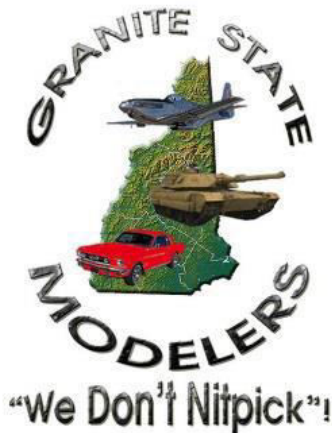




'The Instruction Sheet'

IPMS / Granite State Modelers Club Monthly Newsletter

Website: GraniteStateModelersClub.ORG

Email: GraniteStateModelers@Gmail.com

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IPMS



Club Meeting Reminders: May 18, 2026, June 15, 2026, July 20, 2026

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

Saturday 1-4 pm; Zoom Meeting Link – [GSMC Zoom Meeting](#)

From My Bench

Hello Fellow Members!!

Ok, so let's get into it right off. We tried a new format at the last meeting to make more time, hopefully for other things than show-and-tell, if they present themselves. Well, we had some teething problems, and some of it is on me for having this new format the first time.

We need to make the Show and Tell shorter if the kits are there. I'm going to suggest, for now, that a *two-kit limit be imposed and 3-4 minutes per kit*. This will open up the end of the meeting for any demos and some judging discussions for those who are interested. It is also to try to give each presenter the same time to talk about their build fairly. If we have fewer models and time permits, we will adjust.

Also, on the same topic, the E-Board agrees that the builds should be yours, not purchased builds. Another point is that, although the history is interesting at times, we want the time spent to be more focused on the build. That way, the folks who have questions can hopefully get some tips and not the history. Although interesting, history is not the "hobby" part of the build. I'm not trying to make anyone unhappy by this, but I think the build part is the main focus. We can always have questions for the builder if time permits.

On a much better note, the club has some folks who have entered the competition arena. A couple for the first time. To say we as a group have been doing very well this spring is an understatement!! WE have done in my mind very well. We have also shown some very diverse builds. That just shows we are multifaceted in our abilities. Let's give ourselves a big pat on the back for our collective efforts.

Bob and the newsletter team have put us into another award-winning newsletter for the third time in four years. Russ led the way, and Bob and the group carried on. That's one reason we need YOU, the members, to help keep this alive. The team does a ton of work to make this happen. Please support them and us.

Something to also keep in mind is our annual picnic. We need to pick a date, and we need to make plans for that. GraniteCon 33 is coming up in October, which means trophy packs will need to be sold again. So, let's keep building and bringing your in-progress or finished models for Show and Tell. Lastly, I'll be doing the demo at the next meeting, showing how I attach dirt to wheels and tracks. *The Pres*

IPMS/GSMC meets for our general membership meeting on the third Monday night (4th Monday in January, February, and October) 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 kit raffles are held at each meeting.

Rod's Ramblings by Rod Currier

Dues were due in March. If you have not already paid, please fill out the dues payment form that Bob includes in the newsletter and bring it to me or mail it with your payment. I use the form to make sure I have your correct contact information, so please use it! Or check with me to make sure what I have is correct. Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 for a family. Please make checks out to "Granite State Modelers Club. I will be deleting unpaid members from the newsletter mailing list starting in June.

At last month's meeting, we began a slightly revised format. The E-board now meets on Zoom a week or so before the meeting to discuss business that doesn't need a membership vote, and President Mac Johnstongoes through the items that do need discussion during the old business portion of the meeting. We can then spend more time on new business and have a few demos from time to time. This past month, Mac was going to give a short seminar on judging, but the show-and-tell took too much of the meeting time, and the librarian had to shuffle us out because it was closing time. Mac will try to do his seminar this month. To help out, we ask that you curtail your show-and-tell presentations to two models per month. Feel free to bring in as many as you want, but choose two to discuss during the Show and Tell period. Other builds can be discussed before the meeting gets underway or during the break. That will give us more time to socialize and conduct the rest of the meeting. Otherwise, we will have to start enforcing a time limit.

Our best wishes go out to Pete Davis, who is recovering from heart surgery. His bench is calling him! The new Facebook page is up and running; be sure to sign up so you can post to it. Posts will go public when posted, so we won't have to have everything go through Jason. Now you can do it yourself!

A few of us have started Monogram B-17 builds for the display at GraniteCon 33. Some who wished to enter one and didn't have one in their stash had quite a time finding a kit, since it seems it is currently out of production. I brought this up a year or so ago, but here it goes again. If ever you are looking for a certain kit for a project that is rare or out of production, please bring it up at one of our meetings before you start clicking on eBay. I happen to have a lot of 1/32nd and 1/48th propeller kits in my stash that I would be very reasonable about if you needed one. I will never get to building them all, even though I always planned to when I bought them! Don't be afraid to bring up anything special you are looking for. We support each other!

See you on May 18th!

The Secretary

Coming Events of Interest

June 13, 2026 – NoreastCon 53; Roc City Scale Modelers, Henrietta, NY

August 5-8, 2026 – IPMS/USA National Convention 2026, Fort Wayne, IN

September 27, 2026 – PatCon 2026; IPMS Patriot Scale Modelers; American Heritage Museum;
Hudson, MA

October 2, 2026 – ArmorCon 2026; NMMA (Northeast Military Modeling Association); Southbury, CT

October 18, 2026 – GraniteCon 33; IPMS/Granite State Modelers Club; Weare, NH

October 24, 2026 – Hudson Valley Scale Model Show; Hudson Valley Scale Modelers; Poughkeepsie, NY

November 1, 2026 – BAYCON 2026; Bay Colony Modelers Club; Franklin, MA

Pete's Ponderings by Pete Davis



One thing I have begun noticing more recently is the wide disparity in the quality of instructions for building the more complex models. With more foreign manufacturers relying on AI proofreading and spell checks, the descriptions on assembling a kit have a lot of latitude in how the wording and assembly drawings turn out. There are a couple of companies I can think of that are notorious due to their elaborately incorrect diagrams and wording, and, for that matter, lack of adequate viewing angles, that impact how and where parts fit.

But I am not going to bash specific manufacturers. I just want to evaluate the overall building processes when tackling kit assembly.

I can still remember the time, way back when I was a kid, when you got a sprue or two of parts, and a one-page instruction sheet. It made for fun builds, with limited need to interpret the drawings and part numbers. You always came out with something resembling your chosen subject, without a lot of intellectual effort. A tube of glue, a toothpick, a nail file, fingernail clippers, and tweezers, and you were ready to charge full steam into the build process.

Then the better kits began to be produced overseas. This brought many advantages to us, model builders. Subjects were more numerous, better engineered, and quite buildable (I am talking about the Japanese manufacturers). Their instructions went multi-page. They were easier to understand and offered better assembly views. The process got smoother.

When the Korean, Indian, Chinese, and other foreign manufacturers began offering their very elaborate kits, our subject choices again got way better. However, here is where the disparity in instruction clarity began to take hold. In the early days of this trend, instructions were translated by 'somewhat English-speaking' individuals. This led to a lot of, for us, entertaining and confusing misrepresentations of words and phrases. It also looked like the instruction writers were not model builders and had no concept of the linear process in putting a kit together.

Assembly sequences were muddy and showed illogical movement from one assembly to another. It took us all a lot of time, shuffling back and forth between pages, trying to puzzle out a more effective way to do the build. Even then, the part location was not always identifiable. Actually, now that I think of it, this still holds true on many of the contemporarily produced kits I have tackled recently.

I know, I know...we are supposed to be model builders, and should be able to figure out ways to make these kit part jumbles come together into a coherent result, regardless. We all have skills that are readily applicable to re-sequencing a build for the best finished product.

However, wouldn't it be nice if the kit companies actually had model builders on staff who could take the kit sprues and develop more effective linear assembly processes from them? And do it way before the kits go into production? And actually, clearly translate what they came up with, so we can follow it with a lot less effort and frustration?

Sounds like a winning strategy to me. After all, we are paying a heck of a lot more money for these kits now, and it would be really helpful if part of that expense went into actually giving us the quality instructions we hope for. I think it might also be good for the hobby, as it might help attract potential hobbyists who, until now, have been put off by the disparity of the direction sheets. A complex build would be more enjoyable for them. They might actually be encouraged to tackle a more detailed model, rather than seeing it as too challenging to achieve.

Works for me, anyway.

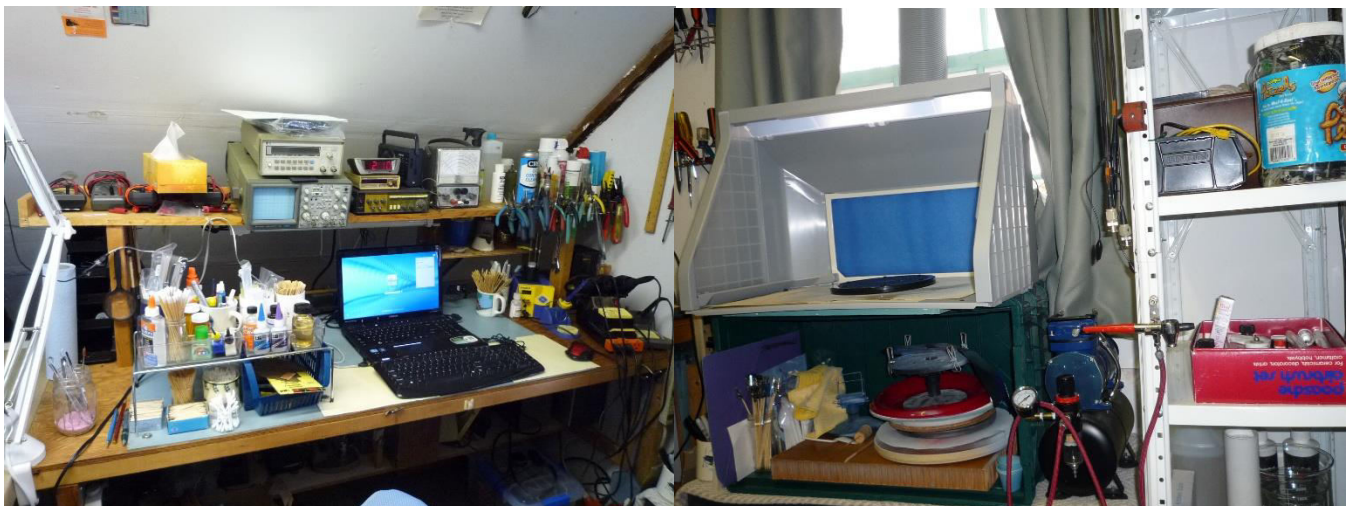
It's That Time of Year!

Dues must be received by **July 1, 2026, or your membership will be dropped from the member register, and you will no longer receive our club newsletter. Only one newsletter will be sent per household. The membership form is on the last page of this newsletter.**

My Modeling Space by Bruce Tostevin

Here are some pictures of my modeling space. It's an attic room with sloped ceilings, so space is tight. My modeling space shares benchtops, shelves, and tables with my electronics test equipment, soldering stations, a laptop, and tools.

My Paasche V airbrush is going on 35 years old and paired with a Paasche compressor. My next project is hooking up my new OPHIR spray booth. I build on open file folders which lay flat, protect the bench, and are easily replaced. The Revell F-4G 1/32nd scale is a big kit!



My Modeling History by G. “Zubie” Zeballos

My earliest memories are of Brooklyn, but just before I turned 6, our family moved back to Chile. There, I met a great uncle who built model military vehicles and ships out of tin cans. He would flatten them out into flat plates, then cut patterns that were beaten or folded into parts that were welded together into the shape he wanted. It was amazing to see how he could build realistic miniatures with his fairly rustic setup. Then again, in a third-world country, modeling involved old-school building techniques. In fact, I don't recall ever seeing a plastic model kit at the time. What you could find were paper model kits.

Paper is cheap, and printing a kit is simpler than injection molding. All the model builder needs is scissors and glue. These were published in Chile by “**Recortables Royal**” (*Recortables* being the Spanish word for “things you cut out”). I have since come to find out these are reprints from a Spanish publisher called “**Toray**,” which started with paper doll sets.

The sets were large pads of cardstock arranged around a theme: tanks, ships, aircraft, westerns, etc. The pads



contained a variety of things to cut out on several sheets, around 16” by 11.5”. Many of the cutouts were 2D stand-ups. The stand-ups would allow one to quickly set up soldiers, tanks, artillery, or any other play prop. It was the paper equivalent of green plastic soldiers. The sets would also have a few models you could assemble. These sets were affordable with “kid” pocket money and easily available at the corner bookstore or stationery shop.

These paper kits were my introduction to scale modeling. Unfortunately, it wasn't without some problems. The quality of the printing was similar to that found on color comics at the time. Generally, parts were colored unrealistically and with little reference to the original subject. The models were simplified for ease of assembly. They also didn't have much in the way of instructions. There were directions on how to



fold the lines (“- - -” vs “- x -”). Other than that, you had numbers identifying parts and where those parts went, as well as a small drawing of the finished model.

Another problem was the glue. At the time, all we had was mucilage. Mucilage is a sticky, brownish gelatinous glue that doesn't spread well. It dried hard and dark and takes a bit of time to set. The applicator on the bottle was just a slit on a rubber stopper. In spite of this, I still loved building and playing with these sets. As toys, they were fragile, but you could always re-buy the set and start over.

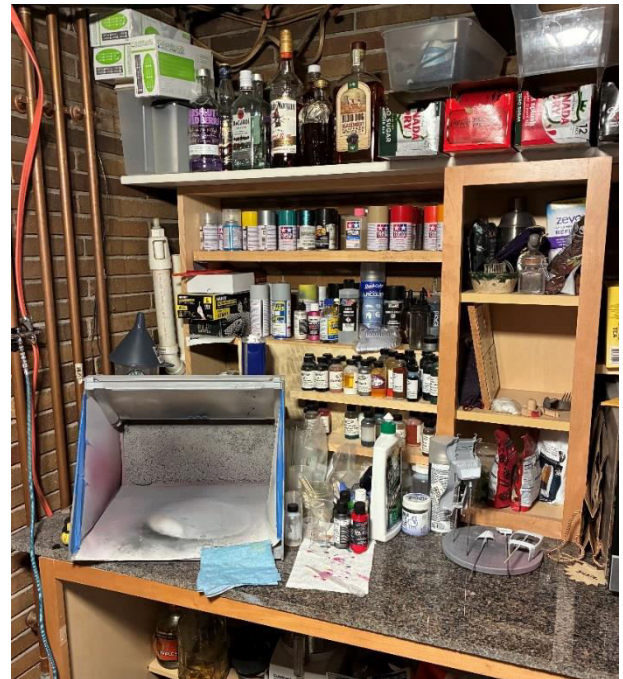
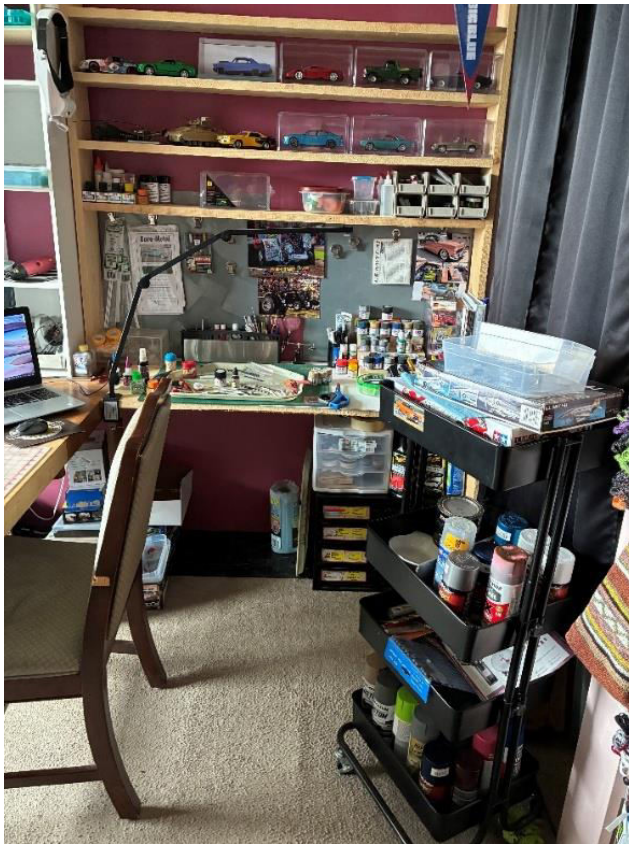


When I was 9, we returned to the United States, and I recall being blown away by the colorful box art of the model kits at the department store. For my birthday, I got a 1/48-scale Aurora A-7 Corsair with moving parts and retractable gear. Aurora knew how to make an awesome box top. Unfortunately, like many of my early projects, it was totally botched. I did eventually get the hang of it (more or less).

Plastic kits began to appear in Chile in the 1980s. In spite of them being fairly expensive and access to modeling supplies being limited, they undoubtedly made better scale replicas than the paper kits. At some point, *Recortables Royal* stopped publishing. The publisher *Toray* itself seems to have ceased operations in 1999. Even with all the issues of those old paper kits, I missed them and harbored a sentimental feeling that I'm sure many of you have for those classic Aurora, Revell, and Monogram kits. There is perhaps some closing of the circle as I rediscovered paper modeling over the past 20 years. I found out that much like Chile, paper modeling had been a much bigger part of scale modeling in Eastern Europe. Some of those publishers still publish kits that are considerably more sophisticated than my old *Recortables* were. Today, kits can be downloaded over the internet, and designs are made using 3D graphics software. I now have a huge digital stash as well as a modestly sized physical one. I have to admit the digital one takes up a lot less space!

My Modeling Space by John Edge

As you can tell, the room is well used. Sue works on the left, and I am on the right. The shelves have finished models and a lot of smaller tools. My magnet board holds styrene, instructions, and some pictures. There are also kits in progress and paints on the roll-around cart. The spray paint area has more spray cans, and my airbrush paints are on the shelves along with extra gloves. The compressor is on the floor, and my airbrush is hanging on the wall to the left. The best shelf is the top one, and you can see what's there!!



My Modeling History by John Rauscher

...A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.... I began modeling! I mean its history, right?

I grew up in upstate New York, in rural Rensselaer County, about 30 minutes ESE of Albany in a small town called Nassau (not to be confused with the county in Long Island). Here is Main Street:

Why would I show you this? Because it sets the stage for my growth as a modeler.... I lived in a big old 200-year-old farmhouse about 2 miles outside the village with one neighbor across the street. They had three kids – two much older – and a daughter my age (I turned 6 the summer we moved here). This is all relevant because 1) it was very rural for a 6-year-old, and 2) there was only a girl for a friend nearby. We had 3 channels of television – CBS, NBC, and ABC, and sometimes we would get UHF, which was public television. So, there

wasn't a whole lot to do but play with GI Joes, Matchbox cars, ride my banana seated sissy bar mounted green Stingray Schwinn with metallic vinyl seat and kick brakes, or learn to build models (which happened when I turned 7, and Cherie (the girl across the street) gave me a car model (go ahead, Jason, cheer and jeer). It was a spoke-wheeled, open-topped car, and she likely got it at Delson's (the small department store that is no longer there).

A kid growing up in the early 70's had to do more than ride his bike, collect sports cards, play with Major Matt Mason and G.I. Joe, and Matchbox cars... and the environment I grew up in fostered my love of modeling. I was already obsessive about keeping my toys clean and orderly, washing my cars after a bout in the driveway dirt! So that birthday gift opened the door to a whole new world!

It looked something like this (this is a tinplate model pic I found, but it's close – though the kit didn't have a roof:

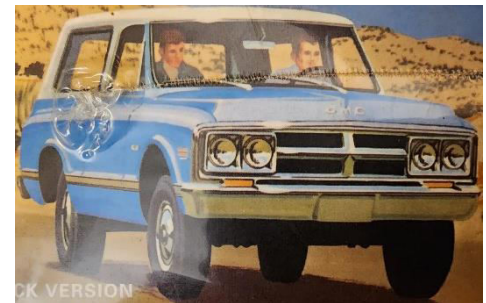


I painted it different colors with Testor's glossy metallic enamels and a brush. If anyone can find the actual model, I would love to see it.

My father attempted to teach me building Balsa Wood models, but I wasn't really into it.... (Except Pinewood Derby in Cub Scouts). Another early kit was something akin to this, though I can't be sure it was this kit. It had a removable rear roof, and again, I painted it multi-colored metallic. The more colors, the better!

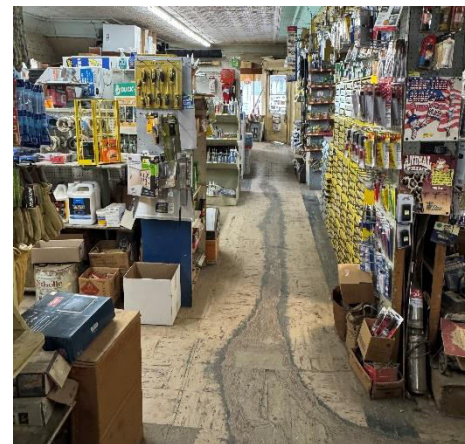
My interest piqued, I was voracious. My folks signed me up for the Monogram YMBC – The Young

Modelers' Builders Club. I mowed lawns to buy models and G.I. Joes. At 13 or 14, I got a job at the local hardware store (they had an agricultural license and could hire kids).



Here is that hardware store. I went back to visit all the homes I grew up in last summer on a trip to my pal Chris's in NYC to pick up kits and books. I realized every house I grew up in – 4, was within an 8–10-mile radius of one another! Now this place, the store, hasn't changed since I worked there. The same family owns it, and inside is exactly as it was in the 1970's. Talk about a time capsule.... And its relevance? Money earned to purchase models next door at Delson's!

The YMBC was great. The variety was super, and I was soon building the Red Baron Car (with Shiny Helmet coup), rockets, Spad aircraft, and trips to the department store supplemented them! I watched Movin' On, fell in love with tractor-trailers, and built a cab-over Peterbilt and a super cab Kenworth. Yes.... They were painted in multiple colors! One of the most memorable kits I built then was the Solar Sail Ship Solaris. It's worth a small fortune in the box now....



Television, too, was an influencing factor.... I was too young to remember when Star Trek was first released, but by the early 70's it was on as reruns in the late afternoon. So was Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, Batman, Space:1999, and Green Hornet! I built all the AMT Star Trek Kits and the MPC Eagle. Even now, I have kits for all those shows in the queue.

More detailed kits followed.... The USS George Washington nuclear missile sub with launching missiles, 1/32nd scale Mig 21PF, Hydrofoil USN ship, rubber band powered Lindberg car models, a second-hand 1/96-scale Cutty Sark from my older cousin.... And Aurora tanks!

High school didn't interrupt my building, though, of course, school, girls, and stage productions got in the way periodically. I remember building the 1/48th scale helicopter with a jeep and gun load... (maybe a CH-53?). The Revell Liberator, B-17, and Dakota... none of which survive today. Even in college, I managed to build! Tamiya's venerable M113, when it came out, a Tiger I, a Sherman, and I started putting figures on bases and making dioramas and vignettes.

In the 80's, after High School and College and a brief stint in USN NAOCS (where a shoulder injury derailed my naval ambitions), I got my first job as a teacher in Vermont at a private High School. I was also a dorm parent, and the one thing paramount to the move was a closet full of models and cigar boxes of tools and paints. Here is the oldest model I still have – also a Tamiya kit – the Kettenkrad. Even in the 80's, I obsessed about detail. I built the engine and cut out the modeled vent screen and put in mesh, added brake cables and fender supports, and tissue tarps.

My collection and focus grew. The First Gulf War had me recording VHS after VHS for reference. I was collecting all the out-of-production Tamiya Tank models, and with a move to Morrisville, Vermont, after completing my master's in History, my first desktop computer and CompuServe! I became the editor for a newsletter called Parts Depot. We offered articles, drawings, and a Wants/Disposal listing.

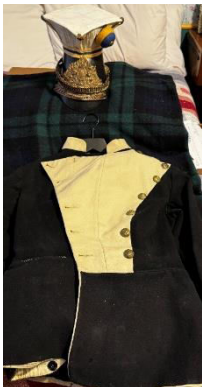
Sometime in the early 1990's, an acquaintance introduced me to a man who changed the direction of my hobby world. I began building models and repairing already built models for a militaria collector named Charlie Woolley. He paid me in British Militaria... and you know where that led!

Marriage and my first house purchase in 1995 saw the official establishment of Empire Models. I even had a web page, such as it was, and after Spare Time complained to MMD, I had an uphill but ultimately successful battle convincing Chuck Harransky to give me a trade account. There wasn't even a VLS website yet!

My first shows were in Shelburne, Vermont, as an entrant and vendor. Next came the Intrepid Museum show, then AMM, AMPS, and Granite State Modelers! I have been vending since about 1992 while continuing to build. I was the first Regional Coordinator for AMPS at its founding and became Treasurer for the organization for nearly 10 years. Since the early days, my interests have become more focused on British subjects – aircraft,



armor, soft skins, and figures. I have tossed in some Sci Fi and Fantasy, and my modeling was broadened thanks to Charlie, enabling me to collect British military uniforms and equipment for research accuracy. Here are a few of my older builds from the 1990's and early 2000's, and some examples of the one-to-one scale equipment I've collected for reference:



Here is the Scots Grey, my first-ever Best of Show, which I won in Vermont.

I have found this hobby fascinating. It has been the perfect outlet for my love of history, science, and science fiction. Over the last 10-15 years, my interest broadened into Maschinen Krieger, scratch-building, lighting models, and much more.



I have also been fortunate to be able to combine my love of history with writing and have had three model-building articles published in the venerable British Military Modelling Magazine over the years. These included topics such as painting your first kilted figure, Accurizing the Initial LAV-AD using Lockheed Martin plans, and a review build of a resin Panzerkampfwagen Erhardt WWI armored car. Most recently, I was asked to be a contributor to a Pen & Sword Publications hardcover modeling book on building Commonwealth military vehicles. There are 14 to 15 chapters, each detailing the build of a different Commonwealth armored or soft-skinned military vehicle, and it is finally slated for a release sometime during the Summer/Fall of 2026.



Building models is about vision. The more you notice details around you, the more your skills grow. You see discarded everyday items and see new uses for them. Model building becomes an integral part of your identity, of who you are and how you describe yourself to others. Modeling builds patience, and it rewards persistence over perfection, if you will, ensuring you keep trying new techniques and developing your skills. I always tell parents at shows that if they help their child build a model, they are teaching patience, fine motor skills and dexterity, concentration, attention to detail, history, and how to follow directions. This is one reason I won't hesitate to give a simple model to a child at a show when his parent is buying for himself and not the child.

For me, the reward has been that decades later, 56 years later in fact, I am still a modeler! Modeling is something you grow into, not out of! My last words are these: *Don't throw away old models. Someone will want to see them one day. ALWAYS keep extra parts. A Spare part box is essential as you develop your skills. And most importantly, don't be afraid to experiment, try new techniques and products, and step outside your comfort zone!*

Ask the Modelers by Bob Ferri

In this forum, we will reply to questions received from the membership so our fellow modelers can share their techniques and methods. Please send in your replies to the new questions below (when received before publication), including a paragraph or two of your opinions, techniques, or methods regarding the questions posed by our fellow members. I will print the questions and replies in the next issue of "The Instruction Sheet". This is an opportunity for all members to participate and share the knowledge that helps others grow in our chosen hobby.

Question 1 – How do you prep new car or truck bodies from the box?

Lyn Cushman replied – I just started using SEM lacquer primer, which lays down very well.

John Edge replied – First thing is to wash with Dawn dish soap, then mark and sand off injector marks and mold lines, scribe door and trunk lines, sand up to the needed grit, usually 5000+. Rewash with Dawn dish soap and prime.

Jason Robidoux replied - The first thing I do is check the body for any seam lines or deformities in the body. Seam lines are then marked with a Sharpie marker with a fine tip and removed by sanding. When addressing body deformities, I block sand in the area to smooth it out. Most bodies are going to have a few seam lines. Once that is finished, I grab my trusty grey Scotch Brite pads and scuff the entire body. My goal here is to remove the shininess the body might have and turn it into an even, flat surface. I then wash the body in warm water in the sink using Dawn detergent. I use plain old Dawn with no other additives. I have had issues in the past using Dawn Platinum. It has a product in it that is used to shine dishes. If you do not rinse it enough, you can end up with a reaction in the paint. If I am in a hurry, the body goes in the dehydrator for an hour. When the body is dry, I give it one more quick wipe down with isopropyl alcohol wipes. When the alcohol is dry, I give it a brush over with my Tamiya antistatic brush. Then it is time for primer.

Question 2 – What are a few of your go-to all-around glue types?

John Edge replied – Tamiya thick and extra thin cement, Bob Smith extra thick and super thin super glue. Testors tube cement, Evergreen Canopy glue, and Elmer's white glue.

Rod Currier replied – I use Testors liquid and Tamiya extra thin cement for most modeling jobs. I do have a bottle of Tamiya thick liquid cement when I want a bit of working time to get parts set. REALLY stinks! My youngest son turned me on to JB Super Weld as my new go-to super glue for attaching small parts. You put on a bit of glue, attach the parts, and cure it with the UV light included with the tube.

Lyn Cushman replied – Tamiya Extra thin and Tamiya Plastic cement. I sometimes use Testors 281216 liquid cement for filler. And of course, when needed, CA glue for a strong and/or quick bond.

Jason Robidoux replied - If I am gluing bare plastic to bare plastic, I use Tamiya quick set. I started refilling my bottles of quick set with Tamiya's airbrush cleaner. It has the same properties as the quick set at a much better value. If I am going to glue plastic to plastic and need some time to move parts around, I use Tamiya cement.

When gluing parts that have paint on them, my go-to is Loctite super glue. It dries very fast. I find that the paint does not interfere with the bond like it does with Tamiya glues.

Scotty Mallett replied - I go with 3 options. Tamiya extra thin, Revell Professional, and the original orange Testor's tube glue. I know a lot of modelers have sworn off tube glue, but I find it a good way to solve certain problems with difficult styrene.

Question 3 – Airbrush or spray can? What is your preference?

John Edge replied – Both, spray can if it's a quick prime or paint. Airbrush for most large parts. I seem to get fairly good results both ways, but I don't like a lot of buildup on larger parts, and the airbrush uses way less paint.

Jason Robidoux replied - An age-old debate! I use both. When it comes to primers, I find Tamiya to be the best for me. It sprays perfectly right out of the can, so I don't bother decanting it. My preference is to airbrush. If the color comes in a Tamiya rattle can, I will use the can. I find Tamiya has perfected the rattle cans. When given the choice between Tamiya rattle can and bottle paint, I will choose the bottle paint and shoot it through the airbrush. When I first started back in the hobby, I was strictly rattle can. Although my techniques have evolved, I much prefer the airbrush. If I find a Krylon color or Dupli-Color paint I want to use on a kit, I will decant it and use the airbrush. The difference to me between an airbrush and a rattle can is similar to watering my wife's rose bushes. The airbrush is like a garden hose with a multiple-setting nozzle versus the open end of a flowing firehose. Both get the job done, but you have way more control with the airbrush/garden hose nozzle.

Lyn Cushman replied – I still use a rattle can for primers but an airbrush for everything else.

Rod Currier replied – I rarely use a spray can for painting. I am strictly an airbrush user. I bought a Paasche Raptor to go with my Paasche Talon. It has a fine tip and a small paint bowl. I have started using it to paint small areas like cockpits with it instead of using a paintbrush.

Scotty Mallett replied - I prefer a rattle can. I have not worked with an airbrush yet, and the rattle can is all I know. I hope to change that this summer.

Bruce Tostevin replied - I like rattle-can Mr. Hobby Surfacer / Finishers (1000, 1500 gray) for priming. They go on smoothly and cover nicely. I do a lot of brush painting, but airbrush most large surfaces.

Question 4 – When you're building, do you listen to music, have a TV on, watch a show on the computer, or do nothing?

Jason Robidoux replied - My go-to while building is having the TV on. It could be a movie, a show, or a ball game. I also like to listen to music or my favorite podcasts. When I am going to work on something that requires a high amount of attention and detail, I like to put on music. I find that when I have the TV on, I become distracted. Doing things like decals or polishing a finish on a car body, I don't want my eyes to wander away from what I am working on. When I am on Zoom with the group, I normally have a ball game on. I often have to mute myself as I find the Patriots, Celtics, and Bruins provide me the opportunity to use some colorful language. Zoom is a family show after all, Hahaha

John Edge replied – Mostly listen to music (rock, country), but I do have the computer on for looking up reference material or YouTube videos. Also talking to Sue because she works on the other side of the table and always gives me paint color advice.

Lyn Cushman replied – I either listen to music or play DVD movies on my TV.

Rod Currier replied – When I am the only one home, I usually just crank the main stereo in the living room. When Karolee is home, I have an old system in the hobby room that I listen to while modeling. So, I can listen to the radio or CD's, depending on my mood. Usually, the radio, since I tend to listen to music I choose critically, rather than as background “company.”

Bruce Tostevin replied - My bench has a computer, so I often listen to music I find on YouTube. I also frequently watch someone who is building a model similar to mine to get ideas and tips ... especially for tricky paint jobs and weathering.

G. “Zubie” Zeballos replied – I’m a fan of radio dramas. You can work along while listening to a story or a radio documentary. There are many classic radio plays online, such as the CBS Radio Mystery Theater or Dimension X. The BBC also makes much of its radio content available for free. In fact, the BBC is still in the business of making these things. There are also plenty of podcasts to listen to as well. As for favorites, I have a list as long as my arm.

Scotty Mallett replied - I listen to music; I have a certain playlist I listen to. I watch videos of subscriptions I have of other model builders.

Here are the questions for next month.

1 - What do you use to hold or cradle your airplanes when painting or attaching parts or decals?

2 – What do you use for clear coat?

3 – What is your best sanding tool and method for sanding?

Don’t forget to send in your questions and answers to “Ask the Modeler”. Even if you know the answer to your question, you may get other ideas you were not aware of. Everybody does things differently. We look forward to your questions and replies! Please send them to [**Ferri@gsinet.net**](mailto:Ferri@gsinet.net)!

Newsletter Update by Bob Ferri

Our President, Mac Johnston, called me one morning a few weeks ago to inform me that the newsletter was named 2025 Best Newsletter for the eastern region of IPMS! This is our club’s 3rd time winning this honor. The first award during my time as publisher was back in 2023. The first award was received back when Russ Gosselin was publisher.

Below is a comment from Mark Norman included in his email summary of this month's regional Zoom meeting:

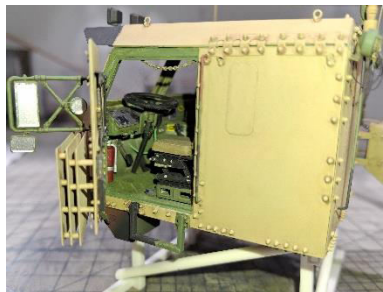
“IPMS Granite State achieved Best Newsletter honors. Editor Robert Ferri’s work on The Instruction Sheet has gained wide recognition, including prominent placement in Mark Young’s national IPMS newsletter distributions.”

The Newsletter Team would like to thank GSMC members for their contributions to the newsletter. We also want to thank everyone for embracing the new columns we added recently and for providing the content to fill them. The “Ask the Modeler” column, since its introduction, has gained a lot of input from members. We are also getting content every month for “My Modeling Space” and “My Modeling History. These have turned out to be a big part of our newsletter growth, from 16 to 24 pages last month.

This award was earned by all of the contributors to the newsletter! Thank you, fellow members!

WIP Update by Bob Ferri

I have managed to finish the cab on the M1070/M1000 HET project. Here are a few images of the progress.



Show and Tell

Many higher-resolution images can be found on the website!

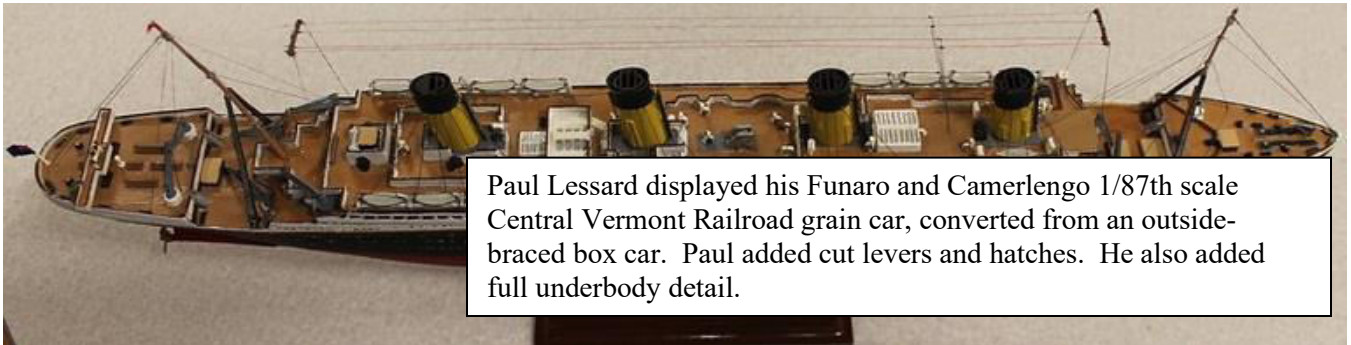
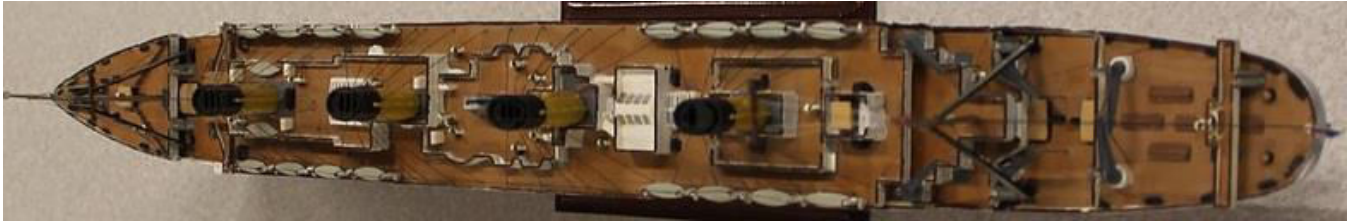


Bob Ferri showed us his 1/72nd scale P-40 Academy Warhawk. He added Czech Master cockpit details and resin wheels. The plane was airbrushed with Model Master paints. Panel wash and pigments added light weathering to the exhaust, wheels, and wing bottom, and created gun smoke residue.



Brent Morrison built his 1/48th scale Hobby Boss Grumman F4F Wildcat out of the box. This was his first attempt at applying a two-tone paint job with an airbrush. He used Tamiya acrylic paints. He felt this was a nice build, discounting the complicated landing gear assembly process.





Bruce Tostevin displayed his 1/570th scale Revell RMS Titanic. He found that some finicky work was needed to assemble the hull and stacked decks. He rigged the aerials with EZ Line and used fishing line for the stack cables. The forward Marconi antenna was made using transistor radio speaker wire. He used Tamiya, Testors, and Mr. Hobby paints, but wished the stack color had been closer to peach in tone.



Frank Moore provided a 1/35th scale Monogram half-track kit modified into an IDF anti-tank missile carrier for our review. This was a kit bash, using parts from his leftovers collection.



A 1/87th scale Roco M55 self-propelled howitzer was another of Frank Moore's offerings. He added scratch-built equilibrators and a gun breech to this model.



Frank Moore put his 1/87th scale Roco M40 155mm self-propelled howitzer on display. He added details on this to improve realism.





Frank Moore showed his 1/32nd scale NewRay T1E3 halftrack. This was a prototype that carried an integral anti-aircraft gun.



John Walker presented his 1/72nd scale Airfix BF109 K4 for review. He added multiple details to the model. He also removed and re-scribed panel lines. The plane was painted with Vallejo paints.

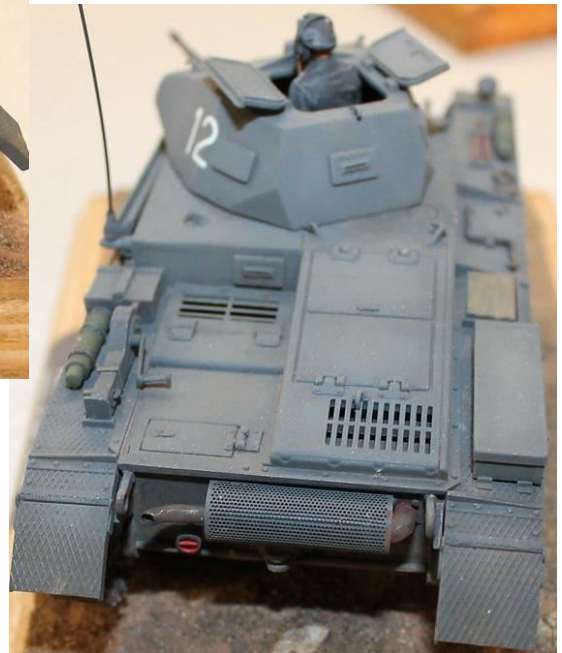




A 1/35th scale Tamiya Daimler Mk 2 Dingo scout car was John Walker's entry. This was built out of the box, using kit decals and figures. He used Tamiya paint on the vehicle and Vallejo paints on the figures. He marked this vehicle for the 5th RTR, 7th AD in North Africa in 1942.



A 1/35th scale Alan Models Panzer II C was John Walker's mostly out-of-the-box build. He replaced the kit turret with an earlier version and added replacement 20mm machine guns. He painted the model with Tamiya paints, using decals from his spares. He weathered with pastels and pigments. The tank was used in Norway in 1940.

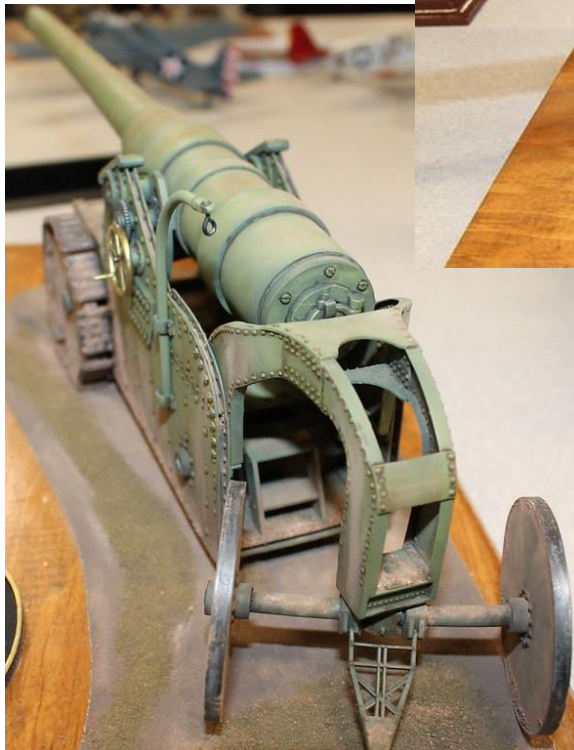




U.S. 1/4 Ton Truck (Willis MB)
Special Air Service



John Walker had his 1/35th scale Tamiya 1/4-ton truck for review. He added multiple jerry cans, which were typical of vehicles used by the British Special Air Service in the desert in World War 2. He also plumbed the tank on the front of the vehicle.



Mac Johnston brought in his completed 1/35th scale Vargas 3D Obice cannon from 1940. He scratch-built the four wheels and added a sturdier chassis. There was no recoil system, so he added one. He also added some scratch-built top panels. This model took the Best Ordinance and Memorial Award at the 2026 AMPS convention.

Mike Bailey brought in his 1/72nd scale Fujimi A7A Corsair 2. He built this out of the box. He had difficulty removing the kit decals from their backing paper and was challenged in getting them to lie down on the model surface.



Paul Lessard also showed off a 1/87th scale Sylvan Models 1940 GMC dump truck. The kit had resin parts and was originally a highway tractor. Paul extended the frame and added a scratch-built dump body.





Continuing his theme, Paul Lessard had a 1/87th scale Lee Town Models diecast 1930 Mac BM flatbed truck on the table. The cab and frame were separate from the body. He strengthened the mounting and added a styrene wood deck. He painted the Mac in dark green.



Paul Lessard had a 1/76th scale Metcalfe card stock Fish and Chips restaurant on display. It was created from a free plan in a Railroad Modeler magazine article. It is OO gauge but can pass for HO.



Pete Davis showed his 1/48th scale Hobby Boss Antonov AN-2 biplane. He liked the cockpit detail. He used the model to learn how to paint white and red. The red came out ok, the white, not so much. He also used this as a first attempt to fully rig a biplane, using fishing line.



Rich Filteau brought in his 1/48th scale Hobby Boss Hawker Hurricane MK 2C. This was a 20mm cannon-armed night fighter variant of the standard Hurricane fighter.





A nice 1/48th scale Tamiya North American P-51C was Rich Filteau's offering. He painted it as the Commemorative Air Force's tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen. P-51 B and C models were produced in different locations, which is the only difference between them. Both are 'razorback' variants, featuring the same Packard V01650 Merlin engine and 4-gun armament.



A 1/35th scale Border Models B5N2 Nakajima Kate was offered by Rod Currier for review. This was a highly detailed kit, but the poor instructions challenged the build. A unique leading-edge design did away with seams. Rivet detail meets on panel lines. There is an oil can effect on surfaces. The model is marked as one used at Pearl Harbor, flown by Lt. Commander Shigeohara Murata of the 1st Torpedo Attack unit on Kaga.





Russell Gosselin displayed his 1/35th scale Tamiya Leopard 2A5 tank, a work in progress. He added Bronco workable tracks to improve realism.



Bob Ingalls had a variety of 3D printed devices to show. They included an aircraft assembly jig, and sanding sticks that use strips of readily available sheet abrasive. He also had some PVC pipe reducers, with graded screens installed at one end, to allow sifting of various grit dry sands, useful as diorama materials. In addition, he showed us brushes purchased at the Dollar Store containing synthetic fibers. These can be clipped off and are just right for rigging aircraft and ships...a cheap alternative to EZ line or fishing line.



Scotty Mallett showed his work in progress, Atlantis Models B-52 with X-15. He was able to get the decals done in one Zoom portal session. I am still working on the X-15. After repainting it black, the application of the decals caused paint issues.



April 2026 Meeting Notes By Pete Davis

E-board Meeting Notes:

- President Mac Johnston reported that this was the first meeting where the E-board had their work session outside our regular meeting time.
- President Mac Johnston announced that, when time allows, we will have training sessions on judging the various model classes. The goal is to have everyone on the same page on judging standards. These sessions will take place at the end of our regular meetings; members not interested in judging are not required to stay.
- Secretary Rod Currier reported that dues for this year are 50% paid, with more inbound.
- Zoom Administrator Bob Ferri reported Zoom sessions are still going well.
- Treasure Rich Filteau stated that there was no activity in our accounts as of the 9th of April.
- Vice President and Social Media Coordinator Jason Robidoux reported on his efforts to close out the old website and develop a new one. A new Gmail address has been generated, which is usable by all officers. He is also working to open up our Facebook page so that members can post their photos and comments themselves. This is limited currently as members can't self-post or ask questions. Due to the configuration of the old page, we can't move data or integrate it directly into a new site, but can run them alongside until such time as the new page can be fully realized. Then the old page will be closed.
- The Hooksett Train Show is on April 26th. Member Pete Davis and President Mac Johnston will work the show.

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- GraniteCon 33 will be held in the Weare Middle School gymnasium for our show in October, requiring Bob Ferri to work up a new floor plan. The Food Trolley will be there, and Secretary Rod Currier has sourced baked goods from a former business acquaintance and is working to provide coffee in the morning. The Model Cat Mania podcast team is planning to be there to provide a podcast of the show.

General Meeting Notes:

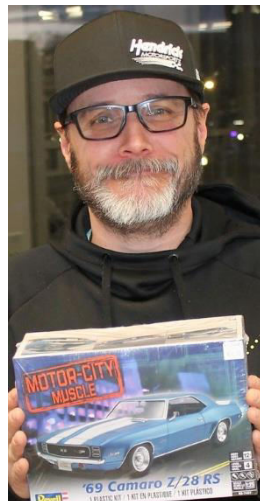
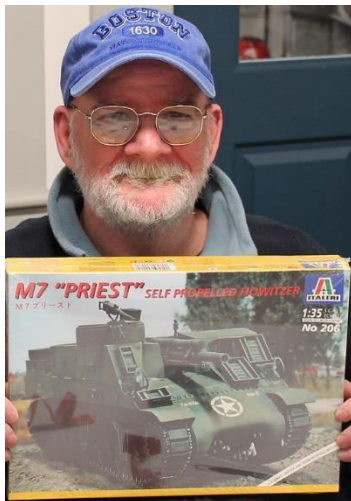
- President Mac Johnston reported the Can Am show is rescheduled for May 9 at the Armory in Williston, VT.
- Our own show fliers are ready. Members are asked to take some and distribute them to hobby shops and other shows.
- The DowneastCon show had a good turnout, with many of our members attending.
- The AMPS show in South Bend, IN, had 572 models on the tables. Many of our AMPS-affiliated members were in attendance. President Mac Johnston received the Best Ordinance Memorial Trophy, only the second one awarded. Show Coordinator John Rauscher received the first one last year. Both members were awarded for their individual versions of the same Vargas 3D printed artillery piece. President Mac Johnston reported that the vendors were a bit off in their business levels from last year.
- Photos were taken of our members and their DowneastCon awards, to be posted on our Facebook page.
- President Mac Johnston plans to do a weathering demo at the close of the meeting tonight if time allows (which it did not).
- Bob Ingalls had a selection of 250th anniversary stickers available to anyone who wished to have them, advising that they are not for outdoor use.
- President Mac Johnston had some 1/24th scale Value Gear 3-D printed accessories ideal for use with automotive and vehicle dioramas. The 3-D printed

blocks of items were slightly warped but usable.

- The suggestion was made to consider taking started kits off your shelf to finish them and present them at a meeting in the future.

April Meeting Raffle Winners!

Our meeting raffle winners were Tom Shannahan, Jason Robidoux, Frank Moore, and John Walker.
Congratulations to all!



The Instruction Sheet Needs You!

Members, we are constantly in need of newsletter content to keep our 3-time 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 "Award Winning" newsletter, and we need your contributions, large or small! It can be a kit or product review, a build review, a site visit, 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.

Anyone in the club can submit their newsletter contribution to either Bob Ferri or Pete Davis for inclusion. *The next newsletter submissions for inclusion in the next issue are due by **June 2, 2026**.*

The Newsletter Team

Newsletter Team

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Contributor/Distribution

Rod Currier

Content Contributors

John Rauscher

Rich Filteau

Mac Johnston

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!



Boomers Books & Empire Models & Molly Stark Bindery - 273 N Stark Hwy
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<http://doubleplayhobbyconsignments.com>

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.



GRANITE STATE
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Subject: _____

Kit Mfg: _____

Scale: _____

Description:

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