



**Special DownEastCon Issue!**

**WE'RE  
BACK!**

Mark the calendar and change the oil in your cars, Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers is hosting yet another DownEastCon and this time it will be the **R - 12 REGIONAL!!**



**Meeting Debriefing**

**ECPM MEETING MINUTES  
January 17, 2026**

The January business agenda began at noon with 21 members and two guests. President Alan Welch called the meeting to order and the following items were presented and discussed:

**Website Report** – Gary Mitchell talked about how the Website traffic was up again this month, with more page hits and more individuals hitting these pages. Gary reminded all in attendance that we have a “Tips & Tricks” page and a “That’s Interesting” page and we would love more content for both. David Mohr commented how easy it was to send in his latest tip (for picking up small parts from the carpet...check out the “Tips & Tricks” page to find David’s tip). David used the link on the page, typed out his tip and sent it off.

**Newsletter Report** - Alan Welch talked about the ECPM award winning newsletter. It’s still going strong and even non-members are asking to get on the email list!

**Tuesday Evening Takeoff (Zoom)** – Dennis Korn updated the group on the weekly Zoom build sessions. Every Tuesday evening starting at 7:00 pm they meet for 2 hours (or however long you can stay) and build models, have great conversation and share helpful tips. It’s a really good time and everyone enjoys themselves. We even had a guest from IPMS (he was in California but used to be a member of a Brooklyn club); as we were talking, he mentioned the Brooklyn club and Steve Kasza said “Hey, my fathers in that club!” Turned out our guest knew Steve’s dad and even talked to him during our Zoom. Small world... If you

*(continued on page 2)*

**Meeting  
Schedule  
2026**

January	<del>12:00-2:00</del>	<del>Bridgeton Methodist</del>
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	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
August	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
September	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
October	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
November	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist
December	12:00-2:00	Bridgeton Methodist

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**Staff**

Publisher/Editor .....	Alan Welch
Editors... David Mohr, Dennis Korn, Lee Rouse	
Meeting Photographs .....	Dennis Korn
	Alan Welch
Columnist .....	David Stiteler,
	John Ratzenberger

# Meeting Debriefing

*(continued from page 1)*

are interested in participating send your request to join to Alan or any Executive Board member and they will get you signed up.

**IPMS Insights** – Alan Welch mentioned that IPMS is gearing up for the Nationals which are close in date (August 5 - 8, 2026) to our show. Dennis Korn mentioned the calendar that came with the latest IPMS Journal and commented on the fact that it has current shows listed, even ours. Dennis also presented Mark Sandvigen with his 2025 IPMS Regional Member of the year award. Congratulations Mark! Alan asked any members who have gently used IPMS journals they are willing to part with to bring them to the next meeting to use as handouts for the DEC2026, they are good for promoting IPMS membership.

**Down East Con 2026** – Each section head gave a brief report on their status, as noted below. Alan Welch announced he will soon begin monthly Zoom meetings for all section leads. Alan also reminded all in attendance that this is an 'all hands' event. We need all members to participate and help out to make the show a success.

**Vendor Status** – Tim Ryan reported that 10 vendors have expressed interest, with 6 reserving tables. Tim is making calls to other vendors from last DEC2024. Mark Sandvigen will send Tim the R12 Vendor list he received from Tim Kirkland. It was suggested that we reach out to vendors 1 state above and 1 state below North Carolina as most likely to attend our event.

**Registration** – No one has registered yet since our on-line pages are not up and running. They are in progress and due to be completed early next week, when they will be available for review. Gary Mitchell will send the new pages to all ECPM Board

members for review. Gary will get with Mark Sandvigen to work out the details for using PayPal to collect registration fees. Dennis Korn asked for a list of last show's (DEC2024) winners so he can verify that any models entering this year did not win at DEC2024. It was brought up that there would be an option to allow 5 more models to be registered (over the current 10) for an additional \$5. This will need to be added into the online registration.

## **Sponsorship and Awards Status**

– Alan Welch stated we need to set pricing for both. There are no sponsorships as of yet

**Judge Training** – Steve Kasza will begin Judge training during the March 2026 monthly club meeting.

**Raffle/Model Kit Donations** – David Mohr stated he has about 130 kits for the raffle. He needs to fill in some armor, cars & trucks and ships. David also mentioned if you have any castaway kits (started, missing pieces, etc.) he is accepting those also and they will be sold at the show to make the club a couple of bucks.

**Other Events** – Gary Mitchell reminded everyone of upcoming IPMS/Non-IPMS Shows and Club Events. If any you know of are not listed, please use the link at the bottom of the page to send him the information.

**Sponsoring Awards at Other Region Contests** – Mark Sandvigen asked the club what we should do when asked about sponsoring at contests within our IPMS Region. These include the Old Dominion Open (ODO), Northern Virginia and Beach Con. It was decided by the group that for Northern Virginia we would sponsor 2 categories and a class award, and for Beach Con we would sponsor 2 categories. It was also decided that we would allow the clubs to use the sponsorship monies for whatever categories are open;

it matters more that we sponsor and not what we sponsor. Showing support for other IPMS clubs and contests is important if we expect them to support us.

## **Other New Business**

**New Bern Train Show** – Once again this year the Coastal Carolina RR Club is giving ECPM table space (thank you Dennis Korn) for club promotion. We are asking all members to man the table and help promote modelling and ECPM. It's easy and its fun! You can bring models to display, you can work on a model, or you can even do both! We are asking you to sign up on the website for a 2-hour shift and in return you get free admission to the train show! This event will take place on February 21 & 22, 2026 at the New Bern Convention Center

**February Meeting** – Members were told to note the date change to February 28th; this was done to allow folks to attend and man the ECPM table at the New Bern Train Show.

**Some Freebies** - Jim Gower brought in some modelling tools that were donated by a ship modeler who could no longer enjoy the hobby. Thank you, Jim and please thank your friend for us.

With no other new business brought forward by the membership, the business agenda was concluded around 1:00 pm and was followed by the Display Case presentations, led by Dennis Korn. And what time was left was open for the group build. 🌟

*-Gary Mitchell*



# IPMS R 12 Regional July 18, 2026 Havelock Tourist and Event Center



## **Special “Americana Theme” rules:**

*There are no categories or scale divisions, all kits will be judged together as a theme class. All theme builds must be placed on the theme table(s) where they will be judged. Only models of subjects in the categories listed below will be allowed to participate in the Theme Contest.*

## **NOTE:**

*Models entered in the Americana theme contest will be judged **only** in the theme contest. They are not eligible for competition in any other category. All entries for the theme award must be placed on the Theme Tables only. If they are mistakenly placed in their normal category area they will be eligible and judged for that category only. (A 1/72 P-51 would be judged in category 04)*

## **X. DEC26 Special Categories for the America, Inspiration and Innovation Theme**

### **Ships:**

*1000 USS Constitution, any scale  
1000 Liberty Ship, any scale  
1000 USS Nautilus (SSN-571), any scale*

### **Planes:**

*1000 Wright Brothers Flyer, any scale  
1000 DC-3 /C47, any scale  
1000 Lockheed F117 Nighthawk, any scale*

### **Armor:**

*1000 US Abrams, M1, M1A1, M1A2, M1A3,  
US service, any scale  
1000 US Willy’s Jeep, any scale  
1000 US Sherman M4, any model in US service,  
WW-II or Korea, any scale*

### **Automotive:**

*1000 Model T Ford, any scale  
1000 Chevy Corvette, (‘53-‘67), any scale  
1000 Harley Davidson, any scale, any era*

### **Other:**

*1000 Space Shuttle/Space Program, any scale  
1000 Moon Landing, Vehicles and Equipment, any scale  
1000 Americana Diorama, any scales, any era*

# DownEastCon 2026

## Contest Rules

01. Models will be judged against each other based on standard IPMS judging guidelines. **Each category will have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.** There is no Out of Box (OOB) award. First place models in a category are eligible to be judged for "Best of Class" (39 - 45) Special Awards. Only the Best of Class winners are eligible to be judged for the "Best of Show" (46) Special Award. Any "theme model" is eligible for the Theme Special Award only and must be placed on the Theme Category section only.
02. A contestant can enter a maximum of ten (10) models total of which no more than 6 per class and no more than 2 per category. Should a contestant wish to enter additional models they would be able to buy a space block of 5 additional models for an additional \$5.00. A modified "No Sweeps" rule is in effect that states a modeler cannot take all 3 places in a category but can take 2 of 3 places. (NOTE: Juniors classes are exempt from this rule and can enter unlimited models)
03. This is a family-friendly show. The Head Judge may exclude from competition and/or public display and entries which he/she considers to be offensive to generally acknowledged standards of taste and acceptability. This does not apply to historical aircraft nose-art.
04. All entries must be the sole work of the individual whose name is on the registration and entry forms, with the exception of category 01 where juniors may have limited parental aid subject to judges' acceptance. However, a surrogate may bring another person's model, but the registration must be that of the builder. Commercially built and/or finished models (die-cast, etc) won't be accepted for entry in any category.
05. Models are entered solely at the entrants' risk. Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers does not assume any liability for loss or damage to any model. Models may be handled during judging. If necessary, we will ask the modeler to remove display cases prior to judging. If you do not want your model touched, please state so in writing in the notes section (on page 1 of the Model Builder Registration). This statement must include your cell phone number so you can be called to move your own model. If you do not respond to the call, your model will not be judged.
06. Vignettes vs. Dioramas: The number of subjects (vehicles and/or figures) will determine in which category an entry is placed.  
**Vignettes:** A single vehicle and/or no more than 5 figures. Vignettes will be placed in the proper Class/Category.  
**Dioramas:** Dioramas are story-centric, specifically built to tell a story or convey a message, and with 2 or more vehicles and/ or more than 5 figures. Dioramas will be placed in Class VII and the appropriate category(ies). The storyline will be considered equally to construction and finish of the individual subjects, figures, and other presentation components. Builds and dioramas largest measurement must be no more than twenty four inches, (24"). Larger sizes must have prior clearance from the con committee to be displayed.
07. Junior entrants ages 13 to 17 (category 02.) may compete in either their junior category OR any other category their model would be eligible for competing, but not both. Please fill in the category you wish to enter.
08. The Contest Registration Committee will assist in determining entry class and category at the time of registration. If an entry qualifies to be in more than one category (i.e., a 1/32 biplane could be either 03 or 11) the entrant may select which category he would like the model to compete. In all cases the final determination rests with the Chief Judge and the decision of the Chief Judge is final. A category may be split or combined at the discretion of the Chief Judge to balance numbers of entries for competition.
09. Judging: IPMS guideline standards will be used with every numbered category. Judges are not allowed to judge a category in which they are entered. For the "American Icons" theme, models within a single Class will be judged together no matter their category.
10. An entry which has won a Gold/1st place medal or the People's Choice Award in any previous DownEast-Con will be placed on our Display Only Table. Silver and Bronze winners of previous DownEastCons can be judged for 2026. Those models that won Gold/1st place in other contests can be entered for judging.
11. **Automotive Category Definitions.**  
**FACTORY STOCK** - A vehicle as it would have come from the factory paint; must resemble factory paint; wheels can be replaced. Documentation may be requested for any vehicle that appears unusual.  
**HOT/STREET RODS, STREET MACHINES** - Modified vehicles intended to be street driven. Models must be street legal; treaded tires, exhaust systems, license plate, etc.  
**COMPETITION** (open wheel and/ or closed wheel) - Those vehicles intended for a track (whether round, left/right or straight).  
**COMMERCIAL** - (Heavy and/ or light) - Those vehicles intended for the service industry(think of your local plumber up to long hall trucker), They would have some sort of marking to indicate which industry for which they are working.  
**CUSTOMS** - Vehicles that have undergone extensive body work, designed for display competitions, and may or may not be street legal. 🚗

# DownEastCon 2026 Classes/Categories

**Americana Theme Category:** Please note that a model can be entered in its normal class/category OR in the special "Americana Theme" contest only. A model cannot be entered in both. The Americana Theme rules are found at the end of the Classes/Categories list.

## 0. Juniors

- 001. Junior entries, ages 5-12
- 002. Junior entries, ages 13-17

## I. Aircraft

- 101. Multi-wing & rigged, all scales
- 102. Single engine prop, 1:72 and smaller
- 103. Single engine prop, 1:48, Allied<sup>1</sup>
- 104. Single engine prop, 1:48, Axis<sup>1</sup>
- 105. Multi engine prop, 1:72 and smaller
- 106. Multi engine prop, 1:48
- 107. Jets, 1:72 & smaller
- 108. Jets, 1:48
- 109. Aircraft, 1:32 & larger, all types
- 110. Helicopters, all scales  
(Note: unmanned aerial vehicles, (UAVs), compete by engine & scale)

## II. Military Vehicles

- 201. Armor, 1:35 & larger, closed top, all eras, Allied<sup>1</sup>
- 202. Armor, 1:35 & larger, closed top, all eras, Axis<sup>1</sup>
- 203. Armor, 1:35 & larger, open top w/interiors, all eras
- 204. Wheeled & soft-skin vehicles, all scales, all eras
- 205. Armor, 1:48 & smaller, all eras
- 206. Ordnance – missiles & towed arty, all scales & eras

## III. Figures

- 301. Large Historical Figures, 54mm and larger
- 302. Small Historical Figures, 53mm and smaller
- 303. Tabletop Gaming Figures<sup>3</sup>

## IV. Ships

- 401. Surface, sail & oar powered, all scales
- 402. Surface, powered, (steam/nuke), 1:499 & larger
- 403. Surface, powered, (steam/nuke), 1:500 & smaller:  
1:600, 1:700, 1:1200,
- 404. Submersibles, all eras, all scales

## V. Automotive

- 501. Factory Stock, all scales
- 502. Hot/Street rods & street machines, street legal, all scales
- 503. Competition, open wheel, all scales
- 504. Competition, closed wheel, all scales
- 505. Commercial, light duty, all scales,  
(single rear axle, vehicles and trailers)
- 506. Commercial, heavy duty & equipment, all scales  
(multi-axle & tracked)
- 507. Sit upon, (bikes, trikes, go carts), all scales
- 508. Customs, all types, all scales

## VI. Space & Sci-Fi Vehicles & Installations

- 601. Real space, all scales
- 602. Fantasy/Sci-Fi, vehicles & figures, all scales
- 603. Gundam & Mecha, all scales

## VII. Dioramas

- 701. Military, all scales, all eras
- 702. Civilian, all scales, all eras

## VIII. Miscellaneous

- 801. All other entries, humorous, or hypothetical, all scales

## IX. Special Awards

- 901. Best Aircraft
- 902. Best Military Vehicle
- 903. Best Figure
- 904. Best Ship
- 905. Best Automotive
- 906. Best Space & Sci-Fi
- 907. Best Diorama
- 908. Americana Theme
- 909. Marshall Smith Memorial Best EMS Subject<sup>4</sup>
- 910. Naval Aviation Golden Wings Award<sup>2</sup>
- 911. Best in Show

*1 For contest clarification, Allied/Axis determination is by markings. i.e. a captured Spitfire in German markings is classified as Axis. All neutral vehicles are, by default, Allied.*

*2 Any U.S. Navy or Marine aviation related subject. If it flies, services or carries anything piloted by Navy or Marine Aviators it can compete in this special category in addition to its normal class/category. Must have the appropriate box checked on the model registration form.*

*3 Gaming figures are defined as scale no larger than 32mm, must identify what gaming system they operate in, and must be mounted on a standard gaming base.*

*4 Any emergency vehicle carrying first responders, Police, fire, ambulance.*



# Model Registration Sheet

## EGPM DOWN EAST GON

### We put it all together!

**NOTE:** A separate registration form must be completed and submitted for each model to be entered into competition.

Builder#: \_\_\_\_\_ Entry#: \_\_\_\_\_

Class #: \_\_\_\_\_ Category#: \_\_\_\_\_

Scale of Build: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Build: \_\_\_\_\_

Kit(s) Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes (tell us about your build): \_\_\_\_\_

**Theme:**

Americana

Golden Wings

No Theme

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fold Here before placing on display table

## Model Builder Registration

If you are entering more than one model please fill out this section on the first entry, then you only need to write your name on the subsequent forms. In any case this page needs to be folded under with this side facing the table.

I.P.M.S. Member?  Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*If a registered model is not intended to be a theme entry (see theme descriptions on Rules, page 2, Rules 12 & 13) the builder can register the model in it's appropriate Class and Category and check off the "No Theme" box on this registration form. Then the model(s) will be judged for it's appropriate Class/Category.

If your models are participating in the "Americana" or Golden Wings" theme, please check the "Yes Theme" box and the Class/Category spaces on this form are not utilized.

**NOTE:** If either theme box(es) are not checked, then the default places the model in the normal contest and not the Theme contest.

**Be sure to have your class and categories listed correctly.**

**This is a class:** VI. Space & Sci-Fi Vehicles & Installations\*  
**These are categories in this class:** 601. Real Space. All Scales  
603. Fantasy/Sci-Fi. All Scales

Models are entered solely at the entrant's risk. Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers does not assume any liability for loss or damage to any model. Models may be handled during judging. If necessary, we will ask the modeler to remove display cases prior to judging. If you do not want your model touched, please write in Notes (on page 1) by the model stating as such. The note **must include your cell phone number** so you can be called to move your own model.

**If you do not respond, your model will not be judged!**

02/4/2026

# ECPM DownEastCon

## Contest Registration

Please PRINT clearly and complete all information

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ IPMS # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter or Club affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

E. C. P. M. USE ONLY

Entry Payment Received • Participant # assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

### Entries Data

Entry #	Scale	Model Name	Class/Category	Theme
01.				
02.				
03.				
04.				
05.				
06.				
07.				
08.				
09.				
10. <b>A</b>				<b>B</b>



**A.** Total number of Entries is a maximum of 10 models

**B.** Total number of Entries per Class is 6, per Category is 2

Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers thanks you for your participation and welcomes you to the event. **We hope you will have a great time!**

12/03/25

# Sponsor An Award At DownEastCon 2026!

You can soon sponsor a category, class, or even a coveted "best of" trophy for the 2026 DownEastCon online and your name will live in song and legend forever.

OK, enough hyperbole but please consider becoming a sponsor. It's not expensive, we would certainly appreciate it, and would give you credit online and at the show itself.

**Categories: 1st Category \$30**  
**Each additional**  
**Category \$25**

**Class:..... a bargain at \$40,**  
**"Best Of":..... astoundingly, only \$50**

We are now preparing online sponsorship as well as online model registration. Our goal is to make your supporting of the DownEastCon 2026 as easy as it was to breeze past the welcome desk at the DownEastCon 2024.

Contact Mark Sandvigen  
mark.sandvigen@yahoo.com  
(703) 434-0834

Mark Sandvigen  
DownEastCon Sponsorship Coordinator  
3908 Sienna Trail  
New Bern, NC 28562-9219



# A Christmas Well Spent by Mark Sandvigen



Once again, the ECPM family stepped up in a generous way—this time to help bring Christmas joy to someone who hasn't truly experienced it in a long while.

Earlier this year, our club donated a large tub of 1/48 scale aircraft kits to GySgt Sam Bennett, USMC (Ret.). Sam eagerly worked his way through nearly every model, with one exception: the kit he wanted most of all—a Revell 1/32 scale Huey UH-1D.

Sam is a Vietnam veteran who served as a crew chief on USMC F-4B Phantoms with VMFA-542 "Bengals." During his time at Da Nang, personnel shortages often required him to assist with both Hueys and Cobras—aircraft that left a lasting impression on him and helped shape his love for aviation.

While visiting Sam, along with several other veterans at the Nursing Home, he sheepishly showed me his "glued-up mess" and apologized for how things had gone. That's when ECPM came to the rescue.

I made a quick visit to David Mohr at ECPM World Headquarters and asked if the club might have the Revell Huey—and whether I could buy it from club stock. David went

straight to work, sorting through the DownEastCon donations in the DownEastCon vault, and sure enough, he found one. Despite being in the middle of pre-Christmas travel plans, David took the time to deliver the kit to my house personally.

When I offered to pay for it, his response summed up the spirit of this club perfectly: We have plenty for the contest—this one should be a Christmas gift.

The Sandvigen household jumped into action. We picked up a USMC sweatshirt, a pair of +3.00 power reading glasses so Sam could see the small parts clearly, and wrapped everything up for an early Christmas celebration.

When the gifts were delivered, the real show began. Sam rose from his wheelchair to proudly model his new USMC hoodie. Next came the glasses—and finally, the moment he tore into the wrapping paper and discovered his Huey. The smile said it all.

This club should be exceptionally proud. Because of your generosity, a veteran in a nursing home felt remembered, valued, and genuinely joyful this Christmas.



Cheryl and I want to thank each and every one of you for making this moment possible.

Merry Christmas. ✪  
-Mark Sandvigen



# Model Data, Newsletter

Please fill this out for any model you are bringing in to the meeting. We don't need much info, just the basics and anything unusual.

Builder/Model:

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Kit Brand/Scale:

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Notes on the build:

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Please print these and fill them out at home. It will save you much valuable time at the monthly meeting.



# Model Data, Newsletter

Please fill this out for any model you are bringing in to the meeting. We don't need much info, just the basics and anything unusual.

Builder/Model:

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Kit Brand/Scale:

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Notes on the build:

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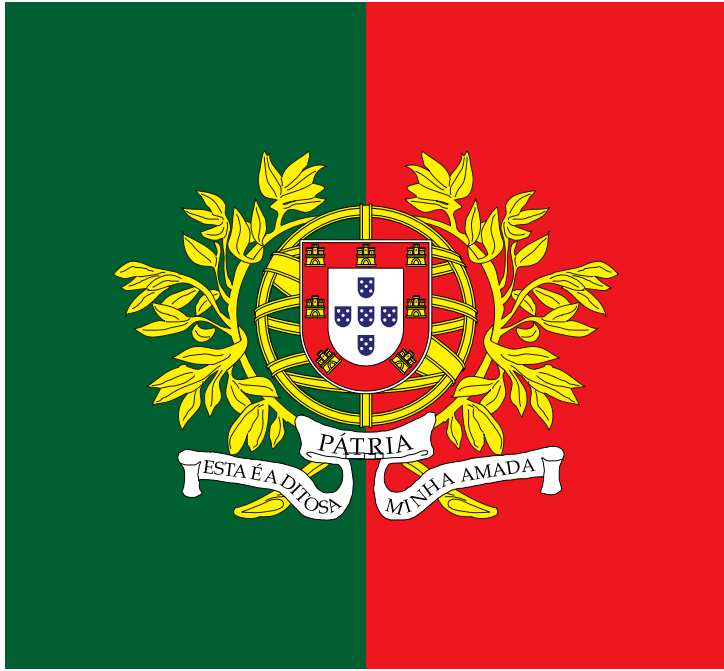
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# OPERATION TIN CAN

## *update*

Steve Kasza reports that we have 65 of 77 subjects sponsored, 8 of them are completed, and another 10 in progress. Steve is making good progress and hopes to accompany the completed collection to Beneedita Portugal to be on display in the Museum. This will be every piece of armor the Portuguese Army has ever used.



*(above right) M730 Chaparral*



*(center right) V-150 Armored Car*



*(lower right) L118 105m Howitzer*



*(below) M-55 Machine gun trailer mount*





*(above) This is the hull of the Vasa in 1/75 scale. (You should Google it, the story is fascinating) It is not a plastic model but we are pretty lax on that rule these days. It's a beautiful construction built over a period of two years by Chris Miller who lives in Durham. So why is it here? Jim Gower brought it, as well as a collection of model building tools to distribute freely to anyone with tool needs. Chris is no longer able to participate in the hobby, is giving his tools away and would like to pay someone who could finish the rigging so the completed model can be given to his daughter. (That was a big hint, by the way)*

*(left) Dennis Morey completed this interesting diorama which I believe features Sir Arthur Plumsett-Delving, the world's most trouble-prone archeologist, and a crafty Parasaurolophus about to give the old boy a jolly good fright. The kit is in 1/35 scale by Tamiya and looks like such fun I just may have to acquire this kit simply for the joy of building it.*

*(right) Here is a lovely built Lindberg 1/25 release of a 1997 F-150 Flareside 4X4. Chris Gimple painted it with Tamiya TS-15 Blue. Lindberg released this kit in the 1990s, then re-issued it in 2006 and 2014. This was a 2014 release kit.*



*(below) A number of finished builds were brought in by Tim Ryan. The fire truck, to the left was built as the main vehicle in the TV series "Emergency" back in the '70s. Tim says that a major portion of the truck was aftermarket 3-D printed and store bought decals.*



*(above) On the right is a light blue AMT '73 GMC Stepside in 1/25. Tim built it to represent his brother's vehicle which they arrived in. Tim had to make numerous changes for the sake of accuracy.*

*In the center is a completely stock Ford Fairlane built to represent a magazine advertisement vehicle..*

*(left) A spiffy way of displaying a 1/48 Dewoitine D520 was devised by Steve Michel. The French pilot is off to have a lively discussion with a fleeing Heinkle somewhere over the French countryside. It's a nicely done scene Steve, and very original.*



*(left) Dennis Morey proves that even a vintage Frog 1/72 kit from 1969(!) can be built to be a thing of beauty. Nice work, Dennis!*

*(right) There is not much to said for these two little space ships as they were actually built 40 years ago by a friend of Alan Welch and painted on request by Alan. They were finished with Tamiya clear yellow and blue over Tamiya Chrome Silver, all acrylics.*



*(below) Andy Fulcher brought in this large scale Lego Koenigsegg Jesko, unknown scale, (somewhere between 1/10 and 1/18). It was certainly an eye catcher.*





*(above) Arthur Lesso, a first time attendee, brought in several Bandai 1/144 scale Gundam kits to show. Above a depiction of a unit only created in a line art so Arthur had to scratch build most of the battle gear to create a Gouf Hunter while adding additional flare to the kit.*



*(above) Another of Arthur Lesso's builds, and another Bandai 1/144 scale kits. This is a Powered GM and the Dom Trophen depicting a scene from the OVA 0083 Stardust Memory*



*(left) The HobbyBoss P-38-L5 is one of their Easy Assembly Authentic Kit and it mostly is that claims Alan Welch. The biggest impediment was the instructions which only vaguely indicated where the parts are meant to go, but the fit and detail seem fine.*

*(here) "The Alligator", a Civil War submarine was built by Dennis Korn. The craft was man powered and meant to use the snorkels on either side of this caption to a target.*



*Once at the target a diver would exit and hand carry an explosive charge which was detonated remotely once the diver had safely returned to the mother ship.*

*At least that was the theory.*

*(below left) We had quite the car park this last meeting, the green vehicle on the left is a Revell Chevelle SS in 1/25 scale and covered in Splash Paint in "Green Hell"! The black monster next to it is Ferrari 488 "Pista" by Alpha Models. Gary said both models were excellent and fit well. Nicely done Gary.*

*(below right) Our resident over-achiever, Jim Smith, brought in 3 vehicles today. From left to right, he converted AMT's 1949 Ford Coke delivery panel truck into a slick custom. (Apparently in AMT world anything with wheels can deliver Cokes) Next he covered the MPC 1971 Dodge Demon with Tamiya metallic blue and lowered the chassis. And last is the MPC '68 Dodge Coronet R/T in Orange paint, also by Tamiya. All three engines were wired with his customary 30 awg wrapping wire.*



**1. (right) The left hand robot is a Bandai 1/144 quick build mecha by Rodney Huyett. It's simple, easy and Rodney says it's really fun.**



**2. (right) Here is Rodney's 30 MM Armored Assault Mecha in 1/144 th scale. Day & a half build. Highlighted in black. An enjoyable and simple build.**



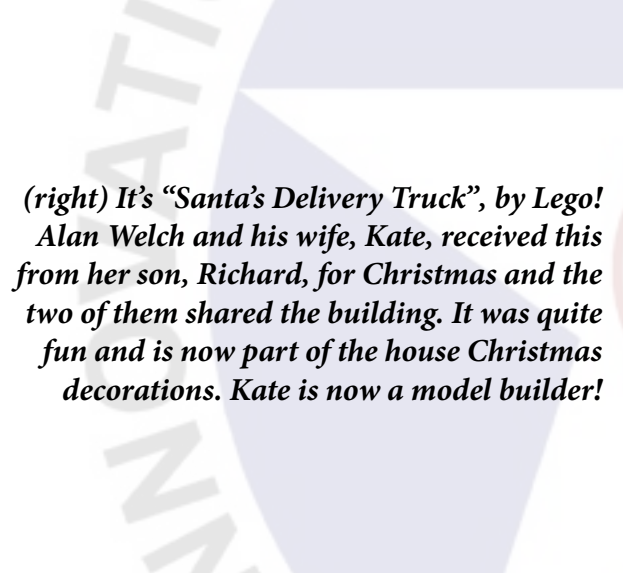
**3. (right) The two mechas to the right in brown, are a 30 MM Tank and a 30 MM bEXM-29 Gardonova. Both took a day & a half to build and both were highlighted in brown. Easy, simple and enjoyable builds.**





*(left, foreground) Revell's Ford Fairlane was built factory stock to match an old advertisement. Sprayed with Dupli-color lacquer.*

*The woody, behind her is by Tim Ryan and I'll let him tell you the story next month. It's a nice one and worth the reading.*



*(right) It's "Santa's Delivery Truck", by Lego! Alan Welch and his wife, Kate, received this from her son, Richard, for Christmas and the two of them shared the building. It was quite fun and is now part of the house Christmas decorations. Kate is now a model builder!*



*(left) Looks like we had fun, doesn't it. Some groups are ship builders, some clubs are car clubs, and some historical. We seem to attract a nice mix of genres. We try to provide a home for all builders.*

*Come see what's it's all about.*



# RANDOM MEETING SHOTS





**In fondest memory of ECPM member Richard Adams. A man skilled in model building, kind of nature, and a repository of wonderful memories. Richard's warmth and friendliness affected everyone he came in contact with and his building skills were an inspiration to us all.**

**Richard, we miss you, each and every one of us. Rest easy sir. And thank you for your friendship.**

# Mission: “Back in the Saddle again”

By David Stiteler

## Confessions of a Closet Modeler

Here we are in 2026, and it promises to be an active year for me and the model club. There are a number of good modeling activities within driving distance of New Bern and the local area, and that includes our very own Down East Con in July. As Alan put it during our recent meeting, this will be an “All hands-on deck” event for us. I’m sure that we will have a successful event as we all have planned.

For me personally, 2026 will have its challenges, mostly by my own doing. I know that I don’t have a great track record when it comes to building models of late, or even completing a model project that was started long ago. For instance, as we all know, the inevitable and ever-present B-17. For years I’ve said this is the year I FINALLY get this thing done and get it back to its rightful owner. Just like New Years resolutions, it never happened, and I’m not stating that this year is going to be any different. All I can do is to do my best and try.

This month’s club meeting allowed me to acquire three new models to add to my anxiety; two ships in 1/350 scale and a bomber in 1/72 scale. All of these subjects have a historical significance to me either by their history, or from the stories I have been fortunate to be witness to by those involved in those stories. To me, doing a model that

has a personal connection to me has a greater impact on the subject matter when it’s completed, so that I can when asked about it, retell that story. The challenge for me is to actually finish the project in the first place. DUH!

I was asked at the meeting which one I was going to start first. My answer was none of them, at least not yet. The model of the USS England in 1/350 scale, a destroyer escort, will not be the England, but the USS Samuel B. Roberts; one of the “small boys” that stood up to the Japanese fleet at the battle of Leyte Gulf, protecting the escort carriers of Taffy 3. The model of the USS The Sullivans, the 1/350 scale Fletcher class destroyer, will be the USS Johnston, also at Leyte Gulf with Taffy 3, and also lost in that action. She was captained by Ernest Evans, a Cherokee Indian who fought his way into the navy, and because of his actions and his vessels actions, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The 1/72 scale bomber, a B-24 named The Lady Be Good was lost on a mission out of Libya during WWII. In 1959, the crash site of the bomber was located by a survey team looking for oil reserves, and eventually a number of the crews remains were also found. There is a great book written about the story of the plane and its crew. I heard the story from my father long before I found the book.

Visit the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio and you will get to see one of the engines recovered from the crash site and read the story about it. Significant historical events and people, their ships or planes, pulls at my heart and inspires me to tell their stories so that those stories will not be forgotten.

These are all great projects to work on, but I have as everyone knows quite a few already started that never got finished. My challenge to myself this year is to finish at least four of these projects. I won’t name which ones first, because I don’t know myself right now. The hard part for me is to focus on one thing at a time, and finish what I started, no matter when I started it. So, it’s time to close my eyes, and point; flip a coin, or wish upon a falling star. “Get’e done!”.

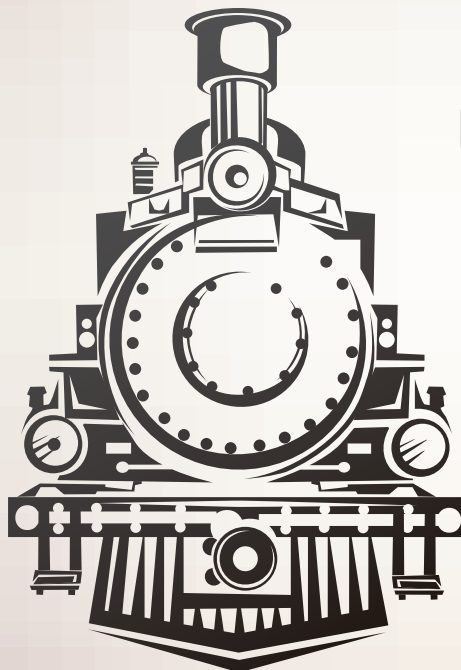
As I said, with my track record thus far, it’s a rather ambitious plan. I mentioned to David Mohr at the meeting that finishing anything for ODO was out of the question, but BeachCon in March might be doable. I’m not expecting a masterpiece, but hopefully something respectable. And if it actually happens, it will be the first time since 1983 that anything I may have finished will be entered into a contest of any kind. It will be quite an achievement. 🌟

-David Stitler

# REMEMBER ECPM MEMBERS

The Great Railroad Show is taking place the same weekend as our normal meeting so OUR meeting will be on the 28th rather than on the 21st!

# 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW



New Bern Riverfront  
Convention Center  
February 21 & 22, 2026

Saturday 9am - 5pm  
Sunday 10am - 4pm

**\$10 for ages 12 & up**  
**Under 12 are free with an adult**  
**Admission is good for both days**

Many Vendors buying and selling all kinds  
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Operating Layouts in all scales

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## 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.: \_\_\_\_\_

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# AMPS SitRep



AMPS 2026 is set for 16-18 April 2026 at the Century Center, 120 Doctor M.L.K. Jr Blvd in South Bend, IN, 46601.

The theme for AMPS 2026 is Vietnam. A full definition has been posted on the show page.

Pre-registration starts on 1 January 2026 and will go through 12 April 2026. You can pre-register through the AMPS Home page by clicking on the "Register" menu when pre-registration is active.

Note that, like last year, we will not be accepting hand-written entry forms. If you don't pre-register you will need to register via one of two laptops on site. To avoid standing in line to register on site, we highly recommend you pre-register. You

don't need to know which models you are bringing when you pre-register - you can add these to your registration and print out your forms up to the day of the show.

Hotel registration information, with links, etc, for this event can be found on the AMPS Home page on the AMPS website.

The show hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton, which is located across the street from the Century Center. We've arranged a great rate of \$149 per night, with a discounted parking rate of \$5 per night (otherwise \$15 a night). The special rate is good for bookings between April 14, 2026 and April 18, 2026. To book and take advantage of this special rate, please use the link below. This is the only show hotel this year.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=SBNSBDT&groupCode=CDT92G&arrivaldate=2026-04-14&departuredate=2026-04-18&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

You can also book by calling the hotel at 574-234-2000 and mentioning group code CDT92G.

✪  
- John Ratzenberger



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# AMPS Atlanta 2026

February 20-21, 2026



## "The Italian Campaign" 1943-1945

Eligibility for the show theme is defined by:

"Any Vehicle or Weapons System used by Axis or Allied Units During the Campaign"

Join us for our 15th annual AMPS Atlanta model contest and show! Our show provides a great opportunity to tune up your models in time for the AMPS Nationals. There are loads of vendor tables, not to mention great Southern hospitality and weather. All models are judged using the AMPS open system.

Not just a model show, there will be great figures on display as well as educational seminars.



Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel & Conference Center  
500 Powder Springs St.  
Marietta, GA 30064  
(770) 427-2500



More information:  
[www.ampsatlanta.org](http://www.ampsatlanta.org)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/ampsatlanta/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ampsatlanta/)



# IPMS RICHMOND

International Plastic Modelers Society | Richmond, Virginia Chapter

Since 1975

## 2026 Old Dominion Open Scale Model Show & Contest

Saturday, February 28

80 Model Contest Categories  
Extensive Vendor Marketplace  
Huge Modeler's Drawing  
On-site Food Vendor

1st, 2nd & 3rd place awards for each category; plus these special awards:

Judges' Best In Show • Best Junior  
Best Aircraft • Best Automotive • Best Diorama • Best Figure  
Best Mecha • Best Maritime • Best Military Vehicle  
Best Real Space & Sci-Fi

Doors open at 8:30 a.m.  
Model Registration:  
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Judging Starts at 12:30 p.m.



Richmond Raceway Complex  
The Old Dominion Building  
600 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

Model Entry (cash only): \$20 for up to 20 models  
General Admission (cash only): ages 13 & older: \$10.00 / ages 12 & under: free

General inquiries, please contact Bob Walls: [robertwalls@comcast.net](mailto:robertwalls@comcast.net)

[IPMSRVA.org](http://IPMSRVA.org)



## GRAND STRAND SCALE MODELERS

### Beachcon 2026

Show Theme

# The Big Cats



Saturday, March 14, 2026 9am - 4pm

General Robert H. Reed Recreation Center  
800 Gabreski Lane, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

General Admission  
\$5.00 Single Adult  
(18 and older)  
\$8.00 Family

Contestants  
\$10.00  
Unlimited number  
of models

Juniors  
(17 & under)  
and  
Active Duty Military  
(with ID)  
FREE



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8' Table - \$60.00

Phil Cavender  
182 South Hollow Rd.  
Marble Beach, SC 29529  
[cavenderp@gmail.com](mailto:cavenderp@gmail.com)  
843-2360259

For  
Information  
Contact

Rich Roberts  
140 Windham Rd.  
Fowlers Island, SC 29545  
[rsrm.mrs@gmail.com](mailto:rsrm.mrs@gmail.com)  
843-6392366



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# FloTown Model Showdown



For One Region South Carolina  
IPMS Region 12 - The Carolina

Registration:  
9am-12pm  
\$10 First 3 Models  
\$1 Each Additional Model  
General Admission:  
\$5.00  
(12 & under FREE)

June 27, 2026

VFW  
236 S Greer Rd  
Florence, SC

Vendor Tables:  
\$25 Each



On-site food available.  
Burgers, Wings, Steaks,  
Seafood, and more.

## Contest Categories

**Autiers**  
001) 12 and under  
002) Teens (13-17)  
**Aircraft**  
101) Biplanes (All Scales)  
102) Prop (1/32 and Smaller)  
103) Prop (1/48 and Larger)  
104) Jets (1/72 and Smaller)  
105) Jets (1/48 and Larger)  
106) Rotary  
**Military Vehicles**  
201) Armor (1/48 and Smaller, All Eras)  
202) Armor 1945 and Earlier (1/35 and Larger)  
203) Armor 1946 and Later (1/35 and Larger)  
204) Wheeled and Softskin (All Scales)  
**Ships**  
301) Car and Sail  
302) Powered  
303) Submarines

**Space**  
401) Real/Historical  
402) Fictional  
**Automotives**  
501) Street Rods (48 and earlier)  
502) Street Machines (50 and later)  
503) Trucks and Vans  
504) Racing (Closed Circuit)  
505) Racing (Straight Line)  
506) Imports  
507) Factory Stock  
508) Motorcycles  
509) Commercial Vehicles  
**Space and Sci-Fi**  
601) Space Vehicles  
602) Droids/Mecha  
**Dioramas/Scenics**  
701) Military  
702) Civilian  
**Miscellaneous**  
801) Entries not fitting in any listed class

For more information:  
Club President: Dale Penick 843-872-8033  
Show Coordinator: Chris Waters 843-883-9679  
Vendor Contact: Chris Penick 843-419-7172 [chr15@ipms.com](mailto:chr15@ipms.com)  
or visit  
[FwdScaleModelers.org](http://FwdScaleModelers.org)

# 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](mailto:jrobinsonusaf@aol.com)

[charlotte\\_scale\\_modelers@ipmsusa.org](mailto:charlotte_scale_modelers@ipmsusa.org)

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

## **Coastal Carolina Modelers Association**

Meeting times: 2nd Saturday of the month at 09:30 am, at the Summerville American Legion Post, 105 Sumpter Ave., Summerville, SC

**Contact Name: Dave Corvino**

Email: [dcorvino@sc.rr.com](mailto:dcorvino@sc.rr.com)

E-mail:

[coastal\\_carolina@ipmsusa.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:drkornnwp56@yahoo.com)

[eastern\\_carolina@ipmsusa.org](mailto: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](mailto:awmacon@yahoo.com)

[gamecocks@ipmsusa.org](mailto: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: Pending**

Email: **Pending**

[gaston\\_county@ipmsusa.org](mailto:gaston_county@ipmsusa.org)

Zoom meeting also available at same time, email to: Pending

## **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](mailto:stonehill123@peoplepc.com)

[george\\_preddy@ipmsusa.org](mailto: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](mailto:gssmpres@gmail.com)

Email: [grand\\_strand\\_scale\\_modelers@ipmsusa.org](mailto:grand_strand_scale_modelers@ipmsusa.org)

## **Fayetteville Scale Modelers Club**

Meeting Times: 2nd Saturday of each month, 1:30pm-3:30pm, at Hobbytown on Bragg BLVD. Build day is the last Sunday of the month at Hobbytown on Bragg blvd from 12:30pm-3:30pm

**Contact Name: Eric Engstrom**

[srericengstrom@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:dlhpgamecocks@mindspring.com)

Email: [mid\\_carolina\\_swamp\\_fox@ipmsusa.org](mailto: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](mailto:mlbdave@yahoo.com)

Phone:336-244-5173

[ipms\\_mooresvillerrace\\_city\\_modelers@ipmsusa.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sunjester1967@gmail.com)

[piedmont\\_scale\\_modelers@ipmsusa.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wpecoul@gmail.com)

[winston-salem@ipmsusa.org](mailto:winston-salem@ipmsusa.org)

Region 12 Coordinator

**Tim Kirkland**

170 Kensington dr #107

Spartanburg, SC 29306

Phone 864 504 0745

Email: [kirklandmr6@aol.com](mailto:kirklandmr6@aol.com)

(continued on next page)

## Region 12 Chapters

(continued from previous page)

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

### 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: 1 pm every second Sunday at The Hobby Chest, 345 Western Blvd, Jacksonville, 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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Models, Radio Control, Airsoft, Board Games, Trading Cards, Collectibles, Warhammer!

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Editor's Notes:

Greetings chapter members,

*Happy new year, all! I hope December and all the celebrations were good for you and hopefully added materially to your model addict, er, educational, productive, and healthy, hobby.*

*As you might have noticed this issue kicks off the run up to our DownEastCon 2026, the "IPMS R-12 Regional Contest." And you might have also noticed that the theme contest this year is something different. Really different. It's sort of a no holds barred, gloves off, cage match. We have selected, fifteen (15) subjects that we feel are truly iconic American innovations. And these are the only subjects that can be entered into the theme contest.*

*Just fifteen, no others will be judged.*

*And there are no scale limitations. That means that 1/700 ships might compete with 1/16th tanks. We made that decision because model building is model building and skill and technique is visible on a big build as much as on an iddy-biddy one. We believe each scale and class has difficulties and challenges unique to themselves and maybe, just maybe, this could be an interesting innovation for us. Think of it as being judged like the best in show free for all.*

*So roll up your sleeves guys and show us what ya got. We'd love to see you at the show. Thanks All, see you next month. ☺*

-Editor

The next meeting will be Saturday, **February 28, 2026**, 1200 pm until 2:00 pm at the Bridgeton Methodist Church, 510 B Street, Bridgeton, NC. This is a **GROUP BUILD!** Bring any work-in-progress, tools and a mat to protect the Church's tables and new builds.

Check your email, our fb page and website for changes made in time and/or date.

Isn't it time you joined IPMS? [http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms\\_application\\_form\\_2019.pdf](http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms_application_form_2019.pdf)