

# THE SCRATCHING POST

Newsletter of the Central Arkansas Scale Modelers



2019 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER ISSUE

## Welcome to The New Scratching Post!

It was 2017 when the last article was posted on the website blog version of the Scratching Post. Shortly after that, we received news that CASM's old meeting location, HobbyTown USA in Little Rock, would be closing. While that was a major blow to our club, we worked through this difficult time, and found that a new era was just beginning!

In mid-2017, the Regional Innovation Hub in North Little Rock graciously opened its doors to us and gave us space to meet and put display cases to show our many awards and the model work of our members. The Hub has also provided a venue for our last two Spoo-Doo model shows that has easy access to parking, while still being close to downtown and numerous restaurant options.

With the change of location, we lost some members, and our first meetings at the Hub were not well attended. But the club soon started seeing new growth, with members returning to the fold after many years away, and new members that were just learning about the club. Most importantly, we saw an increase in junior modelers attending our meetings, including Dakota Leker, Ashira Brostrand, and Hunter Wassell.

We also received a new level of support from Rail and Sprue Hobbies. Owner Darryl Connors stepped up to sponsor our group builds by donating gift certificates, and for our Spoo-Doo, he donated several items for the raffle and silent auction.

Through this period, CASM continued to do what we do best, which is to support and promote our hobby. And those efforts paid off, as we received both the Regional and National IPMS Chapter of the Year awards! This is a testament to the hard work of our members through a difficult period in our club's history.



Now in 2019, CASM is continuing to grow and move forward, and it seemed to be the perfect time to revamp and revitalize the Scratching Post. With most of our internet traffic moving away from our website and toward our Facebook page, we are moving to this .pdf format so that we may more easily share what our club is doing through email and on social media.

I personally hope that you all will enjoy the new direction and consider contributing articles and pictures to make our newsletter a success!

Brent Bristow-editor

# The Rye Field Panther G, part 1: From the Ground Up by Rick Knapp

The 1/35 scale Rye Field kit of the Panther G, Early/Late Versions with Full Interior, Kit no. RM-5016, is an intimidating project to contemplate. Packed into a huge box and featuring 1,907 parts with clear upper hull and turret, it includes every conceivable detail that made up this iconic German tank of World War II. As daunting as all that appears (The instruction manual runs to 52 pages.), having acquired the thing at a bargain price, I knew I'd have to dive in and give it a go. For good or ill, this will be Installment One in the Panther G saga.



The instructions would have a builder begin with the Panther's turret, but I chose the conventional route and started, literally, from the ground up. Discovering that the kit's individual-link tracks can be made workable, I began putting together the first run of 87 links. The track links are molded in reddish brown styrene, well detailed, with minimal flash. Unlike the track links for Rye Field's Gruppe Fehrmann Tiger I tank, which feature the track guide teeth as separate parts, the Panther G's track links are one-piece affairs, guide teeth included. Parts X4, which appear to be optional ice cleats, are a bit of a mystery, since only seven are included for each run of track. Are they meant to be added only at the most visible front and rear portions of the tracks?

One review of this model mentions a handy jig that allows construction of runs of six links at a time. Actually, the kit contains a pair of track jigs that can be joined to allow building sections of eleven links each. The track pins are spaced for easy insertion, five at once, when left on their sprues. With careful gluing, the end result is a run of track that can be manipulated like the real thing. Care, and some cleanup afterward, are needed when cutting the sprues away from the glued-in links. There are two types of track pins, labeled inner and outer. This means that a left-hand and a right-hand track will be made. In truth, it's hard to tell a great deal of difference in the tiny link heads, but the fact that there is a differentiation speaks to the level of detail the kit makers have strived for.

I've completed one run of track (87 links), mostly with little trouble, and have taken a break to work on the tank's lower hull and suspension; I'll talk about those aspects of the kit, including fun with photo-etched parts, in the next installment of this tale.



## Member Profile: Alex Silvia



**Hometown:** Portsmouth, Rhode Island

**Current City:** Benton

**Profession:** Merchandizer

**First joined CASM:** 2017

**Currently position in CASM:** Club Contact

**Primarily modeling interest:** Gundam

**What got you into modeling:** My Dad built car models and introduced him to modeling. I got interested after watching Gundam show on TV and seeing commercials for kits.

**1<sup>st</sup> kit purchased:** Wing 0 1/100 Bandai

**What do like about CASM:** Everyone is very welcoming and friendly.

**Other interest:** Video Games, Movies

**Number of unbuilt kits:** 37

**Favorite reference material:** CASM meetings

**Dream kit:** Penelope from a Gundam novel

**Number of unfinished projects:** 1

**Tip for modelers:** Sandpaper is your friend!

## Upcoming Shows in Area

March 30 RiverCon VIII 2019, Bossier City, LA

March 30 Tulsa Modelers Forum Contest, Bixby, OK

April 6 Great South Tigerfest XXV, Kenner, LA

April 13 MOSS CON 2019, Springfield, MO

April 19-20 West-Ark Scale Model Contest, Clarksville, AR

April 27 Modelmania, Stafford, TX

May 18 37th Annual Smoky Mtn Model-Con, Knoxville, TN

May 31-June 1 Tulsa Figure Show, Tulsa, OK

June 1 ScaleFest / Region VI Regional, Grape Vine, TX

June 1-2 Wonderfest USA, Louisville, KY

June 8 SoonerCon 2019, Bethany, OK (joint IPMS/AMPS)

June 8-9 Heartland Model Car Nationals, Overland Park, KS

June 22 AutumnCon 2019, Covington, LA

June 22 River City Rumble Model Car Show, Memphis, TN

August 7-10 IPMS USA National, Chattanooga, TN



Alex's Regelgu

# Out of Box Review: Moebius EVA Pod by Brent Bristow



Moebius has been releasing several models of vehicles from the film 2001: A Space Odyssey, and their newest release, the EVA Pod, is a massive kit with tons of detail. This 1/8 scale model will build up to 10 ¼" by 11 ½" and features a fully detailed interior and a hatch door that opens.

After initially looking at the kit, the parts appear to be molded cleanly, and the details are crisp. Some of these details will be a challenge to mask and paint, but fortunately, most of this kit can be painted in sub-assemblies. The instructions are in a 12-page, fully illustrated book that is easy to follow. The parts are made of white and clear styrene, with chrome plating for the exterior lights.



After test fitting some of the parts, I found that they are well engineered and fit together easily. However, making the seams invisible will require a lot of work. There is also some minor warping in the some of the larger parts but cementing the parts together should take care of these issues.



The interior is designed with clear parts for the computer screens and light panels. There should be plenty of room to run LEDs for both the interior panels and the exterior lights. A lighting kit will be available, or you can wire you own.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for this piece will be to get a flawless white finish on such a large, smooth area. Properly painting this model will require an approach similar to painting a car model, with extensive wet sanding.

While this model costs \$189, it looks as though Moebius has done their homework on this one and has produced a closely screen accurate kit. It will require a good bit of work, but should build up quite nicely, and will be a must have kit for sci-fi modelers!

## CASM Meeting and Contact Information

The Central Arkansas Scale Modelers meet at 10:00 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub , located at 204 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. , North Little Rock, AR 72114.

Modelers of all genres are welcome to attend!

For more information, find us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CASModels/> or

<https://www.facebook.com/CASModels/>. You can also go to our website at

[www.casmodels.org](http://www.casmodels.org), or email us at [cc\\_casm@hotmail.com](mailto:cc_casm@hotmail.com)



### Join IPMS/USA!

The International Plastic Modelers' Society is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. There are IPMS branches all over the world.

As part of your IPMS/USA membership, you will receive the IPMS Journal six times a year. In it you will find stories of interest on subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, and figures. You will also find listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA-sanctioned Regional Contests, as well as our world-famous National Convention, held each summer.

As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Members' Forum, where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the country offer discounts to IPMS/USA members. To join, simply use the form below or join online (<http://www.ipmsusa.org>).

For any questions or problems regarding your membership application or renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Office Manager ([manager@ipmsusa.org](mailto:manager@ipmsusa.org)).

### 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)

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