

Newsletter



The
Winners
Circle

“D-Day”

**Royal Navy Monitor
HMS Roberts, 1/350, by Glenn Thorn**

Photos by Paul Tomczak

Glenn Thorn took home the votes once again at our May meeting theme contest “D-Day” with his build of the monitor HMS Roberts from Trumpeter’s 1/350 scale kit. The model featured Glenn’s characteristic subtle weathering and fine craftsmanship.

Built by John Brown & Company, of Clydebank, Roberts was laid down 30 April 1940, launched 1 April 1941 and completed on 27 October 1941. She reused the twin 15-inch gun turret of the WWI monitor Marshal Soult.

Roberts provided bombardment support during Operation Torch in North Africa, where she was damaged by two 1,100 lb bombs in the Battle of Béjaïa. She was repaired in time to support the invasion of Sicily) and the Allied landings near Salerno. During the D-Day landings, she was controlled from the headquarters ship HMS Largs also positioned off Sword beach. She also took part in the Walcheren operations.



NEXT MEETING

June 7

**Annual Gold/Silver/
Bronze Contest**

Visit the DVSM website: www.dvsm.org

Editor's Note *by John Goschke*

About the June G/S/B Contest...

June marks the occasion of DVSM's annual judged contest, otherwise known as the Gold/Silver/Bronze Contest, or G/S/B, for short. On background, DVSM used to have two of these contests a year, either in May or June, then again in December. The December contest has since been replaced by the "Five Favorites" popular vote contest, leaving the June G/S/B event to maintain the tradition of the competitive judged model contest at DVSM.

In the G/S/B contest a group of up to six judges is chosen by the Contest Chairman. These judges typically have experience judging in previous contests and are experienced, expert modelers. The Chairman assigns each judge a number of display tables of models to judge so that, ideally, each model is judged three times. In the case where a judge has a model in the contest, he must place it on a table he is not judging. Models are scored individually on a scale of one to four, with four being the highest score. The Chairman totals the three scores for each and that total determines what award the model will receive. Total scores of 12-11=Gold, 10-8=Silver, 7-4=Bronze, 3=Merit. Models with a 12 point Gold score are eligible for the Best-in-Show award, as voted upon by the judges, with the Chairman or their selected proxy

voting in the case of a tie. In case a judge's model is among the entries for Best-in-Show the Chairman has the option of selecting a proxy voter from among the membership.

Modelers may enter up to three models in the G/S/B contest. Each entry is judged on basic workmanship, including fit, assembly and alignment, as well as paint finish and decal application. Another factor judges may consider is sometimes called "risk and enterprise." This often comes into play with scratchbuilt entries, those with extraordinary paintwork and detail, or those that display a high level of creativity, where the difficulty may result in a higher score simply by virtue of the challenge the modeler has undertaken as well as the success of the result.

The virtue of the judged contest is that it gives the modeler an idea of how their work might stack up against that of other builders when they enter a larger contest such as MosquitoCon, an IPMS Regional, or at the IPMS National Convention.

Past results have proven that Gold and Silver award-winning models are quite competitive in those larger contests.

See you Friday! ■

SAVE THE DATE!
Sept. 28

"DVSM Open Day"
AAA Hobbies

2019 Theme Contest *Point Standings to Date*

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Thorn, G.	5		4	5	5						19
Lynch, J	4		5	3	4						16
Turco, M.	3		3	2	4						12
Anderson, D.	2		4	2	2						10
Loftus, J.	2		3	2	3						10
Tomczak, P.	1		3	1	2						7
Hoover, G.	2				4						6
Rakos, R.	2		2	1	1						6
Ratcliffe, W.			2	3							5
Bailey, E.				4							4
Kopczynski, P.	2			2							4
Leknes, J.				3							3
Rifkin, H.	1			2							3
Cicconi, B.				2							2
Lam, S.	1										1
Vattilana, J.					1						1
Wardwell, T.					1						1

Monthly points are awarded as follows: Each person who enters a model into the theme receives 1 pt. 1st place = 4+1, 2nd = 3+1, 3rd = 2+1

May Display Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak



Sherman Firefly, 1/72, by Paul Tomczak



P-51D Mustang, 1/48, by John Loftus



Douglas C-47, 1/48, by Dave Anderson



Martin B-26G Marauder, 1/72, by Mike Turco



Douglas C-47, 1/48, by Glenn Hoover



1941 Plymouth, 1/25, by Rod Rakos

May Display Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak



Churchill, 1/35, by Todd Wardwell



Douglas C-47, 1/72, by John Loftus



Luftwaffe Pilot, 120mm, by Joe Vattilana



Tiger I, 1/35, Jack Lynch



Lockheed AP-2H Neptune gunship, 1/72, by Howard Rifkin



Volkswagon Beetle Camper, 1/25 (in-progress), by Rod Rakos

May Display Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak



Warrior by Martin Orlando



Griffin Cavalry by Martin Orlando



King Tiger, 1/76, by Paul Tomczak



Republic XF-91 Thunderceptor, 1/72, by Howard Rifkin



Bf-109G-6, 1/48, by Mark Webb



1941 Chevrolet Pickups, 1/25, by Dave Anderson

The Miniature Figure Collectors of America (MFCA) 78th Annual Show & Mart

Philadelphia, PA • April 12th & 13th, 2019

By Paul Tomczak • photos by the author

I really enjoy helping the MFCA team deliver a quality show each year. This year was no different as the 78th annual MFCA returned to the Radisson Hotel in Philadelphia Northeast. This two day show provides a great venue with onsite demo's, over a hundred vendor tables and of course, master level models for your viewing pleasure. With nearly 600 models on display the depth of work was amazing. There are three divisions for the model entries which cover Historical pieces from any past timeframe, Fantasy figures, including Warhammer and Mechs and Ordnance which covers standard aircraft, ship and armor builds. Some truly stunning pieces were on display with some early favorites identified for Gold Medals and Best of Show.

The large vendor area is always fun to walk through and brings a lot of walk-in visitors to the show. Throughout both days there were various painting demo's including DVSM's own Jack Lynch under the spotlight. DVSM also had a table at the show, which was manned by our club members, meeting and greeting the MFCA attendees. A special thanks to all the DVSM members who helped both days of the show!

Unlike the typical IPMS format of a Gold-Silver-Bronze for each category, each entry at the MFCA's is judged as its own piece. You are not competing against others and all entries are eligible for an award. The judging is strict, mostly done by prior grand masters, but that makes an award even more special. A lot of awards went to DVSM members at this show. Congratulations to all who entered and won. The complete awards list for DVSM members in the accompanying sidebar. Photo highlights here and on the following pages. ■

Fantasy Division

Eversor Assassin by Paul Tomczak - Certificate
Panzer Kampf by Brad James - Bronze
Celestial Vindicators ñ Lord Aquilor by Martin Orlando - Bronze
Dragon Display by Dave Acker - Silver
Apocalyptic Flamethrower by Glenn Thorn - Silver
Adelaide Catriana Von Wallenstein by Martin Orlando - Silver

Historical Division

Greek General by Dave Acker - Certificate
US Stryker Brigade by Glenn Thorn - Certificate
Ophthalmosaurus by Paul Tomczak - Certificate
T-Rex by Dave Acker - Bronze
The Tyrant Prince by Paul Tomczak - Silver

Ordnance Division

F4U-1A by Jack Lynch - Bronze
F8E Crusader by Glenn Thorn - Bronze
M110 Howitzer by Joe Leonetti - Bronze
7.5cm Light Infantry Gun by Paul Tomczak - Bronze
Renault UE2 by Joe Leonetti - Bronze
Watch on the Suez by Glenn Thorn - Silver
BF-109G-6 Hartman by John Loftus - Gold
Midway Wildcat by Paul Tomczak - Gold
Moon Lander by Mike Turco - Gold





MFCA Show Highlights

Photos by Paul Tomczak





Join IPMS/USA

Why? The International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA, of which Delaware Valley Scale Modelers is a chapter, finances the insurance required for our monthly meetings and for model contests around the country, and offers a make and take program for young modelers. Encourage the enjoyment of modeling in all its forms: aircraft, armor, cars, ships, fantasy, figures, military or civilian, beginner or advanced, join IPMS/USA! "By Modelers, For Modelers"

What do I give? Adult, 1 year: \$30. Adult, 2 years: \$58. Adult, 3 years: \$86. Junior (under 18 years), \$17. Family, 1 year: \$35 (adult + \$5).

What do I get? A membership card with your IPMS number that entitles you to enter the IPMS/USA National Contest, plus the magazine, IPMS/USA Journal, six issues per year, featuring great models and building techniques, kit and book reviews, and activities, plus access to members-only content on ipmusa.org.

How? Clip and mail the coupon in the DVSM Newsletter or the IPMS/USA brochure, see our IPMS contact, Joe Vattilana, at the next DVSM meeting, or join online at ipmsusa.org. ■

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 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: _____

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IPMS/USA
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President's Corner

by Rich Turner

Has the IPMS had its day?

Another month of contemplation but my modelling bench, after reclaiming ownership, does at least have a clutter of tools and paint as I restarted work on my Lancaster scratch build.

This week I read an article by Michael Benolkin, titled 'Is the IPMS (USA) Dying?' An interesting article and very much in line with my current thoughts which I translated as a question more about the hobby rather than the Society itself. However, you could argue they are the same.

We can read that 1 in 5 chapters do not renew their membership or have resorted to meeting in the back booth of McDonalds due to only having 5 members. The average age of IPMS "club" members in the US is that of Social Security Age. Another model shop closes and the list of depressing "facts" goes on and on. Does this mean that the hobby has indeed had its day, superseded by technology and other new distractions? Do people not model anymore, are younger modellers simply not taking up the hobby, are shops going out of business simply because they have no trade? I don't think so...

In part this is true, how many kids model with their parents as we did. How many parents have the 'hand' skills or the time that existed 30 years ago, or grandparents that built things in their sheds?

Over the past 20 years we've seen many clubs in the traditional sense decline into non-existence whether this be modelling, gardening, fishing or painting clubs. Yet fishing, for example, is as strong if not stronger than ever with better equipment, more disposable income etc etc. The UK town

that I grew up in had 7 fishing stores each with its own team, shelves stacked with the latest gear and more importantly a group of guys that had all the latest information on techniques and local hotspots. The weekends competition winner was "in the house" at the store, at the club room, in the press. At fourteen, fishing

as many competitions as I could, this is where I gleaned my information, friendship and status. Same goes for modelling. We were part of a club, part of a store group, we learnt, we expanded, we grew, without which one could say we were on our own.

Today those fishing stores have all gone, the last model store closed in 2018 and the local hero, grandmaster and following gone. Club attendances are decreasing and our hobbies have had their day. However, I'm not completely buying into this....the expert, club; those folks have gone, gone where?

If we look at show attendance, not just in the US, look where people buy kits and tools, I think we will see a different picture than that we fall into the trap of seeing when we talk about the demise of the club of today. Our only source of materials and information is no longer the store or the club but literally the world.

The advent of the internet, access to information, ability to connect

THEME CONTESTS 2019

January "The Vietnam War Era"

Winner: Glenn Thorn, F-8U Crusader.

February "It's Cold in Here"

Ironically, cancelled due to weather

March "The Sixties"

Winner: Jack Lynch, Batman

April "Classic Plastic"

Winner: Glenn Thorn, Chance-Vought Kingfisher

May "D-Day"

Winner: Glenn Thorn, HMS *Roberts*

June

No theme. Gold/Silver/Bronze judging.

July "50 Shades of Grey"

Model of any subject in any category that is/was mostly grey, either in overall color or camouflage.

August "The Axis"

Model of a subject in any category from, and/or employed by, the Axis nations in WWII.

September "That's a New Kit!"

A build of anything from a kit that was released no earlier than 2014.

October "Big Builds"

Any kit in the large end of its category's scale spectrum.

November "No Big Six"

Model in any category (auto, aircraft, armor, etc.) but one that cannot be of US, British, German, Japanese, Russian or French origin.

QUESTIONS about DVSM's Contests should be directed to **Mike Turco at MATurco@aol.com**

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Sept. 28

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AAA Hobbies