



# SCALE MODELING NEWS

From the International Plastic  
Modeling Society of West Michigan

Meeting Location:

*New City Church*

*214 Spencer St NE*

*Grand Rapids, MI*

*Facebook @WeLoveScaleModeling*



## NOTES FROM OUR LAST MEETING

April 28, 2020  
**CANCELLED**

### COVID-19

Our April 28 meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 "Stay-At-Home" order issued by Governor Whitmer on March 23rd. This order was extended until May 15, so this will include our Saturday, May 9th Build Meeting. Will keep all informed as this day comes up.

With the Covid-19 going on, Dan has NOT talked with George Pavey at West Michigan Aviation Academy since March. But in the following weeks Dan will contact and for now we are still meeting at the church until further notice.

#### **Note from the President Dan Cummings:**

Follow up regarding the sale of unwanted club raffle kits. It was decided, back in February, that some of the club members going to the Roscoe-Turner Model Contest in Indianapolis on March 7, would take these kits and try selling them. The proceeds would then go back into the raffle funds. We did a good job with selling some of the kits. We will have more discussion on what we want to do with the rest. Possibly donating to the Tim Rideout Challenge later this year.

## **Coronavirus Update from IPMS/USA April 10, 2020**

To all fellow modelers,

As the current COVID-19 pandemic continues (it hasn't peaked yet), we request that you follow state & local requests to not meet in any groups and to self quarantine if possible. This means no monthly meetings or shows. With limited testing available and no vaccines, it's not worth the risk. Between smart phones, email, Facebook, etc., you should be able to stay in contact with your fellow modelers.

Check with your contest chairmen or the [event page on the IPMS/USA website](#) before you get in your car!

Dust off your stash and build some models. As the country music artist Gary Allan sings, "Every storm runs out of rain".

Stay healthy & safe. Happy modeling

[David Lockhart](#)

IPMS/USA

Director of Local Chapters

## Nats 2020 & COVID-19



The IPMS/USA Executive Board and the 2020 National Convention Planning Committee are still moving forward with planning and on-time execution of the 2020 convention. We are well aware of the plethora of challenges ahead of us in the next 90 days. There are many more unknowns than "knowns" at the moment. However, with the facts on-hand we feel the convention can still be held.

The #1 consideration in planning is the health and well-being of all of our members. Some of you have reached out to me stating that since you are in a high-risk age or health group you are not willing to risk being exposed to COVID-19. We fully understand this and agree that if you are in a high-risk category, we feel that you are probably better off not coming even if all restrictions are lifted by late July.

I have read many opinions on public forums over the past several weeks regarding the status of this summer's convention. As a convention planner, the biggest item I pay attention to is the contract that IPMS/USA committed to with the hosting hotel, Embassy Suites, and their parent company, Atrium Hospitality. These contracts are generally written in favor of the hotel, i.e., the financial burden is on the guest (IPMS/USA) to produce the numbers expected for the hotel to make a profit. We could have balked at the contract when it was presented in 2018 but then the week we picked would have went to the next organization looking to host a convention. In other words, we have to play by the hospitality industry's rules. If IPMS/USA were to back out of the contract without cause the financial burden on our society would be very substantial. Luckily, Embassy Suites in San Marcos is fully aware of the current COVID-19 situation - and in fact they are taking it in the shorts like all other hotels around the country - and have verbally agreed to work with us to execute a successful convention regardless of the contract language. This is good news for IPMS/USA. I am committed to working with Embassy Suites since they have been so good in working with us during the past couple of years to make our show a success.

The biggest wild card that both the General Manager (of Embassy Suites) and I see at the moment are government-imposed restrictions on crowd sizes and public gatherings. This is the biggest factor we are keeping an eye on and is what will eventually dictate if we are FORCED to cancel. If there are public gathering restrictions or reductions in maximum occupancy rules in the local city and county, we will assess if we can still execute a convention based on the details of potential restrictions. AS OF RIGHT NOW THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS EXTENDING TO THE DATES OF THE CONVENTION. There may be many opinions and conjecture regarding restrictions in-place during the convention but as of today, they remain conjecture. I am not planning a convention based on conjecture and opinion...only facts.

A lot of what the committee will plan in the coming months will be based on the numbers we see for pre-registrations and other convention related purchases. If we see low numbers - like we are seeing so far - we will scale back what we are spending money on. I have no more details on this other than we are looking at options that may produce a smaller-size convention than others in the past. It pains me to plan this way because I think I am the most excited IPMS member regarding this convention but I have to face the reality of what is happening in the world today. It's not fair but it is happening. We will deal with it.

Refunds: If you have spent money so far or if you want to spend money registering in the short-term be assured that IPMS/USA will refund any money if we are FORCED to cancel due to the public gathering restrictions I mention above.

Unfortunately, there remain many more questions than we have answers for at the moment. I wish I had a crystal ball that could tell me/us exactly what the conditions on the ground will be this summer...but I don't...the team has to plan with the best information it has at the moment. This is what we will do.

I stand by to answer any questions any one of our members have regarding the 2020 convention. Please e-mail me at: [director.nats2020@gmail.com](mailto:director.nats2020@gmail.com)

Best Regards

Len Pilhofer – IPMS# 49932

Director, IPMS/USA National Convention 2020  
[www.nats2020.com](http://www.nats2020.com)

Some projects from the club. Members will bring in next meeting to explain them more.



Albatros D.V.



WNW Fe2b



Rosenstein's  
Fokker  
D.V11



Some projects that Jason Crouthamel has been working on.



Rod Millard-Catalan Chebec



Dan Cummings  
Reaper Catfish



John Tinay  
2 Chevy Novas

Wife's Car Growing Up



In Progress



Brother-in-law's Car Growing Up



Gene Schmidt  
Lightning Sailboat in Progress



Michael Novosad  
Kittyhawk Su-34 In Progress



Spitfire Mk XIV



Ki 44 Tojo



Mitsubishi Raiden

Steve Green  
In Progress



## **UP Coming Events All Subject to Change**

**05/09 IPMS/West Michigan – Build & Show Meeting Grand Rapids, MI 9:00am-12:00pm CANCELLED**

**05/09 Gundam Build-4:00-7:00pm Galactic Toys-4174 Alpine Ave NW Comstock Park, MI CANCELLED**

**05/26 IPMS/West Michigan - Meeting Grand Rapids, MI-Discussion- Resin Casting 7:00-9:00pm**

**06/13 IPMS/West Michigan – Build & Show Meeting Grand Rapids, MI 9:00am-12:00pm**

**06/13 Gundam Build-4:00-7:00pm Galactic Toys-4174 Alpine Ave NW Comstock Park, MI**

**06/20 TIM RIDOUT CHALLENGE- Contest Grand Rapids, MI**

**06/23 IPMS/West Michigan - Meeting Grand Rapids, MI-Contest: “Kit Bash” 7:00-9:00pm**

Application for Membership in **IPMS/West Michigan**:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are per year at: \$12.00 for Adults, \$7.00 for juniors, & \$2.00 for juniors with an adult membership. (Juniors are modelers age 18 and younger)

Mail your application with a check payable to West Michigan IPMS:

**WMIIPMS c/o Peter Litwinchuk-Treasurer 7325 Garden Ct Jenison, MI 49428-8742**

### **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

The following hobby product providers offer discounts to members of IPMS/West Michigan:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Address / Phone</u></b>	<b><u>Discount</u></b>
Doug's House of Hobbies	962 West Broadway, Muskegon, MI 49441 <a href="http://www.houseofhobbiesmuskegon.com">http://www.houseofhobbiesmuskegon.com</a> (231) 759-4555	15 %
Rider's Hobby Shop	2055 28 <sup>th</sup> St., SE Grand Rapids, MI 49508 <a href="http://www.riders.com">http://www.riders.com</a> (616) 247-9933	10 %
Sidetrax Hobbies	2939 Wilson Ave., SW Grandville, MI 49418 (616) 249-9504	10 %
Micro-Mark	340 Snyder Ave., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922 <a href="http://www.micromark.com">http://www.micromark.com</a> 1-800-225-1066	10%

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This newsletter is a monthly publication of the West Michigan Chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society/U.S.A. Send submissions for publication to the editor: Tracy Cummings 133 Conrad St NE GR, MI 49505. Club meetings are the forth Tuesday each month at the New City Church, 215 Spencer NE. Grand Rapids, MI 49505. Membership dues are \$12.00 for adults, \$7.00 for juniors and \$5.00 for juniors with a member adult. Direct questions concerning membership and activities to: Tracy Cummings 133 Conrad St NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505 [tracyanddaniel2005@gmail.com](mailto:tracyanddaniel2005@gmail.com). By Modelers, For Modelers is a Registered Trademark of the International Plastic Modelers' Society/U.S.A.