



ECPM - We Put It All Together.



(above) VP David Mohr brought in the most unusual build this month, the XF5U-1 "Flying Flapjack" by Kittyhawk in 1:48 scale.

Meeting Schedule 2026

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	DownEastCon 2026	
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

Meeting Debriefing

ECPM MEETING MINUTES March 21, 2026

The March business agenda began just after noon with 14 members and 4 guests in attendance. Members attending were David Mohr, Jim Gower, William Lumbattis, Louis LaPlante, Dennis Morey, Rodney Huyett, Melissa Huyett, Mike Hooper, Jim Smith, Tim Ryan, Steve Michel, William Reece, and Dale Hansen. Our guests attending were Kathy Smith, Kim Morey, Dave Mahoney, and Ronnie Whitley. President Alan Welch called the meeting to order and the following items were presented and discussed:

Treasurer's Report – Mark Sandvigen was unable to attend this meeting, so Alan W. provided a brief overview of financial activity over the last month. Recent expenditures related to DEC 2026 have been significant, however there is still a good balance in the ECPM bank account to address any remaining costs.

Website Report – Gary Mitchell was also unable to attend this meeting, so Alan W. mentioned that a link to a YouTube video on the entire history of the original Airfix Company had been posted to the ECPM website. (The link is located on the *Isn't That Interesting* page of the website).

Newsletter Report – Nothing new to report this month, but Alan W. is always looking for articles from members so talk to him if interested.

Tuesday Evening Takeoff (Zoom) – Nothing new to report this month; the group still meets every Tuesday evening starting at 7:00 pm for 2 hours (or however long you can stay) to build models, have great conversation and share helpful tips. If you are interested in participating send a request to Alan W. or any Executive Board member and they will get you signed up.

IPMS Insights – Alan W. stated the latest edition of the IPMS Journal is at the printers; it will be a "special one"

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Staff

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

Meeting Debriefing

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for ECPM and members should be on the lookout for it. He also reminded the group to bring in any no longer needed IPMS Journal back-issues that can be used as handouts to promote IPMS membership at our DEC 2026.

Region 12 Awards - Applications for the annual Region 12 awards have been written and submitted. And now we wait.

Down East Con 2026 – Head Judge Steve Kasza and Registration Guru Dennis Korn were absent so our Judge Training event will start in April and there was no report on registration. Alan Welch and a couple of the section leads provided updates:

Vendor Status – Tim Ryan, our Vendor Wrangler, reports 16 vendors have committed and reserved a total of 39 tables; Tim has started putting vendors on a waiting list if space becomes available. He is also reaching out to the vendors to determine if any of them can bring their own tables, and Alan W. asked members to bring any folding tables they own to the show so we don't run short.

Raffle – Raffle Meister David Mohr brought us up to date on this event. He is at 170 prizes at this point which is the level he was looking for. However, if anyone has any unloved armor kits available he could always plug them in and reserve some aircraft for next DEC. In reference to the raffle, Jim Gower brought in several large scale plastic ship models.

Model Registration – In a remote telephone interview Registration Guru Dennis Korn confirmed that he has received a number of inquiries and models registrations and will bring in a full report next meeting.

Award Sponsorship – Alan W. also mentioned that 20 out of 49 awards have already been sponsored so ECPM members wishing to sponsor a particular class or category should look at the current list on our award winning website and make their choice(s) while there is a good selection remaining.

Other subjects:

Kathy Smith generously joined our meeting with a box of model magazines, tools, and supplies that were left when

Marshall left us. It brought back a flood of memories of a very good man. Thank you Kathy.

Dave Mahoney also brought in a double car kit to give away. Dave is a member in good standing of the New Bern Maritime Modeling Guild, which is a local group of wooden boat builders. Thank you Dave, I think we will see you again.

We were also gifted a number of kits as well and decals, photo etch sets and after market detail sets both resin and plastic by **John Ratzenberger**. David Mohr is organizing this and we hope to have a full account next month. It was a wonderful trove, John. Thank you for your kindness.

Faux vinyl top demo – Jim Smith, the muscle car guy, gave a short demo on several techniques he uses to simulate this effect on several of his automotive builds. Nice work Jim.

After this we moved to the show and tell portion of the meeting covered in the Display Case pages starting on page 12.

After that, the meeting wrapped up and Alan tossed us all out 🌟

AMPS Sitrep



by John Rastenberger

Pre-Registration for the 2026 AMPS International Convention ends on Sunday April 12th. If you have not pre-registered by then, you will need to enter your model entries into one of the show computers when you arrive - we will not be accepting handwritten entry forms.

Save yourself time; pre-register.

If you pre-register by April 12th, you will still be able to go into the system afterwards to modify your entries, remove entries or add new ones. You just need to pay the registration fee by April 12th.

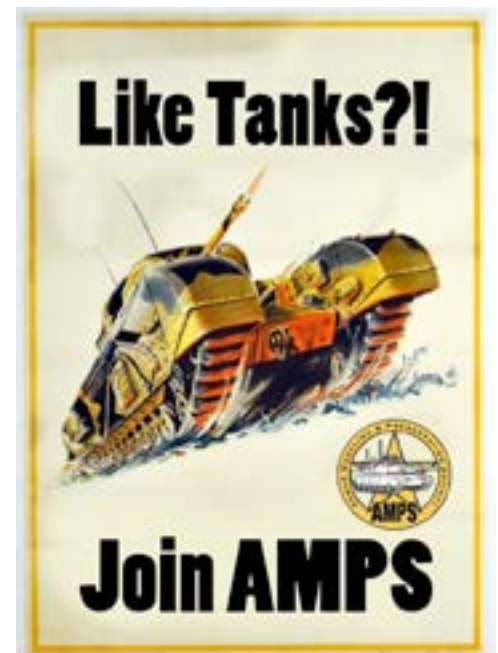
Please note. We are limiting the number of models a person can enter to 10 this year.

To pre-register, please click this link:

<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteShows/Registration/IntroRegister.aspx?sid=10135>

If you are not planning to enter the contest, you can pre-pay your admission online. Click this link to pre-pay and avoid the line:

<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteShows/Registration/IntroWalkin.aspx?sid=10135>



Vought XF5U

by David Mohr



From Warthunder: (Yes, you can actually fly this thing online) The Vought XF5U, better known by its nicknames Flying Flapjack or Flying Pancake, was an experimental fighter aircraft developed for the US Navy in 1941. The aircraft's unusual disc-shaped profile (hence the nickname) was the result of research on low-aspect-ratio wings by aeronautical engineer Charles H. Zimmermann to maximise the angle of attack and speed while also minimising stall speed for shorter take-off and landing. To counteract the induced drag inherent in the low-aspect-ratio wing design, the XF5U featured a pair of propellers at the furthest edges of the wings, powered by a pair of Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasp engines located inside their own compartments with separate air intakes, with both engines simultaneously driving both propellers via separate shafts.

The model represents a prototype military version an aircraft that defines the word “unconventional”. First proposed in the late 1930’s by Charles H. Zimmerman, a pioneer in experimental aircraft design and a long-time employee of both the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and its successor, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the plane combines fuselage and wing into a single unit with a pair of radial engines buried in the middle turning contra-rotating 16-foot diameter propellers. It was believed this configuration would function

well at a wide range of airspeeds and the Navy was interested in its potential as a carrier-based fighter. A quarter-scale test model completed by the Chance Vought Division of United Aircraft Corporation (who also produced the famed F4U Corsair) in 1942 logged a total of 131 hours of flight testing and proved the concept was feasible.

The subsequent full-scale aircraft (the XF5U-1), completed in 1945 under a Navy contract for two aircraft, suffered from multiple problems with the shaft-driven propeller system that delayed flight testing for two years.

With the end of World War II and the beginning of the jet era, the Navy cancelled the program in 1947 and the prototype was scrapped without ever leaving the ground.

The kit used for this build was the 1/48 scale “XF5U-1 ‘Flying Pancakes’” produced by Kitty Hawk. Purchased at a local garage sale, it was missing the instructions as well as having a few parts glued and painted. The major pieces all seemed to be there, along with the decals and canopy, so given the unique subject and a very reasonable price I couldn’t pass it up.

After downloading a set of instructions (thank you, Scalemates), I determined all parts were there and started the build by determining what portions already completed could be used and what would need to be reworked. As an example, the multi-part wheel wells were assembled and painted the proper color so they were set aside for later

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Vought XF5U

(continued from page 3)

use. One of the two landing gear was partially built but not assembled correctly, so that was carefully taken apart, cleaned up and reassembled.

Once the old work was addressed, construction proceeded in the usual fashion and was fairly quick since this was what the car modelers called a “curbside” kit with no engines and only the intake fans to paint/detail. My main gripe was that the assembly order described in the instructions left a lot to be desired. Kitty Hawk directs the builder to install the landing gear before joining the upper and lower sections of the fuselage, but with their length I envisioned breaking them off multiple times while finishing the rest of it. My approach was to get the cockpit completed, body closed up and painted, then paint and add the remaining bits as sub-assemblies with the most delicate (propellers and elevator mass balances) added last. The propeller assemblies were left a friction-fit to be removable for travel.

As an “Average Joe” kind of modeler, I do not usually do much customization on my builds but there were three exceptions on this kit:

- An arrestor hook assembly was required for carrier landings, so Kitty Hawk included a very long and fragile-looking jointed arm with hydraulic cylinders that rose out of the top of the rear fuselage. I cut door covers off and glued them flush to show it retracted, then mounted the hook in a notch on the trailing edge.
- The aircraft was designed to carry a total of six .50 caliber machine guns, but these were represented by open holes in the leading edge of the “wing” next to the cockpit. A mounting plate was glued inside the body and small diameter metal tubing was used to simulate gun barrels.



- Two bombs were included in the kit and were supposed to be glued to simple rails on the underside of the body. A pair of more detailed external racks with mounting hardware were sourced from my spares box to give the assembly a more realistic look.

The model was painted primarily with Tamiya acrylics, the overall color being XF-17 Sea Blue. The previous modeler had used it and even included a partial bottle with the kit. While probably not the actual color used, it looked good to me. Decals were a mix of kit and spares box; the “stars and bars” in the kit seemed too large and were replaced with a smaller version but the nose art – a rabbit on a magic carpet – was too cool not to use. The kit also included decals for a second patriotic theme that involved a large Uncle Sam figure and a lot of stars; not sure how they came up with that one but I saved it for another day. Final coats were Tamiya clear gloss with minimal weathering as I wanted to show a new aircraft.

Overall, a satisfying build. I enjoyed the challenge of taking something a lot of modelers wouldn't have even

considered purchasing and bringing it to completion. Is it historically accurate? Probably not, but it looks cool in my display case and like nothing else on the table at the club meeting. 🌟

- by David Mohr

(above) Top view shows overall configuration.

(below) The nose art too cool to be eliminated.





ECPM's Treasurer Mark Sandvigen deliver's a lecture and demo on rocket science 'cause it IS rocket science today at Kingdom's Way home school facility.

America's Return to the Moon — Experienced Right Here at Home Kingdom Way students receive a rare, hands-on exploration of the Artemis II mission and America's next chapter in lunar exploration.

On Tuesday, 24 February 2026, the Kingdom Way Home School Group experienced something few students their age will ever encounter in a traditional classroom — a deep, hands-on exploration of America's return to the Moon through the Artemis II mission.

ECPMod's Mark Sandvigen and Alan Welch led the session, transforming complex spaceflight concepts into tangible, memorable learning moments. Each student received an official NASA packet, but what truly set the day apart was the immersive experience that followed.

Artemis II represents the first crewed lunar mission since the era of Apollo program — a gap of more than fifty



years. Named after Artemis, the twin sister of Apollo and the Greek goddess of the Moon, the program symbolizes a new generation of exploration built upon historic achievement.

Students learned that this mission includes the first woman to fly to the

Moon — a North Carolina State University "Wolfpack" alumna raised in Jacksonville — who also holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman at 328 days. Connecting a global mission to local roots made space exploration feel personal and

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attainable. Rather than relying on lecture alone, the presenters used demonstrations rarely available in standard school settings. Orbital mechanics were illustrated through playground swing analogies to explain apogee and perigee. Students physically measured acceleration to understand Earth's gravitational pull on the launch vehicle.

Timing drills simulated the extraordinary speed of the Space Launch System during liftoff, roll maneu-

ver, and booster separation. One of the most impactful demonstrations involved radiation protection and spacesuit shielding using a laser pointer. The visual lesson made clear why astronaut protection is critical — and the students quickly concluded they would want thicker shielding themselves. By connecting radiation exposure to familiar experiences like sunburn and stepping into a hot car on a cold day, abstract radiation concepts became vividly real. Each student also received a card stock

model of the Orion Crew Module, specialized adhesive, and a complete mission orbital sequence from liftoff through splashdown.

This hands-on engineering exercise reinforced the complexity of space-flight and gave students a tangible reminder of what they had learned. To add an element of challenge and excitement, the first male and female students to complete their Orion card models will receive AMT 1:200 Level II scale models, presented by their teachers.

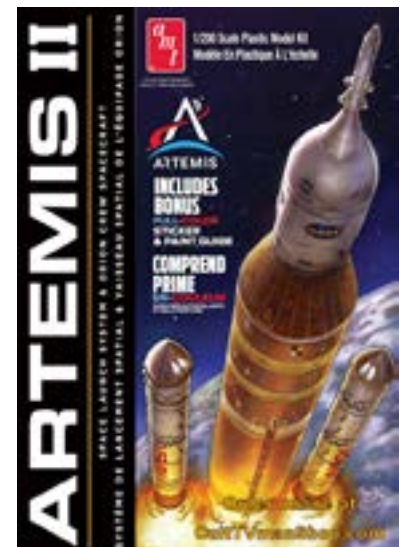
Most importantly, these students gained exposure to advanced aerospace engineering concepts, astronaut physiology, mission sequencing, and real-world STEM careers — content that would likely never be presented in such depth or with such personal connection in a typical school day. The experience did more than teach facts about a mission; it expanded horizons, inspired curiosity, and made participation in humanity's next giant leap feel possible.

For many of these young learners, Artemis II will no longer be just a headline — it will be a moment they can say they understood before the rocket ever left the pad. 🚀

by Mark Sandvigen



by Mark Sandvigen



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 eras*

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*
- 104. Single engine prop, 1:48, Axis*
- 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*
- 202. Armor, 1:35 & larger, closed top, all eras, Axis*
- 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**

IV. Ships

- 401. Surface, sail & oar powered, all scales
- 402. Surface, powered, (steam/nuke), all scales, 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. Best Naval Aviation Subject, All Categories
- 909. Americana Theme
- 910. Best in Show

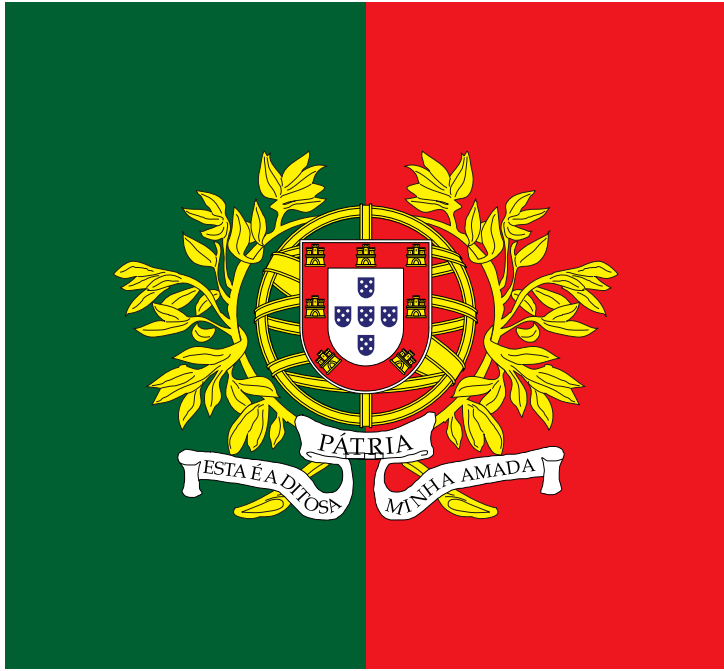
**For contest clarification, Allied/Axis determination is by markings. i.e. a captured Spitfire in German markings is classified as Axis. All neutral vehicles are, by default, Allied.*

*** Gaming figures are defined as scale no larger than 32mm, must identify what gaming system they operate in, and must be a minimum of one command figure and at least 6 enlisted figures.*

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





(left) Our newest member, Mike Hooper, brought in two outstanding examples of his scratch building excellence This is the first one, a 17"/1' replica of a dinghy sitting atop a scratch built trailer and powered by a (yes, you guessed it) scratch built outboard. Dinghy is basswood and cedar, trailer and motor are plastic, aluminum, and resin.

(right) Mike's second build is this Motto Guzzi V7. A Partial list of ingredients include beer can top wheel rims, shirt hanger down pipes, fishing lure mufflers, .22 shell casings for speedometer and tach, aluminum tube front forks, sewing needle spokes, and plumbing flanges for carburetor stacks. Amazing creation.



(left) Built by Tim Ryan 1965 Chevelle Wagon - Rebuilder Built as an exercise in: stripping multiple layers of paint, using various paints over chrome parts, polishing scratched "windows", tinting "windows" with an airbrush and in general, salvaging an otherwise messed up model kit.

*Definition of a Rebuilder: * IMO * Someone's failed attempt to build a kit beyond their capabilities and then passed on to someone else to try to salvage.*

Well done Tim.



(left) Steven Mechel demonstrates that even elderly kits can be made into something nice. The Lindberg 1:48 JN-4 "Jennie" shows this. The kit was re-released in 1993 and 2007 where this example comes from. Steve had to scratch build new wing skid and mounted her on a foam core base. All in all a nice result from a \$2.00 thrift store discovery.

(right) A 1978 Dodge D100 pickup crafted by Jim Smith. Jim converted it to a 4x4 using parts from the MPC Dodge Warlock kit and then it was painted with Tamiya Mica Blue Lacquer.



(left) Jim Smith demonstrates he builds more than muscle cars with this muscle tank! It's a 1:35 Italeri Leopard II improved KWS version. Jim painted it with Tamiya acrylics in an experimental German Army test colors. Looks wicked.

AMT 1/25 #A1217M-200 1969 Ford Torino Cobra Fastback, IBuilt for a friend of mine that used to own a Torino asked me to build this for him in a burgundy color. Paint is Dupli-color Lacquer burgundy over black primer to darken the final shade. The body lines seem to be correct in my opinion anyway. I liked the final look of this kit and will definitely be building a few more of them for myself. I really enjoyed this build with the exception of the chassis pins to the body. The pins are located too far forward by about 1/8 inch, which put the wheels at the front of the wheel wells, cutting the pins off allowed the proper alignment of the wheel base with the body.



(below) Here's our Twofer for today. The roll back truck: A 1971 GMC Racers Wedge: 1/25 MPC ramp body on AMT 1972 cab/chassis with '72 GMC grille added from another kit created by Ronnie Whitley.

The white NASCAR '71 MPC 1/25 Chevelle NASCAR kit rebuilt with new paint by Tim Ryan and decals, drivers name was Jim Hurtibise. They make a really nice pair.





(left) A 1978 Dodge Stepside pickup in 1:25 scale built by Jim Smith. Jim converted it to 2wd using parts from the MPC Dodge D100 truck. Two tone paint is Tamiya Park Green & brown acrylics. And engine wired with 30awg wrapping wire.

(below) Rodney Huyett brought in a pair of spiffy Gundams in 1:144 scale manufactured by Bandai. This is the Liber Fighter, one of a series of same scale nice builds that all share many interchangeable parts and accessories. Rodney assembled this in 2 days and use Gundam high liters to bring out the details.



(below) Another Rodney Huyett assembly in the same series of Gundams, this time the Liber Viking. (probably the wings on the helmet) which is a gentle upgrade of the Liber Fighter. This is an additional 3 sprues to the 12 sprues of the fighter and is meant to be an addition add on to the original kit. Both builds were easy and enjoyable but this carries the oddity of leaving you with a bag of spare parts.





(left) William Lumbattis brought in a spiffy and unique entry. The kit manufacturer is MPC. It is a 1/25 scale Altered Roadster. Overall a nice kit. The front steering linkage was a little tricky but turned out nice. The model was airbrushed with Mr. Color #4 gloss yellow. We don't seem many builds in this configuration.



(right) Also by William Lumbattis is a 1/35 scale Tamiya M1A1 Abrams with mine plow. An older Tamiya kit however it was very enjoyable to build. The model was painted with Tamiya XF 59 Desert yellow cut with around 40% Tamiya X2 white.



(left) Ronnie Whitley's '96 Chevrolet C-3500 Dually. It's a curbside kit that he added the 5.7L engine and transmission from the '94 Impala SS kit. Painted with Rust-Oleum spray paint.



(left) AMT 1/25 #A1304-200 1978 Ford Bronco. Modeled after the TV Series "Haven" Bronco driven by one of the main characters. Painted with MCW Acapulco Blue Lacquer over Rust-oleum Chrome Blue spray paint. (to darken the blue to better match the TV show vehicle. Overall a great kit with the exception of the window "glass" for the fiberglass half roof, the molded windows were too tall and had to be ground down a 1/16 inch to allow the rear roof section to sit on the back body correctly. Also the transfer case for the 4x4 drive train was hitting the bottom of the interior tub and had to be cut out by almost a third of the top portion of the housing.

(right) Ron Whitley brought in several nice builds. This one is a 1971 Dodge 340 Demon in sublime green paint, AMT 1/25 box stock build



(left) And here is another of Ron's builds, this a 1969 SC Rambler (red, white and blue) 1/25 Johan kit built box stock with custom made decals.



RANDOM MEETING SHOTS



Mission: "Pacific Classroom"

By David Stiteler

Confessions of a Closet Modeler

I have been studying WWII since my junior-high school years, primarily the Pacific theater of operations spanning the Pearl Harbor attack to the dropping of the atomic bombs in 1945. This was motivation because I had family members involved in the war, and also the post-war years, which included the Korean War and the Cold War era to follow. But the topic which commanded most of my attention was Pearl Harbor. The events leading up to and then the actual attack have always fascinated me because so much of the information had been missing, lost, misinterpreted or just falsified for various reasons, mostly defined as "Classified due to National Security", even 80+ years after the fact! Why? I don't have a viable answer for that.

In recent years, say for instance, the last ten to fifteen years, quite a bit of information involving Pearl Harbor has finally been de-classified, and authors have jumped on the windfall and have written excellent books about Pearl Harbor with the newly available information. I could go into the books available that are the best, but there isn't enough space or time here. The bottom line is this; Yes, there was a major intelligence failure, which allowed the attack to happen. But more importantly, the hard facts that became very apparent to the United States was, 1) the United States had fallen behind the Japanese and their German allies technologically, and

2) the United States was woefully unprepared for war in both theaters of operations. That was the price for being an "Isolationist" nation prior to hostilities.

Since I served in the Air Force, I'm biased towards aircraft. So, at the beginning of the Pacific war, our front-line fighters for the Army were the P-26 Peashooter (an open cockpit airplane from the middle to late 1930's), the P-36 Hawk and the P-40 Warhawk, which was an upgraded and modified version of the P-36. With a well-trained, intelligent, and nifty pilot and some workable tactics, the P-40 had the best chance against the Japanese "Zero", which was faster, more maneuverable and lighter than the American aircraft. In the Philippines, the air picture was much worse. The Navy and Marines, on the other hand had the Brewster Buffalo, the F4F-3 Wildcat for fleet defense and an assortment of obsolete torpedo and dive bombers for strike aircraft, with the exception being the SBD Dauntless Dive Bomber. Pilots that were lucky enough to survive combat against the Japanese pilots passed on vital intelligence on the tactics and skill of the Japanese pilot and their aircraft to the leadership and manufacturers.

Americans are quick studies to the shortfalls, and move quickly to improve and correct those shortfalls. As history proved, we

produced better equipment, better tactics and better training for our pilots, and within six to seven months, we stopped the Japanese advance and started pushing them back. This is just the air side of the war. It was the same way across the board for ships, weapons and logistics in the Pacific.

As modelers, we have a unique perspective on seeing what the differences were between the technologies of the time with the available model kits on the market. By building these models we can imagine what the designers was trying to build, and in hind-sight see the weaknesses and strengths of the design, and the limitations the pilots had to deal with in combat.

I am a visual person mostly; I like nautical charts and maps to consult when I'm reading a story or a history when available. I enjoy the reference that they provide, and models do the same thing. Models provide a visual reference to the story that I'm reading, or to the story I'm trying to tell.

I hope that is the same for the readers of this column. Building models to me is more than just a hobby; it is part of my history that was passed down to me from my father. And I will always love it. ✪

-David Stiteler



Did you know you can save 1/3 of the cost of registration to ECPM's DownEastCon by registering online?

<https://www.ecpmod.com/dec26-pre-registration.html>

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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



News from Region 12

Region 12, The Carolinas Contest and shows in 2026

Here is a listing of shows and contests in and around the North and South Carolina region. If you see an error please contact the editor.

APRIL

April 4th - 2026

AMPS Central SIDNA Swap Meet.
Seven Oaks Park Recreation Center
200 Leisure Lane Columbia, SC,
29210

Wall To Wall Hobbies

April 18th

Dover Baptist Church 1501
Polkville Hwy Shelby, NC 28152
Vendor Tables \$25 Each (8ft Tables)
Contact Info:
Jeff Wall 828-829-2901,
Wall2wallhobbies@gmail.com
Aaron Alexander 704-284-2801,
Admission \$ 5.00

May

May 16th, 2026

SCMA Greenville
Simpsonville SC

**May 30, 2026 - 9:00am to 4:00pm
Smokey Mountain con.**

IPMS Knoxville
Location
Knoxville Catholic High School (in
the gymnasium)
9245 Fox Lonas Rd. NW
Knoxville, TN 37923
Contest Chairperson's Michael
Polin E-mail: knoxville@ipmsusa.org

JUNE

June 6th, 2026

Scott Con

Century of Flight Hangar, Museum
of Aviation, Warner Robins GA
Event Address: 1942 Heritage

Blvd Museum of Aviation
Warner Robins, GA 31098 Bruce
Radebaugh - bradebau@netzero.net

June 27th, 2026

Flo Town Model Show Down

Pee Dee Scale Modelers
9:00am to 7:00pm EDT
VFW post 3181 in Florence SC
Event Address:
236 S. Greer Rd
Florence, SC 29506 Dale Perdue
Phone: 843-672-8033 E-mail:
Dwperdue68@gmail.com

July 18, 2026

**Region 12 Regional convention
Americana, R12 Regional Con**

Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers
9:00am to 5:00pm Havelock
Tourist and Event Center
201 Tourist Center Drive
Havelock, NC 28532 Chairperson
Alan Welch: 919-616-6782
E-mail: info@alanwelch.us
[https://www.ecpmod.com/
downeast-con-2026.html](https://www.ecpmod.com/downeast-con-2026.html)

2026's R-12 Regional Con will be produced and hosted by Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers to celebrate America's Inspiration and innovation. The theme will be iconic American developments, such as the Model T and the USS Nautilus, SSN-571. This con will happen at the Havelock Tourist and Event Center, arguably one of the premier event locations in the state. This year we will also feature expanded Gundam and Meccha classes as well as our ever popular raffle and a grand line up of vendors. The Center will also provide onsite light fare for lunch at fair prices and there are two first class motels an easy stroll from the front door. Our past two events have also had active duty Marines on hand to aid vendors unload and pack back up at show's end. Our

events have consistently receive excellent reviews and we're striving to make this one the best yet.

August

IPMS National Convention

FT Wayne IN.

August 5, 2026 - 10:00am EDT to

August 8, 2026 - 10:00pm EDT

Grand Wayne Convention Center
Event Address:
120 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
John Figueroa - 2026_chair@
ipmsusa.org

September

September 19th, 2026

"Head to the Highland"

IPMS Appalachian Scale Modelers
Greenville TN Rec Center
456 Bernard ave.
Greenville TN 37743
Contact
Dave Newland
Email harlyutrac@comcast.net
423 2025550

September 26th, 2026

IPMS Race City/Mooresville and
FastTrax Hobbies Charles Mack
Citizen Center in Mooresville.
202 N Church St, Mooresville,
NC 28115. Keith Reidman
Chief120887@aol.com

September 26th, 2026

SCMA Charleston

Trident Technical College 7000
Rivers Avenue
N. Charleston, SC 29406
- Braxton Usher braxtonusher@
bellsouth.net

November

November 21st, 2026

KIT Con

North Hills Hilton
3415 Wake Forest Rd Raleigh NC
27609

1/2
CHOPPED & GLUED MC PRESENTS

Modelrama 2026



JOHNSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
150 FAIRGROUND ROAD | FRANKLIN, IN 46131

MAY 15TH & 16TH 2026

Best of Awards
ENGINE, INTERIOR, PAINT & OVERALL
BEST KUSTOM (PERPETUAL AWARD)

Classes
AIRCRAFT, BOX STOCK, COMMERCIAL, CURBSIDE, CUSTOM (At least 2 Major Modifications), DIECAST, DIORAMA, FACTORY STOCK, FIGURES/GUNDAM, HOT ROD, LARGE SCALE, LOWRIDER, MILITARY, MISCELLANEOUS, MOTORCYCLES, NOVICE (18+), RACING, RAT-ROD, ROOKIE (12 & under), SCI-FI, SMALL SCALE, SLOT-CAR, STREET MACHINE, SURVIVOR (Builds over 20 years old), TRUCKS, TUNERS, UNFINISHED, WATERCRAFT

IN CONJUNCTION WITH HOOSIER Vintage Wings & Cars EDITED BY CHOPPED & GLUED MODEL CLUB

VENDOR INFO: \$40 FOR AN 8' FOOT TABLE (2 DAYS)
CALL OR TEXT - 16TH KILLEA 317.416.9034
PRE-REGISTER / VENDOR REGISTRATION ONLINE:
CHOPPEDANDGLUED.CLUB/MODELRAMA26

Scan Me

Smoky Mtn. Model-Con

43rd Annual - presented by Knoxville Scale Modelers Association



I WANT YOU TO COME TO THE SHOW

Saturday May 30, 2026

MODEL CONTEST
aircraft, armor, autos, ships, sci-fi/steampunk, slots, dioramas and more...

Content Information:
- Judging by IPMS standards.
- 17", 11" and 8" for each category built categories (provide all subject illustrations - categories and entry form on back of page and website)

General contact:
Michael Fahn
mcfahn.usa@gmail.com

9:00 am to 4:00 pm
KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC H.S.
(in the gymnasium)
3245 Fox Lane Rd. NW
Knoxville, TN 37923

Contestant Admissions:
Adults \$10.00 for first 2 models and \$1.00 for each additional model 18 and under FREE

General Admissions:
Adults \$5.00
18 and under FREE

HOBBY VENDORS RAFFLE DRAW (with great prizes) FELLOWSHIP

Vendor information:
- Tables are 4' x 2'
- May 1, 2026, \$25 thereafter
- Open for setup at 3:00pm
- Help unloading and loading available if needed

Vendor contact:
Lenny Gales
lgaless@aol.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS:
www.KNOXVILLESCALEMODELERS.com

FloTown Model Showdown



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

Vendor Tables:
\$25 Each

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

June 27, 2026
VFW
236 S Greer Rd
Florence, SC

Contest Categories

Jetties 001) 12 and under 002) Teams (13-17)	Figures 401) Real/Historical 402) Fictional
Aircraft 101) Biplanes (All Scales) 102) Prop (1/72 and Smaller) 103) Prop (1/48 and Larger) 104) Jets (1/72 and Smaller) 105) Jets (1/48 and Larger) 106) Rotary	Automobiles 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
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)	Space and Sci-Fi 601) Space Vehicles 602) Gundams/Mecha
Ships 301) Old and Sail 302) Powered 303) Submarines	Dioramas/Vignettes 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 Walters 843-485-9076
Vendor Contact: Chris Penick 843-416-7172 dpen199@gmail.com or visit FloTownScaleModelers.org

• AIRCRAFT • AUTOMOBILES • SHIPS • GUNDAM • FIGURES • DIORAMAS • MECHA • GAMING FIGURES • SC-FI • ARMOR • RAFFLE • JUNIORS CLASSES

ENTER CONTEST, WIN PRIZES SIMPLE



DownEastCon 2026

(IPMS R-12 Regional Model Con.)
July 18, 2026
Theme: Americana

Havelock Tourist and Event Center.
301 Tourist Center Drive,
Havelock, NC
Here's all your information



• AIRCRAFT • AUTOMOBILES • SHIPS • GUNDAM • FIGURES • DIORAMAS • MECHA • GAMING FIGURES • SC-FI • ARMOR • RAFFLE • JUNIORS CLASSES

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.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

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: Pending

Email: **Pending**

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

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

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

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

(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.

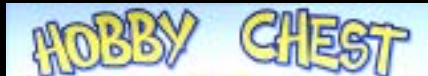
Meeting location: 12 noon the second Saturday of each month at 604 Guion St., New Bern, N. For up to date info on their meetings: <https://www.facebook.com/nbmmgnc>

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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Sunday: 12:00 Noon - 6:00pm
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Jacksonville, NC 28546
910-353-4473
info@hobbychest.com
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Editor's Notes:

Greetings chapter members, As you can see by the Artemis II article, ECPM membership is still interacting with the community in order to bring the joy of scale model building to a younger generation. The beauty is that despite widespread belief to the contrary, the younger generation is still capable of getting excited about a hobby older than their grandparents. And not an iPhone© was harmed in the process. One of the neat things about this hobby is that it is always evolving, despite an "old guard" seemingly hating each and every change. From cast resin to photo etch to 3-D printing, all of these changes have brought both new capabilities and new challenges to the hobby. These come, not only to kit manufacturers and builders, but also to contest managers and judges.

The reason I mention this is that a number of new things are now facing us that raise questions on how best address them. In our upcoming DEC 2026, we have added a judging category for gaming figures. This change comes much too late to be honest. Another significant change is the greater inclusion of Gundam and Mecha into the modeling mix. These seem to be the "hot" markets in model building right now and should help interest younger model builders in participating. But what changes in the judging criteria must be made? I mean, how do you count rivets on fantasy machinery? And, what about Legos? We have seen some incredible builds at monthly meetings.

The next decade in model building should be very interesting. Thanks guys, see you next month.

Thanks guys, see you next month. ☼
-Editor

The next meeting will be Saturday, April, 2026, 1200 pm until 2:00 pm at the Bridgeton Methodist Church, 510 B Street, Bridgeton, NC. It will be a Raffle! Bring money for tickets on two (2) prizes of \$50 in tokens for Hobby Chest and any new builds. Check your email, our fb page and website for changes in time and/or date. Isn't it time you joined IPMS? http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms_application_form_2019.pdf