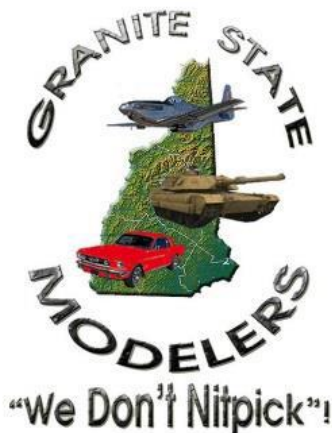




'The Instruction Sheet'

IPMS / Granite State Modelers Club Monthly Newsletter

Website: GraniteStateModelersClub.ORG

Email: GraniteStateModelers@Gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook: Granite State Modelers Club /
IPMS



Meeting Reminders: May 19, 2025, June 16, 2025, July 21, 2025

Weekly Zoom Build Sessions: Sunday, Monday and Wednesdays 6-9pm;

Saturday 1-4pm

Zoom Meeting Link – [GSMC Zoom Meeting](#)

From The Veep

As I embark on my second year with the club, I have taken a look back to see how far I have come in my modeling adventure. I see the improvements in my final products. I have even become vice president of our club. The improvements won me a third place at our last show with my Abrams tank. I was very excited, almost to the point of tears. It was a total shock and very rewarding to have your work recognized by your peers.

When I joined the club I had no idea how much help I would receive from our members. Much of the credit for my award belongs to the people in the club just as much as it does me. I finally felt like I wasn't the new guy anymore.

A great sense of pride and accomplishment moved me into my next kit, the AFV Club M18 Hellcat. I struggled right out of the gate. Nothing seemed to go right during assembly. John Rauscher heard me babbling under my breath about my struggles and he did a bit of deep diving and informed me of all the issues with this kit. Ok! No problem! Adapt and overcome! It's what any good modeler would do.

While building the Hellcat, I decided to build a King Tiger. I was interested in seeing the size difference between the 2 pieces of armor. I wondered what it would feel like to sit in the turret of a Hellcat and see a King Tiger on the horizon.

The build went fairly smooth. It went so smooth I decided to add some 3D printed tracks by Trex. I failed miserably! I somehow managed to make the tracks immovable during the weathering process and I had to break them to get them on the tank. After completion, I struggled with debris in the paint of My La Ferrari kit build and a poorly formed Chevelle body in another.

I was ready to throw in the towel for the summer. Four kits, four different ways to struggle getting the results I wanted. With the club's Zoom meetings, my fellow Zoomers were along for the ride with me. Each member of the Zoom group helped me with all my issues. It was part instructional and part therapy. They wouldn't let me quit and helped me work the problem.

Within the hobby, I went from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. Hearing some of the horror stories from our fellow modelers gave me some comfort. Misery loves company, right? It also gave me a little comfort

IPMS/GSMC meets for our general membership meeting on the third Monday night (4th Monday in January and February) of each month from 7 PM to 9 PM at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court Street Nashua, NH. Visitors are welcome; Show and Tell and a kit raffle are held at each meeting.

that knowing modelers I look up to and admire their work still struggle. They go through just as much brake fluid for removing a bad paint job as I do!

As modelers we usually only see the final product. It's not until you start asking questions, and comparing notes that you realize even the best most experienced modelers struggle from time to time. I had to remind myself that while not still exactly the new guy, I still have a way to go on my journey. Most of the modelers I take advice from and look up to, have more finished models than I have in my stash. Crawl, walk, run, that's the way right? I'm still walking.

Not so much the new guy – *Jason*

April 2025 Meeting Notes By Rod Currier

- Zoom Admin Bob Ferri reports the Zoom sessions are going well. Monday evening has little participation and he may suspend that session for the summer. We continue to have a need for articles for inclusion in the newsletter
- Vice President Jason Robidoux took a "time out" from modeling for a few days after encountering some issues with his latest build. We all get frustrated at times, and a little break can be a good thing!

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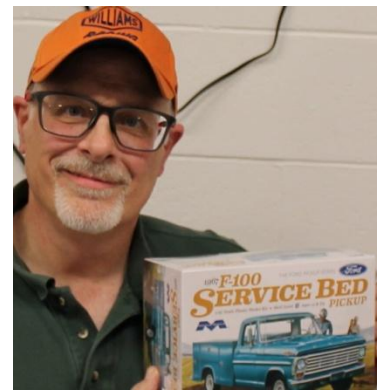
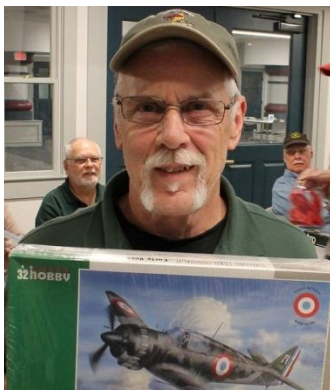
- Ed Mele was able to meet up with the gentleman from Arizona and picked up the Fokker Triplane kit he offered him. Should keep Ed busy for a bit!
- President Mac Johnston had us go around the room and introduce us to one another so the newer members would know who they were speaking to and vice versa.
- Show Coordinator John Rauscher reported our October show date is confirmed with the school, and vendors are already contacting us to get tables reserved!
- Treasurer Rich Filteau reports that with annual dues being collected, the treasury went up a bit last month. We took in \$320.00 and paid out \$5.05 for postage.
- Secretary Rod Currier has purchased three rolls of table covering for GraniteCon before prices go up due to the tariff tax on almost everything
- Secretary Rod Currier mentioned Hobbies With a Twist in Concord NH is going out of business, mostly. He has lost his lease due to building renovations and will be closing at the end of April. He may still have an internet presence on Facebook Marketplace. He was offering discounts to clear his stocks of paints and supplies. There was not too much left on his racks.
- President Mac Johnston was going to pick up some Roco kits that we were offered a deal on, to try to liquidate at the Hooksett Train Show. There were also a few kits that we may be able to use for the GraniteCon Raffle.
- Since there is no North Shore Con in Peabody this year, Rod will mail Dave Currier some GraniteCon flyers for his shop.
- A bunch of club members went to Wings and Wheels, DowneastCon, and Williston, VT for contests. A lot took home awards. Mac found out that

Firehouse Subs was a fine place to grab lunch way up in Vermont.

- Treasurer Rich Filteau mentioned that a website that he often visited that listed serial numbers and dispositions of many Air Force and Navy planes, has gone dark. He had heard that the guy had passed away, but that for a while his son was maintaining the site. He will check into it.
- Treasurer Rich Filteau also mentioned the Aviation Museum of NH had a recent speaker, who gave a lecture on the operations of our country's old Titan missile sites. Rich will send out a link to the recording when it is posted. The museum waits a few weeks before posting the link to encourage more in person attendance. He said it was very interesting. In the meantime, here is a link for a lecture on life in the silo bunker: <https://aviationmuseumofnh.org/2025/04/02/underground-and-on-alert-recalling-life-at-a-cold-war-missile-site/>.
- Pete Davis attended the Southern Maine Railroad Club show at the Westbrook Community Center in Westbrook, Maine. He said the weather was terrible and there was not much turnout. Another drawback to early spring shows.
- Secretary Rod Currier gave out some kits and accessories he had won in the raffle at Downeastcon earlier in the month. He got that last "everything left on the tables" ticket and shared the "wealth!"
- President Mac Johnston shared an auto body product that he uses for filling seams on models. It is called "Dolphin Glaze" and comes in a foil pouch with a tube of hardener. Highly recommended, but you have to follow the mixing directions carefully and practice!
- Pete Davis mentioned that he and Mac should have the small club signs for their adventures in Hooksett. Rod brought them to Mac the next day, along with some club information flyers.

March Meeting Raffle Winners!

Our meeting raffle winners were Bob Ferri, John Cook, Andy Dominquez, and John Rauscher!
Congratulations!



Zoom Session Etiquette Review

Please employ these best practices for an enjoyable Zoom session for all. Please mute under the following circumstances: Phone calls - Discussions with those in the background not involving the zoom audience - Loud tool usage, such as sanding, grinding, or filing.

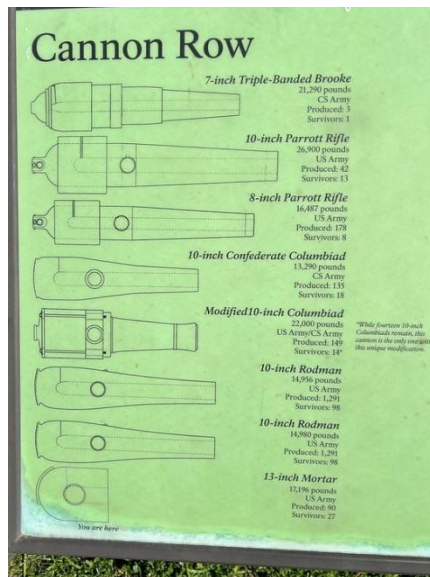
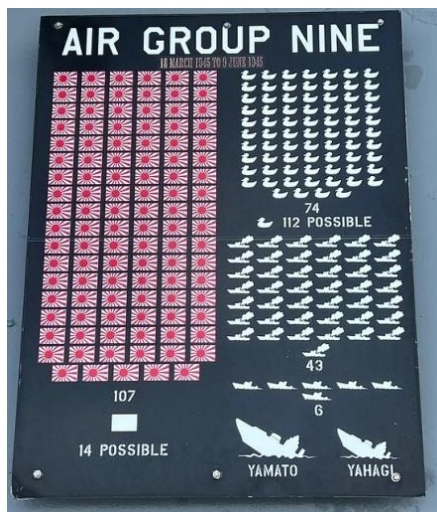
Vulgarity and cussing is not allowed, you never know who is in the background listening.

Fort Moultrie and Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museums By Jerry Waters

I had the opportunity for a brief visit to the museum at Patriots Point just outside Charleston, SC. It is based on the old USS Yorktown, CV10. They have a very nice assortment of USN aircraft on board, including a B-25B in Ruptured Duck markings. The WWII planes are housed in the hanger deck and the later guys are on the flight deck, where they really do look at home. The Skyraider is an AD-4N, the Corsair is an FG-1D, and the Wildcat looks to be a four-gunned -3 version in VF-3 scheme. Lots of aircraft carrier history, good detail on the ordeal of USS Franklin, the CVE's, naval squadron heraldry. Recommended for both the model ship and airplane builders among us.

I also visited Fort Moultrie, a National Historical site near Charleston. I would recommend this to fans of artillery pieces and 18th and 19th century USA fortifications. This is the largest collection of mid 19th century artillery pieces in the world.





PETE'S PONDERINGS By Pete Davis

How many kits are too many kits? I think we all have faced this dilemma over the years. Every time a new kit comes out, it becomes the next kit of choice for inclusion in your collection. You see them built by YouTube experts, or advertised in magazines, and suddenly you suddenly find yourself getting that itch to acquire one, so you can 'just take a look at it'. I know I am a sucker for a deal on new models and have spent many of my hard earned pennies making sure I have one on hand, just in case...

This, as I have found out over the many years I have been building, is a creative rabbit hole just waiting for you to leap in. I have thousands of dollars of unbuilt kits sitting on shelves in my cellar and office, ready for me to develop the incentive to grab one and cobble it together enthusiastically. I know for a fact that I can tell a story about each of these kits and why I had to have them (there is always a story just waiting to be told about how the buy came to be). I can recite chapter and verse on how I determined any specific model became essential to my collection, without breaking a sweat (sorry about that image...).

I know I only have a finite number of seconds left in this life to build them...that is a real fact I experience every day. I will never have all the time I need to build them all, or, for that matter, places to display them if I did manage to get them done! So, I try to spend as many hours as I have enthusiasm for, in creative assembly and decorating of the kits I do build, so that I have at least a modicum of visual results to remind me of my capabilities and interests.

What will happen to all my kits when I am gone? I have no clue! I have instructed my heirs to dispose of them in a particular fashion, once I am no longer around. It is anybody's guess if they will actually follow through as I have asked. I suspect they will never get the full value of them that I paid for them, and that is fine. They are here for me and are my interests expressed in a collection of colorful boxes on shelves.

It is obvious that I really do have too many kits...probably a dozen or so would be a more workable collection for me to have on hand. But, for now, I at least have the possibility of being able to grab a kit from my shelves on any subject that flings a craving on me, to gallop off in a new creative direction at any given time. So, nah, I don't feel I have too many kits.

If nothing else, I like to wander among them occasionally and just admire what I have collected. A lot of them are first pressings when the kits were first manufactured. I also have some unique one-off collectibles waiting.

Am I going to stop buying kits and supplies anytime soon? Are you kidding? There is a great new kit just over the horizon that will capture my attention as soon as it appears. I still have plenty of shelf space available...!

The Instruction Sheet Needs You!

Members, we are constantly in need of newsletter content to keep our IPMS NE Region award winning newsletter going strong! We strive to put together an informative newsletter, with some content that will enhance your modeling experience, inspire you, inform you and make your modeling experience more enjoyable.

This is your newsletter and we need your contributions, large or small! Be it a kit or product review, build review, site visit or historical content, or even just a picture of your work or something you have seen of interest.

We are also looking for tips, tricks and hacks you use in your modeling that others may benefit from. These can be just a few lines of text and an image or two.

You can just provide the basic text and some images and we can create the layout and polish the content for you. Don't be shy, there is a writer in each of us, sometimes it takes a little effort for it to come out.

For those who choose to contribute, you can forgo any formatting, as that is done upon insertion into the newsletter layout. We would appreciate writers using Times New Roman for a font, and there is no need to add indents or line spacing, bolds or any other font enhancements. Plain text is just fine.

Anyone in the club can submit to either Pete Davis or Bob Ferri for inclusion. They must be received 2 weeks prior to our monthly Monday meeting date to appear in that issue.

Thank you from the editorial team for ***The Instruction Sheet*** for your continued support.

Economical Alternative for Antenna Wire and Rigging By Brent Morrison

If you're looking for alternatives to EZ Line, which is a stretchable elastic polymer for rigging or modeling purposes, here is one option that I discovered doing some online research. As I was too cheap and in too much of a hurry to wait for a shipment, along with expensive shipping charges from several online retailers, I wanted an alternative.

What I discovered was a product called Coats® Eloflex™ stretch thread that might be used just like EZLine. This product is made using a polybutylene terephthalate (PBT) core wrapped with polyester fibers. It is round and consistent, which allows it to stretch and recoil, and is not prone to sagging or warping due to temperature or humidity changes, making it a great choice for antenna wires or rigging.

I bought a spool of this product to try on a 1/48 scale Tamiya F4U-1D Corsair model I was finishing. This stretch thread can be attached using CA (aka. super glue) just as you might do with Monofilament fishing line or stretched sprue. I would recommend using a drop of CA accelerator to create a quick bond.

If you're interested in trying it out, you can find Eloflex stretch thread (27 wt.- est. diameter = 0.014") in black or white color at your local Hobby Lobby. Different colors and sizes are available from other suppliers like Amazon, Wal-Mart and sewing supply establishments.

According to the Coats Group plc website (<https://www.coats.com/>), Eloflex products are available in other colors and thread weights of 20, 30, 80 and 120. The higher the thread weight number, the thinner the product. Direct conversion from textile industry classifications (Ticket no., Wt.) to an actual diameter measurement is complicated, as it depends on the material used in the manufacturing process.



Coming Events of Interest

May 15, 2025 – AMPS National, Penn Harris Hotel, Camp Hill PA

August 6, 2025 – IPMS/USA Nationals Hampton Roads, VA

September 28, 2025 – PatCon 2025 Hudson MA

October 3, 2025 – ArmorCon Southbury, CT

October 19, 2025 – GraniteCon 32; IPMS/Granite State Modelers; Weare Middle School; Weare, NH

October 25, 2025 – Hudson Valley Scale Model Show 2025; Hudson Valley Scale Modelers; Elks Club Hall; Poughkeepsie, NY

November 2, 2025 – BayCon 2025 Franklin, MA

Granite Con XXXII, October 19, 2025 Is Coming Sooner than you Think!

By John Rauscher

The 2025 Show Season is fully upon us! It's time to start thinking of getting prepared for another great show at Weare Middle School (WMS). This year's show is on Sunday October 19 in the Cafeteria at WMS in the center of Weare NH.

Rod and I will once again be coordinating the show together. Rod is handling all aspects of show entries, such as admission, registration and Trophy packs. I will be coordinating all vendor requirements, placement and floor layout. I am working with the PTO to ensure we have food in the morning, and a lunch truck option available as in years past.

We need Judges! One should be willing to have an open mind, look at all aspects of a model and competently compare models based upon construction quality, alignment, decal application, paint finish, and weathering. If all of these qualities are met, then the degree of difficulty and scope of effort (meaning is it out of box, or was extra effort and detailing added) become the deciding factor. It is important for Judges to review the table entry form for any provided details or notes left by the modeler.

It is time to start selling show trophy packs! This is what really supports our show by covering the cost of purchasing the trophies. For the past several years now it has been the same small number of members who actively work to sell trophy packs. We need all club members to step up and put the effort in to sell one 1 or 2 trophy packs. It's not hard, and is something everyone can do to make our show successful. Any effort in selling trophy packs will be greatly appreciated by the Executive Board.

Inquiries and registration for Vendor spaces need to contact John Rauscher at jvr@gsinet.net or 603-529-5644. Tables cost \$35 each, with no limit per vendor. However, all table reservations must be paid in full at the time of registration to reserve your table(s). All tables are sold "first come first reserved", with payment in full only.

It's That Time Of Year!

Dues must be received by July 1, 2025 or your membership will be dropped from the member register and will no longer receive our club newsletter. Only one newsletter will be sent per household, membership form is on the last page of this newsletter.

Show and Tell

Many higher resolution images can be found on the web site!



Bret Morrison provided a 1/48th scale Tamiya Series 61 F4U-1D Corsair. It was the first kit he had completed in 50 years. It was built out of box to represent a plane in the Pacific theatre of WW2 during the battle of Okinawa in 1945. He used Tamiya and Model Master paints. He began the build in 2013 but had it on hold until late 2024, when he restarted.



Rod Currier took a 1/48th scale Tamiya HE-162 A-2 Salamander and created a small masterpiece! He advised this was a nice little kit. It had 2 22mm MG151 for armament and a BMW 003 engine that generated 1764 lbs thrust and a top speed of 562 mph at 18685 feet. It had a maximum range of 606 miles and a rate of climb of 1905 feet per minute. This plane was flown by Oberleutnant Emil Demuth in May of 1945 from Leck Germany.





John Cook brought his 1/72nd scale FineMolds Millennium Falcon. This is a highly detailed 900 part kit which took him a year to finish. He used HDA aftermarket decals and did lots of airbrushing and dry brushing to bring out details.



Lyn Cushman had his Fine Molds 1/35th scale Japanese Type 4 Medium Tank for us to review. This was one of two built, neither of which saw combat. The kit went together well, but the tie downs on the back deck were fragile. He added aftermarket parts and a metal barrel. The kit came with rubber band tracks. He painted it with Mr. Color paints and added AK weathering effects.



John Walker's 1/72nd Monogram/Revell FW190A-9 was backdated from an A-8 to an A-7 by removing a radio access panel under the aft fuselage. Decal sources are mixed and paints are Vallejo. This plane was flown by Major Heinz Bar in Gruppenstab II/V51 Stormenda, Germany in April 1944.



John Walker added a 1/72nd Revell FW190A-8/R11 to his display, built out of box with kit markings and Vallejo paints. This plane was flown by ObF Gunter Migge in Werneuchen Germany in March 1944. The unit insignia is from Hasegawa.





John Walker's next offering was a 1/72nd Revell FW190F-8. This was built out of box with kit markings and paint from Vallejo. The model represents an aircraft from 1./SGB4 Piacenza Italy in May 1944.



John Walker brought his 1/72nd scale FW190A-8 with Blomm & Voss BV 246 glide bomb. Built out of box, he used kit markings and Vallejo paints. The BV246 is called 'Hagelkorn' (hailstone). This represents a plane flight tested at Karlshagen Germany in June 1944.





A 1966 era 1/72nd Revell Macchi MC200 filled out John Walker's offerings. This was built out of box with kit markings and Vallejo paints. He removed the spinner and rebuilt the propeller. He added a simple interior and improved the landing gear wells. This aircraft flew with the 85th Sq. CT, 18th Gruppo CT, 3rd Stormo CT, in Greece 1942.



Paul Lessard continued his string of 1/87th scale railroad equipment builds with a Kato Boston & Maine NW-2 diesel locomotive #1203. He stripped the original Conrail paint away and repainted as Boston and Maine. He added new details, including new exhaust stacks.





Frank Moore showed us his 1/32nd scale Monogram/Revell Panzerkampfwagon 4D. He converted it from a PzKfw 4H and added Tamiya figures.



Frank Moore also created a 1/35th scale Tamiya/RPM German Strongpoint at Omaha Beach on D-day. This was part of a trench system covering one of the beach exits on Omaha Beach.



For I.P.M.S. membership, go to
MYIPMSUSA.org Membership page
for details and membership forms



Hobby Shop Directory

These are the hobby shops that support us and our efforts year after year. Most give our club members discounts. They support our club contests, and stock the supplies and new kits we crave. Please support them!

Hobbies With A Twist, LLC - 1 Depot St Concord, NH (603-223-0132)



Boomers Books & Empire Models & Molly Stark Bindery - 273 N Stark Hwy
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Show And Tell Description Form

We have generated a form for meeting Show and Tell descriptions. This will give us the details needed to post in the newsletter along with images of your models. Ideally, you can print the page and cut out the form to use. We will also get it posted to the web site for download. Copies will be available at the meetings to fill out.

	Builder: _____
	Subject: _____
	Kit Mfg: _____
	Scale: _____
	Description:

GSMC Dues Payment Form

Member Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone # : _____

IPMS/USA Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes - IPMS Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Dues Are \$20 Per Year For a Single Member And \$25 Per Year For A Family

Make Checks Payable to: **Granite State Modelers Club**

Please Return This Form With Your Dues Payment To:

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8 Strawberry Lane
Thornton, NH 03285

