



ECPM - We Put It All Together.



(above) Chuck Colucci brought in his VietNam diorama featuring a snarly little boat and it's laid back crewmen. It's the featured article in this issue, starting on page 3.

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Meeting Schedule 2025

January	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
February	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
March	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
April	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
May	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
June	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
July	11:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
August	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
September	11:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
October	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
November	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
December	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist

Meeting Debriefing

ECPM General Meeting April 12, 2025 Minutes

April's meeting: was moved up one week to clear schedules for Easter but even with the date change a total of 23 members and guests attended. Gathered were David Mohr, Alan Welch, Jim Smith, David Leasure, Lee Rouse, Gary Mitchell, Chuck Colucci, Melissa Huyett, Rodney Huyett, Paul Helfrich, Scott Brown, Chris Gimpel, Jim Gimpel, Steven Michel, Pamela Desevelle, Tom Crudane, Greg Marchlinski, William Reese, Dennis Korn, Mark Sandvigen, Robert Brackin, Sean Donnelly, and Andy Fulcher. Quite a star studded event.

Old Business

• **IPMS Membership:** Mark reported that our IPMS chapter is among the best! Many utilized the 3-years for the price of two years dues offer

to bring our total to 21 members current members. It is our understanding this gives us the highest number of IPMS/US members of the chapters in R-12.

Well done ECPM!

- **Book Give Away :** We currently have no updates regarding the modelling book giveaway. Alan has attempted to contact the Mitchell family but has not yet received a response. Therefore, we will temporarily put this matter on hold.
- **Marshall's Osprey Project:** The club will complete an Italeri Osprey started by a recently deceased member and longtime treasurer. William Reese will lead the effort and is seeking volunteers to assist in the project. He will inventory the parts, assign tasks, and return the Osprey to the member's family. It will also be honored and displayed at the 2026 DEC.

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Staff

Publisher/Editor	Alan Welch
Editor.....	Jeff Maples
Editor.....	Mark Sandvigen
Meeting Photographs.....	Dennis Korn
	Alan Welch
	Dale Hansen
Columnist	David Stiteler

Meeting Debriefing

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New Business

• Chapter Charter:

- David Mohr reported that the Final draft of the revised charter is completed. And has been available for the required (as stated in the new charter) 2 weeks for the membership to review and comment. Some of the highlights are:
- b. Charter objectives are now matched to IPMS objectives ECPM is currently affiliated with IPMS and AMPS. The new charter allows for additional affiliations and also allows for terminating these affiliations
 - c. Added an honor roll category to membership and also defined the process and reasons for membership termination.
 - d. Little (very little) joke by David "Car model builders membership will be terminated". Haha...
 - e. The 2 year term for elected officers is established in order to match the show cycle duties.
 - f. Allows the Executive Board to conduct meetings outside of the usual monthly meetings.
 - g. A new roll of contest manager was added to the charter. This does not have to be the president and can change from contest to contest.
 - h. Defined the Election of officers – and added a vote of no confidence to remove an officer amendment process in place.
 - i. There were no concerns or com-

ments. The vote was called by Alan and seconded by Lee and passed unanimously. The new charter is available, including sign-offs, on the ECPM website - <https://www.ecpmod.com/bylaws.html>

Other Con sponsorship: The Northern Virginia IPMS club has always been a generous supporter of our DEC. We missed their show; membership voted to send a check for the next one, Mark will handle it. Sean volunteered to start monitoring clubs that sponsor us so we can reciprocate. Sean will track contests of nearby clubs and update Mark.

Tuesday evening ZOOM build!

Come join us! We get together on zoom, talk about and build models all while enjoying the company of other builders. We gain knowledge and have others we can ask questions of. To get added to the zoom just ask Alan.

Church's December food drive: It was suggested that we get more involved in the church who graciously lets us use their fellowship hall. The church does a Food and Toy drive at Christmas. Alan purposes we all contribute either food/toys. Possible model kits? Snap kits with paints or the Airfix all in one. This will do good for the church, the club and possible get others involved in our hobby. All agreed.

ECPM website: We have a really nice website with a lot of club information available. Please make use of this resource. All dates for the meetings are listed and what is happening (build, raffle, demo) at that meeting. Just go to:

<https://www.ecpmod.com>

For this information. There are also links on each page for suggestions to the Webmaster. If you have any suggestions let us know!

Breaking News: It was announced that ECPM's DownEastCon 2026 will be the R-12 Regional show. Mark Sandvigen will handle all the necessary paperwork.

April Raffle: The \$50 dollars in Hobby Chest tokens went to Rodney Huyett! Congrats Rodney!

April Display Case: Consisted of 19 models!!!!!! (as always pictures available on the ECPM website) Everyone was encouraged to bring Models for the monthly Display Case. Could be recently finished or finished a while ago and never brought in. Could even be a work in progress. Some months we get a lot and some (like March) there were a very few. We are a model club so let's show off those builds, even WIPs. (Thanks Lee). ■

-the editors and publisher

When you turn a Stormtrooper's helmet upside down they are much less serious looking.

Follow me for more tips.



BACKWATER BACK BEAT

by Chuck Colucci



In 1965 an estimated 80,000 Viet Cong occupied the Mekong River Delta. Of this 80,000, some 30,000 were thought to be regular troops while the other 50,000 consisted of part-time guerrillas capable of operating in battalion units. The Mekong River Delta is a vast maze of rivers, swamps and islands located in South Vietnam. Throughout the country, the road and rail systems were rudimentary at best while the extensive waterways provided ready access to the most important resources. Whoever controlled the rivers and canals essentially controlled the heart of South Vietnam. The great strategic and economic importance of these extensive inland waterways made it clear from the beginning of the war that the task of recapturing and controlling these waterways was of primary importance.

So in December of 1965, the U.S. Navy, in collaboration with the South Vietnamese government,

established the River Patrol Force for Operation Game Warden. Operation Game Warden was a joint operation conducted by the U.S. and South Vietnamese Navy's in order to deny Viet Cong access to resources in the Mekong River Delta. This in turn led to the establishment of Task Force 116. Task Force 116 was assigned to patrol and monitor these waterways in order to intercept and disrupt all Viet Cong activities and cut off supply lines.

Task Force 116 would be assigned 120 PBR's (Patrol Boats, River); 20 LCPL's (Landing Craft, Personnel, Large); 1 LSD (Landing Ship, Dock) and helicopter gunship support. The PBR's are shallow- running, fast and highly maneuverable craft that can effectively be used to navigate these waters, intercepting and inspecting river traffic, sweep for mines and support allied personnel on shore.

Designed and built by Hatteras Yachts in High Point, NC, at the

(above) Overall view of Chuck's diorama including the boat, M151A1 4x4, and scratch built dock. Yachting used to be a lot more fun.

time, it's hull was based on an already existing Hatteras Yachts design. The PBR was a versatile boat with a fiberglass hull and water jet drive which enabled it to operate in very shallow and weed-choked rivers. The first 11 boats were delivered in March 1966 with approximately 300 additional units to follow in the next few years, being delivered to U.S. and South Vietnamese military units in the region. It had a maximum speed of 28.5 Knot's (32.8 mph) and operated with a 4 or 5 man crew. The boat was armed with (1) twin.50 cal. Browning machine gun (front); (1) M-2.50 cal. Browning machine gun (rear); (1 or 2) 7.62mm M-60 machine guns (side mounted) and (1) 40mm Mk.18 grenade launcher.

My diorama is based around one of these River Patrol Boats. My

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BACKWATER BACK BEAT

(continued from page 3)



(above) The dio seen from the opposite side. The water looks convincing and the poses and grouping of the figures is pretty natural.

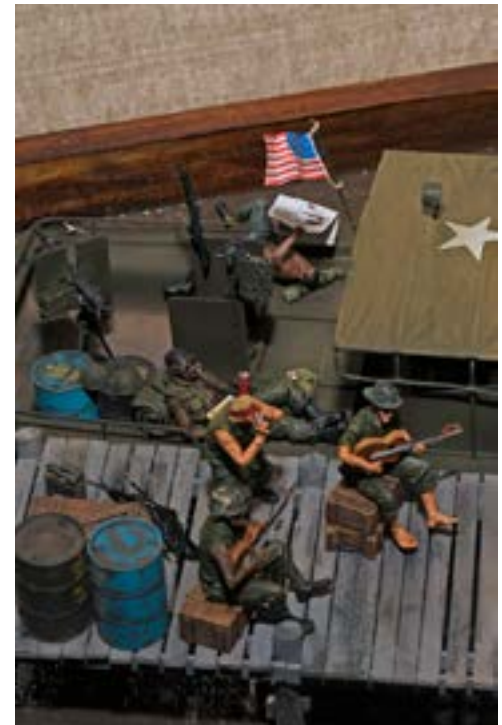
intention for this diorama is to depict a time during the VietNam conflict when troops were presented the rare opportunity to actually lay back, relax and take advantage of the brief intermission from the war. While searching for usable figures, I found that there are multitudes of 1/35 scale figures available from several sources that meet such criteria. I wanted to create a diorama that incorporates these figures to create a story that represents a time when hostility was at a low point and the war could be put on the back burner. At least until tomorrow anyway.

The main subject for this project, of course, is the PBR. For this I used the Tamiya U.S. Navy PBR Mk.II "Pibber". The kit itself was a relatively straight forward build with very good detail. I pretty much built her out-of-box so I didn't do much extra other than what came in the kit. Parts fit together well with minimal

cleanup so it was a relatively quick and easy build. The kit includes a nice selection of figures and accessories but I elected not to use the figures because they don't fit in with my theme. I suppose I could've converted them to something more suitable for my needs but I decided not to at this time. I guess I'll eventually use them or parts of them on some other project sometime. The boat was painted overall Olive Drab (Tamiya XF-62). Since the diorama represents a time shortly after these boats were introduced into the war, I elected to minimize weathering other than dirt and dust that I applied with pastel chalks. Besides, I'm not accustomed to building boats, and not being familiar with weathering them, I decided to keep it simple.

Now that the boat was complete, it was time to plan and design the rest of the diorama. So first off I scratch-

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(below) The River Rat Three get down to some serious blues tunes during the rare "off time" while two other crewmen chill out on the boat's aft deck. Hope they at least one guy on guard duty.

BACKWATER BACK BEAT

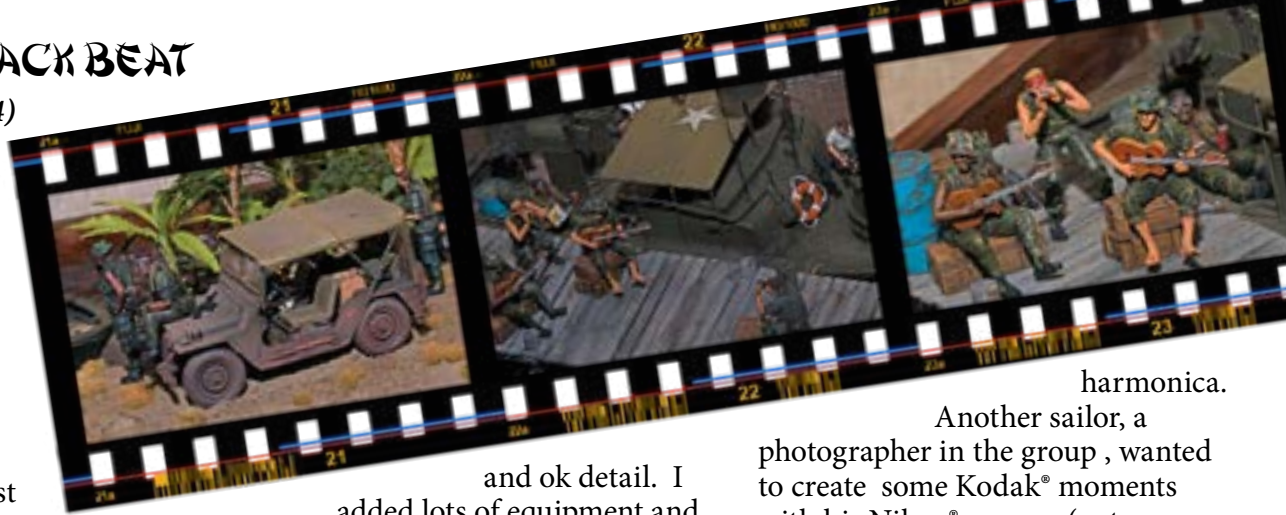
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built a simple dock out of scrap balsa wood. I wanted this to have an older, worn look so I painted it in layers of acrylic paints, washes and oils, with a little dry-brushing in between. With no particular strategy, I just kept applying different paints until I achieved a look that I was satisfied with. So now, with the boat and dock complete, I had a sense of size for the completed project.

So next I built up the base layering styrofoam, allowing for the depth of the water and the contours of the landscape. After carving out the styrofoam to allow for the position of the boat, I crumbled up aluminum foil, re flattened it and glued it to the styrofoam to simulate ripples in the water. This was then painted to mimic the muddy river water of the region. After installing the boat in place and filling the gaps around the boat, I then poured a thin layer of resin and finished the effect using a thin layer Mod Podge. The dock was put in place when the resin was poured. I think the final effect turned out pretty convincing and was well worth the effort.

After this was thoroughly dry it was time to finish the remaining landscape. This was sculptured using paper mache over the styrofoam and then topped with a variety of materials for the ground cover. Then some home made trees and a variety of plants were added to complete the look.

Next I wanted to add a small vehicle to the dirt area near the end of the pier so I added the Tamiya M151A1 4x4 utility jeep. As with most Tamiya builds, this was a relatively fast and problem free build with good fit



and ok detail. I added lots of equipment and such in the front and back seats even though it's not readily noticeable. I know it's there. The model was also painted with Tamiya acrylics and oils in my usual fashion and finished with a modest layer of dirt and dust.

Now it was time to add some life to the project with some figures. As previously mentioned, I wanted to portray a somewhat laid back, relaxed atmosphere so I used a variety of figures from a number of sources that satisfied my needs. Most of the figures are resin. Some of the soldiers are just laying around relaxing, reading newspapers and magazines. Meanwhile, a pair of sailors energized the camp with some jazz, rhythm and blues on their guitars, while a third musician decides to join in with his

harmonica. Another sailor, a photographer in the group, wanted to create some Kodak® moments with his Nikon® camera (not a Canon®). They even attracted a young Vietnamese woman passing by on her daily chores that wanted to stop and enjoy the free concert. After the figures were completed and put in place. I finished up the project by raiding the spare parts box for extra accessories, placing them throughout the scene to complete the story. Maybe not an award winning diorama but a lot of fun to build just the same. I almost wish I made the camp much bigger so I could add some tanks and other items but then again I wouldn't have anywhere big enough to display it. ■

-Chuck Colucci

(below) "Join the Navy and see the world." I'd like to talk with that lyin' recruiter right about now...



A Different Pacific War

Chapter One: Von Spee and the Run For Home *by Alan Welch*

This article is a reprint of a series I wrote for Jim Gower's model ship group, the New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild. There will be 5 parts in total.



This story is long and the happenings so amazing, that I will be posting it in five parts.

It is the last half of 1914 and the world is at peace, generally. Admiral Count Maximilian von Spee is in command of the German East Asian Naval Squadron in Tsingtao, China. Like most European far east colonies it is a backwater and the crews of all navies stationed there were more or less amicable with one another.

That is, until August and the outbreak of hostilities in the great bloodletting that enveloped Europe and, eventually, the entire world. As tensions rose, von Spee ordered the squadron to leave China and sail to a remote German holding, Pagan Island in the Marianas, to avoid an instant confrontation with whomever Germany might suddenly find itself at war.

Von Spee's squadron consisted of the armored cruisers *SMS Scharnhorst*

and *Gneisenau* and the light cruisers *SMS Emden*, *Dresden*, *Leipzig*, and *Nürnberg*, led by officers hand-picked by Grand Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz. Although a fine fighting force it was far too small to survive what was quickly becoming an Allied lake. In conferences with his ship captains it was decided that, after detaching one vessel as a distraction, the rest of the flotilla would head east. After transiting the Straits of Magellan they would try to return to Germany and safety before the Royal Navy could find and destroy them.

It was a gamble and a huge one, but it seemed to be the only option left to them. So in August of 1914 von Spee raised steam and headed east. The initial part of the voyage was successful, the squadron avoided contact with neutral and enemy vessels for most of the crossing of the Pacific.

But meantime, on the other side of the table, British strategists were

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(above) SMS Scharnhorst at speed. She was one of the latest armored cruisers in the High Seas Fleet. photo supplied by Arthur Renard

(below) Admiral Count Maximilian von Spee, an able and daring commander. photo by Ferdinand Urbahns



A Different Pacific War

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making plans of their own. Having intercepted a wireless broadcast, (bloody good show, lads) and learning that the roving German force intended to disrupt allied shipping along the west coast of South America they laid their plans. Knowing the approximate makeup of the enemy force and given speed, weather, and coal capacity the logical place for the Germans to pause in their flight would be the city of Coronel, Chile. So British Admiral Christopher Cradock set off for there with a scratch force to stop the German group.

The Royal Navy's 4th Cruiser Squadron was, indeed, a scratch force. Commanded by Rear Admiral Christopher Cradock it consisted of the older armored cruisers *HMS Good Hope* (his flagship) and *HMS Monmouth*, the modern light cruiser

HMS Glasgow, and the armed merchantman *HMS Otranto*. Most of his ships were outdated and all were outgunned and his flagship, *Good Hope*, was manned mostly by inexperienced reservists, most of them new and inexperienced.

Still, one had one's orders.

The November 1st battle was, predictably, a disaster for the British. *Good Hope* and *Monmouth* were both sunk with appalling loss of life. The two weaker vessels were fortunate to make their escape in exchange for virtually no damage to the Germans save for three seamen injured. However, the action *did* cost the Germans half their ammunition, a loss which would prove significant soon enough.

Rounding the tip of South Amer-

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(Above)
Rear Admiral Christopher Cradock, official photograph. An able and competent seaman and leader, his was a hopeless task.



HMS Good Hope, Cradock's flagship. Already well outgunned by the Germans facing her she was further crippled by being manned with under-trained reservist.

A Different Pacific War

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ica the German force beat its way northeast off the coast of Argentina. Against the advice of his other captains, von Spee had decided to make a quick raid on the British facilities at Stanley on the Falkland Islands.

However, upon coming into visual range, the force discovered instead of a lightly defended outpost, that Stanley had been heavily reinforced by a force under the command of Admiral Doveton Sturdee and consisting of an old (almost useless) battleship, (*HMS Canopus*), numerous cruisers and two brand, spanking new battle Cruisers. (*HMS Inflexible* and *Invincible*) And to the delight of the British, these BCs performed just as Jackie Fisher promised they would. (Setting the stage for some awful surprises for the Admiralty a few years later)

Inflexible and *Invincible* ran the enemy vessels down, shattering the East Asia Squadron. *Gneisenau* and *Scharnhorst* were both sunk, Admiral von Spee and both of his sons serving aboard along with nearly 1,900 German sailors were killed, and two

of the three light cruisers were also sunk in later actions. And then the sea lanes came under complete Allied control. (or so it seemed)

But the tale doesn't end there. The story continues next month in chapter two. ❁

-Alan Welch

below) *HMS Inflexible* rescuing German Survivors, some 215 were pulled from the water. photo by Paymaster Sub Lt Arthur Dyce Duckworth from the collections of the Imperial War Museum.



Battle of Coronel			
Royal Navy		High Seas Fleet	
2	Armored Cruisers (AC)	2	
1	light cruisers (LC)	3	
1	armed merchant cruiser (AMC)	0	
0	transports	3	
Losses			
Royal Navy		High Seas Fleet	
2	armored cruisers (AC)	0	
1,660	killed	0	
unknown	wounded	3	

1st Battle of The Falklands			
Royal Navy		High Seas Fleet	
2	Battle Cruisers (BC)	0	
3	Armored Cruisers (AC)	2	
1	pre-dreadnought (BB)	0	
3	light cruisers (LC)	3	
1	armed merchant cruiser (AMC)	0	
0	transports	3	
Losses			
Royal Navy		High Seas Fleet	
0	armored cruisers (AC)	2	
0	light cruisers	2*	
0	transports	2**	
10	killed	1871	
19	wounded/prisoners	215	

* sunk after the fleet dispersed
 ** scuttled by their crews



OPERATION TIN CAN

One of the grand things about this hobby is the cross fertilization and help offered by many of the chapters and individual chapter members to other people and organizations.

Another opportunity for help and sharing has been recently opened by ECPM chapter member Steve Kasza, and this time the help is offered internationally.

Steve operates a live stream,

[twitch.tv/warduckminiatures](https://www.twitch.tv/warduckminiatures)

where he chanced to meet Rafael Pedro Costa, a builder and armor enthusiast in Benedita, Portugal. Minds merged and interests grew and finally "Operation Tin Can" developed which will have Steve building models of every piece of armor the Portugese Army has used for display in the Museu Militar de Elvas.

The list appears at left and is, no doubt, outdated by the time you are reading this, but the link to the live, dynamic spreadsheet is below. The kits highlighted in green and yellow are already obtained but kits or money to purchase the kits listed in white is still needed. Please contact Steve to donate through the Tin Can FB page, twitch, or warduckminis@gmail.com

Steve is hoping to have this project wrapped up by the museum's 25th anniversary in October of next year.

Worthy goal, Steve. ■

- editor

Museum page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067760216441>

Operation Tin Can:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565140131334>

Link to the dynamic spreadsheet:



Name	Kit Number
250b	6675
Auto Machnegun A.M. Berliet U.D.B. 4 6x6 10ton	
Avon Universal Carrier	KV35011
B700b Howitzer 5.5 inch	135*023
B700b Howitzer 5.5 inch	135*023
Carden Loyd 1.5 Ton	
Chariote	35232
Chariote	82418
Chariote Bufo	82418
Comando V150	82422
Comando V150	35087
Comando V150	35077
Comando V150	35077
Comando V150	82489
EDR 2	82489
Ford Scout Car Mk.I	A1379
GMC 4x4 M942	CB35112
Grazzy	6048
Grazzy Kangaroo	6048
Humber M943	CB35081
Humber M943	AF35050
LeFH18M 10.5cm Howitzer	AF35524
Leopard 2 Trainer	BT002
Leopard 2A6	BT002
M3 VTT	2077
M101	AF35191
M1015 Humvee	35263
M106	1354
M109A2	AF35109
M109A5	AF35109
M113	1354
M113 w/TOW II	1354
M114	CB35102
M113L Enhanced Armament Carrier	13435
M119	R3D35119
M120	1354
M24 Chaffie	AF35209
M3 Scout Car	82451
M3A1 Half-Track	6332
M45A5	2162
M4A3 105mm Howitzer & M1 Dozer Blade	13207
M4A1(76) HV55	35323
M4A3(14) HV55	RM5042
M4A3(105) HV55	6334
M4A3(76) HV55	RM5049
M577	AF3503
M577	35071
M578	AF35110
M5A1 Stuart	AF35105
M60 AV1B	3591
M60 Trainer	AF35249
M60A3	AF35249
M728	35254
M730	AF35002
M74	LF1297
M88	AF35008
M901	264
Pandur	F3057
Panhard HE-60-Z	2084
Recon Vehicle Berliet V.U.D.B. 2-10	
Solexin	3554
Sexton II	6780
TP5 Ford M20 M952	35234
TP7 GM 4x4 m947	35020
Valentina	AF35185
V8L Armored Car	83876
V8L Armored Car	83877
Vickers 6 TON Double turret	35303
Vickers 6 TON Double turret	35304
Vickers Arty. Carrier	CV35003

E C P M. DISPLAY CASE

ART: CAROL PEBAL



(left) The 1968 Corvette is an old build, brought in by David Mohr. In fact, he had to combine two kits to get the right results so this is David's first kitbash. Originally built as a gift for his father who owned the real deal. (Lucky Daddy)

(below) It was a much better turn out, model wise, than last month with a total of 19 completed or WIPs. Once again the variety of builds was impressive, with everything from Dinosaurs to current equipment on the table. Well done ECPM, you guys continually make me proud.



(above) Rodney Huyett brought in two massive Lego builds, Petronas Formula One to the right and the McLaren PL on the left. Rodney says both are easy builds as long as you follow the instructions, have the time to build them and have the space to display them. Both are very impressive, Rodney.





(left) The 1/48 Osprey is by Italeri, the build is by Gary Mitchell. Gary says the kit went together easily with very little filling and sanding needed. The aircraft is painted with Tamiya Acrylics.



(left again) A 1/72 AZ kit of another Italian monstrosity, this time the Breda 65-A 80 in Spanish Civil War service. The kit gets mixed reviews, some aspects are very good and some not so much but it can be finished by the experienced modeler. Build by Alan Welch



(left yet again) Another Gary Mitchell. The 1/48 kit is from Revell and Gary said the kit fitted well although it took some time to finish due to the high volume of parts. Gary finished off the build with Vallejo paints.



(above) Grandpa Munster's "Dragula" in 1/25 scale from the crypt of AMT with home made 3D printed figure.

(below) Herman Munster (another 3D print) by his "Munster Koach". Another 1/25 scale kit from AMT/ERTL.

(left) A 3D print "Vampirella" figure. All home prints and builds by Steven Michel.





(left) Athos, by Aurora, by Paul Helfrich. This is an ancient kit that was last produced in the 1960s. Paul found it long built and discarded, missing the sword and one spur and brought new life to it.



(right) The Blue Knight, an old Aurora, (Yes, this is the Aurora page), kit which turned out beautiful in the hands of Lee Rouse. Lee did a great job on the gold inlay using gold Rub-N-Buff then wiping off the excess with solvent.

(below) Chris Gimpel brought in this magnificent 2001 Corvette C5-R as it appeared in the Daytona 24 hr endurance. The original placed 4th overall and 2nd in class, but it's a winner in 1/25 scale. This beauty as finished in Tamiya TS-34 Camel Yellow. Kit by Revell. (not Aurora)





(above) This is the 1/72 new mold Ju-88-A1 from Revell, in progress by Lee Rouse. It is a seriously detailed and engineered kit, obviously designed with the future in mind. Looks like the plan is to issue new kits with parts to create different variants. Time will tell. Lee says the fit is overall good but with a few problems needing fill and sanding.



(left) The Pirate and the King show the striking difference of scale figure painting. Robert Brackin brought in two more lovely figures. On the right is the 90mm unnamed pirate by Verliden in resin. To the left of him is a 54mm representing King Arthur by Andrea. Both figures are finished in a mix of acrylics and oils.



(left) An Atlantis re-issue of an old kit is this Higgins 78ft Higgins PT boat. Although an odd box scale, 1/102 size, it's still nice to be able to build both the Higgins and the Elco boats. built by Paul Helfrich.



(left) Another older kit by Aurora (!) this time an original issue, but this time resurrected and completed with scratch built parts by Paul Helfrich. This is one of their ancient "Pre-historic Scenes" line in 1/13 scale. (Perhaps a prophetic scale)



(left) And no meeting could be called complete without at least one A5M Zero kit by William Reece. This is the new 1/48 Fine molds kit which has seriously impressed William with it's detail, engineering and fit of parts.



(left) A different angle of Chuck Colucci's VietNam Diorama covered in depth starting on page 3 of this issue.



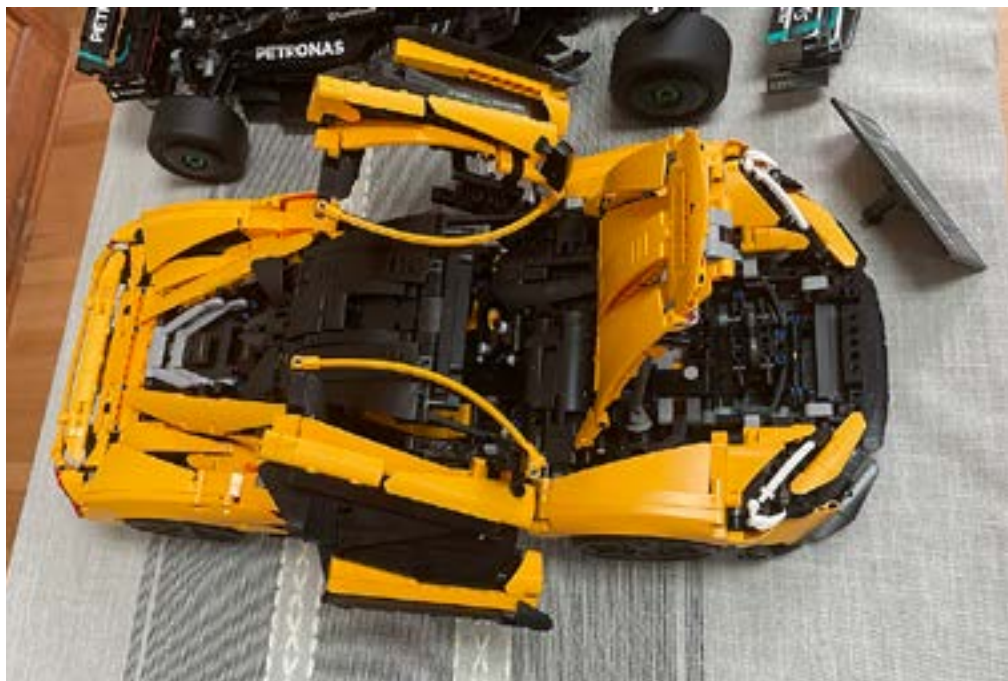
(left) One of the three vehicles presented by Jim Smith was this 1971 Dodge Charger in "Go Mango" orange metallic lacquer. The kit is from AMT in 1/25 scale.



(left again) A Revell released 1/24 scale Shelby Cobra 427 S/C beautifully finished in Italian Red by Jim Smith. Jim will be giving a demo on wiring engines during next month's meeting so don't miss it.



(above) The Osprey is an emotional scene for us. This is the kit our late Treasurer, Mr. Marshall Smith, was in the process of building but never got the chance to finish. We have volunteered to take it on as a group project to finish his last work and donate it back to the family as a remembrance. We, too, miss you Marshall.



(left) I have brought us back to this build again because I am so impressed with the fact that it is not only a LEGO kit, but that it has a total of 3,893 pieces! Well done Mr. Rodney Huyett, well done.



RANDOM MEETING SHOTS



News from IPMS/USA

Region News and updates.

Recent correspondence from IPMS Region 12 Coordinator Tim Kirkland focused on two areas related to local contests sponsored by individual IPMS Chapters and independent modeling clubs.

First here are few suggestions regarding the terminology used for judging categories in local contests. While a person who builds military models understands what "Civilian Vehicle" means in the models they work on, that term does not mean the same thing to a person who builds mostly automotive or truck models or someone without a military background. Conversely, a person who builds military models thinks Street Rods and Street Machines are the same thing, while to the automotive modeler they are two entirely different subjects. This can be further compounded by local shows that tend to focus on or have a lot of participation in certain categories, such as Armor, Figures, Sci-Fi or Automotive. His advice was to try to use categories with more common wording – like Automotive instead of Civilian Vehicle – and that while IPMS USA does not tell Chapters how to run their local contests the categories used for the National Contest are a good place to start, even if you don't plan to use all the categories they do.

Second, one of his roles as Regional Coordinator is to monitor the

proposed contest calendar each year in his region (and the adjacent Regions 2 and 3) in order to avoid having multiple contests on the same weekend or immediately before/after each other. Having contests close together makes it difficult to attract vendors, who must travel from show to show, or for modelers to get something new completed to enter in a local contest. His biggest concern is not IPMS local chapters, who he is in regular contact with, but the independent model clubs who may have a contest and not be aware of IPMS chapter events. By his estimate, there are 6 independent clubs in South Carolina and 7 in North Carolina right now. He has asked that local chapter members who are involved with or have contacts with independent clubs reach out and let them know about this situation, and that he will gladly put their events on his calendar so that conflicts can be minimized.

And, Tim received the following interesting email this month. Please read and share.

Tim,
This is Jim Malcolm from the Catawba Valley Scale Modelers in Hickory, NC.

The Hickory Aviation Museum, located at the Hickory Airport, will be opening their new museum at the Hickory Airport later this summer. One thing that will be on display in

the new museum is a really big 1/48 scale USS Saratoga CV-60 aircraft carrier model. This model was purchased from another museum that went out of business.

The museum has asked our club to build 1/48 scale aircraft models to go on the carrier. They would like to have each type of aircraft that served on SARA from 1960 until it was decommissioned after Desert Storm. Would you send out to the clubs in the Region about this, and see if anyone has a model with USS Saratoga markings that they would like to donate to the project. A sign would be displayed with the ship model with the name of anyone who has an aircraft on display on the model. If anyone would like to build a new kit for this project, we will check with the museum about funding for the kits.

All of the models need to be 1/48 scale aircraft that have markings for squadrons that served on SARA. Also, any deck support vehicles and deck crewmen are needed.

Thanks for the help with this. Anyone can contact me about this at: jmalcolm4850@gmail.com or call me at 828-499-0069.

-Tim Kirkland
Region 12 Region Coordinator.
Please contact
Tim Kirkland
kirklandmr6@aol.com

AMPS SitRep



AMPS 2025 International Convention

May 15, 2025 to May 17, 2025
Penn Harris Hotel, Camp Hill, PA
Website:

<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteShows/ShowMain.aspx?sid=10127>

Theme: African Armor

Any armored themed entry serving on the African continent from 1899 to the present. Entry must contain documentation (which I interpret to mean what AMPS requires to receive the 0.5 point for research and noting why it matches the theme).

I note the accepted (United Nations) definition of the African Continent consists of 54 countries and 4 Territories or Dependencies. This includes all of North Africa (WW2), but only a few of the countries considered Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia) today - much of WW1 (Palestine), and all of West Asia (current affairs) are excluded.

Here is the room booking link:

<http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/56438?checkInDate=05/14/2025&checkOutDate=05/19/2025&groupCode=051425AMP>

The hotel block is already open. Special rate is \$149/night excluding taxes. WIFI & Parking are included at the room rate. To reserve by telephone, call 717-763-7177 and quote group code 051425AMP.

Apparently the host hotel (Wyndham/Penn Harris) has changed to a Mercato Mio Italian Restaurant, serving breakfast and dinner. The Perkins is still at the end of the parking lot.

Online registration for the AMPS 2025 convention will be open January 1st and runs through May 11th. **** NEW **** There will be two computers online/onsite for onsite registration. There will be no handwritten registration forms. There will be a separate Walk-In Registration Area for those who do not pre-register for the show. AMPS will provide a laptop & printer for members to enter their information, make electronic payments, and print their model entry forms. Registration Coaches will be in the area to assist. So the old excuse of needing to make a last-minute update doesn't count any longer. It's a change that is long overdue, IMHO.

AMPS Membership info:

<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteMain/AboutAMPS.aspx#Join>



We have an extensive line to choose from and are willing to accept custom orders.

Read the details at the link above. Basically, you get two printed Boresight magazines per year, and access to the other four issues online. You can attend AMPS events as a non-member, but you cannot enter any models for display or for awards.

We kind of lost track of our AMPS Members and need to recover that information, so many ECPM members may get an survey (email or other) from the Treasurer or another officer to capture your name, AMPS# & expiration date, or you can just send me that info.

More on all this later or if there are questions of me, let me know. The best way to contact me is by email (John.Ratzenberger@earthlink.net) and help me out by putting ECPM-AMPS in the subject so I know it's important to me. Thanks, ■

- John Ratzenberger

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Region 12 Listing

Contact & meeting information on regional IPMS model building groups. This will give you the opportunity to visit other IPMS chapters.

Charlotte Scale Modelers

Meeting Times: 1st Friday of each month at 7:00pm at the Memorial United Methodist Church; 4012 Central Ave, Charlotte, 28105.

Contact Name: Joel Robinson

Email: jrobinsonusaf@aol.com
charlotte_scale_modelers@ipmsusa.org
www.charlottescalemodelers.com

Coastal Carolina Modelers Association

Meeting times: 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 am, at 119 Bramwell Drive, Summerville, SC

Contact Name: Dave Corvino

Email: dcorvino@sc.rr.com

E-mail:

coastal_carolina@ipmsusa.org

Eagle Squadron

General Meeting Times: 2nd Sunday at 1:00pm-3:00 pm at the American Cleveland Draft House, 1420 East Broad Street in Fuquay Varina & an Informal Build Night, Hangar 18 Hobbies in Cary the last Wednesday of each month from 6pm-8pm.

Contact Name: Lee Griffin

Email: eagle_squadron@ipmsusa.org
https://www.facebook.com/IPMS_EagleSquadron

Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers

Meeting Times: 3rd Saturday of the month, 12:00 noon-2:00pm at the Bridgeton Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall

510 B Street, Bridgeton, NC 28519

Contact Name: Dennis Korn

Email: drkornnwp56@yahoo.com
eastern_carolina@ipmsusa.org

Gamecocks

Meeting times: 2nd Sunday of the month at 3pm-5pm, at Sumter County Airport, Sumter, South Carolina

Contact Name: Wes Macon

Email: awmacon@yahoo.com
gamecocks@ipmsusa.org

Gaston County Model Builders

Meeting Times: 4th Friday of the month 6:30 pm at Christ United Methodist Church, 3415 Union Rd Family Life Center, Gastonia, NC

Contact Name: Lee Whitworth

Email: dlw6290@hotmail.com
gaston_county@ipmsusa.org
Zoom meeting also available at same time, email to: dlw6290@hotmail.com

George Preddy

Meeting Times: 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Sarah's Kabob Shop- 5340 W. Market St. Greensboro, NC

Contact Name: William Workman

Email: stonehill123@peoplepc.com
george_preddy@ipmsusa.org

Grand Strand Scale Modelers

Meeting times: 10:00am- 3rd Saturday at Horry County Memorial Library, Socastee Connector Road 141, SC-707 Socastee, SC

Contact Name: Rick Reinhart

Email: gssmpres@gmail.com
Email: grand_strand_scale_modelers@ipmsusa.org

Lafayette Scale Modelers

Meeting times.2nd Friday of each month, at 6:30 PM at the Westover Recreation Center, 267 Bonanza Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303.

Contact Name: Eric Engstrom

srericengstrom@aol.com

Mid Carolina Swamp Fox

Meeting Times: 3rd Wednesday of the month 6pm-8pm at the Lexington County Library 5440 Augusta Rd, Lexington, SC

Contact Name: Hub Plott

Email:

dlhpgamecocks@mindspring.com
Email: mid_carolina_swamp_fox@ipmsusa.org

Mooresville/Race City Modelers

Meeting Times: 3rd Sunday of the month, 2pm to 5pm, at Fast Trax Raceway & Hobby, 1-50 Ostwalt Amity Rd, Troutman, NC, 28166

Contact Name: Dave Sciano

Email: mlbdave@yahoo.com
Phone:336-244-5173
ipms_mooresvillerrace_city_modelers@ipmsusa.org

Pee Dee Scale Modelers

Meeting Info: Second Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m., Dunkin' Donuts,

2210 West Lucas St., Florence, SC

Contact Name: Dale Perdue

E-Mail: dwperdue68@gmail.com

Piedmont Scale Modelers

Meeting Times: 2nd Saturday of the month at 10am-4pm at the Greenville Military History Center of the Carolinas at 14 Airport Road Ext. Greenville, SC

Contact Name: Dennis White

Email: sunjester1967@gmail.com
piedmont_scale_modelers@ipmsusa.org

Spartanburg Scale Modelers

Meeting times: 4th Saturday of the Month, 12pm-3pm; Spartanburg Memorial Airport; 500 Ammons Rd, Spartanburg, SC 29306

Contact Tim Kirkland

Email: kirklandmr6@aol.com

Winston-Salem

Meeting Times: 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM; Southfork Community Center 4403 Country Club Road Winston-Salem, NC

Contact Name : Will Pecoul

Email: wpecoul@gmail.com
winston-salem@ipmsusa.org

Region 12 Coordinator

Tim Kirkland

170 Kensington dr #107

Spartanburg, SC 29306

Phone 864 504 0745

Email: kirklandmr6@aol.com

The following clubs are non-IPMS groups but are included as a courtesy:

(continued on page 22)

Smoky Mtn. Model-Con

42nd Annual - presented by Knoxville Scale Modelers Association



**I WANT YOU
TO COME TO THE SHOW**
Saturday May 31, 2025

MODEL CONTEST aircraft, armor, autos, figures, sci-fi/fantasy, ships, dioramas and more...	9:00 am to 4:00 pm KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC H.S. (in the gymnasium) 9245 Fox Lomas Rd. NW Knoxville, TN 37923	HOBBY VENDORS RAFFLE DRAW (with great prizes) FELLOWSHIP
Contest Information: - Judging by IPMS standards - 1", 2" and 3" for each category (with categories possible at judge's discretion) - Categories and entry form on back of page and website General contact: Michael Huber mhuber123@aol.com	Contestant Admission: Adults \$10.00 for first 2 models, and \$1.00 for each additional model 18 and under FREE General Admission: Adults \$1.00 18 and under FREE	Vendor information: - Tables are 4' x 7' - \$25 per table (paid prior to May 1, 2025 \$25 thereafter) - Doors open for setup at 7:00am - Help unloading and loading available if needed Vendor contact: Anthony Garcia 2024csbama@aol.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS:
www.KNOXVILLESCELEMODELERS.com



Chattanooga ModelCon 2025

June 13th & 14th 2025

Chattanooga Convention Center
...Friday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
...Saturday 9 a.m. - 4th p.m.

- Our Popular Gold-Silver-Bronze Format will be used for ALL contest models, including Automotive
- "Best Of" Awards for Aircraft, Armor, Automotive, Figure, Sci-Fi, Misc. and Dioramas
- Display only models are welcome and are free to display
- Model registration begins on Friday at 1 p.m. and ends on Saturday at noon
- Vendors can be open for business starting on Friday by 1 p.m. A very large number of vendors is expected
- Large raffle drawing on Saturday
- Once again in a ballroom with carpet and good lighting
- **This year's theme: SCI-FI**

For additional information, entry forms, show rules, etc. go to
www.chattanoogamodelers.com

General contact - Ben Gibby bbgibby2014@outlook.com

Vendor Contact - Jeff Mattheiss jeffmattheissfamily@gmail.com



August 6 _ 9, 2025
Hampton Roads Convention Center
1610 Coliseum Drive
Hampton, Virginia 23666



September 20 2025
"RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN CONTEST"
Maxton event center 511 Bryant Rd Spartanburg, SC 29303
Sponsored by IPMS Spartanburg Scale Modelers
70 CATEGORIES, 8 Juniors, TV and Movie categories with
Figures, Spacecraft, Armor, Aircraft, Automotive, Figures, Ships, Dioramas,
with Humor, Gundams
For information Tim Kirkland
kirklandmr6@paol.com
864 504 0745





It's a great time to join or re-up! Remember IPMS/US special anniversary offer, here is the official web announcement:

Fellow IPMS/USA members, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of our great society we are offering a three-year Adult membership to any new or existing member for only \$60.00! Three-year Family memberships are only \$65.00. This is a one-time offer in celebration of our Society's many contributions to the scale modeling hobby. This offer is for all new and existing members on a one time only basis and will be available starting on the first day of the 2024 National Convention (July 17,2024) until the day before the 2025 National Convention (August 5, 2025).

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM

IPMS No.: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____
If Renewing _____ First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature (required by P.O.) _____

Type of Membership Adult, 1 Year: \$30 Adult, 2 Years: \$58 Adult, 3 Years: \$86

Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17 Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals) How Many Cards? _____

Canada & Mexico: \$35 Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order

Payment Method: Check Money Order

Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____

If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number:

Name: _____ IPMS No.: _____

IPMS/USA

Join or Renew Online at: www.ipmsusa.org

PO Box 1411

Riverview, FL 33568-1411

Region 13 Chapters

(continued from page 16)

Carolina Maritime Model Society

Meeting time/date TBA at the North Carolina Maritime Museum, 315 Front St., Beaufort, NC, and the museum is a great meeting space.

<https://www.facebook.com/CMMSNC/>

Jacksonville NC Plastic Modelers

Meeting times: 1pm every second Sunday at The Hobby Chest, 345 Western Blvd, Jacks, 510 B Street, Bridgetonville, NC. The Hobby Chest carries a great selection of hobby kits and supplies and is a grand center for tabletop gaming activities. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1319666224752922>

New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

Meeting location: 12 noon the second Saturday of each month at 604 Guion St., New Bern, N. For up to date info on their meetings: <https://www.facebook.com/nbmmgnc>

Wilmington, NC Plastic Modelers

meeting times: 2pm-4:30pm the 1st Saturday of each month. Meetings are held at the New Hanover County Public Library, Osprey room, 3802 S. College Rd. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117277425006833>

This is the best up to date info we have on the scale model clubs in our region. Should you find an error or omission please contact the editor of this publication.

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Editor's Notes:

Greetings chapter members,

We had an enjoyable, productive, and emotional meeting this past Saturday. And all for vastly different reasons.

Enjoyable because we had good numbers of members and guests showing up and everyone was in a good mood, and it's Spring.

And productive as we got our chapter charter voted on and ratified along with other internal business with ease and no bloodshed. (We're not making that mistake again)

And also emotional because we started on the group build to finish the final project of our late treasurer, Marshall Smith. We volunteered to finish his WIP of a 1/48 scale Osprey and present it to his family as a tribute. Marshall will be missed by all of us and our hearts go out to his family who will miss him most of all. But he certainly will not be lost to this chapter, either.

Not in our lifetimes.

Twenty three members and guests attending, great models, good chapter decisions, plans, schemes, progress, projects, things to do.... trust me, it just doesn't get much better than this.

Thank you ECPM. Being a part of this group is a great experience. I wouldn't miss it for the world. ■

-Editor

The next meeting will be Saturday, May, 17, 2025, 1200 pm until 2:00 pm at the Bridgeton Methodist Church, 510 B Street, Bridgeton, NC. There will be a DEMO! Bring your new builds and any work-in-progress projects. And check your email, our facebook page and ECPM website in case changes are made in time and/or date.

Isn't it time you joined IPMS? http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms_application_form_2019.pdf