

# THE SCRATCHING POST

Newsletter of the Central Arkansas Scale Modelers



2019 2nd QUARTER ISSUE

## 2019 Sproo-Doo Coming Soon!

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Sproo-Doo is set for September 28th at the Regional Innovation Hub in North Little Rock. Get your entries ready!!

The show theme for this year's show is The 1960s: Fly Me To The Moon, and there will also be a special theme award for Animal House, which includes any model that includes an animal as part of the name, or has an actual animal as part of the model.

This year's show will feature a new model car contest held in conjunction with the Sproo-Doo, which will be headed up by our own Dave Branson. Special awards for this part of our show will include Best Mopar, Best GM, Best Ford, and Best of the Rest.

Dealer's tables are available, and don't forget to donate any extra kits you may have for the silent auction and raffle. There are also still trophy sponsorships available.

For more details, contact Show Coordinator Ron Leker at [ron-leker@outlook.com](mailto:ron-leker@outlook.com).

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in September!

IPMS Region 6 / AMPS  
Central Arkansas Scale Modelers  
19th Annual  
**SPROO-DOO MODEL SHOW**  
Saturday, Sept 28th

THE 1960s  
**FLY**  
*Me to*  
*the*  
**Moon**

AND  
**MODEL CAR**  
**SHOW!**

[casmodels.org](http://casmodels.org) / [casmodelers@gmail.com](mailto:casmodelers@gmail.com)  
Show Venue: The Innovation Hub  
204 E 4th St, North Little Rock, AR 72114

## A Message from our Region Coordinator

**Dear Region VI Team members,**

**An official survey of the membership to ascertain preference of GSB and 123 judging systems is now under way. *THIS IS AN OFFICIAL SURVEY TO SUPPLY CURRENT INFORMATION TO THE E-BOARD, NOT A PROPOSAL.* There is *NO* effort I am aware of to change the way IPMS/USA judges our contest. The purpose of this e-mail is to inform the membership of the survey. As part of the survey, we have provided basic, unbiased descriptions of both GSB and 123 systems that will be included in the April/May issue with the survey card to include non-computer folks. Full details of the survey can be found here: **SURVEY** Voting will take place via a survey card in the April/May 2019 issue of "The Journal", at the nationals in Chattanooga this summer, and now on-line on the election ballot. The survey will also be printed at the bottom of the model registration forms at the national contest to best insure the maximum participation of the membership.**

**The survey, questions, 1-2-3 and GSB descriptions, were composed by a group of volunteers with oversight from Ron Bell, the E-board, with participation from Mark Persichetti, Chief Judge for IPMS/USA and the NCC.**

**ON-LINE VOTING IS NOW ACTIVATED! Members may vote for their choice on the survey when voting in the general election. The instructions are here: <https://voting.ipmsusa3.org/content/activate-your-account>. The only way you can vote on the survey on-line is register to vote in the general election.**

**-Sean Glaspell**



# The Rye Field Panther G: Part 2-Fun with Photo-Etch

By Rick Knapp

The Rye Field Panther saga continues. My original intent, to proceed from the ground up—suspension, running gear, and tracks—has been modified. It has become apparent that, for handling purposes, the multi, multi, multi-part interior of the tank’s hull will have to be completed before putting wheels and treads on the thing.

Will everything fit? Small misalignments in construction can be magnified down the line, and while part fits are mostly good, the question will be, is “mostly good” good enough?

Construction of the hull interior relies heavily on photo-etched parts, and anyone who has dealt with photo-etched brass parts knows they can be problematic. This is especially true for someone like myself, with definitely limited photo-etch skills.

My aim at this point is to build up what I think of as the “substrata” of the hull interior—torsion bars, etc.—so that said substrata can be painted before adding the next layer of detail. I’ll let the photos accompanying this installment tell most of the story; the rest of this piece

will deal with theory and practice of building with photo-etched parts.

Theory first: Modelers with photo-etch experience will understand a thought that usually occurs when surveying kit instructions and photo-etch frets. The thought goes something like this: “Yeah, using *those* parts will be pretty easy and straightforward, but some of these *others*, especially the tiny ones, is going to be a pain in the rear! Have the people who designed this kit actually attempted to do what they’re expecting *me* to do with this brass?”

*Theoretically*, all that’s required is cutting the brass parts free, removing “nibs” (easier said than done with small parts), making bends here and there, and (carefully) sticking the part in place with slow-set super glue. In *practice*, making bends in tiny parts, making long bends, and making bends that require going “this way and that way,” can be trauma-inducing. Yes, photo-etched parts allow for assemblies with to-scale thickness, but in some cases a less elegant styrene part might have been a better option. So it is with the Rye Field kit.

In some cases my efforts with the Rye Field brass parts have been a definite case of “do the best you can,” and hoping imperfections won’t be noticeable. In the cases of things like tiny handles that demanded bends in one direction followed by bends the opposite way, close enough has had to be good enough. These are parts that it certainly might have been better to mold in plastic. Rye Field provides alternate styrene parts in some of their kits; I wish they had here.

As the man said as he passed each floor after falling from a tall building, “So far, so good!”





## **The Rye Field Panther G**

**Check out the  
3<sup>rd</sup> quarter issue  
of the  
Scratching post  
for part 3 of  
Rick's ongoing  
build, available  
September of  
2019!**



## Member Profile: David Branson



**Hometown:** Dover, Delaware

**Current City:** Jacksonville

**Profession:** Restaurant Manage

**First joined CASM:** 2007

**Primarily modeling interest:** Automotive

**What got you into modeling:** My Dad started the original model club, CAMS, around 1975, that met in Jack's Hobby Shop.

**1<sup>st</sup> kit purchased:** AMC Ford GT

**What do like about CASM:** seeing everyone's models and working together for the hobby.

**Other interest:** going to car shows

**Number of unbuilt kits:** around 500

**Favorite reference material:** Good Guys magazine

**Favorite Kits:** Revell 1970 Chevelle and Johan 1974 Javelin

**Dream kit:** None, they did my dream car

**Number of unfinished projects:** around 60

**Tip for modelers:** Do your research and figure out how much a project will cost you.

## Upcoming Shows in Area

July 20 HAMS 13th Annual Model Car Show, Spring, TX

August 7-10 IPMS Nationals

August 24 Huntsville Plastic Modeler Society 43<sup>rd</sup> Model Contest, Huntsville, AL

August 24-25 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Jacksonville Train Show, Jacksonville, AR

September 14 SuperCon 2019, Arlington, TX

September 14 IPMS Gateway Chapter Model Show, St. Louis, MI

September 28 2019 Sprue Doo, NLR, AR

October 5 Modelfest, Liberty, MO

October 11-12 MMSI Figure Show, Chicago, IL



2 of Dave's recent builds

# Paintfest Greyscale Painting Class by Brent Bristow

As part of this year's Wonderfest, I was honored to be asked to assist in teaching the Paintfest class, which was held on the Friday, May 31. The class was organized and sponsored by Jesse Garcia, the owner and operator of Garage Kits U.S. Colors, which is a company that produces both paints and figure models.

Running from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m., this year's class focused on greyscale painting techniques, using the two greyscale paints, cool and warm, produced by Garage Kits U.S. Colors. Participants worked on the 1/3 scale bust of Vampire, sculpted by Jim Maddox, using the paints to recreate the look of black and white film.

The class was taught by Jim Capone, and I had the privilege of assisting him. Wonderfest participants from around the country took part in the class, learning greyscale techniques, and experimenting with directional light effects. I had a great time helping the attendees learn the techniques, and even picked up a few new ticks myself!

For information about these paints, the Vampira bust, or Paintfest, go to <https://www.garagekitsuscolors.com/>.



# Go Figure!

By Rick Knapp

Once upon a time, choices of 1/35 scale figures for enthusiasts of military modeling and diorama builders were *very* limited, and the few plastic figures available were often of less than stellar quality, not to mention *not* necessarily precisely in their advertised scale. In those bad-old-days, modelers had to be adaptable and ingenious to get what they needed in the way of poses, uniform details, etc. Many a gruesome surgery was performed on miniature soldiers. No matter how clever or adaptable a modeler was, however, it was often pretty easy to tell from what kit or set of figures a modified creation had come.

Times obviously have changed. These days, if a military modeler can't find a figure to fit his needs with few if any alterations, he's really not trying. We now have a plethora of choices, in plastic, resin, or metal; Dragon Models in particular has provided enthusiasts with a flood of 35<sup>th</sup> scale military figure sets.

I've recently acquired four figure sets, produced between 2015 and 2018. I'll briefly review each:

MiniArt, from the Ukraine, has issued a "Normandy, 1944 German Tank Crew." Four of the set's five figures are clad completely or partially in U-boat leathers, which means that they represent members of the 12<sup>th</sup> SS "Hitler Youth" Division. To MiniArt's credit, in my opinion, the set's box art clearly depicts the figures' SS insignia. This is not the case with other companies, who eschew the displaying of SS runes or the SS death's head symbol. Are those who *deny* history doomed to repeat it? Let us hope not.

The MiniArt figures are molded in soft, light gray plastic that sports a bit more flash than usual with modern plastic figures, but they are reasonably well detailed, in some interesting poses, and for the most part have faces that

actually resemble the box-top painting. The set includes a sprue of weapons and equipment, and now any modeler who has ever contemplated scratch-building an accordion (Someone out there must have.) needs no longer worry! Apparently, many kit manufacturers believe that every German tank commander was awarded the Knight's Cross as a matter of course, MiniArt being no exception; this was a pet peeve of mine easily overcome.

I've purchased two recently produced Tamiya figure sets, a "Wehrmacht Tank Crew" set with four full-body and four torso figures, and a "U.S. Tank Crew (European Theater)" set with four full-body and two torso figures. Some modelers consider Tamiya's figures to be inferior in detail to those made by Dragon, but I find their recent offerings to be quite acceptable in that area, and often more naturally posed and animated-looking. Both sets come molded in gray styrene.

Both the Tamiya sets feature a lot of useful information on and in their boxes. Both feature decals for rank and other insignia and parts intended to enable the mounting of figures in their vehicles. One feature of the German set I found particularly pleasing is the inclusion of one-piece plastic headphones. Any modeler who's linked plastic or resin earphones using a photo-etched metal band and super glue is likely to agree that this is a good thing. An interesting feature of the U.S. set is the inclusion of clear plastic parts for tankers' goggles.

Last in the roll-call is Dragon's "Wittman's Ace Tiger Crew" set, which includes representations of Tiger tank ace Michael Wittman and his four crewmen, all shown standing, in black panzer uniform (sans SS insignia in the box art). Said box illustration would lead one to





believe these figures can be displayed standing with arms at sides or side-by-side in a comradely embrace. The set includes only arms for the latter pose, however.

Oddly, the Dragon set's one light-gray sprue includes no side arms, even for Wittman. Another oddity is that the figures as shown in the box illustrations seem to have legs disproportionately long. Save for one case, the actual kit pieces for the figures' legs don't look too long to the naked eye. The figures are shown, assembled and unpainted on the back of their box, and the daddy-longlegs look could be a result of the angle of photography. Another factor that might be causing a leggy look is panzer jackets that look unusually short. Regardless of possible defects, this set could be perfect to pose in front of a "wedge" of Tiger I.

A simple rule for most military modelers is "You can't have too many figures." In these times, the figures are more varied and better than ever.



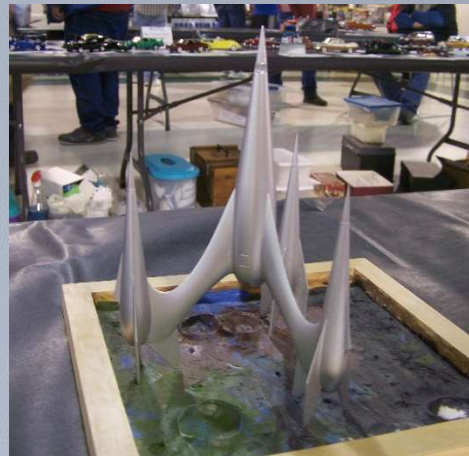
# Show Reports

## Tulsa IPMS Show 2019 by Dave Branson

Jon Williams and I attended the Tulsa IPMS show on March 30. Bob and Mona Hiatt also attended the show. I thought overall the show was good, although registering models in the show was just crazy with a lot of paperwork, and not much fun there. There were around 250 models entered in the show. The vendor area was excellent and very balanced, with something for everybody.

Jon won first and second place awards in the Street Machine class and he also took first and second in Light Commercial class. I took a third in the Box Stock class.

Their show for next year will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



## West-Ark Model Show by Brent Bristow

The West-Ark Model Show, hosted by Bob and Mona Hiatt, was held in Clarksville, AR on April 20. There were 320 models entered by 48 modelers, with splits in several categories.

Ron Leker served as the head judge, with the car categories headed up by Dave Branson and Jon Williams.

Other CASM member participating in the show included Alec Silvia, Dana Leker, Rick Knapp, Ray Smith, David Stillwell, Ali Dawoodi, Richard Geraci, Brian Elliott, and Roy Elliott.

The 2020 West-Ark Show is set for April 3-4.



## 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

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

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