



## ECPM - We Put It All Together.



(above) Yes, the USS Texas in her 1943 colors. The ship was built by Eric Gray and the kit by Trumpeter in 1:350. Welcome aboard, Eric.

## Meeting Schedule 2026

January	<del>12:00-2:00</del>	<del>Bridgeton Methodist</del>
February	<del>12:00-2:00</del>	<del>Bridgeton Methodist</del>
March	<del>12:00-2:00</del>	<del>Bridgeton Methodist</del>
April	<del>12:00-2:00</del>	<del>Bridgeton Methodist</del>
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

April 18, 2026

The April business agenda began just after noon with 30 members and two guests in attendance. President Alan Welch called the meeting to order, and the following items were presented and discussed:

**Treasurer's Report** – Mark Sandvigen provided a brief overview of financial activity over the last month. Recent expenditures were limited to buying checks (supply was low). There is still a good balance in the ECPM bank account to address any remaining costs related to DEC.

**Website Report** – Gary Mitchell gave a brief overview of new features added to the website. The home page banner is now a slideshow of all the months photos from the meeting.

And the new 'Survey Just for Fun' was added. Gary also spoke about creating a member profile and each month another member would be featured. All in attendance liked the idea so a questionnaire will go out and each member is asked to fill it out and supply some photos. Of course, participation is optional

**Newsletter Report** – The Newsletter was entered into the IPMS contest and fingers crossed it takes the prize again! Please remember, 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 conver-

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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)

sation 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 has an April Fools joke hidden in it. promised a Hobby Chest Token (\$10 value) to the first member to find it. He also reminded the group to bring in any gently recycled IPMS Journal back-issues that can be used as handouts to promote IPMS membership DEC 2026.

**Down East Con 2026** – Alan Welch and a couple of the section leads provided updates:

- **Schedule** – David M. is getting a schedule together public and club only and will publish it shortly to the website as well as here..
- **Vendor Status** – 16 vendors have committed and reserved a total of 39 tables; Tim Ryan 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.
- **Registration** – Online registration is now active; there will be more details provided next month.
- **Sponsorship and Awards Status** – We have 21 sponsors for 51 categories. Sponsoring a category can easily be done through the ECPM website, and Alan W. urged

members who are interested to do so soon.

**Judge Training** – Steve Kasza gave all members in attendance some insights on judging for the upcoming DEC26. Some of the main points were as follows:

- **DON'T PICK UP THE MODEL** (if any model needs to be picked up for judging call Steve K)
- IPMS does not judge on finish. Judging is on the basics.



- Don't be wowed by a fancy finish or a 'big' model. Each scale presents it's own difficulties and techniques
- We judge in teams and each team will have a leader with experience in judging.
- Any questions don't be afraid to ask!

Steve K. will send Alan W. the IPMS Judging rules and get everyone a copy.

**Raffle/Model Kit Donations** – David Mohr stated he now has about 190 kits for the raffle, and is no longer looking for additional donations. He also mentioned if you have any castaway kits (started, missing pieces, etc.) he is still accepting those.

**Other Events** – Gary M. went over the 'Other Cons' page of the ECPM website. There are a lot of upcoming shows so check the website often. And don't forget July 18th, 2026 is DEC26 and we need all hands to make this a success!

Alan stressed that this chapter has had a string of well run shows and expressed confidence that our membership has the experience, intelligence and morale to make this DownEastCon one of the very best.

### Other New Business

**Additional Donations** – once again John Ratzenberger provided various model tools and glues and other goodies for the members in attendance. Thank you John!

With no other new business brought forward by the membership the business agenda was concluded around 12:45 pm. This was followed by the first of the Bi-Yearly Hobby Chest Token Raffles. Congratulations go out to Tim Ryan and Robert Brackin who each won \$50 in tokens.

Then the Display Case presentations with 21 models presented by 13 builders! 🌟

- Gary Mitchell

# 1962 CORVETTE!

by Tim Ryan



1962 Corvette Convertible  
AMT #A1318-200  
Built by Tim Ryan  
March of 2026

This kit was issued by Round 2 under the “Trophy Series” of reissues in 2022.

The lineage of this kit goes much further back though, originally issued as a 1960 Corvette by SMP, the annual updates bringing it to the 1962 design, the last of the 1st Generation Corvette body styles.

This kit represents the car very well. It’s a bit basic in the chassis design, having molded in drive line and exhaust system. The engraving is good though so it’s relatively easy to pick out with a detail paint brush. Everything falls together fairly smoothly after some minor flashing clean up here and there.

The optional building methods are: Factory Stock, Drag Racer, Road

Racer and the Bonneville Salt Flats car that was popular in the 60’s and 70’s. Three intake options, stock with 4 bbl carb, a single blower or go all in with the “Dual Blower” option for the small block Chevrolet, custom two part hood to allow the dual blowers to sit proud of the car’s

factory height hood. Factory stock wheels are nice representations of the original hubcaps, “chrome slots” for the Drag car (with provided slicks), custom and Bonneville versions, steelies for road racers.

*(continued on page 4)*



# 1962 CORVETTE!

*(continued from page 3)*

The Drag version uses a “gasser” style straight front axle assembly with separate tie rods and trailing arms to support it, custom exhaust and traction bars. The kit also has a plethora of optional parts that can be used across any of the building versions suggested, a removable hard top, optional drivers roll bar, “Moon” fuel tank, custom tail light lens molded in clear red, two styles of front and rear bumperettes, full custom front end fascia and grilles, a passenger tonneau cover, low profile “Half wind-screen” and custom headrest. There’s even a packed parachute for the Bonneville or Drag versions.

I painted this with Dupli-color bright white, using Testers white pearl extreme lacquer spray over white primer for the interior finish. The kit is built out of box stock with the exception of some tiny magnets used to help keep the hood from falling off every time you move the model. This is something I’m trying to remember to do on most all my kits now to keep the hoods from being damaged if dropped.

I managed to build this in just a few days since it is a basic builder from way back. A few “cons”: there are several injector marks that need to be fixed or otherwise hidden when



possible, mostly on the smaller parts. The front plastic “spindles” for the front tires are a bit frustrating to get into the wheel backs deep enough. Speaking of which, I put mine in the upper holes to effectively lower the front end to what appears to be the proper ride height even though the instructions call for them to be in the

lower holes. The rear metal axle was installed in the lower holes for what appears to be stock ride height.

Overall this is an easy kit for most modelers and I would recommend it to a beginner who’s ready to move up from a snap type kit. ✪

- Tim Ryan



# 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 it's 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 (Jay Roig Memorial Award)**

- 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. Americana Theme
- 909. Marshall Smith Memorial Best EMS<sup>4</sup>
- 910. Best Naval Aviation Subject, All Categories<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 it's 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 DOWNEASTCON

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

<b>Theme:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Americana
<input type="checkbox"/> Wings of Gold
<input type="checkbox"/> No Theme

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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!**

02/08/2026



# OPERATION TIN CAN

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

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

Steve operates a live stream,

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

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

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

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

Worthy goal, Steve. ■

- editor

Museum page:

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

Operation Tin Can:

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

Link to the dynamic spreadsheet:

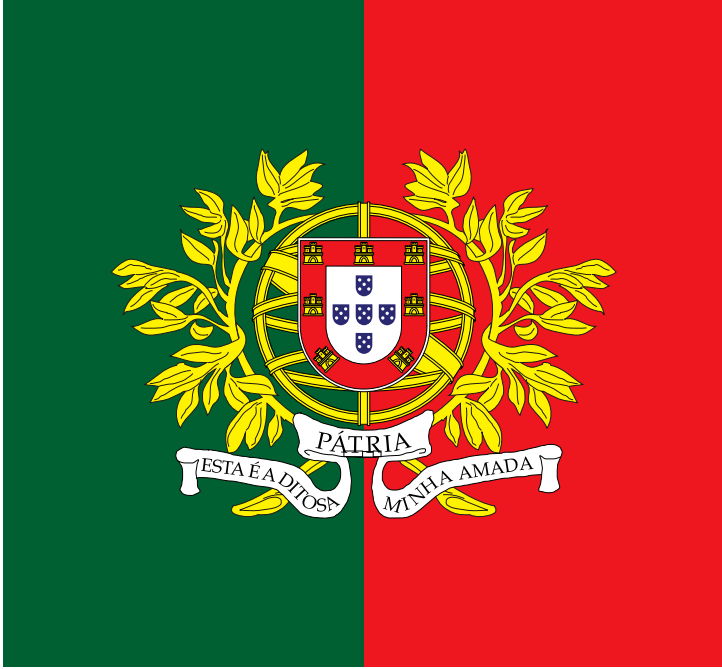


Name	Kit Number
25b	6675
Auto Machinegun A.M. Berliet U.D.B. 4 6x6 10ton	
Brn Universal Carrier	KV35011
British Howitzer 5.5 inch	135*023
British Howitzer 5.5 inch	135*023
Carden Loyd 1.5 Ton	
Chamite	35232
Chamite	82418
Chamite Bufo	82418
Comando V150	82422
Demolition Vehicle	35087
Demolition Vehicle	35077
Demolition Vehicle	35077
EDR	82489
EDR 2	82489
Edson Scout Car Mk2	A1379
GMC 4x4 M942	CB35112
Grazzy	6048
Grazzy Kangaroo	6048
Humber M943	CB35081
Infantry Support Vehicle	AF35050
LeFH18M 10.5cm Howitzer	AF35524
Leopard 2 Trainer	BT002
Leopard 2A6	BT002
M3 VTT	2077
M101	AF35191
M1015 Humvee	35263
M106	1354
M109A2	AF35109
M109A5	AF35109
M113	1354
M113 w/TOW II	1354
M114	CB35102
M113L Enhanced Armament Carrier	13435
M119	R3D35119
M120	1354
M24 Chaffie	AF35209
M3 Scout Car	82451
M3A1 Half-Track	6332
M4A5	2162
M4A3 105mm Howitzer & M1 Dozer Blade	13207
M4A1(76) HVSS	35323
M4A3(4) HVSS	RM5042
M4A3(105) HVSS	6334
M4A3(76) HVSS	RM5049
M577	AF3503
M577	35071
M578	AF35110
M5A1 Stuart	AF35105
M60 AV1B	3591
M60 Trainer	AF35249
M60A3	AF35249
M728	35254
M730	AF35002
M74	LF1297
M88	AF35008
M901	264
Pandur	F3057
Panhard HE-60-Z	2084
Recon Vehicle Berliet V.U.D.B. 2-10	
Seledin	3554
Sexton II	6760
TPS Ford M20 M952	35234
TP7 GM 4x4 m947	35020
Valentina	AF35185
V8L Armored Car	83876
Vickers 6 TON Double turret	83877
Vickers 6 TON Double turret	35303
Vickers 6 TON Double turret	35304
Vickers Arty Carrier	CV35003

# 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 Benedita 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) Chuck Colucci's massive T-34/85 in 1:16 scale. Marked as in Operation Bragation in June/July 1944.

(right) Dennis Korn's 1965 Indy Lotus, built out of the box except for replacement tires and decals and seat. It was interesting to follow Dennis through the travails of the construction. 1:25 scale kit by IMC.

(below) The infamous Ford 5-window coupe as it appeared in American Graffiti, Jim Smith used AMT's 1:25 1932 Street Rod and painted it with Tamiya pure yellow lacquer and wired the engine. Keep your eye out for more.





*(left) Another amazing scratch built motorcycle created by Mike Hooper. This time it's a 1959 Royal Enfield Constellation 700cc, two cylinder 4 stroke marvel in miniature. Beautiful Mike.*



*(left) Steven Mechel displays his USCGC Roger B. Taney, a Revell 1984 release in 1:305 scale. Color scheme and markings depict the ship as in the 1950's. Taney had a distinguished career from her launch in June of 1936 to her decommissioning in 1986! She fought from the opening of our involvement in WWII until Operation Market Time in Vietnam.*



*(left) The Texas in its full magistry, the 1:350 build is in the 1944 paint scheme as well as more AA guns than most minor country's entire navies. But then, late war was a dangerous place. Really nice job on the build, Eric.*



*(above) The massive JS-152 was brought in by William Lumbattis. The 1:35 scale Tamiya release was a very nice build with no issues. Painted in MRP Russian 480 green with Fruil tracks and weathered well. Marking would have placed the beast in the final assault on Berlin.*

*(below) The Bandai Liber Preist in 1:144 by Rodney Huyett. Another in the series Rodney has been working his way through, he says he only has another 6 to go. Rodney says this was about a day and a half of enjoyment.*



*(Below) Second in today's Liber series, the Liber Lancer again by Rodney Huyett, his fourth build in the 30m range. These are all built on the same frame and they have interchangeable parts and accessories. They are generally fun and well engineered.*



*(below) And finally, the Banadai 1:144 Liber Wizard. Rodney says the build should take about a day unless your kitten(s) insist on helping. These kit range about \$25 each and so far all are enjoyable. Rodney plans on continuing with the series.*





*(left) Back to the American Graffiti collection by Jim Smith, this time the 1958 Chevy Impala in 1:25 by AMT. The car is painted with Tamiya gloss white lacquer with chrome and red detailing by the builder. Very cool, Jim.*



*(right) Here's the infamous 1955 Chevy from Atlantis in 1:25 scale. Jim glossed this one with Tamiya gloss black lacquer and wired the engine as he always does.*



*(left) AND the coupe d'resistance, the 1956 Ford Thunderbird Suzanne Sommers drove in the film. The Revell kit is produced in 1:24 scale but it sure fits in with the rest of the group.*



*Latest from the Colucci Panzerwerks are these two AFVs in 1:35. Far left is a prototype French build based on a T-72 chassis called a GCT 152mm AV-F1 AFV. It's a Hobbyboss release of a one-of built for Egypt in 1995. Production did not ensue. Nearer left vehicle is a German M-48A2 from Panzer Battalion 354 based in Hammelburg in 1974*



*(left) Robert Bracken took a break from his normal figure painting to assemble this fine armored vehicle. In Robert's words: "The Monogram Patton tank was fun to build. I weathered the model as if it was in the Vietnam war. I airbrushed in Mig one shot green. Then weathered. I added water based putty mix with gravel to give the red clay look on wheels and track."*

*Nice, Robert, very nice.*



*(left) The 1962 Corvette convertible from the lead article in 1:25 was built by Tim Ryan. It's pretty cool looking and trim did a nice write up in the article. Tim said this was his older brother's car and he did not mention if he ever got to borrow it for special dates.*

*(right) Eric Gray not only brought in the USS Texas, but also the Mikasa, a Hasegawa 1:350 scale. Really nice build. That's the aft end of the Texas which Eric describes as an exercise in photo etch in the background.*



*(left) It's not finished yet but William Reece's 1:48 Eduard Wildcat will be soon. So far the only issues William has had were a missing fuel tank under the cockpit floorboards which William scratch built (even though no one can see it in there, HE knows it's there) and some slight inaccuracies in the decals.*

*(right) William Lumbattis also brought in a WIP, this time the Hasegawa release of the F-104G in 1:48. William is planning on finishing it as an Italian bird in camo rather than a bare metal as he had originally planned.*





*(left) Alan Welch brought is his spiffy Pfalz D-3 he has pretty much finished. He originally thought it was a Roden re-pop but Scalemates lists it as an original tooling by MAC Distributing. Yes, it's 1:72 and not a terribly good kit but but does have that sleek shark like look of the original aircraft. Rigging is done using EZLine and a UV cured super glus using Steve Kasza's techniques*

*(right) This is a Solar Auxilia Leman Russ Strike/Command Tank. The kit is mostly inspired by WWI trench warfare tank design. I am trying to paint it in the colors of the Death Korps of Krieg's 143rd Siege Regiment. I am mainly wanting to experiment with using a type of zenithal highlight. Kit will be mostly made using what was in the box with the exception of the gunner(not shown). Future attempts at the kit will include recessed sponson weaponry.*  
*-Louis Laplante*



*(left) Presenting the Rogal Dorn Battle Tank. The tank model is inspired by 1940/1950s American tank design. I modified it such that the turret hatches were able to open and close as well as magnetizing the main cannon to be swapped to a different variant. Currently working on figures, stowage, side sponson gun mounts, ladder rungs on the sides and some way to stack sandbags on the front. I will be trying to mimic the kit's box art appearance with some personal touches. Future attempts at the kit will include custom tank riders.*  
*-Louis Laplante*



# RANDOM MEETING SHOTS



## Mission: "So Many Models"

By David Stiteler

# Confessions of a Closet Modeler

My father once told me that after he retired from his second career, he was busier than when he was working for a pay check. I kind of chuckled, and thought that was hard to believe. Now that I'm finally retired, for real this time, I'm finding out that once again, he was right. As he did, I will too blame it on the family!

My father had all kinds of plans for when he retired for good. He had a huge model collection he wanted to work on; a 1947 Ford Coupe Convertible that has been in the family since my folks got married that he started years ago turning into a resto-mod that he wanted to finish, and never got around to it. Family, he said, got in the way; "Subject to the requirements of the Family". Sounds a lot like something I used to hear while I was in the service.

My family is not all that different, especially my extended family, meaning...INLAWS. Here is a typical situation I constantly have to deal with lately, since my retirement started over a year ago. Since I retired for good, my wife and In-Laws feel that I am more "Readily Available for the requirements of the Family". It's like I'm supposed to be on Stand-By like I was back on Alert again, or an Uber driver on call. For instance, just when I believe that I have a couple of hours

to myself to cut some parts off the sprue and dive into the sweet smells of model glue and paint, something ALWAYS comes up! "My sister has a flat tire and needs some help. Mom's car won't start again." That's because she hasn't driven it in months and the battery is dead...again. I've told them numerous times, since Mom doesn't drive anymore, someone needs to at least start it once in a while, or drive it somewhere once a week. Better yet, sell the thing.

One of my personal favorites is, "Mom's printer won't print, and they are not sure why because it has ink". I can't count the number of times I've dropped everything, drove the three miles to their house and found that...no-one turned it on. Or, one of the cats unplugged the thing chasing after a toy. There are many more of these, but the bottom line is I never seem to have the time to spend on my hobbies like I wanted to after retirement. By the time I get back home to pick up where I left off, I've lost my patience to continue, or too tired to get back at it. As a joke one time, I handed my wife an invoice and time-card for "Services Rendered" dealing with her side of the family. She was not amused.

Recently, my situation has changed somewhat. I've had a few doc-

tors' appointments and test results require him to adjust and change up some of my medications. I'm being directed to work on some life-style changes; more exercise, diet, and more importantly, more sleep and rest. "What, 4 or 5 hours of sleep each night isn't normal?". Hey, maybe I can finally get to relax by doing more of my hobbies without interruption. I have models and a 1947 Ford beckoning for me to spend some quality time with them. I mentioned this to the Doc, and I asked him if he had a prescription for an over-bearing family and In-Laws. He excused himself for a moment, went to his office and came back with a card with a name of a friend of his that could possible help...a divorce lawyer. I was not amused.

I'll do what I can to work on my life-style changes as far as exercise and diet is concerned. My wife has promised to rein in her family to help with my blood pressure issues, and work on allowing me more time for rest and relaxation. That means more time for me...and my models. And my 1947 Ford, for my father's sake.

To paraphrase a well-known quote, "So many models; so little time". Time to change that. 🚀

**-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>**

**GET 20% OFF!**

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

# IPMS/USA

Join or Renew Online at: [www.ipmsusa.org](http://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

# Smoky Mtn. Model-Con

43<sup>rd</sup> Annual - presented by Knoxville Scale Modelers Association



**I WANT YOU  
TO COME TO THE SHOW**

**Saturday May 30, 2026**

<p><b>MODEL CONTEST</b> aircraft, armor, autos, figures, sci-fantasy, ships, dioramas and more...</p> <p><b>Contest Information:</b> - Judging to IPMS standards. - 17, 17 and 17 for each category built categories. - Categories and entry forms on back of page and website.</p> <p><b>General contact:</b> Michael Fink mifink@knoxsmca.com</p>	<p><b>9:00 am to 4:00 pm</b> <b>KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC H.S.</b> (in the gymnasium) <b>3245 Fox Lane Rd. NW</b> Knoxville, TN 37923</p> <p><b>Contest Admission:</b> Adults \$10.00 for 9 or 2 models and \$1.00 for each additional model 18 and under FREE</p> <p><b>General Admission:</b> Adults \$5.00 18 and under FREE</p>	<p><b>HOBBY VENDORS RAFFLE DRAW (with great prizes) FELLOWSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Vendor information:</b> - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - \$10.00 table if used prior to May 1, 2026, \$20 thereafter - Doors open for setup at 7:00 am - Help unloading and loading available if needed</p> <p><b>Vendor contact:</b> Jeffrey Gales jgales@knoxsmca.com</p>
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS:  
[www.KNOXVILLESCEALMODELERS.com](http://www.KNOXVILLESCEALMODELERS.com)

# FloTown Model Showdown



For One Region South-Central  
IPMS Region 13 - The Carolinas

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

**June 27, 2026**

**VFW**  
**238 S Greer Rd**  
**Florence, SC**

**Vendor Tables:**  
\$25 Each



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

## Contest Categories

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Juniors</b><br/>001) 12 and under<br/>002) Teams (13-17)</p> <p><b>Aircraft</b><br/>101) Scale (All Scales)<br/>102) Prop (1/12 and Smaller)<br/>103) Prop (1/48 and Larger)<br/>104) Jet (1/12 and Smaller)<br/>105) Jet (1/48 and Larger)<br/>106) Rotary</p> <p><b>Military Vehicles</b><br/>201) Armor (1/48 and Smaller, All Eras)<br/>202) Armor (1/48 and Larger (1/35 and Larger)<br/>203) Armor (1/48 and Larger (1/35 and Larger)<br/>204) Wheeled and Softskin (All Scales)</p> <p><b>Ships</b><br/>301) Car and Sail<br/>302) Powered<br/>303) Submarines</p> | <p><b>Figures</b><br/>401) Realistic/Action<br/>402) Fictional</p> <p><b>Automobiles</b><br/>501) Street Road (48 and larger)<br/>502) Street Machines (20 and later)<br/>503) Trucks and Vans<br/>504) Racing (Closed Circuit)<br/>505) Racing (Straight Line)<br/>506) Imports<br/>507) Factory Stock<br/>508) Motorcycles<br/>509) Commercial Vehicles<br/>510) Space Vehicles<br/>602) Dismantle/Rebuild<br/>603) Dismantle/Rebuild<br/>701) Military<br/>702) Outlaw<br/><b>Woodenmodel</b><br/>801) Entries not fitting in any listed class</p> |
|---|---|

For more information:  
Club President: Dale Pembue 843-472-8033  
Show Coordinator: Chris Wilcox 843-685-3678  
Vendor Contact: Chris Powell 843-418-7772 chripow@ipms.com  
or visit:  
[www.FloTownModelers.org](http://www.FloTownModelers.org)

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**DownEastCon 2026**  
**(R-12 Regional Con.)**

**July 18, 2026**

**Theme: Americana**

Truly American innovations.  
(List of categories online)

Havelock Tourist and Event Center.  
301 Tourist Center Drive  
Havelock, NC

Limited Number of Free Vendor Tables  
Next door to two fine Hotels  
Keep track of updates here:

<https://www.ecpmod.com/downeast-con-2026.html>

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&  
PRESENT



**FALL CON '26**

**SPECIAL THEME AWARD:**  
**100 YEARS OF PONTIAC**

**NEW CATEGORIES**

**NEW AND EXPANDED CATEGORIES:**  
**INCLUDING A SPECIAL TOM DANIELS CATEGORY**

**September 26th, 2026**  
**9am to 3pm**

**Charles Mack Center**  
**202 N. Church St. (Rear Entrance) Mooresville NC 28155**

**GENERAL ADMISSION: \$5, UNDER 16 FREE W/PAID ADULT**  
**ACTIVE/RETIRED MILITARY FREE W/ID**

**CONTEST REGISTRATION: 9AM TO 12PM, \$10 FIRST MODEL,**  
**\$1 EACH ADDITIONAL, JUNIOR ENTRIES FREE**

Vendor Info: Jamie Shumaker, 704-508-1589, [fasttraxhobbies@yahoo.com](mailto:fasttraxhobbies@yahoo.com)  
Contest/sponsor info: Keith Redman, 704-245-4226, [Chief120887@aol.com](mailto:Chief120887@aol.com)



Follow us on Facebook- Fast Trax Hobbies and IPMS Race City



# Region 12 Listing



**Contact & meeting information on regional IPMS model building groups. This will give you the opportunity to contact or visit other IPMS chapters in Region 12.**

### **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: Rodney Jacobs**  
Email: [thepowerofrestoring@gmail.com](mailto:thepowerofrestoring@gmail.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)

### **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: [leegriffin@mindspring.com](mailto:leegriffin@mindspring.com)

<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)

### **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 Ron Chapman**

Email: [ronnychappy@gmail.com](mailto:ronnychappy@gmail.com)  
Zoom meeting also available at same time, email to: Ron

### **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)

### **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: [b2flighttest@gmail.com](mailto:b2flighttest@gmail.com)

### **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)

### **Mooreville/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: Aaron Thomas**

Email: [blacknova1963@yahoo.com](mailto:blacknova1963@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 336-244-5173

### **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: Doug Scott**  
Email: [doug.scott70@gmail.com](mailto:doug.scott70@gmail.com)

### **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)

### **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. ☼*

**When in Jacksonville experience a REAL hobby shop again.**



### NEW SUMMER HOURS!

Models, Radio Control, Airsoft, Board Games, Trading Cards, Collectibles, Warhammer!

Wed.-Thurs. 11:00am-7:00pm  
Fri. Sat. 11:00am - 9:00pm  
Sunday: 12:00 Noon - 6:00pm  
345-A Western Blvd.  
Jacksonville, NC 28546  
910-353-4473  
[info@hobbychest.com](mailto:info@hobbychest.com)  
since 1992

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910-477-8505  
[www.coastlinehobbies.com](http://www.coastlinehobbies.com)



Editor's Notes:

*Greetings chapter members, We had a great turn out for our April meeting, for the first time we greeted 30 dues-paid chapter members and two (2) guests. I see I have new name tags to print out so if anyone else out there needs a name tag drop me an email with name tag in the subject line and I'll have them for you next month.*

*And speaking of next month anyone who was not at the April meeting, (not mentioning any names here), be sure and try to get to next month's meeting. We want everyone up to date on plans for the DownEastCon.*

*Again, I have such confidence in this chapter. It is a privilege to hang out with you guys.*

*Speaking of, we have been in contact with the Single Marine Program office about some young volunteers, but of course, things and staff have changed so we are starting from near ground zero again. The good news is we now have history with them and apparently they were happy with how we treated their personnel last show. So my hopes are high for their cooperation again this show.*

*We are also getting ready to commence to start placing ads in real publications, (See the as well as IPMS Journal for instance), and local periodicals. Time to really start pushing this event so if you know other builders in the region please send invitations*

*Thanks guys, see you next month. ☼*  
-Editor

**The next meeting will be Saturday, May 16, 2026, 1200 pm until 2:00 pm at the Bridgeton Methodist Church, 510 B Street, Bridgeton, NC. It will be a Demo Meeting! Bring new builds and WIPs. Check your email, our facebook 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](http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms_application_form_2019.pdf)**