSC.

Thanks.
Dick Montgomery
IPMS/USA President

The second one came from **Dennis Tennant**, IPMS Forum Administrator:

I'm pleased to announce that, effective today, the model building discussion forums of the IPMS/USA are open to non-IPMS/USA members. No longer closed to non-IPMS/USA members, we welcome modelers to our forums and hope to share our passion for model building with everyone.

We hope that opening the modeling forums will encourage nonmembers to join and give IPMS/USA members a chance to share their knowledge, experience and passion for our hobby with others.

Along with making the model building forums public, a new "Ask the IPMS" forum has been set up and John Ratzenberger will be hosting it. It is meant to be the public face of the IPMS/ USA and will contain useful information for members and non-members alike.

The "From the Forum Administrator" forum will also be opened for comments. IPMS/USA members can now interact with me directly to discuss and debate forum policies. Feel free to post relevant questions about the discussion forums there also.

Finally, the former Open Discussion forum has been transformed into the new Bull Pen forum. This forum, open only to IPMS/USA members, will be a lightly-moderated forum set aside for members to discuss whatever moves them. It has its own set of rules to follow and no cross-posting or quoting from threads found within this forum will be permitted. What happens in the Bull Pen, stays in the Bull Pen. For those members who'd rather

not even see this forum, I can modify their accounts to make that wish possible.

The goal of these changes is to make the IPMS/USA discussion forums more accessible to more modelers. It is hoped that their contribution to this site will transform it into something of value to IPMS/USA members and non-members alike.

Now that we have opened the doors, please remember that the modeling forums are for talk about models and model building. Any comments or criticism related to the IPMS/USA must be posted in the IPMS/USA Business section. I've instructed the moderators to be on the watch for this sort of thing and to move these threads to an appropriate IPMS/USA Business thread as quickly as possible. The person posting such items in the public threads will be warned.

By and large, the model building forums have been helpful and friendly places. Now more than ever, we want that to continue.

Dennis Tennant IPMS Forum Administrator dennis.tennant@gmail.com

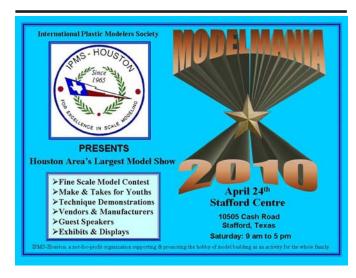




Volunteer Modelers Needed for USS Lexington Museum Display

Randy Barnes, an IPMS/USA member out of the Corpus Christi area, 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 (shspr@shsrockport.org) directly.

Mike



Old Rumors & New Kits

If you hadn't noticed, it's already April and time for the second in the series of Texas Model Shows. On the 24th I expect a good turnout of ASMS modelers will be on the road to Houston. Actually, it's in Stafford but Houston is close enough!

This year's theme is "The Fabulous Fifties" which covers any subject built between 1950 and 1959. For a copy of the flier, go to **www.ipms-houston.org**.

Just heard that Russ Holm was headed for bypass surgery this week. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Russ all the best and a quick recovery from his surgery.

A few months ago, it was announced that Dragon would no longer be associated with the distribution of Hasegawa kits. There was much speculation as to which distributor would pick up the line. No, Hobbico has announced that it has been appointed the exclusive distributor for Hasegawa Model Kits in the United States and Canada. Hobbico sells products through hobby shops, toy stores, etc. as well as through its retail subsidiary, Tower Hobbies. Hobbico owns several famous hobby brands including Revell, Monogram, Estes, Top Flite, and others.

We have a little bit of news that has leaked out of the big Shizuoka Hobby Show set for early next month. I'm sure there will be more announcement of interest to local modelers but for now we will have to be satisfied with the news that Tamiya will do a $1/32^{nd}$ scale Spitfire Mk.VIII for release later this year. The other news is that they will do a $1/48^{th}$ scale A6M3/3a Zero. This will be a Ty 22 and not the Ty 32 (Hamp). It will have the benefit of some PE—probably offered separately—that allows more detail in the folded wing-tips. Flaps can be shown up or down and several figures are included. Look for the Zero in June.

King's Hobby Shop has been pushing its upcoming in-store contest which celebrates the war in the Pacific. Lt. Col. USMC Ed Tovar, who has been a sponsor of the event from the beginning, has increased his sponsorship to \$100 which will be applied to a single gift certificate to be awarded to the best USMC subject. King's will offer a special award for the Best Armor Subject and welcomes anyone wishing to sponsor a special award. There are brochures in the store with more information.

For years, AFV Club has stood for "Armored Fighting Vehicle" models but now has entered the world of aircraft models with a very good kit of Northrup F5E Tiger II. Scribing is a bit heavy but overall it is by far the best F5 kit I've seen. Details are plenty and carefully done. Guess I'll have to sell my old Monogram kits!

I finally got to see the AZ Model Ki-48 Lily. This kit has been out for some time but AZ Models seem to suffer from distribution

problems. The kit has some very fine detail but to my eye suffers from fuselage shape problems. Still, if you want a 1/48th Lily, this is your only choice.

AZ Models also have a very clean Gosling Mk.I. It was a very nice little flying boat with twin engines and was used in WWII.

For you Sci Fi fans, Moebius has a good looking kit of the Battlestar Galactica Viper Mk.II. This 1/32nd scale kit looks like a good aircraft kit and should build into a convincing model of the Viper. Atlantis has released an oldie in 1/48th scale, the UFO, a limited edition re-pop.

For armor builders Tamiya has released another 1/48th kit. This time its the Marder III, Ausf. M. This is the last version of the Marder with the *mitte* (mid) position engine and 7.5mm gun. Tamiya's 1/48th Humvee is still new and looks good in the box.

Tamiya will be releasing a 1/35th BT-7 in July with several figures. And don't forget the new 1/35th scale Tillie. Tamiya is also showing a 1/35th Russian Tank Destroyer SU-85 with "weathering set" and seven figures. No release date given.

Revell has reissued their 1/40th Corporal Missile with Transporter. Dragon has released a pair of "big" kits; a 1/6th M2 60mm Mortar and an M1 rifle.

There are some new decals aimed at recent kit releases. There's a good sheet of Canadian markings for the 1/24th Mosquito and a pair of sheets for 1/48th Hawkeye kits.

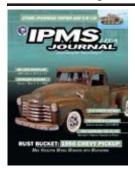
Revell-Monogram has reissued several 1/24th car kits and most of them will be popular with the glossy paint crowd. Included are the '32 Ford Street Rod, '57 Chevy Nomad, '55 Chevy Bel Aire Hard Top, and a Ford F250 Super Duty Pick Up.

Tamiya is showing a 1/20th Lotus Ty. 79, 1978 and a 1/24th Porsche 935 on the same list that contains the Zero and Spitfire data. No release dates given.

The Polish publisher Kagero has released a new book that Spitfire fans will want to get. It's on the Spitfire Mk.IX and comes with a bonus decals sheet that has markings for several of the illustrated examples in several nationalities. Markings are in 1/72nd, 1/48th, and 1/32nd scales. If you haven't checked out these Kagero soft-cover books, you need to.

Osprey has several new titles as well. P-38 Lightning vs. Ki-61 *Hein* (Tony) is available now and will be followed by several other titles that look promising. They include VF-II/III, F-105 Thunderchief Units in Vietnam, Dunkirk 1940, US Destroyers, and German Battleships Vol. I.

And that's all for this month. Be sure to attend Thursday's meeting and bring a model or your current project. See you all there.



In the latest issue of...

IPMS Journal

January/February 2010 Volume 22, Issue 1

- Bristol's Mistreated Monoplane
 Building CMR's resin rendition of the M1C Scout, by Harvey Low;
- **SPAD: Singoloposto AD** Building a "what if?" bare-metal Italian Skyraider in 1/48th, by Rodney J. Williams;
- **Telling A Story With A Well-worn Chevy** Weathering techniques add character to the story of a pick-up, by Mike Heokstra;
- RCAF CL-52, X059 Building the flying test bed, by Steve Bathy;
- **Stalker On The Steppes** Building DML's 1/35th Panzer Ausf.D as a Kursk combatant, by Steve Taylor;
- Northrop's Reluctant Raider The Trimotor that time and the Air Force forgot, by Norm Filer;
- **Russia's Big Gun** Scratchbuilding a 2S19 MSTA self-propelled howitzer, by Chris Bryan;

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.

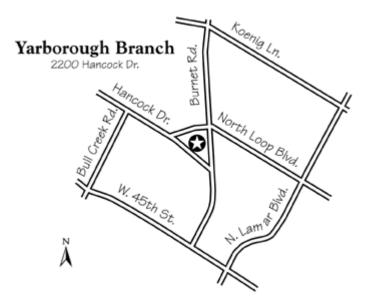
To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or go to **www.ipmsusa.org** and click **Join IPMS/USA!** Payment may be made via personal check, money order, or credit card. Applications using Check or Money Order should be printed upon completion of the registration process and mailed to:

IPMS/USA Dept. H, P.O. Box 2475 North Canton, OH 44720-0475

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:
April 15th, 2010
at
Austin Yarborough Library
(2200 Hancock Drive)



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

