



# SPRUE



# EXAMINER



Vol 22 No. 8

41st Year

August 2014

2011 IPMS/USA Website of  
the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter  
of the Year

2010 IPMS/USA Webmaster  
of the Year

2011 / 2009 IPMS/USA  
Region 6/ Webmaster of the  
Year

2010 / 2006 IPMS/USA  
Region 6/ Chapter of the  
Year



## Building Polar Lights 1/350 TOS Enterprise™ by Bill Delk, IPMS 35227

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First and foremost this is a big model measuring 34 inches from the front of the primary hull to the end of the warp nacelles and 14 inches wide.

The kit itself is expensive running about \$130.00. For another \$130 you can purchase the lighting kit. Other items that can be purchased are the accessory kit which allows for several different versions of the Enterprise, weathering decals, and photo-etch from several sources.

Upwards of \$400.00 can be spent if you are that much of a Star Trek fan. The model is well thought out and the fit is tight.

The parts are well engineered and designed to be strong enough to support the primary hull and nacelles with no warping.

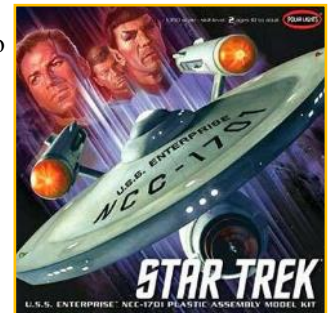
There is also a round base with metal support rod for the ship, once it is built.

The mounting tube is hollow to allow for the power to be routed to the ship if the lighting kit is installed.

If you are going to build this model I would recommend building each piece separately and assembling them when they have been painted and decaled.

The model when fully assembled is quite a handful and is difficult the handle. If installing the lighting kit, forgo using the supplied connectors and cut them off and hard solder the connections.

Check all the lighting before sealing the hull parts. I had the ship ready to decal and tested the lights and found that one of the connectors had slipped off and half the primary hull lights didn't work.



[continued on page four]



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Phil Brandt	Jack Johnston
(in memorium)	Mike Kizin
Eric Choy	Mike Poole
Angie/Jeff	Aaron
Forster	Smischney
Russ Holm	
Rick Willaman	

## Upcoming Events

### Model Shows

IPMS Prison City Modeler's, Heritage Center, Leavenworth, Kansas	9.02.14
<a href="http://www.leavenworthmodelersclub.org/">http://www.leavenworthmodelersclub.org/</a>	
ASMS Capital Classic, Norris Conference Center, Austin, Texas	10.04.14
<a href="http://www.austinsms.org">http://www.austinsms.org</a>	
ConAir 2014, Kansas Aviation Museum, Wichita, Kansas	10.11.14
<a href="http://www.aircapitalipms.org">http://www.aircapitalipms.org</a>	
GatorCon 2014, Lafayette, Louisiana	10.26.14
<a href="http://www1.katc.com/files/modelshow.pdf">http://www1.katc.com/files/modelshow.pdf</a>	

### Local Club Meetings

Hill Country Outlaws Model Railroading Club, King's Hobby, Austin, Texas	9.06.14
Austin Armor Builders Society, Old Quarry Branch APL, Austin, Texas	9.03.14
<a href="http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com">http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com</a>	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	9.04.14
CenTex Modeler's, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, Texas	8.21.14
<a href="http://www.centexmodelers.com">http://www.centexmodelers.com</a>	
Lone Star Figure Modeler's, San Marcos Library, San Marcos, Texas	9.13.14

### Other Events

National Model Railroad Exhibition, Round Rock Library, Round Rock, Texas	9.13.14
Contact: Peter Kazmir, 512.653.3824	

### IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

The IPMS/USA initiative was established to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones, recovering in hospitals, and rehabilitating in specialized facilities.

The program is expanding into other areas as well. Some local programs take place in USO facilities, some are centered around active duty personnel and are scattered across the country.

The IPMS/USA Support The Troops program is still going full-tilt. The national program director is Jon Emery and his email address is: [www.models4troops@gmail.co](mailto:www.models4troops@gmail.co)

Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

### ASMS Officers & Chairpersons

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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month. Annual dues for full membership are \$25/individual or \$30/family. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author (s). It is intended for educational purposes *only*. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.



**Message from the Prez...****Mike Poole**

**H**ow do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice. I guess everyone is familiar with the concept of the learning curve. The more times we do a task the better we get at it. I was at a show the other day and saw the same model kit entered four times in different paint schemes by the same modeler. They were all quite striking and I'm sure the person who built them got a bit better with each one. I want to be that good with a kit without having to build it four times. As slow as I build I'll be lucky to just complete one of everything on my list. That thing called the internet can be a big help in whisking me up the learning curve like an escalator in a power surge.

I like to search for build logs of models I plan to make. Many internet forums have sections called WIP's or Works In Process. These chronological blogs written by other builders can be very helpful for singling out weaknesses in the kit before I've glued and painted myself into a corner. Build logs are usually written by experienced modelers and often point out fit issues, accuracy problems or simply suggest a different way to better facilitate assembly. Often the builder will start a comment, "If I had it to do over". Those are the Ah-ha moments that help push me higher up that learning curve before even snipping a single part from the sprues.

I find photos of box-stock finished models are also very helpful. It is amazing how much experience I can extract from simply looking at photos of the completed model I intend building. Photos of contest-level, super-detailed models aren't good for this because the builder has corrected and buried all the kit's flaws. I find the best photos are novice level models that reveal all of a kit's inherent weaknesses. Examples include large gaps in parts, difficult alignment and awkward assembly. The absolute best information is about highly visible, out-of-scale parts like antennae that are too large, panels and clear parts that are too thick, and other oversized details. These items are often difficult to judge when looking at the individual parts in the box. It's only after seeing them in context I can start to plan for their improvement or all-out replacement.

Next time you start a project take a look at some of the helpful things others have posted on the internet before you begin. It may not be as beneficial as building the kit four times but it's a big improvement over starting with no experience at all. Now go build something and write a build log for others like me to learn from!

*Mike***Fiddly Bits****Frank Seibert**

**V**olunteers are needed to staff the upcoming Capital Classic. ASMS's annual model show and contest will be coming to the Norris Conference Center October 4. There are any number of duties that must be performed for the show to be a success. Lest among them is judging, registration, vender set-up (Friday evening), manning the door prize table, photographing the entries, etc. Don't forget...judging. Sign-up lists will be available at the next several monthly meetings so make an effort to provide the needed assistance for our show. One can only hope that those superb folks that manned the registration tables last year will be on hand for the 2014 festivities.

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

It may seem a bit early but officer elections for ASMS will be held in January, 2015. Those positions are: President, Vice-President, Treasury and Secretary. Mike Poole will be resigning his position as our president thus providing a vacancy for any interested party. Which is not to say that that is the only position that may have a vacancy. If you have an interest in leading ASMS into the future, please make your wishes known. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who wants to know what 'herding cats' really means. Whatever your decision, don't miss that January meeting. Bobbie Wilson did and that's how she got to be secretary.



ASMS currently has 35 paid-up members with another 11 un-paid members. You "Oceans Eleven" people need to check your records and if you have inadvertently not paid your dues for 2014, do so. You may bring your dues to a club meeting or remit same to Jeff Forester, 1503 Cherry Creek, Cedar Park, Texas 78613. We needs your money!

*Frank*

I had to pop the parts apart find the bad connection, fix it and then glue and re-sand the seams. This is not an easy task with an almost three foot long model in your lap.

Another step I might take is to use Ron McCracken's method of making clear windows( April 2014 Sprue Examiner) for most of the flat windows on some of the kit parts do not fit flush with the hull parts.

Everything seems to fit well when assembled. Even the first dry fit looked good.



There is a lot of sanding to do once the parts are together to hide the seams on the primary and secondary hull, especially the bottom of the secondary hull. Care must be taken when installing the hanger bay as it is a very tight fit. More so with the lighting kit installed. I had to do quite a bit of sanding in that area to get it to fit properly.

The lighting kit really will add to the model if added. Installation is fairly straight forward, except for my problems with the connectors.



The LEDs (light emitting diodes) are provided in a strip that must be cut at intervals and connected together. This is where I began to solder my connections rather than use the connectors the kit provided.

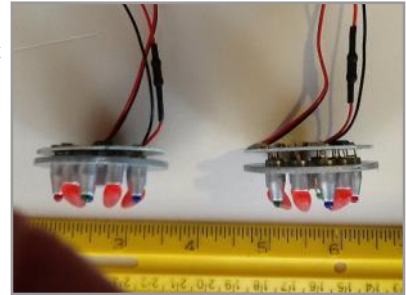
The LED strip also has some adhesive on the back to stick to the various hull locations, however I found that it didn't stick well and wound up hot gluing them in place.

The electronics consist of several circuit boards with modular plug-in locations.



All the wires are alphabetically coded and tagged with corresponding locations on the circuit boards.

The warp animation circuits work well and look good when using the colored parts of the assembly. I did run into a bit of a problem with one of the animation boards as the LED's were mounted too high on the board and the colored parts would not fit properly in their location and in the nacelle domes.



I contacted *Polar Lights* and they sent me another circuit board.

Problem solved! The motors that power the fan animation are a bit noisy but it can be lived with.

The instructions call for using some of the LED strips if you want to light the inside of the nacelles but I had some extras from another source that I used instead. The nacelles were supposed to be lit in the original TV model but budgetary constraints wouldn't allow it.

**Painting:** Buy lots of the main color *Tamiya* J.N. Gray, about 4 bottles. For the other six colors you'll only need one bottle. I think I used about 2 cans of *Tamiya* gray primer before painting the base color during the sanding process.

Check the website at *Polar Lights* for an updated paint list. The dark ghost gray originally listed was *Testor's* 1721 but should actually be 1741.

Be prepared to spend several evenings with your *Opti-visor* and a roll of *Tamiya* masking tape to cover all the windows before painting. I measured the windows and then laid the tape on a piece of glass and used an *X-acto* knife to cut the strips to size. I then used tweezers to place the tape on the windows. I used liquid latex masking medium for the round windows.

I took some liberties with the paint scheme for some of the accent colors on the pylon vents and inter-cooler parts just to add a little pizzazz. I know I will probably take some flack for it but hey, it's my interpretation.

**Decals:** I have to finish prepping the entire hull since the debacle with the light kit. I have to re-sand and gloss coat the hull so that the decals that haven't been applied can be as I had to repaint the primary hull, sand and re-scribe the panel lines.

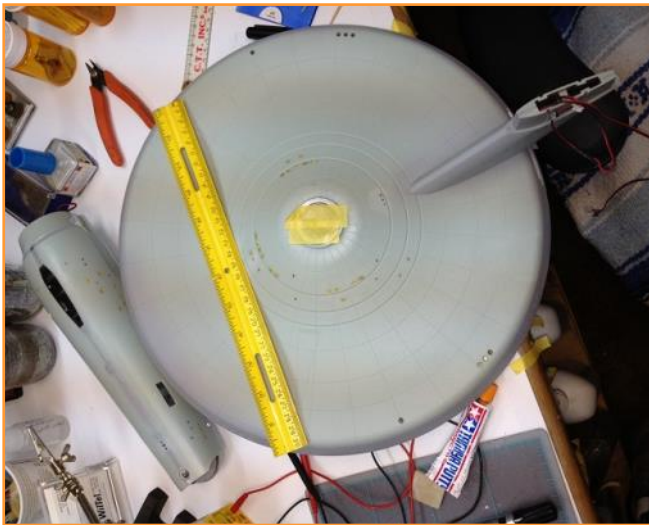


I'm going to have to figure out some kind of jig to hold the model while that work is done as it will need to be in several different positions to add them.

This would be a good place to remind you, again, that assembling the separate pieces after painting and decaling would prevent some of the headaches I experienced.

**Afterthoughts:** If I had to do it all over again, I would probably go about building the model in these steps.

- Assemble the primary hull after installing the light kit, testing the lights and windows, mask, prime coat, sand away seams, prime again. Paint hull color, gloss coat, add decals, put away
- Assemble landing bay, paint and decal. Add lighting items. Fit to secondary hull. **Test the lighting.**



- Assemble secondary hull, pylons and dorsal after installing lighting elements and running lighting cables where they are needed. Mask, prime, sand, paint and decal. **Test the lighting.**
- Assemble nacelles. Prime, sand, paint and decal. **Test the lighting and electronics.**
- Assemble Bussard collectors and electronics. Prime, mask and paint. **Test the lighting.**
- Assemble all components, being careful to route all lighting cables to the secondary hull. **Test the lighting.**
- Fill any small fit problems with putty, sand and touch-up the paint where needed .
- Connect the power and start the warp drive.

Bill



### Monthly Program Schedule by Ron McCracken, Vice-President

Month	Presenter/Subject
August	Rick Herrington/ U.S. Army Colors
September	Quarterly Contest/ Bondo Special
October	Dave Edgerly/ Early Manned Spacecraft
November	Bobbie Wilson/ Fun With Textures
December	Quarterly Contest/ White Elephant

If you're interested in making a presentation at one of our club meetings contact Ron McCracken at:

[ron\\_mccracken@att.net](mailto:ron_mccracken@att.net)

## Web At Night: Rewind

compiled by Jean-Michel D'Aubigne

During last month's club meeting Aaron Smischney introduced some of us to SMD Chip LED's. For the unfamiliar these are light chips very similar to regular LED's or wheat blubs except, you know, smaller.

These light chips come in several colors and are pre-wired and pre-resistored. (Pre-resistored may not be a real word.) Nevertheless, it does save you time and effort when deciding on what resistor to put in-line so that the chips work properly. You can check out a line of LED'S, Hobby LED's and SMD Chip LED's at Model Train Software.

[smd-chip-leds.html](http://smd-chip-leds.html)

While perusing the new release stuff on someone's site, I came across for what for me is a new product: *Uschi* burnishing fluid. Not being that familiar, I did some internet research and came across this video explaining burnishing fluid and how to use it.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=re6nQBsoHBM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=re6nQBsoHBM)

Tim Robb submitted this next item for you amusement. This is another youtube thingy about the origins of the 'Air Force One' call-sign. As you may be aware this is the designated call sign for the aircraft that is carrying the President of the United States. Tim also suggested that finding out about the fate of the original 'Air Force One' (Lockheed Constellation) might make for an interesting article. Any takers?

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=embed/ehwvZXVKmPU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=embed/ehwvZXVKmPU)

The next entry in this month's offering is a link to an article that appears in the most recent issue of National Geographic Magazine.

Many are familiar with the trench warfare that developed during WWI. What may be less well known are the excavations and tunneling that accompanied that operation.

During WWI a myriad of tunnels and underground cities were dug with many of the 'miners' leaving behind decorations on the walls. Everything from patriotic symbols to the odd bit of whimsical art.

And as long as your visiting the website you might as well subscribe to the magazine. National Geographic Magazine is

well worth the cost. Besides you'll probably spend more on paint than on the subscription.

[ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/08/ww1-underground/hadingham-text](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/08/ww1-underground/hadingham-text)

I acquired a copy of the September issue of Fine Scale Modeler via Russ Holm. There is a report on the most recent AMPS 2014 show in Virginia. Amongst the many photos is one of an M4A3E8 Sherman tank. The model is based on the tank shown in the forthcoming film "Fury" by David Ayer and starring Brad Pitt. His character's name is 'Wardaddy'. (?) The American war film is set in Germany during April 1945. View the official trailer at the following link.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGvZolrXpg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGvZolrXpg)

Jean-Michel



### Quarterly Contest Schedule



Our clubs quarterly contests are held on the last month of each quarter. Here are the dates and themes for 2014.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>
September 18	'Bondo' Special
December 18	White Elephant

[Editor's Note: The September contest will also include an open category for those that may not have participated in the kit give away from the estate of Phil 'Bondo' Brandt.

There will be usual first, second, and third place gift certificates awarded but the winner of the 'Bondo Special' will receive a trophy (not unlike the White Elephant Trophy) in honor of this occasion.]

## Airfix's 1/72 C-47 Skytrain by Brad Perry

King's Hobby Shop received the new *Airfix* 1/72 scale C-47 Skytrain. The kit looks very good. Parts are crisply molded and our example appears to be warp free.

I'm assuming that the dimensions are correct but haven't actually measured. The fuselage and wing plan forms appear to be accurate. In short, the model looks convincingly like what it's supposed to.



It has been many years since we've seen an all new kit of this very significant aircraft in this scale, and I'm glad to see it.

The kit particulars as published on the box are as follows: Length - 273mm; wingspan - 400mm; part count - 142 pieces

Exterior skin paneling is represented primarily with recessed lines which are thin and not too deep. Certain details such as control cable covers are raised.

Actual C-47s have lapped and riveted skin panels. When seen up close, the aircraft is festooned with rivet heads. The kit does not include any rivet details.

These would not normally be obviously visible from the scale viewing distance, and while the scribed panel lines are not technically accurate, they will adequately represent the lines produced and visible by the lapped skin panels.



I would probably spray the model with *Tamiya* primer before painting, then use a subtle oil wash in the lines after painting. The end result of this should be quite convincing.

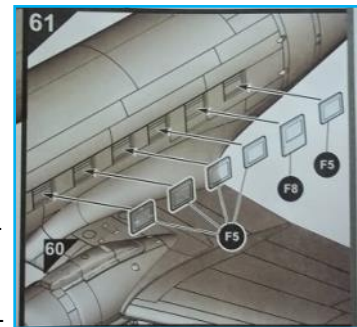
*Airfix* provides a separate port side forward crew access door. It does not include interior detail and therefore does not appear to be capable of being shown optionally open.

At the back end of the kit, the tail surfaces include separate rudder and elevators for the vertical tail plane and separately attached horizontal tail planes respectively. These surfaces are doped fabric on the real aircraft and *Airfix* has done a fine job representing this on the kit.

This new release also includes various separately molded antenna masts and pitot tubes. They are all reproduced very delicately and are commendably scale.

Kit clear parts are nicely produced. They are cast uniformly flat and have minimal distortion. The fuselage side windows attach to the outside of the fuselage.

This is a great design feature of this model. Most models with similar window configurations have you attach clear parts to the inside of the fuselage. This presents the hazard of accidentally pushing the windows into the model after it's glued shut. *Airfix's* solution will make the model easier to handle while building and then painting.



The model's interior is nice considering that most will not be visible after construction. The cockpit has a decal instrument panel with separate throttle/trim wheel center console. It also includes nicely cast pilot seats with two optional separate seated pilot figures. In addition, very delicate control wheels and control columns round out the cockpit module.

*Airfix* provides a basic radio operator's and navigator's compartment which does not include any radio or navigation equipment, or crew figures. Not much of this assembly will be visible after installation so the abbreviated detail is adequate.

The aft cargo bay includes nicely detailed corrugated floor, and forward and aft compartment bulkheads. Sidewall interior structural detail for ribs and stringers are cast inside kit fuselage halves.

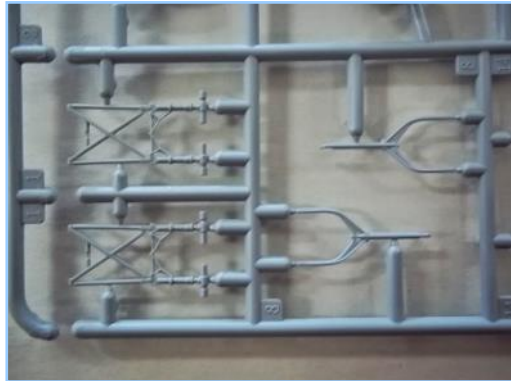
Optional parts are provided for troop jump seats extended up or retracted (stowed). As final notes to the cargo bay assembly, the rear fuselage cargo doors can be shown open or closed, and the jump door on the forward cargo door is a separate piece.

The main wings have interior spars which should provide a sturdy structure. The main wheel wells have interior detail



which I believe is unique for 1/72 scale C-47 kits. It includes nacelle rib detail, rear engine firewall detail, and oil tanks.

Also, the landing gear can be built retracted if the modeler desires to show the aircraft in flight, or with snow skies for arctic operations. The skies are very nice consisting of five



parts which include the rear mounted lift supplementing winglets. A separate one piece tail wheel ski is also included.

Main landing gear

struts are multi piece and appear cleanly molded and appropriately thin. Separate "H" main struts, actuator jacks, and "Y" support struts combine to create mechanically busy assemblies. They are far from the clunky softly detailed gear struts in past kits.

Main wheels are molded to appear as if they have weight on them. Like many companies who attempt this, *Airfix* has also gotten its tires too flat in my opinion.



Hopefully we'll get a set of resin aftermarket wheels that aren't equally flat, but the kit parts will be useable if need be. I consider this to be a minor issue.

The kit provides two multi-part twin row radial engines representing Pratt & Whitney R-1830s. Each engine assembly consists of four parts: two separate seven bank cylinder rows, one gear reduction housing, and one prop shaft.

The cylinders on all rows are notable for their lack of any cooling vane detail. This will not detract greatly as the engines are tightly cowled and will only be visible after looking past wide-chord Hamilton Standard three-bladed props.

Good painting technique and shadow will greatly alleviate this issue. Two part (front and rear section) carburetor air

intakes are added to the top of the engine nacelles. Intake mouths are recessed but not very deep. Some modelers may wish to open them further.

Kit decals provide markings for two aircraft. The first option is for a World War 2 USAAF aircraft from the 92nd Troop Carrier Squadron, 439th Troop Carrier Group, 9th Air Force.



The plane was based at Upottery, Devon, England on June 6, 1944. It is painted in wartime standard olive drab and neutral gray camouflage colors with white and black invasion stripes. It features nose art "Kilroy is Here".



The second decal option is for a post World War 2 ski-equipped Skytrain from the Military Air Transport Service based at Isachsen Airstrip, Northwest Territory, Canada in October,

1949.

The aircraft is unpainted natural metal with arctic red wing tips and tail. Common decals for either option are provided for all technical stencils found on C-47's. The *Airfix* decals, in fact, includes the most complete set of technical stenciling I've seen for any C-47 kit. The decals are printed in register and appear to have thin carrier film. I'd be inclined to use them unhesitatingly.

The C-47 Skytrain kit from *Airfix* is the latest in the new generation of kits from the iconic kit maker. It does not disappoint.

*Airfix* has really stepped up its game in the last several years. It has produced a string of new 1/72 kits which are great quality and value. This kit has many strong points as noted above and, as with all kits, several minor and easily correctable issues.

In addition to those knocks noted above, the kit does not include an emergency escape hatch above the cockpit. This can be fixed with a rectangular piece of evergreen .005" styrene laminated in the correct location.



Also, there are several ejector pin marks inside the cargo bay which disrupt the stringer detail above the mid-fuselage windows. These will be slightly visible if the model is displayed with the cargo doors open.

*Evergreen* .010"x .020" strip grafted into the gaps in the stringer detail, and then a drop or two of *Mr. Surfacer* primer should solve this small problem.

One other issue is that the kit does not include a balance tab on the right aileron. Mark, scribe, and cut in the proper location on the right inboard portion of the aileron to resolve the oversight. In short, I have very little to call out on this kit.

I think it's great! I look forward to seeing which other versions of this aircraft *Airfix* has in store for us.

Several unused parts in the box such as thin chord propellers suggest a DC-3. I'll also be surprised if we don't get an AC-47 Puff since they had a boxing of this aircraft using their old kit. Can't wait!

*Brad*

*[Editor's Note: this article originally appeared on King's Hobby Shop's blog. Additional sprue shots by Jack Johnston are available on their website.]*

## Wanted: Newsletter Articles!

### Any Size, Shape or Subject.

Editor's Note: The newsletter contest continues in full force through out the remainder of this year.

To refresh your memory, this contest allows club members to send in stuff for publication in the newsletter.

Whoever submits the most stuff (published or not) over the course of 2014, will have their club dues paid for by our erstwhile editor.

Tidbits, reviews, build articles, websites, modeling tips, etc., etc., etc. all qualify as legitimate entries.

All submissions to : [benmorton@grandecom.net](mailto:benmorton@grandecom.net)

## Werner's Wings Night Stalkers - Part 2 Gothic Serpent to Present by Floyd Werner Jr.

These decals will be available in three scales, 1/35<sup>th</sup>, 1/48<sup>th</sup> and 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale. Each scale features 20 Night Stalker aircraft.

There are four A/MH-6's, nine MH-60's (including five previously unknown aircraft from Somalia), and seven MH-47's.

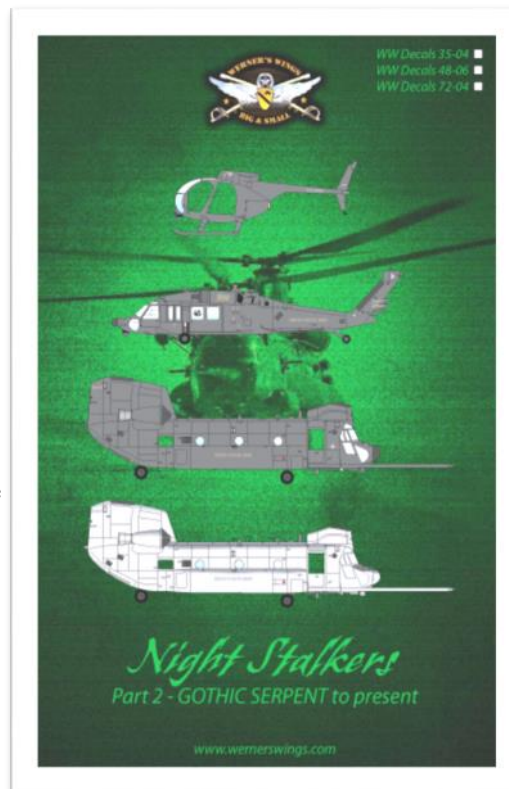
Besides the aircraft there are additional decals for outside and inside of the aircraft including never before released decals for the Chinook interior, perfect for your Werner's Wings MH-47E and upcoming MH-47G.

The decals will be available for the first time on 6 August 2014 at the IPMS/USA National Convention in Virginia. We will start taking orders when we return from the show.

There are also some new CAD prototype pieces for the new 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale MH-47G conversion that will be released soon.

[www.wernerwings.com](http://www.wernerwings.com)

If you are interested this will be a one time offering, so ask about it if you want one. They will not be cheap, but they will be unique and huge on the model table.



*Floyd*



**Guess The Desk  
by Ben Morton**

Welcome to another exciting new game show...well maybe not so much a game show as a test of your familiarity with your fellow ASMS club members. Periodically, in your newsletter, there will be two photos of a fellow ASMS club members workbench and model stash.

Your task, should you choose to accept it, is to ascertain the owner of the workbench and stash. This should be some fun and I will definitely task your knowledge of fellow ASMS members.

It really shouldn't be that difficult but it will improve your chances of guessing correctly if in the future if you attend more monthly club meetings and get around to meet the gang. Good luck!



Ben



Answer on page eighteen.

**MPC's 1975 Dodge Dart Sport  
by Ray S. Katzaman**

Have you ever bought a model and after just five minutes you put it back in the box because of all of the flaws. Well this is my model from hell. I think I will call it the 1975 Dodge Flash.



I do have to give MPC credit for the box art. It is very impressive and colorful with a bunch of ideas on how to make the model. But, that is as far as my elation went. Here goes a short review.

On the body there is flash everywhere. The leading edge of the body just in front of the hood was extended about 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch by flash. The area around the inside of the hood opening was the same.

The mold markings around the entire car were off from about 1/64 to 1/16 of an inch. I took out a new # 11 blade (no, that is not a hashtag, it is the number sign) and started whittling away at the excess flash. Then I started to try to level the "step effect" where the mold halves had slipped and did not match, and that is when I put the model back in its box and went back to fabricating masts, spars and jibs for my



Pinta from Heller. You see, I am replacing the plastic masts, spars and jibs with real wood ones. The plastic ones sag when I tie the rigging to them.

I forgot to mention that the other components of the Dart are still in their plastic bags. There you have it. This model, as far as I am concerned gets a 0 on a scale of 10.

Ray

## Stash Reduction 1.0 by Mike Lamm

**A**fter our March meeting, while enjoying a slice of pie and a beer at The Frisco with the semi-usual post-meeting crowd, I had an epiphany...or maybe it was the just the strange mix of Steiner and coconut cream...either way, I decided at that moment, I was going to finish ALL the kits in my stash BEFORE I bought another new kit.

I may have even said it aloud to someone, or no one, but at that moment, I had a New Years' resolution, only three and a half months late, that I was going to work towards.

Granted, I don't have a huge stash of kits, comparatively speaking. I've seen much bigger stockpiles, and heard stories of even larger stockpiles that would put even the greatest "one that got away" fish stories to shame.

However, I've only just gotten back into the hobby over the past year and a half, so I still have a lot of room to grow. According to my detailed notes, scribbled into one of my son's old black and white composition books, on March 28, 2014, I had 30 kits in the stash (started or not). At two kits a month, I should have this taken care of in no time!

The decision to take this drastic measure began formulating about a month before taking that first step to admit I might have a problem. While reviewing a stack of purchases made on a recent trip to the Dallas area; and the stops at 3 or 4 hobby shops along the way, including one in Austin before I even got out of town, it occurred to me that I had purchased more kits than I currently had in works in progress.

At this rate, I'd never get to the bottom of the piles of kits, or anywhere close, without some determination to focus on what I had in hand.

Therefore, on March 20, 2014, I made that announcement...at least in my head...but maybe out loud. Two days later, I put pen to paper and made "the rules" for how I was going to reduce the pile.

The rules consist of 8 points, each one designed to keep me focused and to slowly knock the stash down one kit at a time.

**Rule 1** – *I will work by scale from smallest to largest (i.e. 1/144 to 1/8).* Looking back, this rule is stupid, because I know I'm going to get sick of building 1/72 scale planes, which could lead to a breakdown of the whole system. At the time, I must have realized that because I added **Rule 3**.

**Rule 2** – *Aftermarket items do not count as kits and may be*

*purchased as needed/wanted.* This applies to decals, books, supplies, resin additions, etc. Again, looking back, this should probably have been more specific, like aftermarket items directly related to the kits I have, because now I'm building a stockpile of decals and other odds and ends that I'll probably never need/use.

**Rule 3** – *Rule 1 may be changed depending on boredom, downtime for painting/waiting for aftermarket items, to complete contest entries, etc.* This just proves that hindsight is not always too late.

**Rule 4** – *Figures do not count and may be completed anytime, purchased before all models are complete, or not completed at all.* I guess I threw this in there so I didn't have to put together any figures included in the kits...not to mention, it kind of gives me a loophole for the Iron Man Mk V kit.

**Rule 5** – *Kits acquired from raffles, door prizes, or gifts do not count as 'purchases' and may be added to the stash at any time.* Again, another loop hole for increasing the stash size, without actually breaking the rules, which looking back was pretty clever.

**Rule 6** – *'Complete' means: finishing a kit to my satisfaction; selling a kit; or donating a kit to the club auction.* My handwritten rules, dated March 22, actually include the underlining, like I was trying to ensure that I understood who's satisfaction I was talking about...weird. Looking back, I probably should have included something about trashing kits too...although, I suppose sometimes trashing a kit can be to my satisfaction.

**Rule 7** – *New kits may only be purchased when I have less than 10 kits remaining (un-started, or works in progress).* So it's just a simple matter of getting the stash down to single digits. That sounds pretty reasonable!

**Rule 8** – *At no time, will I have more than 6 works in progress.* Again, how hard can this be? It's not like I pick up a box, look through the parts and think..."huh, that cockpit looks pretty simple and I'll bet it looks pretty good together"...or..."this 1/72 Airfix kit only has 20 parts? I should be able to knock it out in a few days!"

There they are...eight simple rules to knock down the size of any stash. It's just a matter of staying disciplined enough to follow them. How hard can it be? I mean it's not like Squadron has a sale every week.

Now go implement your own stash reduction strategy, or just build a model or two, which is a good start.

Mike



## Old Rumors/New Kits 2G

Aaron Smischney, Golzar Shahrzād,  
Mike Poole, Randy Bumgardner, Rick Herrington

### Automotive

It's normally very quiet during the late summer for car kits. Most everyone with a new kit has already released it or waiting for the holiday season just around the curve. Despite that there is some news.

#### 1/12 '64 Ferrari 250

**GTO: Model Factory Hiro** is at it again with their gigantic, over-the-top models of great racing cars. They usually do F1 subjects but recently did a Porsche 917 LH I mentioned in a previous issue.



For the month of September they will offer the '64 fast back version of the Ferrari 250 GTO. In addition to the usual resin body, white metal drivetrain, and vacuum-formed clear parts, they are doing something new. This model will feature full internal engine details like crankshaft, pistons, cams, and valves. Expect this kit to be offered for about \$650 for a limited time in late September. Here is a link to see the engine "running":



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmgA\\_QRsoa4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmgA_QRsoa4)

If that GTO is too pricey how about some interesting re-pops from *Revell* this month.

**1/25<sup>th</sup> '67 Camaro SS:** Nearly 35,000 SS models rolled off



the assembly lines and onto American roads in 1967. This 2 1/2" kit features a detailed 396 c.i. engine

with optional dual exhaust, stock and racing wheels, racing interior, roll bar and separate back seat. It's out now at your favorite retailer for the reasonable sum of \$25.00.

**1/25 '57 Chevy Convertible:** The 1957 Chevy was a staple of

the NASCAR circuit, club races, and the drag strip. Its small-block V8 produced

162 horsepower in stock trim. When equipped with a 4-speed manual the '57 Chevy could stir up some dust. Kit features convertible top and dual carbs with "bat-wing" air cleaner. It's out now and reasonably priced at around \$25.00.



That's it for auto's this month. Keep the shiny side up and the greasy side down.

Mike



### Armor

**G**reetings armor fans and Hello armor curious! Make room on your shelf because not one, but TWO Scud launchers have been announced!

The first comes from *MENG Models*. This is in response to a poll *MENG* did in 2012 asking modelers what they wanted to see.





This one is a C variant.

Here is an image of the prototype *Trumpeter* kit being built up. It looks to have a full interior with engine!



Also coming from *MENG* is the AMX-30B2. This variant saw battle in Desert Storm during Operation Daguet. I am 100% going to do this one, I love the AMX-30 and was looking at doing a conversion of the regular AMX-30.



Looks like I don't have to do that anymore. :)



Here is an image from Desert Storm of the AMX in service.

Let's see what *Dragon* is up to. Looks like a large scale ( 1/6th ) Aerosan! Man, your toddler could drive it.



Next up from *AFV Club* another in their long list of Churchill variants, this time an AVRE with "snake launcher".



That's the highlights, till next time.

Aaron

### Shipping News

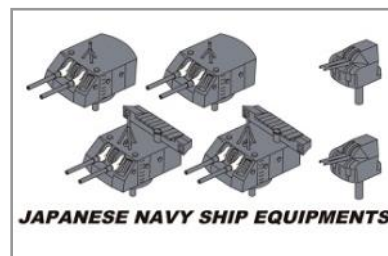
In 1/350th scale from *Academy* is the USS Indianapolis CA-35 Premium limited edition. This one has brass barrels, photo-etch sets for the railings, radars, cranes and catapults.



It also has a wooden deck included. All the aftermarket stuff in one box. It also includes a model of the IJN I-58 sub that sank it. Wooden deck, photo-etch and deck launched suicide subs included, as well.

In this same scale, *Trumpeter* is showing the USS New York (BB-39) battleship and the Royal Navy Destroyer HMS Zulu (1941).

*Dragon*...surprise, surprise... has a German destroyer kit coming our way, the Z-26!



*Hasegawa* has a limited edition of Japanese Navy vessel equipment for the IJN Agano class, it features 15cm turret kits.

*Bronco* has a new offering in the Republic of China (ROC) Navy Corvette Class Corvette 596 Huizhou. To accompany this release they also have the ROC Navy Corvette Class Corvette 528 Bengbu.



For the undersea folks, from *Micro Mir/Avis Models* is the USS Sturgeon Class submarine (Long Hull). The short hulled version was released about two years ago

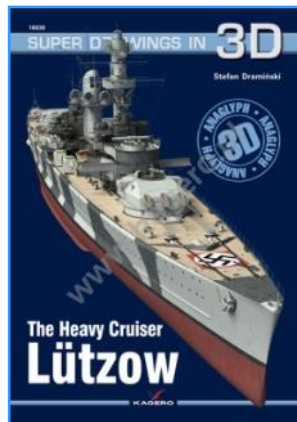
In 1/700th scale *Cyber-Hobby (Dragon)* presents the USS Randolph CV-15 Essex Class Carrier. Pit Road has a full hull model of the IJN Kagero class destroyer Urakaze.

And finally some interesting books coming out..

*Kagero 3D*-German Heavy Cruiser Lutzow. Could this precede a 1/350th kit in this scale? It would be a welcome addition to all the German destroyer kits we have out there.

*Model Graphix*- German Navy Pictorial Modeling Guide.

That's it for this month. Pull something out of that stash and build it.



**Miscellaneous**

**T**rumpeter Models has a new 1/32nd scale Junkers Ju-87A Stuka for your modeling enjoyment. This is the first production version with flared spats on the undercarriage. Perhaps with not too much trouble you could back date the kit to one of the 'V' prototypes.



*Airfix* continues with their new and improved kits. This manufacturer is getting to be pretty good at making model kits. For you rolling stock people there is a 1/32nd 'B' type Omnibus. This kit will be boxed as either a civilian or military (WWI) version. They have recently released a 1/72nd Higgins LCVP with all new tooling.



And not to be outdone, *Italeri* has a 1/35th LCVP headed

your way. This is also newly tooled and comes with a boatload of infantry figures.

B-29 fans may recall that *Iliad Decals* released a set of 'stickers' for Monogram's 1/48th B-29 kit not that long ago. These depicted camouflaged birds that operated, mostly, in India. For them that may not appreciate that larger scale, *Academy* has a complete kit in 1/72nd scale. Detailed cockpit and interior with markings for five different aircraft.



This next offering is soon to be available and as a fan of the



Piper Cub I couldn't resist. *Revell* has yet another version, this time with bushwheels. In 1/32nd the Piper PA-18 has a larger propeller and those giant balloon tires. I think that this release makes four different versions

from *Revell* of the 'same' kit.

As far as recycling goes, *MPM Productions* is reintroducing the detail resin sets for your *Revell* 1/72 U-Boat. The torpedo section, command section, front crew quarters, ward room, and galley will all soon be available, again!

*Mini Art* has another in their line of figure kits. This time its a 1/35th scale US horseman, Normandy 1944.



This struck me as a bit different. *Zvezda*, in addition to their model kits, also has a line of tactical war games based on the Art of Tactic system. For those that may be unaware, this is a system whereby each player issues orders at the start of each turn for a force of plastic models on a hex map. The game system includes hex map board, models, and unit tactics cards. The latest offering is 'Hot War: Battle for Oil'.



Getting back to rolling stock, *Aoshima* has a 1/32nd Ichiban-Boshi Dekatora (decoration truck) coming down the lane. This is an injected molded kit that features a rather garishly decorated truck.



*Kora Models* has conversion kits for fans of 1/72nd Tiger-moths. These conversion kits are designed for either *Airfix*, *Pavla* or *AZ* models. The conversion sets include resin bits and decals for a variety of types. Among them a Norwegian float plane or a Queen Bee flying target.

Golzar



### Aircraft

Hello once again boys and girls! Summer is drawing to a close and the kiddos are heading back to school. You know what that means...more modeling time!

Now that all of those pesky vacations and family responsibilities are out of the way, you can get back to the real stuff of life – modeling!

To start us off this time, we'll begin at the end of the alphabet and meander around for a bit. *Zoukei-Mura* was a large presence at the 2014 IPMS/USA Nationals this year.

They brought with them a few copies of their latest kit heading towards the stores right now: The 1/32 Horton Ho 229. I heard that they only brought 50 and those were snapped up within 10 minutes of the vendor room doors opening on Wednesday (the first day of the show). Holy Luft '46 Batman – apparently there is a demand for this kit.

It does look nice in all of the pictures I viewed, and *Z-M* is known for the detailed interior in all of their kits. Another thing I noticed in those same pictures of the show is the advertising of an Fw 190 series from *Z-M*...?

Yet another model company throwing their hat into the Focke Wulf ring. I'm not sure what scale or even what the time line is for these kits. I'll leave that to speculation and the rumor mill. It's more fun that way.

*Zoukei-Mura* also had their latest kit in development on display, the 1/32 Dornier Do 335 Pfeil. They like to display their kits sans skin and the detail on display was nothing short of what we've come to expect from them.



It looks to be a fine model and I wonder how that other company will take to the competition. Competition is good, right?

That other company I write of is *HK Models* out of Hong Kong. They too are hopping on the Dornier train with an offering of the Do 335B-2, the one with the two 30mm MK 103 cannons hanging out of those big fairings in the leading edge of the wings.

They are different version, the *Z-M* offering being an 'A' and the *HKM* offering being a 'B-2', so you can build the family tree if you wish. Both are big, and both should be released by the end of the year. That's right, all of your gifts can take up all of the room under the tree.

Moving on in the latest in 1/32nd scale, let's talk about the British. Well, how about *Revell of Germany* re-releasing a new tool Supermarine Spitfire Mk.II. It's an ironic sentence when spoken aloud.



Anyway, it's in the stores now, and it's a nice looking kit. I don't claim to be a Spitfire boffin, so I can't claim to identify any subtle inaccuracies. I have heard that the oil cooler and radiator are for a Mk.V.

I'm sure that the folks in the cottage industries have their elves furiously working towards a solution to this. Other than that, the kit fits well and has nicely engraved panel lines and rivets.

Continuing on with our friends from *Revell*, this time it's *Revell/USA*. Earlier this year there were rumors that they had plans to release a 1/32 McDonald F-4G Phantom II "Wild Weasel" later this year.



Well, I guess it's coming true. At the Nationals, *Revell/USA* had one on display for all to see. I don't know if it's a new tool kit. My money is on a re-boxing of the F-4E "MiG Killer" with a new sprue or two thrown in the box. I have heard that there is even an F-15 windscreen in the mix as well. Another big Phantom, always a good thing to see.

So, switching gears to things with two wings, *Wingnut Wings* have some new 1/32nd scale releases out now. They have released the DFW C.V – both the Mid and Late Production variants.



Typical for *Wingnut Wings*, everything looks fantastic, from the full color instructions to the colorful and unique marking options. What is there to say? With a *WnW* kit, you really can't go wrong. They are the best kits to get started on modeling the Great War in the air.

Another outfit with a bi-winged aircraft is *GasPatch Models*. They are bringing out a 1/48 Henschel Hs 123A-1/B-1. Known for their very nice turnbuckles, this Greek company has one kit on the market now, the Salmson A2A (in a variety of flavors, including the Japanese Otsu-1), and is readying their second offering, the Henschel. Based on what I saw of the Salmson, the Henschel should be a very nice kit as well.



So, now that we're in the smaller scales, a brand new company is attempting an ambitious freshman release. *Aviation Art Models*, a new manufacturer from somewhere, is releasing a 1/48 Sukhoi Su-33 Sea Flanker.

From the images on Facebook and various other places on the Great Wide Interweb, it looks like a very nice first offering.





And speaking of Russian aircraft, *HpH Models* have released a new 1/32 MiG-15. This kit is all resin, and knowing *HpH*, is full of detail. And, a nice kit to boot. Not everyone likes working with resin. Some don't mind, and others like it. This kit is for them

Last item for today, is the new *Airfix* Bristol Blenheim Mk.I.

This 1/72nd scale kit is true to the form of the latest *Airfix* releases.



It's an affordable, accurate model that goes together well. *Airfix* is also readying to release the Mk.IV in September. So, in a little bit you can choose between the bomber (Mk.I) and fighter (Mk.IV) versions. Or, you can get both. They are inexpensive and small.

'til next month, go build a model.

Randy

### Modern US Color Schemes by Rick Herrington

There are many ways to re-create the current color schemes on US vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is my way. Since this is a method to produce variation in a single color it will also work for Olive drab.

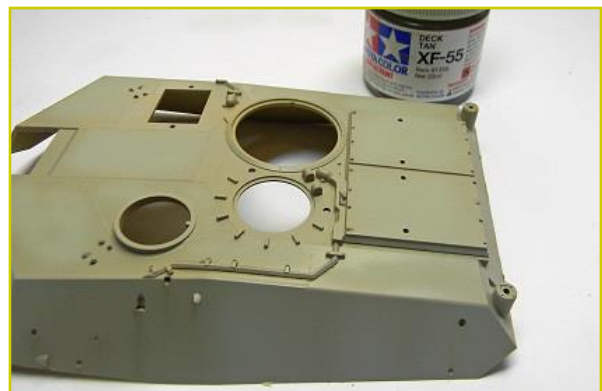
I use an airbrush to paint. Mine is a Badger 150. I also have a Tamiya (Iwata) airbrush for fine work. Using an airbrush gives you control over the paint and allows you to create subtle effects that are harder to create with a brush.

Before I start to paint I usually prime my models with *Touch n'Tone* spray can primer I get from AutoZone. The primer gives the acrylic something to grab on to when you shoot it.

The base color I use is an acrylic either Tamiya, or in this case *AK Interactive*. Both are thinned with regular alcohol. The *AK* is pretty thin coming out of the bottle so less thinner is used to airbrush it.



The next step is highlighting. Keeping in mind where the sun would most strike the vehicle, I lighten those areas with a lighter color (XF-55 Deck Tan- *Tamiya*). I also paint the color around the edge of the turret and streak it down the



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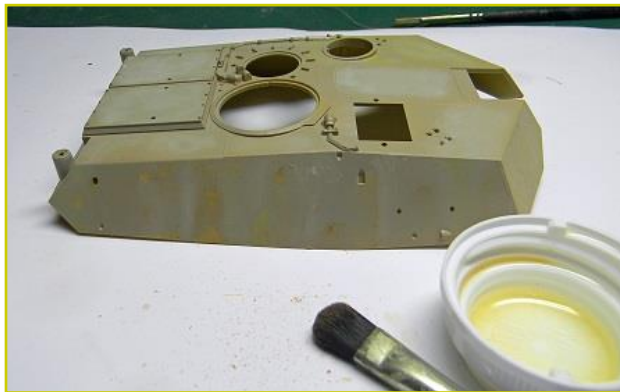
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Next is working with oil paints. Using spots of different oil colors, in this case Titanium White, Lemon Yellow, Burnt Sienna and Black dab them all over the vehicle. Lighter colored dots should go where the highlighting has been done.



Experiment with different colored paints to find out what works best on your particular finish. I use *Windsor Newton* oil paints but any will do with this technique. The next step is to take turpentine and a broad brush and drag the colors in a downward motion.



You may say “What have I done to my model?” Don’t worry when you flat coat the model most of the effect will blend into the finish giving it subtle variation. I use *Testor’s* acrylic flat coat to finish out.

Within the past couple of years a lot of after- market finishing products mainly from *AK Interactive* and *Mig* have become available.

After the acrylic flat coat had dried thoroughly I use *AK 123 OIF & OEF* Streaking Effect on the sides of the vehicles turret and hull.

Be careful with this effect as a little can go a long way. I use paint thinner to lessen its effect much the same way I would use with the oil paint spots.



I also tried *Vallejo’s* Desert Dust Wash.



The wash is very subtle, almost too subtle. I think it gets lost in the base color.

That’s it. I do my painting after the model is completely assembled . After this would be an oil based pin wash and a final flat coat of *Testor’s* lacquer base flat coat.

*Rick*

# Support Your Local Hobby Shop

## In the Bag by Roy Lothbrok

The 2014 IPMS/USA National Convention is all said and done. Early reports suggest that upwards of 700 registered attendees were on hand in Hampton, Virginia bringing with them over 2700 models.



All indications are that, as is customary, everyone had a good time and undoubtedly spent too much money with the vendors. It may be safe to say that if you attended and didn't enjoy the event then that *might* have been your fault. Just a thought.



The only minor, discordant note that I'm aware owes to the fact that due

to a lack of interest, the planned tours of area museums and points of interest had to be canceled.

The host chapter has posted photos of the entries as well as a separate 'slide presentation' of the winners in their respective categories. These are viewable on IPMS/USA website: [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org)

Just from a cursory viewing there were some beautifully built models with a particularly amusing, appropriately, humorous section. Do have a look.



The People's Choice Award

went to a Puerto Rican modeler. The 3ft. x 4ft. B-17 diorama is even more impressive if you consider that it was transported in some luggage from Puerto Rico. Someone needs to get that individual to write an article about "How To Pack A Model". There are several videos available for viewing.

Check out: [www.pelikanclub.org/2014-ipms-nationals-video/](http://www.pelikanclub.org/2014-ipms-nationals-video/)

The WWII diorama features a lovely built B-17 with some support vehicles and figures. The operating engines start in sequence with an audio track of what would seem to be the appropriate dialog between the pilot and co-pilot.

I noted that after viewing the 4+ minute video that someone has posted a comment that in their opinion the "engines start up too fast. You crank it over, count the blades and *only* then do you turn on the mags (magnetos)."

As my dearly departed mother was oft heard to remark... "There is just *no* pleasing some people."

For all you collectors out there and because you may not have been able to attend yourself, I would like to note that 2014 IPMS/USA National Convention T-shirts and lapel pins are still available via IPMS/USA.



As regards the T-shirts, I consider the availability of additional T-shirts a blessing.

At last year's National Convention in Colorado I inadvertently and through no fault of my own acquired a T-shirt that...shall we say...was a bit snug. I really could've used a somewhat larger size.

Per tradition, IPMS/USA National Convention decals sets are included with each entrants goody bag. The 2014 National Convention decal sheet was manufactured by *Star Fighter Decals*.

This decal sheet features, in various scales, a B-24D and a P-40. A new addition, at least for me, is the inclusion of some markings for an armor vehicle: a T-26 Pershing. There are also some markings for a Dodge Charger Police Car. Really, something for everyone.

Extra decals sheets are available from *Star Fighter Decals*. [www.starfighter-decals.com](http://www.starfighter-decals.com)

The 2015 IPMS/USA National Convention will be in Columbus, Ohio. The dates are July 22 thru July 25.

Roy





In the latest issue of...

**IPMS/USA Journal**  
 May+ June 2014  
 Volume 26, Number 03

- **50th Anniversary Award Winner Vincent Vanhuysee**
- **Planes Members Flew** - Two Huey Slicks at Phuoc Vinh, by Howie Belkin
- **Thunderbolt from the East** - Getting Caught Up in the Details of Zoukei-Mura's 1:32 J2M3 Raiden, by Tim Schubert
- **A Dive Back in Time** - Moebius' 1:350 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea Seaview, by Bart Cusamano
- **World's Slowest Porsche** - Applying aftermarket parts to make an accurate 1:35 prototype Maus, by David B. Bridges
- **Bluegrass Pacemaker** - Modeling Piedmont Airlines' pioneering DC-3 N47V in 1:72, by Dennis Sparks
- **IPMS/USA 2014 National Contest Rules**
- **IPMS/USA 2014 National Contest Categories**

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Next Meeting:  
**August 21, 2014**  
at  
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(7051 Village Center Drive)  
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**Program:**  
U.S. Army Colors / Rick Herrington



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