



The Reporter



The Official Newsletter of IPMS/Lakes Region Scale Modelers www.lakesregionmodelers.com February 2018

Holiday Party Extravaganza

Fifty six members, spouses, and family gathered on Saturday January 27th at the Golf Club of Illinois for our annual holiday party extravaganza. And this year's party did not disappoint!

The venue and food were excellent as always. After dinner we presented two special awards. Both were presented to our recently retired president, Phil Pignataro. The first was a plaque commemorating Phil's 10 years of unwavering dedication and service to our club. We cannot thank him enough. Coincidentally, Phil was also our member of the year for 2018!

The holiday party also is our annual club member's model contest. This year the only requirement was that the model was finished in 2017. With this in mind our members brought out the best of their work from this past year many of which were awards winners at other contests. Because of this we had a great display of the talent within the club. Cash awards by popular vote were given for first, second, and third place. Third place went to Tony Lambert for his 1/32 scale Fw-190. Tom Foti took second for his 1/35 scale T-64 on a nice display base. Our first place winner was Mark Karolus for a 1/700 scale IJN Mikasa. Well done gents and thanks to everyone for putting on a great display.

We wrapped up the evening with one of our biggest raffles in recent memory. The quality of the kits was great. There were a few big winners but it appeared that many of you went home with something. I also want to thank Art Giovannoni and Matt Wieczorek for their generous donations to the raffle!

Best of all it was time spent with friends and family who support or put up with, wink wink, our hobby.

Your newsletter editor was a little under the weather that evening so I apologize if I didn't get around to see more you and take more pictures.

Until next time, keep on building!

Holiday Party Extravaganza



Phil says a few words after receiving his award for meritorious service.



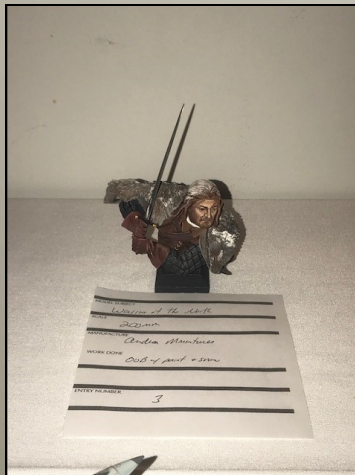
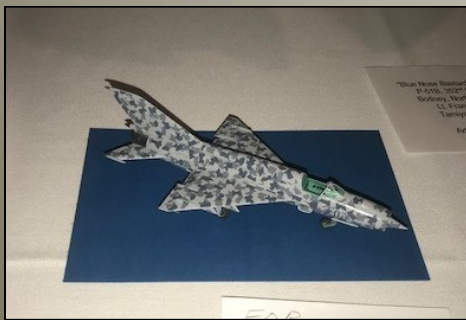
Phil receiving his member of the year beer stein. Hopefully there will be some cold beer being consumed soon!



1st place
Mark Karolus
IJN Mikasa



2nd Place
Tom Foti
T-64



3rd Place
Tony Lambert
Fw-189

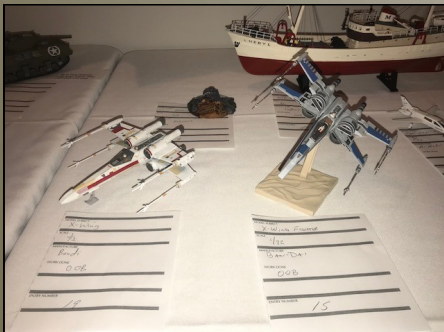


Table of Contents

President's Message	Page 4
The Briefing Room	Page 5
How Mix Paint Colors by Dave Haas	Pages 6 - 7
Decaling a MIG 21 by Phil Pignataro	Pages 8 - 9
The Toxicology of Modeling - Part II By Frank Mitchell	Pages 10 - 11
February Raffle Preview	Page 12
LRSM Calendar of Events	Page 13
Upcoming Shows & Contests	Page 14
Support your local hobby shops	Page 15
Join LRSM & IPMS USA	Page 16

President's Message

WHAT IS THAT OVER THE HORIZON?

Roses are red, violets are blue, I am expanding my modeling horizons, how about you?

Sorry for the corny opening line, but the intense, unrelenting pressure from our terrific newsletter editor to make my deadline with Pulitzer-worthy material makes this recovering CPA dive deep into a little used section of my right brain! But it is true – my modeling horizons are expanding. As I mentioned last month, I am teaching myself (through YouTube and friends in the LRSM club) to work with LEDs and fiber optic lighting and even a bit of soldering. All fingers and toes are still functioning so something must be going right. I also just returned from a two day painting course in Cedar Park, Texas – the home of one of my favorite modelling companies, Andrea Miniatures. I spent two days under the expert tutelage of Henry Nunez and Bob Bethea, both world class figure painters, and learned a ton of new ideas and methods. The course was only \$220 which included a \$50 figure so not too bad for a once a year pilgrimage. I hope to have the 1/16 scale D.A.K. Panzer Pioneer 1942 at the February meeting and promise to submit an article to Tom. Really!

This is such a wonderful hobby in that it can take you in so many directions. But the best part of the course in Texas was the people I met and the friends I made. And it was just good old fashioned fun. So I encourage you to try something different – just because it is different. Is my figure going to win a gold medal at the MMSI show – not a chance! But to me it is better than the last figure I painted and I like where my new horizons are taking me – I can't wait to see what foolish things I get into in March!

Speaking of March (Editor's note: that was a cheesy segue), the annual club auction is fast approaching in April. The club relies on your generous donations of kits to not only help rebuild our financial coffers but also provide nice kits for the NIMCON show raffle. So please take a long, hard look at your stash – divide the number of kits in it by the average number of kits you complete each year – and then ask yourself if you really are going to live to 613 years old! If not, please bring a few (or a few dozen) to the auction in April.

Also, remember that you must be a member in good standing (i.e., dues paid to Tom Reese) to participate in the auction. Yes, you can pay \$5 at the door if not a paid member but why not pay the \$10 now and enjoy all of the benefits of membership?

Finally, thanks to all for making this year's holiday party such a success. Wonderful food, great raffle prizes and modeling friends – what more could you ask for? And was I the only one with a little tear in my eye when Robert Raver broke his seven year run of raffle bad luck? I think not! Thanks one more time to Phil Pignataro for his above-and-beyond efforts to make the party such a success.

So keep on modelling – winter time is bench time! See you at the general meeting on February 23rd.

John



THE BRIEFING ROOM

BY TOM REESE

Did you know we have a website and Facebook page?

Yes it is true. Check out LRSM at www.lakesregionmodelers.com or on Facebook IPMS Lakes Region Scale Modelers.

We definitely want to increase our presence on social media so check out the Facebook page. Better yet post to the page. One thing to note when you post is that posts need to be approved by the page admins. That is myself and Phil Pignataro. The reason is to keep junk from cluttering the page.

Hope to see you on there soon!

Your newsletter needs you!

Thanks to you who've sent in contributions recently. I can always use more. If you read last month's issue you know I am recycling some relevant articles from past issues. But there is no substitute for new ideas, how to articles, book reviews, photo albums from your trips, and so on. You get the idea.

Hope to see your work in our newsletter soon!



HOW TO MIX PAINT COLORS IN ONE (easy?) LESSON

by Dave Haas

Last month I started off this year's newsletters with some past articles on basic how to modeling skills. In keeping with this theme following are some painting mixing basics from a presentation Dave Haas did for us in October 2014. Time flies!

Why bother?

- It's fun and challenging. Going deeper into the hobby always is.
- Irregularity of manufactured paints:
- Same manufacturer, same label, different color! I can't even tell you how often this has happened to me.
- Convenience. I hate to drop everything and run to the hobby shop. Oh, wait, it closed for good. I wonder how long it will take to ship the paint here.
- Save money. I just need a dab of the right color, ya know?

Nice stuff to have, but you can get by without most of it if need be.

- FS 595 color chip book/fan.
- Color Wheel (cheap, really, get one)
- Mixing pots (really, really cheap)
- Containers (available at any art supply shop, also cheap) if you want to keep a mix on hand.
- Pipettes (really cheap, too)

Internet sites that can help – just a few of many!

- <http://scalemodeldb.com/paint>
- [http://generaldevices.thomasnet.com/asset/fedstd595 color chart.pdf](http://generaldevices.thomasnet.com/asset/fedstd595%20color%20chart.pdf)
- <http://www.colorservers.net>
- <http://www.cybermodeler.com/#> (go to the color guides drop down menu in the header of the home page)

A little terminology, so you can impress people who know nothing.

- Hue = color
- Tint = a hue plus white
- Tone = a hue plus neutral grey (not warm or cool grays which include other colors)
- Shade = a hue plus black

- Shade = a hue plus black
- Value = the lightness or darkness of a hue. The higher the value, the lighter the hue (even though that sounds backwards to me, that is what it is).
- RGB = Red/Blue/Green – the way TV screens and monitors produce colors
- CMYK = Cyan/Magenta/Yellow/Black – the way printers produce color.

Practical Principles

- You really only need 5 paint colors just like the great aviation artist Keith Ferris!
- Pure red, blue, and yellow – the PRIMARY colors.
- Black and white.
- You can use other colors as a shortcut, but watch out. You must be aware of their component hues.
- Be aware of ambient lighting at your workstation if it is different than that of the target display area (if you are working at color matching for your wall, etc.).
- When mixing paints, you might want to record your mixture parts' ratios. I use the highly scientific units call "drops".
- Always start with the lighter (high value) colors – white or yellow if you are going to use them.
- Red is considered a medium value color, as is green if you use it or a shortcut.
- Add the dark hues – blue, black, and shortcut purple – in very small increments. Careful, they are strong!
- Spectral color "opposites" can be found on the color wheel. Notice that the primary colors are never each other's opposites. Mixing opposites tones down hues, tending towards "Neutral" hues, which are intermediate browns, grays, and drabs.
- Blue and orange.
- Yellow and violet (purple).
- Red and green.
- Test mixes on an appropriate base color (like what you will be painting them onto). Let dry. Repeat until you like what you see.

Using Syhart decals to model a Czech Air Force Mig-21MF By Phil Pignataro

At a recent model contest, a 1/48 Mig-21 in an unusual camouflage scheme - sort of a mix of digital and splinter schemes - caught my eye. Through an internet search I found that very scheme offered in 1/72 by Syhart Decals of France. I had build one for my collection.

Fujimi offers several Mig-21 variants in 1/72 and even though they have been around since the early 1990's, they are excellent kits. I happened to have an "MF" in my stash, so I was on my way. Fujimi's kit is a straight-forward, hassle-free build. Just a touch of filler was needed near the wing roots and vertical stabilizer. Since the canopy would be opened, I added more detail in the cockpit with decals, paint, and a QuickBoost resin ejection seat. The cockpit is pretty small, so even these little additions help make it look "busy."

Because the entire model would be covered in decals, a perfect base coat is essential. I sprayed several thin coats of Alclad's Grey Surface Primer, buffing the model between coats. After looking at a bunch of internet photos, I decided the primer's color was pretty close, so it served as the base color. Several light coats of Tamiya Clear provided a smooth surface for the decals.

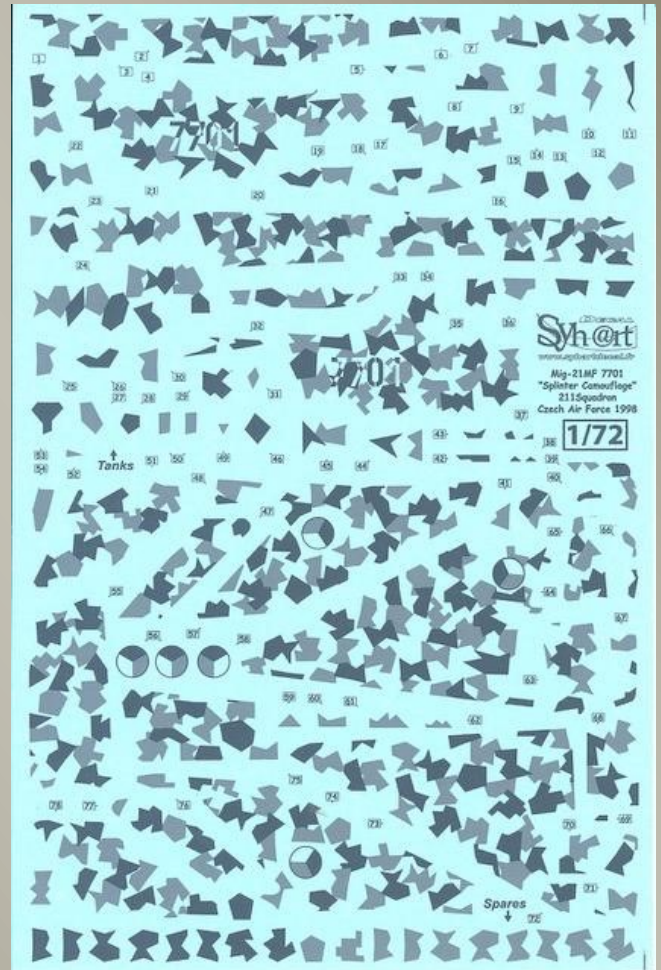
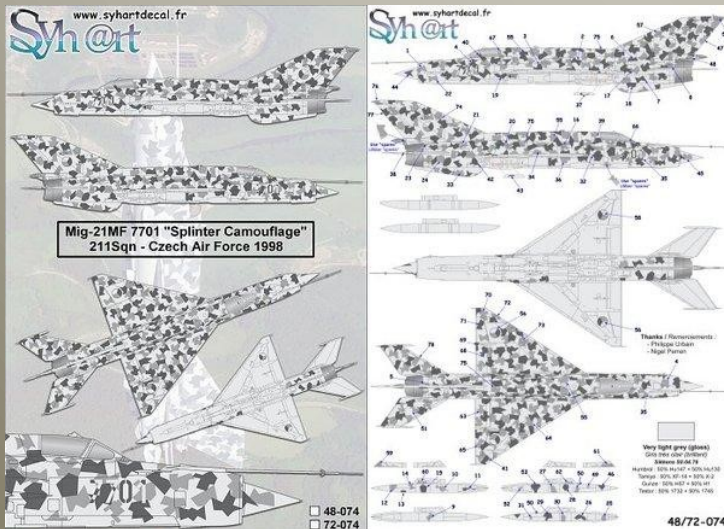
Having never used Syhart's decals before, I followed the directions closely. The decal sheet itself and the instructions will make you cross-eyed if you look at them too long. However, you need to study both to identify the outlines of the individual pieces. There are about 70 decal sections needed to complete the camouflage scheme and the instructions don't really tell you where to start. For me, the easiest shapes to identify were the vertical and horizontal stabilizers. I was pleased to find the decals worked perfectly. They are very thin and must be applied carefully, but settled down nicely with no silvering. I used a moistened Q-tip to smooth them over the model. Syhart cautions against using any decal wetting/setting solutions and I found none were needed. Continuing with sections that had identifying features on the model, I applied the decal pieces that had the aircraft number (7701) on the fuselage sides and the two having the Czech roundels on the wings. I then filled in the rest of the shapes after these had dried. The process took several days as I wanted the decals



to be thoroughly set before I handled the model to add more decals. There are about a dozen extra pieces in each color for spares and I used about half of them.

Not knowing how the decals would fit over compound curves, I left off the four intakes on the rear fuselage. In the end, this step was not necessary since the decals easily conform to any surface. Once all the decals were in place, I again sprayed two light coats of Tamiya clear.

The overall result is an eye-catching model with an unusual camouflage scheme. I highly recommend the Syhart decals. I liked them so much, I purchased another 1/72 sheet for a US Navy Bicentennial digital scheme for an F/A-18F. This company specializes in unique commemorative aircraft markings for mostly European aircraft, but they also have some US and Canadian subjects. You can check out their product line on their website: www.syhartdecal.fr.



The Toxicology of Modeling Part II

By Frank Mitchell, D.O., M.P.H.
IPMS - USA #789

Adhesives

"White" Glues

- Originally produced from animal parts (you don't want to know).
- Today, are primarily water soluble emulsions of polyvinyl acetate; may also contain small amounts of other components to speed drying, produce different colors, etc.
- Essentially non-toxic.

Solvent Adhesives

- Most are methylene dichloride, ethylene dichloride, methyl ethyl ketone, toluene, or similar compounds; they work by dissolving styrene plastic and therefore weld the parts together.
- Widely used in industry for many purposes.
- Acute toxicological effects generally due to inhalation; first symptoms arise from involvement of the central nervous system and are similar to alcohol ingestion.
- May be absorbed through the skin and cause de-fatting (drying); cracks and rash can occur; with quantities typically used in modeling, these effects are generally not seen.
- In the eye, liberal washing (several minutes at least), should suffice.
- If more than a small drop, see a physician, but eye toxicity not high.
- Commercial tube and liquid cements may also contain some solvents; also often have thickeners, retarders and other substances added to slow drying and to discourage glue sniffing.

Always better to use the solvents in small amounts; limits the possible health effects, and also serves to decrease the number of parts that can be melted. I keep an old decal solution bottle on the bench and fill it from the larger container.

These solvents are rapidly metabolized and eliminated by the body, and they do not accumulate over time; thus no long-term effects would be expected to occur. Although the potential carcinogenic effects of these solvents have been widely studied, there is no reason to be concerned if used as most modelers would employ them. There is NO evidence whatever that MEK or toluene, for example, causes cancer in humans.

Cyanoacrylate Adhesives ("superglues", CA)

- Originally developed during World War II; widely marketed in the late 1950s.
- Used extensively in industry and in medicine for repairing small holes in the eye and in binding metal replacements (such as hip joints) to the surrounding bone.

- Cyanoacrylates have many uses in modeling, and in many formulations (very thin liquid, gap-filling, gel).
- Cyanoacrylates can cause mechanical or chemical effects.
- **Mechanical:**
- Do not "dry"; they polymerize (or cure) instantly, but this slows as the glue ages.
- Accelerators supply base (opposite of acid); therefore, due to the slightly basic nature of the skin, they work very well for gluing fingers or other body parts together.
- **Chemical:**
- Primary chemical effect of cyanoacrylates in modeling is airway and eye irritation which can be intense due to fume that is released during the curing process. Can also cause more severe effects including permanent eye damage and chemical asthma.

Handling Cyanoacrylates

- Keep a supply of waxed paper handy; put a drop on a small piece of the waxed paper and then apply the glue with the eye of a needle or even a piece of wire that is stuck into the eraser of an ordinary pencil. This system allows only a small amount of the glue to be exposed. The CA on the waxed paper will polymerize only very slowly so that it will remain useable for rather long period of time. This technique works well with either the thin or the thicker gap filling forms of the adhesive. A side benefit of this method is that it makes for neater models because it allows for very precise placement of the glue and there is less chance of glue going where you do not want it.
- Keep a can of acetone nearby; it is the best agent for removing CA from skin (or anywhere else).
- DO NOT just pull stuck fingers apart. You will almost certainly pull off at least one layer of skin and severe injuries can result. Instead, apply the acetone liberally and work the fingers apart.
- When used on wood, cyanoacrylates can fume very vigorously, so be especially careful when using it for this purpose.
- The eye and nasal irritation can be severe.
- The possibility for extreme irritation does not end after the cyanoacrylates are cured. Cured cyanoacrylates can produce significant fume when sanded - especially when worked with a power tool.
- If you should get cyanoacrylate adhesives into the eyes, do not waste time attempting to open them; immediately get to medical care. Cyanoacrylate in the eye is a true medical emergency and urgent care is mandatory.

In summary, the cyanoacrylate adhesives are, in my view, among the most useful materials in our tool boxes, but they are also, by far, the most dangerous. Care must be exercised, or what is supposed to be a hobby can produce unwanted and very serious adverse health effects.

Super Raffle - Two \$75 Gift Certificates!



RAFFLE PREVIEW



1/48 Kitty Hawk Su-17M3-M4 Fitter



1/72 Academy USAF F-15E



1/144 Dragon Space Shuttle



1/35 CyberHobby JS-2m ChKZ Type 51



1/35 Italeri Panzerwerfer 42 auf Maultier

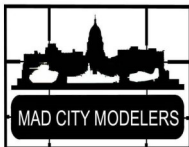


Airfix McLaren P1 Quick Build



1/72 Airfix Jet Provost T.3

<p>JANUARY 2018 No Monthly Meeting Holiday Party Saturday January 27th at The Golf Club of Illinois</p>	<p>FEBURARY 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - Aircraft Program - "Skeet for the Fleet" by Walt Fink. Don't miss this fascinating presentation on being live bait for Naval target practice.</p>	<p>MARCH 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - Armor Program - Build Night Supper Raffle</p>
<p>APRIL 2018 No Monthly Meeting Club Auction</p>	<p>MAY 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - Automotive Program—TBD</p>	<p>JUNE 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - Ships Program - Build Night Super Raffle</p>
<p>JULY 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - SciFi/Space Program - Kit/Build Review of DeAgostini Millennium Falcon by John Graham</p>	<p>AUGUST 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - Aircraft Program—TBD</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - Armor Program - Build Night Super Raffle</p>
<p>OCTOBER 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - Automotive Program—TBD</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - Ships Program—TBD</p>	<p>December 2018 Monthly Meeting Theme - SciFi/Space Program - Build Night Super Raffle</p>



**MAD CITY MODELERS
23rd ANNUAL MODEL
SHOW
SATURDAY MARCH 3th
2018
Madison Labor Temple
1602 South Park St.
Madison, WI. 53715**

REGISTRATION 9-NOON
JUDGING NOON-3
AWARDS 4PM

ENTRY FEE:
\$10.00 FOR FIRST 5 ENTRIES-\$1 EACH ADDITIONAL
INTERMEDIATES \$5.00 FOR ALL MODELS ENTERED/ JUNIORS FREE
SPECTATORS \$2.00 PER ADULT OR CHILD OVER 12
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
POLICE, FIRE, EMS AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY WITH ID FREE
VENDORS \$20.00/TABLE BEFORE FEB1, 25.00/TABLE AFTER

THEME AWARD
‘The Sixties’

AWARDS

WAYNE B. GRINNELL AWARD-BEST OF SHOW
JIM TUREK AWARD BEST JUNIOR
THE LAST SQUARE AWARD-PEOPLES CHOICE
BEST ARMOR
BEST AIRCRAFT
BEST AUTO
BEST FIGURE
BEST SHIP
BEST MARINE CORP SUBJECT
BEST SCIFI—REAL SPACE
BEST WWI AIRCRAFT
BEST OUT OF THE BOX
BEST MISCELLANEOUS

The U.S. Junior Scale Modeling Team

A PROJECT OF WISCONSIN 4-H
RECIPIENTS OF A PRESIDENTIAL COMMENDATION FOR SERVICE TO
THE ARMED FORCES

SALUTING OUR VETERANS!

PRESENTS
THE 10th ANNUAL

**SHEP PAINE CLASSIC
VETERANS SHOW**

AT THE ZABLOCKI VA MEDICAL CENTER
SATURDAY MAY 12, 2018

CLEMENT ZABLOCKI
VETERANS ADMIN MEDICAL CENTER
DOMICILIARY (DOMS 123)
5000 W. NATIONAL AVE.
MILWAUKEE, WI

REGISTRATION 9:00AM – 12 NOON

JUDGING 1-3

AWARDS 3 PM

JUDGING BY MODIFIED CHICAGO SYSTEM

THIS SHOW IS TOTALLY

FREE

TO ENTER AND TO ATTEND

THE LARRY PETERS BEST USAF, USA, USN/USMC, USCG
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD SUBJECTS
CARL PALM MEMORIAL BEST OF U.S. JUNIOR SCALE MODELING TEAM
SHOW STORYTELLER AWARD

VETERANS CHOICE BEST OF SHOW

CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI THEME AWARD
JOHN WAYNE
ANY VEHICLE OR ORDINANCE EVER SEEN IN ONE OF HIS MOVIES.

THE SHEP PAINE AWARD
A DIORAMA OF ANY SUBJECT WHICH INCLUDES A COW!

NIMCON 7
Seventh Annual Northern Illinois Model Contest
1968
Viet Nam

Saturday, June 16, 2018
9:00AM to 5:00PM

McHenry County College,
8900 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake, Illinois

Gold/Silver/Bronze
Open Judging
10 “BEST OF”
Category Awards
SPECIAL AWARD
for Best Viet Nam Subject

General Admission is \$5 children 12 and under FREE.
Active Duty Military & First Responders FREE with valid ID

Contest Registration:
\$10 for admission & 5 models;
additional models are \$1 each

Gigantic Raffle/Huge Vendor Area/
Food By GWG Foods, LLC

Visit: www.lakesregionmodelers.com
for news, forms, and updates also see us on Facebook

CLASSES

JUNIORS (AGE 17 & UNDER)

ADULTS

STANDARD
ADVANCED

CATEGORIES

FIGURES-ALL TYPES INCLUDING MODIFIED INDIVIDUAL FIGURES
BOTH REAL AND FANTASY

MILITARY-ALL MILITARY VEHICLES REAL,FANTASY AND
THEORETICAL

CIVILIAN-ALL NON-MILITARY SUBJECTS INCLUDING REAL SPACE,
FANTASY AND THEORETICAL

OPEN-ALL SCRATCHBUILT, ALL DIORAMAS AND NON-KIT
VIGNETTES,INCLUDES REAL, FANTASY AND THEORETICAL

AWARDS

GOLD
SILVER
BRONZE

HIGHLY COMMENDED

NO NUDE FIGURES

ALL FIGURES BOTH MALE AND FEMALE MUST BE PROPORTIONALLY ACCURATE
ADDITIONAL PRIZES MAY BE AWARDED AS AVAILABILITY PERMITS
ALL AWARDS ARE MADE AT THE ULTIMATE DISCRETION OF THE SHOW ORGANIZERS AND ARE FINAL
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR WINNING A MODEL MUST BE ON THE TABLE BY 12:00 NOON

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

MICHAEL A. LUEDKE
SHOW MANAGER
262-567-9147
Americamodelers@gmail.com

Directions

I-94 To HWY 41 S. Exit onto National Ave-West Use entrance at 54th St.
Turn Right into Property and proceed ahead. To Pick Up and Drop Off
Turn Left and use traffic circle in front of DOM123. Visit Turn Right
and use Employees lot ahead and to the right.



Hobby Town USA of Lake In The Hills
9200 Pyott Rd at Imhoff Road
Lake In The Hills IL 60156 847-658-1515



Fine Plastic Model Kits

- #1 Source for Private Airplane Models
- Makers of the finest Titanic Model available



Hobby Town USA of Schaumburg
247 W Golf Rd Schaumburg, IL
847-490-0900



America's Best Train & Hobby
865 Maplewood Itasca, IL 60143
630-467-1102



Hobby Town USA of Rockford
3782 N Alpine Rd, Rockford, IL 61114
(815) 282-0727



Royal Hobby Shop
3920 E State St, Rockford, IL 61108
(815) 399-1771



Hobby Town USA of Lake Geneva
168 E Geneva Square, Lake Geneva, WI 53147
(262) 729-4053

JOIN/RENEW LAKES REGION SCALE MODELERS

Name _____ Telephone (_____) _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

IPMS membership # _____ Exp. Date _____

Additional Family Members: _____

Do not publish in the membership list:

- Address
 Telephone number
 E-mail

SEND TO: Tom Reese
 1300 Meghan Ave.
 Algonquin, IL 60102

Dues: \$10.00 per year Make checks payable to Lakes Region Scale Modelers**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 orderPayment 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/USAJoin or Renew Online at: www.ipmsusa.org

PO Box 56023

St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023

IPMS/ Lakes Region Scale Modelers Chapter contacts**President** John Graham: email at cubflyer1940@yahoo.com**Chapter Contact:** Neil Butler email at ExcenMod@aol.com**Vice President:** Robert Raver email at rrraver@gmail.com**Newsletter Editor:** Tom Reese email at tlbjreese@att.net**Treasurer:** Tom Reese email at tlbjreese@att.net**Secretary & Membership Chairman:** Matt Stowell email at msstowell@comcast.net