



SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

February 2016

USMC Joyride, Luzon 1945 by Bob Bethea

Like most of us, it's photos from history that inspire me most. I have always been interested in "floating tanks" either German, American, Russian or Japanese. I never thought we'd ever see a kit of any but Dragon did the Japanese version in both 1/35th and 1/72nd and I bought both.

Of course, tanks should be shown in their natural environment and I contemplated making my "floating tank" actually float. I reviewed my photos of the vehicle and found a series of photos taken on Luzon in 1945 after it was liberated and several of the tanks were captured.

In addition to close-ups that we all love, they showed some photos of a group of U.S. Marines who actually took one out on the bay for a joyride and were enjoying themselves immensely, while taking their lives in their hands.

[continued on page four]



Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modelers 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 authors. It is intended for educational purposes only. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.



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<http://www.williamsbrothersmodelproducts.com/planes.html>



<http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/>



Phil Brandt (in memorium)

Eric Choy Angela Forster
 Jeff Forster Russ Holm
 Rick Willaman Jack Johnston
 Mike Krizan Mike Poole

Aaron Smischney

Rick Herrington

Upcoming Events

Model Shows

Model Fiesta 35, San Antonio, Texas	2.20.16
http://www.alamosquadron.com/	
MCMA 2016 Showdown, Farmers Branch, Texas	3.05.16
http://www.themcma.net/Club_Contests.php	
RiverCon V, Bossier City, Louisiana	3.12.16
http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/	
KCCON 2016, Kansas City, Kansas	3.12.16
www.ipmsgreatplains.org	

Local Club Meetings

Alamo Squadron, San Antonio, Texas	3.03.16
www.alamosquadron.com/meetings.htm	
Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas	3.02.16
http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	3.03.16
Centex Scale Modelers, Killeen, Texas	2.18.16
http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/	
Hill Country Outlaws, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	3.12.16
Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, Shady Hollow Community Center, Austin, Texas	3.12.16

Other Events

Build-N-Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	3.19.16
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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. Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

www.models4troops@gmail.com

ASMS Officers & Chairpersons

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Chris Chany, Rumpus and Hokum Abatement Director

Peanut Brittle

Randy Bumgardner

Welcome to February, the month of sweets for our sweets. I hear models make a wonderful gift to those most important to us. If they can't, or won't, build them, then we can step in and lend a hand. Err...Based on the dirty look I just received from my wife, I should never give relationship advice. So, forget the models for them, buy models for yourself! Or something like that.

If you like aircraft, especially the old, real, non-plastic kind, the Colling Foundation is making a couple of stops in our area on their *Wings of Freedom Tour* (<http://www.collingsfoundation.org/events/category/wings-of-freedom-tour/>) They are bringing the B-17G, B-24J, and the TP-51C to College Station and San Antonio. They will be in College Station March 4th through the 6th. After College Station, the tour will be in San Antonio from March 11th through the 13th. So, you now have two opportunities to get those walk-around pictures. I'll probably make an effort to go to both – that's how I roll. Anyone want to carpool?

At the last meeting, we kicked off our Procrastinator's Contest with many attending stating we should wait to hold the drawing. Well, those procrastinators didn't hold sway and we figured out who is building what. The choice made for me was the Cutting Edge F4H-1 conversion for the 1/32nd Tamiya F-4C/D, of which I happened to have a few laying around. There are seven schemes on the supplied decals, so I'm procrastinating while I choose which of those to use. Perhaps I should have someone choose the markings as well... next time I'll think this all the way through.

San Antonio will be hosting ModelFiesta 35 on February 20th. Wow, Thirty-five iterations of their show. Were they all in a row? Anyway, this show is always a good, well run show and I'm certain this year will be no exception. Let's have a great showing of ASMS members in San Antonio on Saturday. I might even have one or two ready by then. Don't all faint at once, someone has to help all of you off the floor.

See you at the next meeting! Oh, and go build something!

Randy



Fiddly Bits

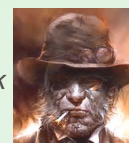
Frank Seibert

It's time for you to pay your club dues! ASMS club dues are \$20.00/individual and \$25.00/family. If you fiddle-faddle around and wait until after March 1st, the price goes up \$5.00 per category. Save a little extra money for paint, chewing gum, or some such, and pay your dues. You may bring the funds to a meeting or remit same to our finance minister Eric Choy c/o 13213 Marrero Drive, Austin, Texas 78729.

In conjunction with our quarterly, in-house model contests it has been suggested that those that received model kits from the estate of Phil 'Bondo' Brandt and do not participate in the Bondo Special contest slated for September would be assessed a fee of \$10.00 for their non-participation. The thought being that you agreed to build the kits as a condition of receiving them. So, either honor your word or pay the piper.

ASMS instituted some new honors for the membership this past year. Those include the Most Prolific Modeler, Model of the Year and Member of the Year. The most prolific modeler award is given to the member that brings in the most completed models during our monthly show-n-tell segment. The 2015 award belongs to Bob Bethea with seventeen completed models. Model of the Year is selected from the Model 'o the Month winners and the 2015 award for that belongs to Dave Edgerly for his Steampunk Dragonfly. Member of the Year is selected by our executive board and is the member that does the most through the year to promote our hobby and ASMS in particular. For 2015, this honor is bestowed upon Ian Latham. It should be noted, for future reference, that all of these honors come with a cash prize, in the form of a gift certificate, to a local hobby emporium. Congratulations, all!

Frank



I thought that it would be more interesting than just a tank floating in the water, and I got deeply into the engineering.

I had worked with Plexiglas in the past and decided that a box would lift the vehicle, support it, and allow the viewer to see the sagging, useless tracks while it was being propelled through the water by the propellers.



I built the box with sheet Plexiglas from Lowes and the churning water above from "cracked ice" Plexiglas designed for florescent light covers. A hole was cut for the tank, and it was suspended above the base.

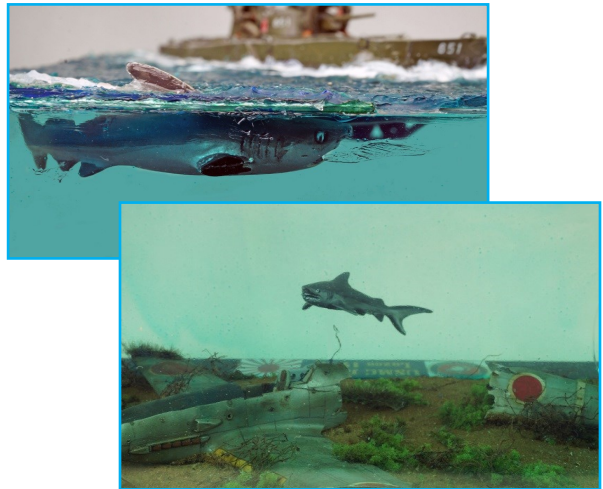
The edges were filled with gloss acrylic medium. This not only filled the gaps, but showed the water splashing up onto the sides of the vehicle.

When showing the project to friends, they mentioned that the ocean floor seemed empty and boring. To remedy that I bought a 1/72nd scale Hasegawa Japanese airplane, cut it in half, and built it as a wreck.



I bent the propeller and thinned the edges of the fuselage where it was torn apart, and left the canopy and rudder off. A slumped over dead pilot fills the cockpit. Various groundwork items were used to show the coral and other ocean floor plants.

The inside of the Plexiglas box was painted to simulate the ocean with a blend of Tamiya clear blue and green thinned with Tamiya's lacquer thinner. Lacquer thinner was used after some less than satisfactory results using water and acrylic thinner with those paints.



Reaper makes a set of sharks that fit the bill perfectly for this project and I used two of them. One is prowling above the plane wreck (you can see its fin and bubble trail) and the other is cruising in front of the float tank.



The 1/72nd scale tank was built from the box and 1/72nd scale Prieser Luftwaffe figures were converted into excited Marines on board.

Since it was just for fun, one of the Marines just had to be from Texas and so I added our state flag to the antenna.



Gilbert Moreno, of San Antonio, artistically prepared the name plate, which was added to the base. The base is an old model show award.

The project was fun, and appropriate to the history and venue of the vehicle. I learned a few things, such as how to paint with Tamiya Clear paint, how not to work with Plexiglas (some stress fractures developed after assembling the display box), and how to build a destroyed Japanese plane.



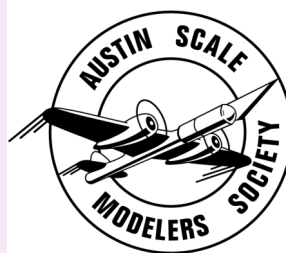
Therefore, I term the project a success as a learning exercise. I hope others enjoy it too.

Bob



[Photos courtesy of Eric Choy]

Your ASMS club dues are due.



ASMS Quarterly Contest Schedule

March 17



Dealer's Choice any subject/scale

June 16



Procrastinator Contest

September 15



Bondo Special Contest

December 15



White Elephant Contest



A special thanks to King's Hobby Shop for their support of our quarterly model contests.

My Evil Plan by Rick Cotton

My good friend Carlos hands me a little box. "Here you go, Bud. This is right up your alley!"

The box contains two little 1/72nd scale resin kits of World War II Japanese suicide boats. It's from some Eastern European manufacturer, Choroszy Modelbud or Charnofsky, or Tchaikovsky, or some such outfit. I'll have to get Piotr Gomola to translate.



There are about 15 yellow resin parts to each kit. Nicely done parts, mind you, but only about 15 each. Hmmmm....

Every year, at any show, my category-the large-scale ships-is crowded with big ship models. Thousands of parts each. Tiny little photoetched ladders and radars and such, all the stuff that makes the newbie modeler shake his head and wonder if he should have taken up stamp collecting instead (no, friend, keep at it, you'll get there one day).

But, inevitably, amongst those massive, complicated, thousand-part artworks, *someone* shows up with a twelve-part boat. Simple kit, built well, aligned and nicely finished. Usually a Pibber or a PT boat, or something. Inevitably, that *same* someone pulls down some of the hardware during the awards, leaving the owner of the thousand-part monstrosity red-faced, fuming and loudly questioning the judges' sanity and eyesight. This person is often me. I'm not proud, I admit.

But not this time. He, He, He. My EVIL PLAN is afoot, darn it, and I will be the *someone* this time. Some of you who know me believe me to be the *someone* all the time. Yes, I know! And you're right! But, that's immaterial right now. The plan is hatched!

Let's face it. The small boat (or any other kit) builder has a tremendous advantage. Twelve parts are a heckuva lot easier to get aligned, painted, and sealed than 1,200. Way less real estate to mess up, way fewer opportunities to get something misaligned, way less brass to get the shiny spots off of.

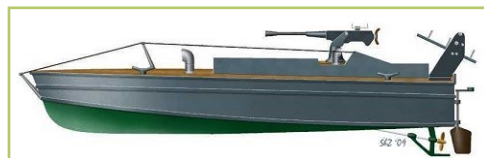
At 1/72nd scale, they'll be done in a fraction of the time it takes to finish the HMS Indigestible in 1/350. One can spend the rest of the time between now and the show checking for errors, and still have plenty of time to build a tank, or plane, or a new bedroom. What a deal!

I do have the kit, so...I guess I'll just give this thing a whirl!

Hmmm, this thing goes together pretty well, despite being resin with all of the pitfalls that this medium brings. Not too many pits, or short-shot areas. Fit isn't really bad. Detail is pretty good. Sand and test fit, repeat often. Paint and weather. Throw on a flag. Plop it into some fake "water", on a little stained-wood base. Voila! We are done!

It's not a bad little model. It's almost...what's the word I'm looking for here?

Cute. That's it...cute. CUTE??????



Hey, wait a minute. Wait just a cotton-pickin' minute here! We can't do this! We can't build something cute! Build one cute thing, and it could lead to another cute thing, and before you know it, I'm cranking out Sailor Moon anime girls and VW bugs with pink and purple paint schemes!

Oh, Lord, this could lead to me ordering Girls Und Panzer kits from Hobby Link Japan, or even worse... Gundam!!! NO!!!

Oh, settle down. It's ok ! One "cute" little model isn't going to spoil the whole rest of my model-building career (and if I don't quit taking commissions, it will be a career).

Eventually, I'll go back to building big monstrosities that take weeks and weeks, and piles of parts and photoetch. (For me that sort of madness is normal, or as normal as the typical model builder can get).

I'll build things that are menacing, and nasty-looking, and fearsome. Battleships, and bombers, and maybe even a tank or two some day. Military stuff, with guns and rust, and camo and other manly, non-cute stuff. I'll drink manly, dark beer while doing it (none of that yellow Rocky Mountain stuff), and listen to manly music, and feel manly about it. Mmm, my testosterone is flowing! Grrrr!

But, it's ok, every now and then...not too often...to go a little off the beaten path. Build something waaaayyyy different, simple, tiny, and...cute.

Some little "jewel" that will sit on your shelf amongst the monsters, and make your female companion (assuming you have maintained your hygiene and have one) say "oh....that's cute! I like that one!"

My Shinyo boat will be on the table during the coming year. It's tiny. It's cute. And it's my evil plan! Ha ha ha...cue Imperial March music.

Rick



Columbia 2016 IPMS/USA National Convention



The 2016 IPMS/USA National Convention will be held in Columbia, South Carolina August 3-6, 2016.

More information is available at:
<http://www.ipmsusa2016.com/>

Registration is now open.

Support Your Local Hobby Shop



<http://www.kingshobbyshop.com/>



<http://www.hillcountryhobby.com/>



<http://www.hobbytown.com/>

Web At Night: Rewind
compiled by Jean-Michel D'Aubigne

Keeping things close to home with this first entry is a link to The Texas Military Force Museum. The museum is located at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. The museum hosts several weekend events throughout the year and the upcoming one, March 12th and 13th, will feature "The Guns of 1863."



<http://texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org/event/2175/>

Should you be in the mood for something a bit different than what kit manufacturers provide, this video should provide you with plenty of inspiration for your next project. Not only that, it may help improve your scratch building skills.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ammjBbMM2dY>

The dedicated Gundam modeler would not think of using anything to paint their Gundan models except officially sanctioned Gundam markers. These are available from your favorite Southeast Asian hobby retailer. But, for the more frugally minded there are some alternatives to those paint pens.



For those that may be unfamiliar with paint pens, these are simple magic marker-type pens loaded with acrylic paint. Open the cap, saturate the tip, and a-painting you can go. Watch the video for more detail.

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xrr300_gundam-marker-alternative_fun

Here is something fun from our pals at Dragon Models. A 1/35th scale AT-AT from Star Wars.

Assuming you have the room to display the finished beast, this kit should be a fun build. For some more detail, I'll turn things over to *The Modeling News*.



<http://www.themodellingnews.com/2015/12/large-scale-at-at-dragon-makes-your.html>

Have you every gotten tired of waiting for a kit manufacturer to release your favorite model in your favorite scale? If so, this next entry via Randy Bumgardner might be the answer.

This Polish gentleman seems to have tired of anyone releasing an accurate, 1/48th scale Hawker Hurricane and decided to make his own. This may take scratch building to an entirely different level.

Right click the 'translate to English' tab and read along.

<http://pwm.org.pl/viewtopic.php?f=12&t=79416>

Jean-Michel



Fred's Fun Facts: February 20th

In 1885, *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain is published.

In 1911, the first official flight with air mail takes off from Allahabd in route to Naini, British India (now India.)

In 1977, The Space Shuttle Enterprise test vehicle is carried on its maiden flight on top of a Boeing 747.

[courtesy of Fred Horky]

Website Update by Mike Gilsbach

ASMS Chapter Webmaster

Have you visited the ASMS website recently? You can find it at <http://www.austinsms.org> and we have lots of content for your reading and viewing pleasure:

- 37 online articles/tutorials/kit reviews
- Over 180 ASMS newsletters from 2001 – 2016
- 13 years of ASMS contest winners and photos
- Over 7,900 photos from ASMS modelers
- A built in search page that uses the Google Search API to help you find what you are most interested in.

Also, be sure to check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/73766449568/> where we have 156 members (and growing) from all over the world posting all sorts of articles, tips, contest photos and other modeling randomness.

For 2015, the ASMS website had over 30,000 visitors from 138 different countries in 2015. The top five countries were the United States, the UK, Canada, Australia and Italy. The shaded countries in the map below are ones, from which we have had visitors.

The bulk of the US visits were from Texas, followed by California and New York, but we had visitors from all 50 states.

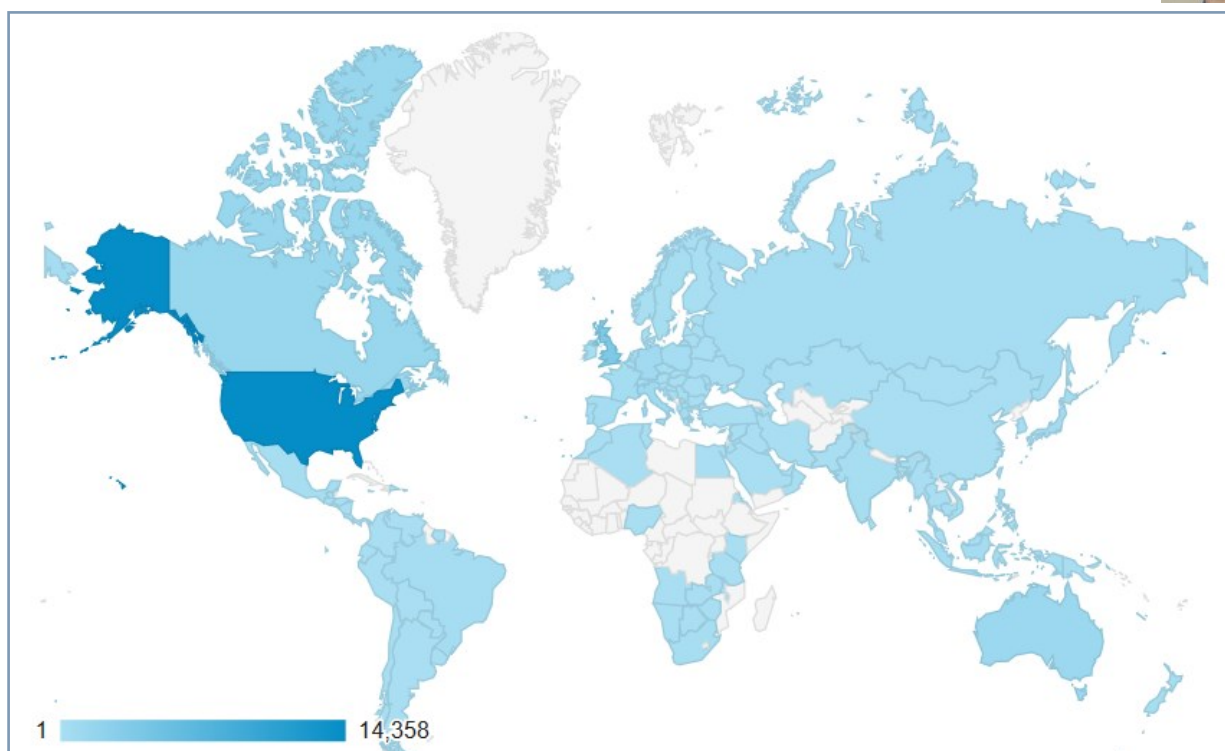
The five most trafficked pages on our site in 2015 were:

- Rick Herrington's excellent ship building tutorial: <http://www.austinsms.org/How-to-build-a-model-ship.php>
- Bob King's Alclad article: <http://www.austinsms.org/Alclad-Lacquer-Metal-Finishes.php>
- Our home page: <http://www.austinsms.org/index.htm>
- John Seaman's insanely popular article on rigging biplanes: http://www.austinsms.org/article_seaman.php (This article has been one of the most trafficked pages on our site since 2010)!
- The Articles page: <http://www.austinsms.org/articles.php>

As always, if you have any suggestions for ways to improve the site, please let me know. I am always looking for tips to add to the Tips page and we always want more photos, because 7,900 aren't enough!

We want more!

Mike



Wet Your Palette by Ben Morton

For those unfamiliar, a wet palette is a device used by artists and figure modelers alike. This device works wonders with acrylic based paints. It is entirely useless for enamel or lacquer based paints. It is a simple device that maintains the moisture in acrylic-based paints, thus preventing those paints from drying out before you have a chance to use them.

In the past, I used a small pane of glass as a palette. I would decant a small amount of acrylic based paint onto the glass, pane, dilute the paint to the proper consistency with water and off I'd go, merrily painting away.

Just about each time I went back for more paint, the dollop of acrylic based paint had dried somewhat and I would need to add some more water, dilute the paint to the proper consistency and then off I'd go merrily painting away. Repeating this process got to be laborious. Not to mention that the dollop of paint would often dry out to the point where I would need to replenish the paint altogether. Which were both time consuming as well as wasteful.

Making a wet palette is simple and you probably have all the components you need on hand already. I made my wet palette from items I collected at a hobby supply store. The basic elements of wet palette are a low-side container, a sponge of some sort and a bit of parchment paper to cover the sponge.

The container size is up to you. Something the size of a plastic sandwich keeper is ideal but it will need to



have a re-sealable cover. A container any deeper than an inch or so may prove too unwieldy and I would recommend going with something that has low sides. It just seems to work better than a container with deep sides.

So, now that you have selected your container, you need to add a sponge of some sort. The art supply crowd provides a thin, reusable sponge material for just this purpose, but a serviceable sponge can be made from a paper towel.

The next item that is required is a small sheet of parchment paper.

Parchment paper (used for baking) is available at almost all grocery stores, even HEB. The parchment paper goes on top of the sponge. The parchment paper is your palette to which you add drops of paint.



The wet palette works thusly: you soak the sponge in distilled water and place the wet sponge in the container. The parchment paper is wet on both sides and placed on the sponge. The capillary action of the water supply (sponge) up through the parchment paper keeps the acrylic paint usable for days. The extra water in the container can be used to thin the acrylic based paint to the desired consistency. You simply need to remember to close the wet palette up when not in use. Hence, the need for the re-sealable cover.

It is recommended that you use distilled water in your wet palette to avoid salt rings as the acrylic paint dries. City water can contain a few too many dissolved minerals in it and can leave a ring around the outside edge as the paint dries.

I tend to work on small scale aircraft and armor and other than the primary color of the model I often just use small quantities of paint either for finish work or touch-up painting. The wet palette allows me to work at my leisure with a minimum of fuss and I can seal it up and continue or finish painting later. Whatever unused paint remains, is useable for days.

In addition to stretching your paint supply a bit, a wet palette is also good for mixing various shades of the same color acrylic paint. Case in point is a comment from Kevin 'Sandman' Hutchison.

Kevin gave a demonstration on making sandbags at a recent armor club meeting. He remarked that he often will mix up several different shades of green paint with which to paint those sandbags.

It gives him the flexibility to work unimpeded and to vary the color of the sandbags. Avoiding what might otherwise be a mono-chromatic wall of sandbags if they had all been painted the same color.

I would recommend washing out the wet palette and replacing the parchment paper now and then. After repeated uses, a wet palette can get to be a bit nappy.

Wet palettes aren't just for figure modelers anymore!

Ben



Newsletter articles are like rolls of toilet paper...you can't have too many!



Looking for newsletter articles of any size, shape, or subject.

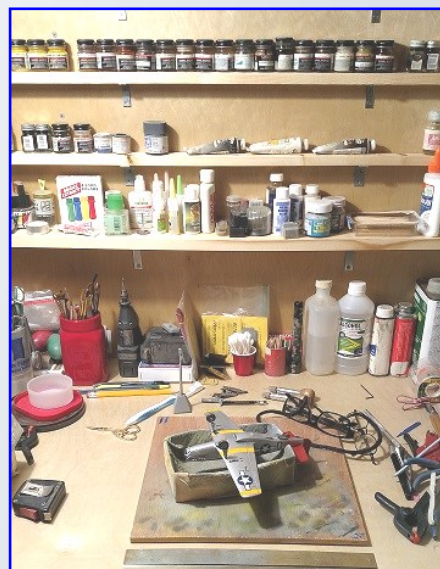
All submissions qualify for the newsletter contest, whether published or not.

Please, all submissions to:
editor@austinsms.org

Guess The Desk

Making the correct guess on just whom this modeling desk belongs to shouldn't be that hard. Our stalwart ASMS member and former President was recently the recipient of an overabundance of river water in his home.

Everything has dried out completely and he and his wife have moved to new quarters. It should be noted that those quarters are situated above the flood plain!



Answer: Tim Robb

Austin Scale Modelers Society 2015 Member Of The Year

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, ASMS instituted some new honors for our membership this past year. Among these are ASMS Member of the Year. The Award will be decided by the current club officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer/Financial Minister, and Party Secretary).



This award will be based on the following:

- Current dues paying member of ASMS
- Active in the club
- Regularly attends the monthly meetings
- Regularly submits models/items for monthly show and tell
- Has done two of the following:
 - Hosted an annual event. (BBQ, auction, Christmas party, model building session, etc.)
 - Submitted an entry to one of our quarterly contests
 - Submitted an item for the newsletter
 - Volunteered at the annual contest
 - Given a presentation at the monthly meeting
 - Participated in a make and take event during the year
 - Brought a guest to one of our monthly meetings

- Won an award at an IPMS/USA sponsored (local, regional, or national) contest during the year
- Held office in the club within the last six years
- Makes a positive impact on the Austin Scale Modelers Society.

The 2015 recipient for Member of the Year is Ian Latham. The winner receives a trophy and a gift certificate to a local hobby shop.

From the desk of...

Ian Latham

I would like to thank everyone in ASMS for the honor of being chosen "Member of the Year". I never expected it and I was completely amazed when my name was announced.

There are many of us in ASMS that go above and beyond to accomplish the goals set by the club, and despite the honor, I'm just trying to keep up with the rest of you.

I joined ASMS only last March so 2015 was my first year with the club. From the very first meeting I attended, everybody made me feel as though I was one of the happy heathens immediately. It also helped that I was lucky enough to win the door prize that night.

After a year and a half out of the hobby, due to an auto accident (not my fault!), and several surgical repairs, it was very helpful to have some peer support in rebuilding my modeling skills.

It's been a fun and educational year for me. There is just so much talent in the group, and although I've gotten to know many of our members, I'm looking forward to getting to know more of you in 2016.

So, my sincerest thanks to everyone for making 2015 a memorable year for me.

Ian

Austin Scale Modelers Society 2015 Most Prolific Modeler

The criteria for this award is based solely on the sheer number of finished models that an ASMS member has brought to the show-n-tell portion of our monthly meetings this past year.



The winner of our inaugural award is Bob Bethea with eighteen models.

Other entrants for this award were:

- Mike Lamm (thirteen models)
- Ziggy Bumgardner (eleven models)
- Rick Herrington (nine models)
- Ron McCracken (nine models)
- Ian Candler (eight models)
- Ben Morton (seven models)

There were a number of members with four or fewer completed models for 2015.

Austin Scale Modelers Society 2015 Model O' The Year

The Model O' The Year is chosen from the monthly winners of Model O' the Month. During the year, at the ASMS monthly meetings, one model is chosen as the model of the month. All of these winners return in December and a Model o' the Year is selected from among them. An important factor in this contest is that in order to be considered the monthly, winning models must be present.

2015 Model of the Year honors belong to Dave Edgerly for his Industria Mechanika Dragonfly.

This particular model was featured in the August issue of The Sprue Examiner and is slated to be included in an upcoming issue of the IPMS/USA Journal.



[Editor's Note: Each award is accompanied by a trophy and a gift certificate to a local hobby emporium.]



Model O' The Month by Roy Lothbrok

As you are well aware, ASMS holds an in-house contest at our regularly scheduled monthly meetings for Model O' The Month. The winner of this contest is asked to return, with their winning entry, in December for the coveted Model O' The Year.

Owing to some technical difficulties, not all of the finished models were photographed properly. I mean, there are photographs but for some inexplicable reason most, (actually, all of them), are out of focus.

Any number of explanations have been put forth to explain this rare and unprecedented state of affairs. There is rampant speculation on *Twitter* that suggests that the photographer forgot to wear his glasses, but that is nothing more than an unsubstantiated rumor.



Roy



Ian Candler brought in several recently finished projects: an SAS commando and a bust of a German machine gunner.



Ian Latham showed his 1/48th scale Wildcat from HobbyBoss.



Mike Lamm brought in *GEDO*, a 1/72nd scale Bandai kit of an Aura Battler. Careful you don't get stomped on!





Aaron Smischney has embraced his new passion for figure painting with this Studio 75 warlord bust.



Mike Gilsbach brought in this 1/12th scale droid set. Mike noted the excellent engineering on this Bandai kit. All the sprue attachment points on the chromed parts are hidden after assembly.



Rick Herrington had two entries. One, the Zvezda 1/72nd Sukhoi 24 and the other a 1/35th scale Chieftain from Takom. Rick reports that the fit of the parts on the Takom kit was as good as the fit of the Zvezda kit was bad. In other words, go build a tank!

For his efforts, Rick won Model O' The Month with the Chieftain.



Old Rumors / New Kits 2G

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

Automotive

Welcome race fans and gearheads of all persuasions!

In this installment, through the miracle of photography, I'll time travel us back to the famous Spielwarenmesse Toy Fair in Nuremberg Germany that took place last week. It's the venue of choice for hobby kit manufacturers to show off their latest plastic projects to an international audience.

I owe a big thanks to IPMS Deutschland for the photos I shamelessly lifted from their website in making my report this month. For hundreds more pics of all the genres, check out their impressive photo montage at:

http://www.ipmsdeutschland.de/Ausstellungen/Nuernberg2016/Bilder_AE/Bilder_AE_1.htm



Pocher has recently announced a new 1/8th Mercedes 300SL will be available soon for your BIG scale pleasure. The boiler plate indicates it will be made up of over 1500 highly detailed components and the body will be pre-painted die-cast metal. Rumor has it that the kit is a "badge engineered" DeAgostini "partwork" model sold in piecemeal installments for over a year now through that outfit.

The roof is cast separately on both kits leaving a non-scale body seam just below the rear quarter window that seems an uncanny coincidence. Toy fair photos show it to be a quite accurate replica otherwise.

Continuing down from ginormous scale to merely huge...Model Factory Hiro has released a 1/12th Porsche 917K short tail kit to round out their impressive 917 lineup in every major variation and scale.

Expect pounds of white metal, large blocks of flawless resin, and six months of your modeling life to disappear. It's available for sale now in several attractive racing liveries.

Big scale is hot in automotive this year. Even the moldy-olde Protar molds are breathing new life under Italeri ownership. Following closely on the heels of their 1/12th Fiat Mefistofele re-issue, the company is releasing an all-plastic 1/12th Fiat 806 Grand Prix with most of the metal detail parts included as in the original. Hey, it's not Tamiya quality but then what Japanese company would tool a '30s era Fiat 806, in any scale?



One Japanese company might. Founded a few years ago by a product development person at Tamiya, Ebbro has been releasing some impressive classic automotive subjects with high quality and very accurate details.



They showed a built-up of their new 1/20th Brabham Honda BT18 prototype.

So far this kit is looking like a detailer's delight. No time frame is known for a release but Ebbro had sprues on-hand and machining the tooling is normally, by far, the biggest lead time.

Tamiya has been betting big on several highly detailed modern Ferrari supercars since their fabulous (and fabulously successful) 1/24th Ferrari Enzo. So the gorgeous new 1/24th Ferrari FXX K is perhaps a no-brainer for an over-the-top, spare-no-expense model with hundreds of intricately detailed parts.



Also on display were two additional detail sets and a carbon fiber decal sheet to send the already feature-packed kit way over the top. It's not a Fiat 806, but it is red and it is Italian. Best of all, it is Tamiya quality and it's *new!*



Tamiya also has another new automotive kit this year in the form of a 2-wheeler that transported Mac Marquez to yet another MotoGP World Championship in 2014. The 1/12th Repsol Honda RC213V 14 features a finely engraved 1000cc 4-banger as it's motivating force but few will ever see it because of all the aerodynamic fairings covered with big oil advertising.

If you build this one, take lots of pictures of your work so you can remember what it looked like before it got all covered up.

Revell of Germany are going big scale, too, albeit in a micro sort of way. They have revealed they are working on a 1/16th BMW Isetta micro-car, produced during the lean years of post-war Germany and now the preferred transport for circus clowns the world over.



I've always liked the cute little Isetta for it's clever efficiency. It's an all-weather vehicle with an operating budget similar to a motorcycle. It's so underpowered the poor car can't get out of it's own way but there's always a crowd of curious admirers wherever one shows up. No time frame was revealed for the model's release but box art is finalized, so it must be close.

Whew! Well, that's a lot of new plastic for one month.

I'm sure there is something discussed here that might make your credit card quiver. But before getting too excited about all the new stuff, take a quick look at the mountains of kits you already own and start building one!

Ciao!

Mike



Armor

Greetings armor fans, and, hello to all you armor curious!

Let's start things off with a new 1/48th scale release from Tamiya, a British seven-ton armored car MK.IV. Pretty neat little vehicle. We may even get lucky and see it in 1/35th, as well.

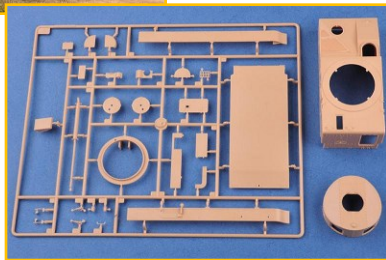


Also from Tamiya is a new 1/35th AMX-13. This weird little French tank is the one with an oscillating turret.



This release will join the three variants of this guy coming from Takom. The more, the merrier!

From HobbyBoss we get a pretty darned neat interwar tank, a British Vickers Medium tank Mk. 1. This kit is coming out very soon.

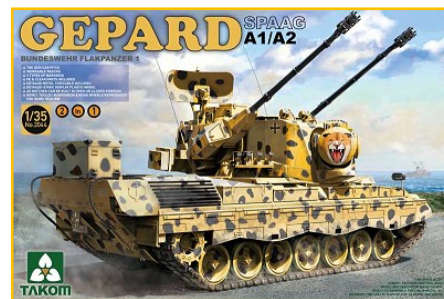


Let's finish off some new announcements from Takom: the Chieftain Marksman, Chieftain Mk II, and the Gepard anti-aircraft tank.



These are all variants of 1/35th scale kits already released by Takom.

After speaking with fellow ASMS member Rick Herrington the Chieftain is said to build up very nicely, I suspect these variants will build just as well.



Until next time!

Aaron



Aircraft

Hello friends and neighbors. Welcome to February. As we all know, this month is notable for that famous holiday we wait for all winter. We and our spouses think about what will happen and how exciting it will be...yes, I'm speaking of Ground Hog Day.

We love it when that furry little monster pops out of his hole and tells us what we're in for until spring. So, I say we challenge the marketing departments of the holiday card makers to really put the emphasis on Ground Hog Day.

Make it a retailer's dream, make it a modeler's dream. It could be the first model-centric holiday ever. Don't forget to give me credit when looking back on this momentous moment (redundancy intended). Oh, Valentine's Day occurs during February too.

We've got some pretty cool stuff this month, including some news from the Nuremberg Toy Show held earlier this month. Let's get rolling.

First up, we have Roden with a bunch of new things on the horizon this year. Two of Roden's large scale releases are worth mentioning.



They plan on releasing a 1/32nd Cessna L-19/O-1 Birddog for 2016. For all of you artillery spotter/squadron hack fans, this is the kit for you. I

believe this is the first Birddog released in this scale.

And, for the icing on the cake, Roden is also releasing a 1/32nd Cessna O-2 Skymaster. You can tackle the ADC grey version if you so desire, but don't forget the large "DON'T SHOOT" or "THE FAC" on the upper surface of the wings, or the all-black PSYOPS version.

If you're feeling frisky, you can attempt the Cal Fire version from the 1970s. I imagine with a bit of work, a civilian version can be accomplished as well.



Roden will also release a set of Vickers VC10 aircraft in 1/144th scale. So, you tiny scale modelers will have something to do this year. They are bringing out three boxings of the kit: the BOAC Type 1151, the East African Airways Type 1154, and the Type 1164 tanker version. I'm not sure the exact differences of each, but I'm guessing those parts will be in each respective box.

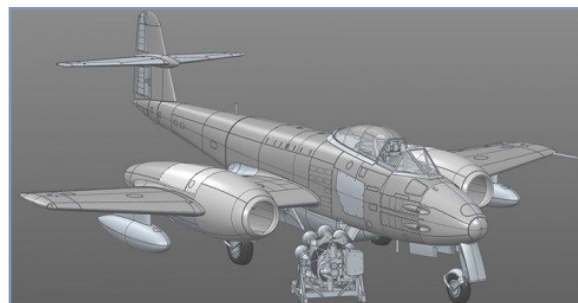
Hang on you (tiny) little modelers, Roden have also announced a 1/144th Lockheed C-141B Starlifter for this year's lineup. Bigger than the VC10, this model will make an impressive white/gray aircraft in your display case.



We've got a bunch of stuff from the Nuremburg Toy Show, held in Nuremburg. Some of this stuff I've listed in earlier columns, but the news bears repeating because it's just that cool.

Starting off, Airfix has some delectable offerings this year. The biggest news is, of course, their 1/48th P-40B due out in August. It's the latest, and of course most accurate, P-40B we've seen since the last one. Those red lines notwithstanding....

Airfix also had a couple of other releases on the docket for 2016. In April, we'll be seeing a new-tool Gloster Meteor F.8 in 1/48th scale. This looks to be a very nice kit, setting the bar pretty high for future Meteor releases.



In June, Airfix will release a 1/48th Junkers Ju 87B-1, continuing their Battle of Britain set of releases. I think this is the only injection molded early version Stuka on the market. If I'm wrong, be sure to send a strongly worded essay to our diligent newsletter editor. Just kidding.

Eduard (we just can't write this column without mentioning them) has a slew of releases coming out this year. The majority of them are re-releases or Weekend Editions of earlier ProfiPack kits.

However, a few are eye-catching enough to warrant a mention within these hallowed pages. Two of them are not scheduled for release until 2017, or beyond. Eduard intends on producing a P-51 family of 1/48th scale kits. Starting with the P-51B/C variant and following with the P-51D/K, this project will be closely followed by many a Mustang-o-phile.



In addition, they plan on releasing a new-tool Hawker Tempest sometime in the future. IPMS Deutschland's list indicates "2017+++", and I'm not sure what the plus signs indicate. Perhaps a year or two.

Eduard is planning on releasing a new-tool 1/48th Focke Wulf Fw 190A-3/-4 kit either later this year or early next year. This will round out their Butcher Bird series quite nicely.

How it stacks up against the Tamiya and Hasegawa 190's remains to be seen. However, I'm pretty sure their measurements will be up to snuff, given the flak they received over their initial 1/48 Me 109G-6 release.

HobbyBoss, either love or hate them. Well, that may be a little strong. Everyone either tolerates them or hates them. And both camps have nicknames for the other....

Like Eduard, they are releasing a slew of 1/48th scale models this year. Most are different versions of existing kits, but a few that caught my eye are of the Cold War Russian variety. A MiG-34 Fullback, a Lavochkin La-11 Fang, and the Sukhoi Su-17M4 Fitter-K are kits that popped out at me. These are kits that haven't gotten any love from current mainstream manufacturers.



Although I guess HobbyBoss, and their Trumpeter parents, can now be considered mainstream model makers. Love them or hate them, you still have to admit HobbyBoss is quite the prolific model manufacturer. They are taking on the aircraft the Tamigawas won't touch.

For our brethren who prefer to hold smaller things, there are a few notable 1/72nd scale releases due out this year. Academy heads this list simply because their name starts with the letter 'A' and was first in the list.

Academy is releasing a new-tool ROKAF KF-16C MCP (Multi-Color Parts, their snap fit kits) and an AH-64D Apache for the Royal Army.



Yes, it is a helicopter. It still has wings, albeit rotary, and I'm including it in the spirit of inclusion.

ICM is also releasing a few kits worth looking into. A 1/48th Dornier Do 17Z-10 Night Fighter is due out the first quarter of the year. ICM is also planning on a recce bird as well. The second quarter will reveal a new-tool Focke Wulf Fw 189A-1, followed by the A-2 in the third quarter.



That's it for this month and that should be enough to fill your loved one's heart with joy, or to pile on top of that rodent hole in the ground so he doesn't see the sun.

Until next month, go build something!

Randy

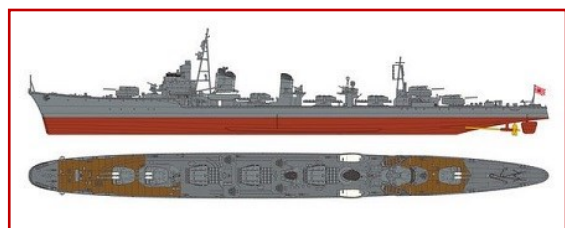


Shipping News

Here's the stuff.

The 1/700th scale releases are a bit thin this month. Pit Road is showing a JMSDF DD-151 Asagiri, a Modern Japanese Destroyer.

There are a few more ship models to discuss in 1/350th scale, beginning with Hasegawa and an IJN DD Shimakaze (Final Version) WWII. The real ship could do 47 knots and the kit comes with molded linoleum decks.



For fans of modern amphibious assault ships, Trumpeter has two kits for your enjoyment. Either the USS Wasp LHD-1 or the USS Iwo Jima LHD-7.

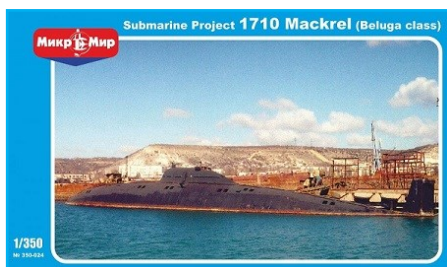
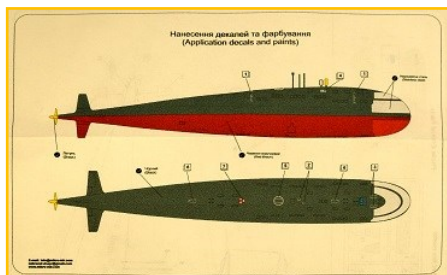


These releases look suspiciously like those from Gallery Models. But you can build your own and save 761 million. (761 million is the cost of the real ships).

Merit International has the HMS Ark Royal (1939) British aircraft carrier used in the chase for the Bismarck.



Avis has a couple of submarine kits coming soon. A Soviet Submarine Project 673 . This was a sail-less Nuclear Attack Submarine developed in the 1970's. A more conventional design is Soviet Submarine Project 1710 Mackerel. This was a Beluga-class diesel/electric submarine.



Adding to the larger ship scale of 1/200th is Trumpeter with the HMS Hood. This is the Royal Navy battle

cruiser used for target practice by the Bismarck and Prinz Eugen.

Trumpeter is also releasing the Chinese Jiaolong Manned Submersible in 1/72nd scale.. This is the deepest diving(23,000 ft. +) modern submersible in the world.



That's it for this month. And I hope you had a Happy Valentine's Day!

Rick



Miscellaneous

I just returned from my native Turkey. I had journeyed to Istanbul for the Istanbul International Short Film Festival. This yearly festival is perfect for my short attention span.

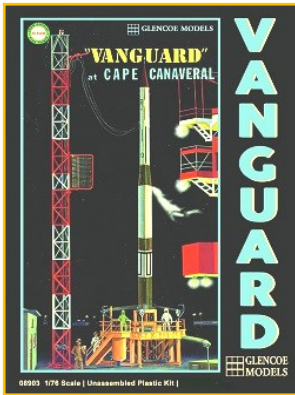
Turkey's modeling industry is still in its infancy but there are things to discuss nevertheless.

Beginning with Moebius is a 1/25th injected-molded kit of the latest iteration of the Batmobile. This is the vehicle from the forthcoming film, *Batman v. Superman* and has a detailed interior/cockpit.



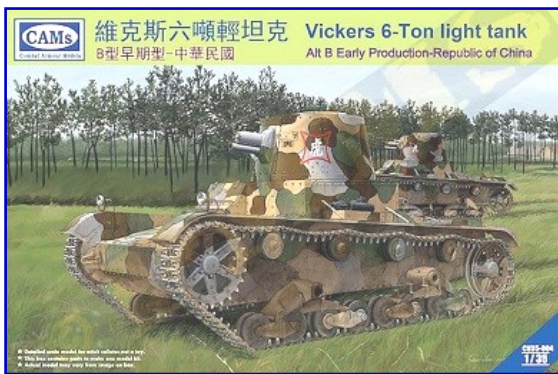
Platz is releasing the super heavy tank Maus in 1/72nd scale. This Girl Und Panzer themed tank features artwork for Masahiro Chono.

Masahiro Chonosan is an American-born professional Japanese wrestler of some note.

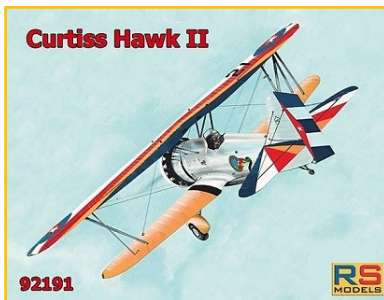


Glencoe Models continues re-releasing their old kits with the 1/76th scale Vanguard up next. This was actually an Adams kit from 1958. This kit is almost as old as I am.

There is a new Chinese model company on the scene and their first release is a Vicker's 6-ton light tank. Combat Armor Models expects to have other injected molded kits soon.



Models has an 1/72nd scale injected molded Curtiss Hawk II available very soon. This kit comes with wheels or floats and some unique markings: a Cuban, Colombian, or German registered aircraft.



If that type of thing appeals to you, than this kit from Profil 24 Models will be a sure winner. It's a 1/24th scale Macchi M39. This aircraft won the 1926



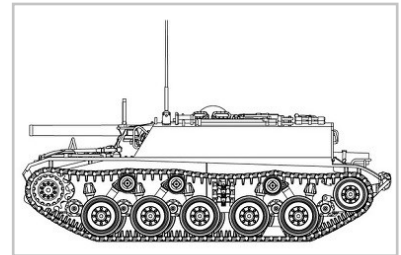
Schneider Trophy. I believe that this aircraft type also came in second and third. The kit comes with a one-piece wing,

photoetch, resin and vacuform bits, as well as a pilot figure and tow cart. There are markings included for three planes.



ICM has embarked on a new line. The first release in this series is a 1/16th scale injected-molded British Queens Guards Grenadier. These kits will be from 100% new molds.

Fine Molds is releasing a 1/35th scale JGSDF Type 60 recoilless rifle. This self-propelled vehicle was developed by Komatsu and Mitsubishi and features 317 parts with three different marking options.



Not to be accused of not releasing something a bit more esoteric, Fine Molds also has a 1/12th scale injected molded kit of a Deckel FP1 milling machine.

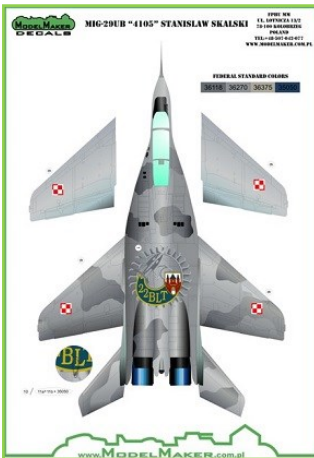


This may be the new contest winner for most unusual injected molded kit. The previous winner was an injected molded kit of an injection molding machine.

For Macross fans, Bandai is set to slate your thirst. They will soon have available both the Nightmare and Siegfried from VF-31J. If you don't know what any of that means, you probably aren't a Macross fan.



Model Maker Decals has a number of alternative markings decal sets coming soon. The aftermarket decals that they specialize in are unusual and unique. Among these are 1/48th scale decals for a Mikoyan MiG-29UB "4105," Stanislaw Skalski. They are also showing some fun markings for a couple of F/A 18s from VMFA-121 and VMFA-533.



While these next items are collectibles, I couldn't resist mentioning them. From Sideshow Collectibles, there is a C-3PO and an R2-D2. Both are fixed, posed models. The C-3PO unit comes with eyes that light up.



The ultimate Star Wars item for your rumpus room. (Ask Chris Chany if you don't know what a rumpus room is).



Both items are in the \$62.963 range, that's about \$531.44 in real money. C-3PO stands 48 centimeters and the R2-D2 is 30 centimeters.

Golzar



IPMS/USA News

There is a lot going on in your society. Just check the home page of the IPMS/USA website for all the details.

<http://www.ipmsusa.org/>

One item of some import is the search for a treasurer for our society. According to the minutes of the January executive meeting, a candidate has come forward. But in the interest of fairness, it isn't too late to raise your hand and volunteer.

This is an appointed position that serves on the Executive Board with duties that center around collecting and disbursing all monies, keeping detailed accounts of any and all transactions, publishing in the Journal an annual financial report and working with our accountant in the preparation of annual tax returns.

Applicants should have a good working knowledge of accepted book keeping practices, literacy in computer accounting programs such as QuickBooks and the ability to be bonded by the society.

Total remuneration consists of comped membership during service and some period afterward based on length of tenure.

Applicants should apply by submitting a brief summary of their qualifications to the President of IPMS/USA at:

IPMSPRESIDENT@IPMSusa.org



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IPMS/USA is dedicated to the hobby (and fun) of Scale Modeling. It was started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1964. There are now branches of IPMS all over the world. Our Local Regions and Chapters sponsor Model shows and contests every year, but you needn't be a member to visit the shows or attend the club meetings!

With IPMS/USA Membership, you will receive the outstanding IPMS/USA Journal six times a year - it includes features on all modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, figures - you name it! You will also find listings of IPMS contests, swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews.

Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, and particularly in our World-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Discussion Board, where a wide variety of modeling topics are discussed, and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers for help with questions about modeling techniques or the Society in general. Many Hobby Shops and Model Vendors around the USA offer discounts to IPMS/USA Members.

http://ipmsusa2.org/forms/ipms_application.pdf

Applications using payment via Check or Money Order should be printed and mailed to:

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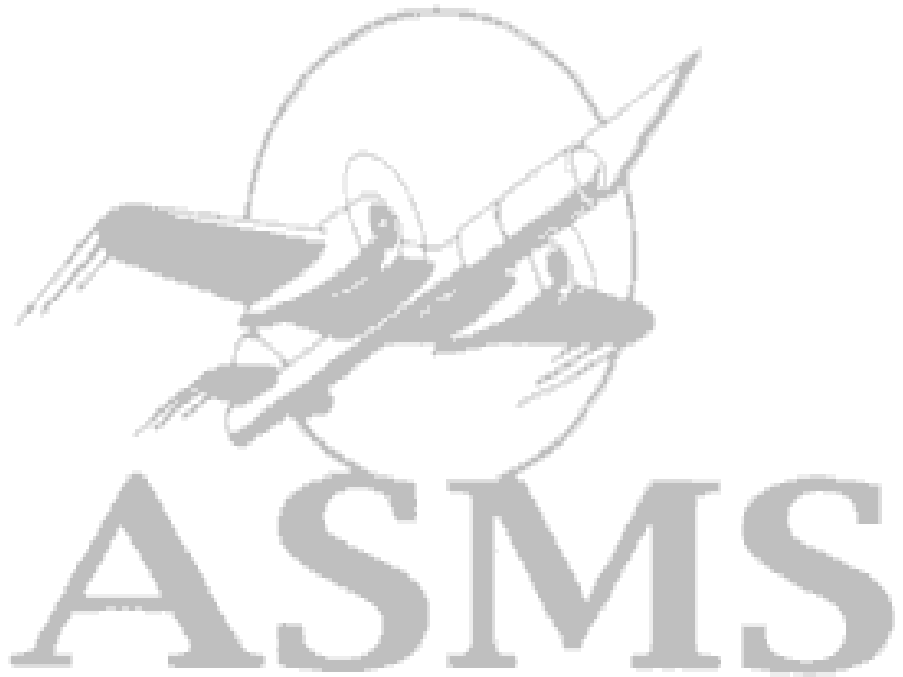
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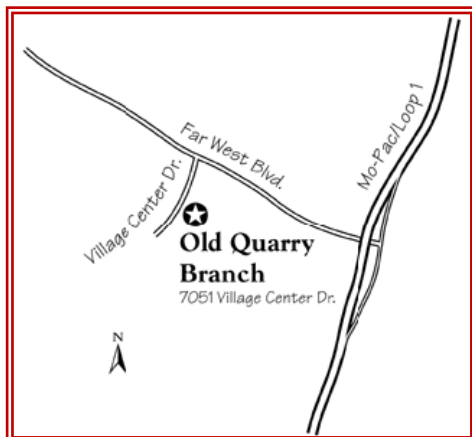
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78666**

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**Next Meeting:
February 18
Austin Old Quarry Library
7051 Village Center Drive
Austin, Texas
7PM to 8:45PM**



**ModelFiesta 35
The International Contest of Texas
February 20, 2016**

<http://alamosquadron.com/ModelFiesta35/MF%2035%20FLYER%20rev%202011-28-15.pdf>