August 2019 Vol 43, Issue 8

# The Pylon



The newsletter of the Western Reserve Chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society

# ATTENTION: Meeting is being held at Stewart's Hobbies this month

# **From the President**

As a boy growing up in Michigan, I was lucky to be able to accompany my father to many places that were hobby related. One of the places I was fortunate to visit was the original Squadron Shop on John R Street in Hazel Park. I have mostly vague memories, but I can clearly recall my father having long chats with Walt Lonczinski and Jerry Campbell while I wandered about, longing for many of the items piled high on the rows of soaring shelves (to be fair, I was a couple of feet shorter). While we are all familiar with Squadron's Texas-based mail order business (which rolled out its first catalog in 1970) it is also interesting that the Squadron Shop ultimately had 15 storefronts from coast to coast including one on Pearl Road in Parma. In 1985 Squadron made the decision to close all its local hobby shops. Coincidentally, that very same year I settled in Lakewood and became familiar with the great local store Wings Hobby Shop on Detroit Ave. Sadly, in 2014 Wings closed its doors. Another west side retailer, Hobby Castle in West Park, went out of business the year before. The good news for me though was that Parma Hobby on Ridge Road was just down the street ... you all know how that ended.

Perhaps beginning with Squadron's 1978 purchase of its distribution center in Carrollton, plastic modeling has undergone an epic evolution. With the

rapid growth of mail order and, more recently, online businesses, the sources of our kits, tools, paints, decals, and aftermarket accessories have been fundamentally transformed. To be fair, hobbyists in rural and remote locations are now able to enjoy the same access to



#### Next Meeting:

Saturday, Aug 17 Stewart's Hobbies 38033 Euclid Ave. Willoughby, OH 44094 1:15PM

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#### BUILD & BS MEETING AT STEWART'S HOBBIES



models and supplies that we city-dwellers have been afforded for decades. Full disclosure: I too enjoy the thrill of chasing down the hard-to-get kit with free shipping or an obscure tool or the perfect photoetched accessory from the comfort of my home. The epidemic of shuttered storefronts is not limited to hobby shops. USA Today reported in July that an estimated 12,000 stores will close nationwide by the end of the year. We all know, however, that online shopping is no match for the retail experience. Being able to talk to the staff and fellow modelers, carefully reviewing multiple kits, admiring box art, comparing similar tools or paint colors, and the excitement of finding something brand new (or marvelously old) cannot be achieved remotely. And all those times when you quickly need another bottle of Tamiya Extra Thin or some styrene or some paint or some ...

Fortunately, we in Northeast Ohio are still blessed with some real brick-and-mortar hobby shops. One such retailer is Stewart's Hobbies and Collectors' Toys (https://stewarts-hobbiescollectors-toys.business.site/) which will be the location of our August Build and BS meeting. Owned by Rob and Sandy Stewart. Stewart's has been in business since 1993 and has been at its current location since 2003. Rob and Sandy are kind, friendly and knowledgeable and are both occasional modelers. Sandy constructs HO buildings (see her Dairy Queen) while Rob generally builds automotive subjects (and wishes he could build more often). Stewart's offers a full range of modeling products including kits, tools, paints, books and magazines. The shop has an enormous inventory consisting of a wide range of new releases from established companies and many older kits. Stewart's Hobbies also sells some interesting models from the upstart companies Atlantis and Salvinos JR Models. Additionally, Stewart's carries electric train and slot car vehicles, supplies and track. Finally, if you can't find it, Rob and Sandy are happy to







order it for you. Most orders arrive within 1 ½ weeks. Stewart's Hobbies & Collectors' Toys is located at 38033 Euclid Ave., Willoughby, OH 44094. There is plenty of extra parking in the rear. Stewart's can be reached by phone at 440-942-6632.

Some other important notes:

- As I am writing this, many members of the WR and JHG chapters are arriving in Chattanooga for the 2019 IPMS/USA Nationals to represent Northeast Ohio modelers. Best of luck to all those attending!
- As has been previously noted and discussed, John Vitkus is moving to Utah. I wanted to wish he and his wife all the best in their new hometown. I'm sure we will be hearing only good things from and about him.
- Finally, a heartfelt hope for a speedy recovery to Joe Barteld who is currently dealing with some health issues. Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting soon, Joe.

See you Saturday for some fun at Stewart's and be sure to wear your new Western Reserve shirts! Kirk will have yours there if you haven't received it yet.

Jim Wentzel

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# **Meeting Minutes from July**

Saturday the 20th was the date for our July meeting. We had a pretty good gaggle of modelers with 14 in attendance. It was nice to see John Camper finally get to join us. John, as you know, has been extremely busy with work and family life as of late. Once the meeting got up and running our president Jim Wentzel talked about some interesting NASA Space program facts. He talked about the cost of the Apollo program in the early 60s and the money that was spent back then. At that time it was like a "no expense spared" program compared to today. I was going to write the numbers down but it was like millions and millions of dollars back then -- almost 60 years ago. Just really some mind blowing stuff!

We did the usual officer reports and Ted happily obliged us with a Treasurer's report. We had a guest member, or more accurately a returning former member. Kevin Kelly was a member with WR as a junior back in the late 1970s. That's the last time he was at a meeting he said! Kevin likes to build aircraft and more recently has been building his share of armor. We hope to be seeing him often now that he's rejoined the club. Welcome Kevin!

We talked about some of the upcoming club contests. October is the next club Quarterly and the theme continues with animals. This time however it will be flying animals. Eagles, raptors, ospreys -- you name it! We will also be having the Bob Sistek Collection Auction build in October followed by the Dave Virant Corsair Challenge in November. With August already upon us don't forget that we will be having the meeting at **Stewart's Train & Hobby** shop on the 17th.

In the order of new business we talked about our friend and fellow modeler John Vitkus. This was John's last meeting with us as he is moving to Utah. We will miss you dearly John! Your commitment and support of the two clubs and CMS, along with founding the DSS, have been invaluable. Let's not forget your multiple terms as president with the John H Glenn club too! Thank you for all you have done over the years John, you really did a lot for many, many people!

We talked of Kirk's featured *What the Heck is That?* 1950's US automobile in the July Pylon. The car was a 1956 Chevrolet Handyman 150 and it was featured in the movie *North By Northwest*. We had our Quarterly contest and had a nice turnout of models! This year's continuing theme is "Animals" and last month featured land based ones. Starting with the theme side the models were numerous. Jon Hudak's brought a Dragon 1:72nd Panther tank while John Vitkus had two Mustangs; one was a Revell 1:32nd "pink" late-model Ford Mustang and the other one was a Hasegawa 1:72nd P-51D in "Jersey Jerk" markings. Bob Smith had a Revell 1986 Ford Mustang GT and a Revell Dodge Viper, and our new member Kevin Kelly had a 1:35th Tamiya King Tiger as well as a Tamiya 1:35th Sturmtiger.



In the non-theme side we had Vince Spisak's build of the venerable Monogram 1:72nd Messerschmitt Bf 110 and Kevin Kelly had a Tamiya 1:48th M1 Abrams tank. Kevin also had a 1:35th Tamiya Matilda, a Meng 1:35th Renault FT-17 tank, a Tamiya 1:35th Stuart light tank and an Eduard 1:72nd Spitfire Mk.IXC. Tyrone Walker brought an in-progress Bandai 1:72nd "Boosted" Star Wars X-Wing fighter. I myself had the Aoshima 1:72nd N1K2-J Shiden Kai Japanese WW2 fighter. We got several people to volunteer to judge the contest and the results were as follows. Starting with the theme side the winners were 1st place to Kevin Kelly's King Tiger tank, 2nd place to Jon Hudak's Panther tank and 3rd place to John Vitkus' Hasegawa P-51D Mustang. The winners on the non-theme side were 1st place to Kevin Kelly's M3 Stuart tank, 2nd place to Jon Hudak's Shiden Kai and 3rd place to Vince Spisak's Monogram Bf 110. Congratulations everyone! We also had a raffle that day with some nice prizes in it.



We had more models on display courtesy of yours truly with my small collection of some older kits. The inspiration came from John Camper's wonderful article on whether old kits are worth building or not? To try and give some examples I brought in my builds of the old Hasegawa A6M3 Zero Type 32, the old Revell Me 262 and the Heller Bf 109E. To show some comparisons of where technology has taken us I brought in two newer tool Hasegawa Zeros, an A6M2b Type 21 and an A6M3 Type 32. All of these kits are in my preferred scale of 1:72nd. I feel that if you enjoy building a kit, regardless of the age, do it!

The July meeting was a good one, I hope those of you that missed it will be at the August Build & BS meeting at Stewart's! See you all on the 17th.

Jon Hudak, WR Secretary

### **B-17G "Aluminum Overcast" in town**

Climb aboard EAA's B-17G Aluminum Overcast for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fly in one of World War II's most vital aircraft.

Lost Nation Airport September 6-8, 2019 Fly-in for Pancakes - Saturday & Sunday

Flight Experience 10 AM - 1 PM EAA Members: \$435 Non-EAA Members: \$475 Ground Tours 2 PM - 5 PM \$10/person (8 & under free w/ adult purchase) \$20/family (adults & children up to age 17) Veteran & Active Military: Free

-- Dave Virant

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### **The Pylon**

# What the Heck is That?

Last month the *What the Heck?* was the 1956 Chevrolet model 150 Handyman 2-door wagon, featured in the 1959 Hitchcock classic *North by Northwest* starring Cary Grant and the beautiful Eva Marie Saint.

Once upon a time, back in the heyday of the automotive world, choices for the American car buying public were as wide as the vast open plains of the Midwest. For Chevrolet alone the 1956 lineup had three series (150, 210 and Bel Air) spanning 19 different models with 12 different power trains (engine and transmission) available. And once you selected your dream car you could choose between 10 solid paint colors or 14 two-tone combinations. For the interior you could choose between one of the 34 fabric or vinyl color combinations (choices dependent upon the model, of course).

The station wagon was the work horse of the line, the least glamourous but the most useful vehicle you could pick. But even with the wagon you had choices – six of those 19 models were station wagons. On the high end you could buy the Bel Air Beauville 4-door wagon or the stylish 2-door Nomad with raked pillars and ribbed roof. The middle ground was the 210 series and there you could get the 4-door Beauville 9-passenger wagon, the Townsman 6-passenger wagon or the 2-door Handyman. The low end 150 series, and the What the Heck subject for last month, had only the 2-door Handyman.

Advertised features of the Handyman were windows that swept around for greater visibility, standard long wearing vinyl interiors and rear seats and back rests that folded flat to give you more storage space. (Fun fact – the 150 series Utility Sedan was a 2-





door coupe with a raised floor in the rear for easy hauling of business men's samples, packages or cargo). Station wagons are never top sellers but with only 13,739 built the 150 series Handymen wasn't the lowest seller for Chevy that year. That honor goes to the Corvette (just 3467 made for 1956).

Congrats go out to Fred H, Doc S, John V, Bob T and Jerry H. One of our winners took the movieto-car path. Recognizing the movie still he used the Internet Movie Car Database (www.imcdb.org) to identify the Handyman. I used that site to verify the trim level on last month's subject. There are also internet movie databases for planes and guns, and I'm sure many other things by folks with a lot more time on their hands than I have. This month we are up, up, up and away. Good luck.



# The 2019 IPMS/USA National Convention – two viewpoints

First off this was my biggest Nats to date. Every day there my feet had a beautiful pain while I was looking and finding all the wonders my eyes could see. I purchased the Eduard new P-51D -- an amazing detailed kit which I will bring to the next meeting -- and it cost less than Sprue Bros. Next "2-Kit Ted" could not pass up the Marder II kit by Dragon for the JHG same kit build. Now that I own two there should be no problem in getting her done. Also to go with the kit I found a brand new type of metal tracks that require no drilling or glue. I have to try them out even though I have two sets of Friulmodel tracks already built for this kit.

I went down to the show with Rob Lee and we stayed at the Days Inn just 600ft from the venue. I cannot get over how great the city was with everything they had there. The only sad part was that we had to leave Saturday morning and we missed the last day since Rob had to work Sunday. Maybe that was a good thing as I would have borrowed money from someone to get more great stuff.



I found the categories sponsored by WR, DSS and CMS and ran into an old friend that moved away. Cannot say enough about this Convention -- it was just the best I have attended. Now to go build and something (and try not to destroy it this time).

2-Kit Ted Bamber

Congratulations to the IPMS Chattanooga Chapter for hosting a fantastic National Convention this past weekend. An astounding number of models, both in the contest and on display, as well as a huge vendor room held in an excellent venue made for a very enjoyable show.

I drove down on Wednesday after lunch, arriving at the hotel about 11:00PM. I stay at the hotel attached to the convention center when I can because of the convenience. Yeah, it's more expensive but it's easier to run back and forth between the room and the vendors or model room and I don't have to worry about parking. Thursday was spent in the vendor room. Chattanooga can boast having the most vendor tables at a Nats with 450 (that's six times our CMS), which made for lighter wallets and sorer feet. The vendors ran the gamut of subjects and I don't think anyone was left out, and that includes the normally light selection for the Auto, Figure and Space builders. Models, books, tools, paints and weathering supplies were everywhere. There were also tables displaying the newest items from Tamiya, Eduard, Kitty Hawk, MRC, Revell, Wingnut Wings and Zoukei-Mura. And a lot of folks got to ask questions of the AK and MiG weathering guys and see their products in action. At the back of the vendor room was the raffle and a canteen offering food and drink to keep the weary modeler on his feet.

After spending more than I should there I moseyed over to Honest Charley's Speed Shop to see the **Coker Tire Museum.** I gather Coker sponsors the museum or maybe they are the folks running the wooden wheel manufacturing that takes place on site. Honest Charley has been a fixture in the hot rod community since 1948, selling his performance parts via catalog across the country. The museum has an excellent collection of cars, motorcycles and trucks, many from the pre-war era and some still unrestored but running. Their wall of motorcycles has some as old as 1907.

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#### **The Pylon**

Of special interest to me were the 1925 and 1926 Yellowstone Tour Buses built by White Motors (made here in Cleveland), having never seen one in real life. At one time Yellowstone National Park boasted a fleet of 400 of these open top vehicles. Eight restored buses still operate in the Park.



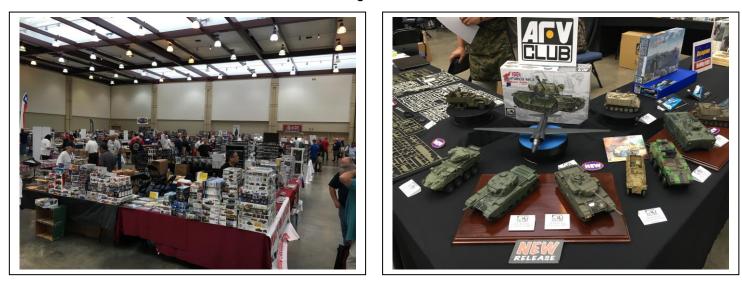
Friday started with a swing through the vendor room to pick up the things I wish I had on Thursday. I'd estimate the room had only 60% of what it had when I was there Thursday afternoon, and a couple of the items I wanted were already gone. I didn't heed my own "see it, buy it" rule as these items were just "wanted" and not "needed", but I still should have gotten the WnW Junkers D.I when I had the chance. A trip out for lunch was followed by a trip to the **International Towing & Recovery Museum and Hall of Fame.** The tow truck was invented in Chattanooga in 1916 by Ernest Holmes Sr and this museum honors his creation as well those that improved it over the years. Did you know that three times more recovery workers are killed on the highway each year than first responders? I do (now). The museum houses 18 tow trucks and wreckers from 1916 through today, including the world's fastest tow truck (109.33 mph on a closed course), a WWII Diamond T W-45 "Red Ball Express" veteran and the world's largest collection of toy tow trucks. This is one of those subjects I think is cool but never really thought about. I'm glad I went and if you're in Chattanooga and have an extra hour be sure to check it out.





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I didn't purchase any Raffle tickets but everyone who registered received a special raffle ticket for the pre-release of the Tamiya 1/48 P-38F/G Lightning. Tamiya was very generous and made available to IPMS 300 of the kits slated to be released later this fall. IPMS chose to raffle off the chance to buy these kits, with the proceeds going to offset the cost of the convention. I was lucky enough to be one of those 300 and I'll show off the kit at the next club meeting.



Friday evening was spent judging. Additional tables were set up overnight which help alleviate some congestion problems in the popular categories. My team judged four of the Aircraft categories and by the time the Best Aircraft had been chosen it was getting close to midnight.

Saturday I was worn out and so after looking over the rest of the models in the room and talking with friends I took a nap instead of visiting either the Tennessee Aquarium or the Classic Arcade Pinball Museum, both recommended by JHG member Jim Major.

The awards presentation followed a dessert reception and went as smoothly as you could want. The Chattanooga club wanted to emphasize the fun part of our hobby and so while over 80% of the award packages were sponsored, the names appearing on the screen may not have been accurate. Bob's Country Bunker (where they play both kinds of music – Country and Western), Spacely Sprockets, Universal Exports, SPECTRE, and Pikov Andropov Limo Service were just a few of the dubious sponsors. The Tyrell Corp sponsored Soft Skins. The fun part was waiting to see who got the joke and knew which movie the names came from. The highlights from the pre-awards speakers were:

- Estimated 3112 models entered in the contest by 961 modelers
- Another 1675 were on the Display Only tables for a record number nearing 5000
- The Chapter of the Year went to Grand Strand Modelers from Myrtle Beach, SC
- The Newsletter of the Year went to Orange County (one of the ones I forward to you)
- Website of the Year went to IPMS/Livonia in Michigan
- The 2021 Nationals was awarded to IPMS/Las Vegas in, wait for it, Las Vegas, Nevada
- The 2022 Nationals was awarded to IPMS/Fort Crook Chapter in Omaha, Nebraska

(Counting next year's convention in San Marcos, Texas, that makes the next three shows west of the Mississippi).

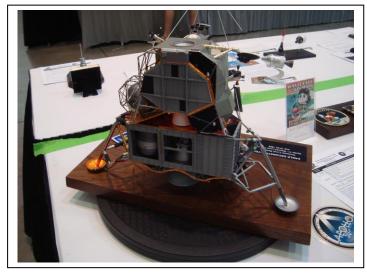
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### **The Pylon**

Region 4 did quite well at the Nats, bringing home many awards including Best Junior, Best Automotive and a Special award. The group from Pittsburgh, looking darn sharp and recalling the semi-formality of the old banquets in their matching shirts and ties, had more than handful of wins on their own. Jim Major and I also placed, bringing some of that hardware back to Northeast Ohio.

The big winner was the LM-5 Deconstructed (cut-away) by David Carlton, a scratch built, foot-tall lunar lander used by Apollo 11. It won Best Space, the Popular Choice Award and the Judges' Grand Award. The Aircraft, Figure and Space Best of winners were all scratch built subjects and absolutely amazing. You can see many pictures from the show here: <u>http://svsm.org/gallery/chattanooga2019</u> and the entire awards presentation in the comfort of your own home here: <u>http://svsm.org/gallery/chattanooga2019</u> awards?fbclid=lwAR2Zxx8zrtTaXeuzJBh4oUHj-Wan5UJsfH4HZKQwM4uipv\_SBGWU2nWHvQs





As is common at all shows, the minute the doors open the boxes get packed so if there was a model you saw on the screen during the presentation and wanted to see on the table your chances were slim.

The trip home was uneventful, mainly because I hit the secondary roads in Kentucky to avoid two accidents on I-75 that Google Maps said would add 2-hours and 45-minutes to my trip. As it was I didn't get home until 11:00PM, including stops for lunch and dinner.

All told it was a great show. The venue was excellent, the competition stiff and the host chapter tremendous. Congrats to the winners and all the Chattanooga clubs members, and all the volunteers helping them host one heck of a convention.

#### Kirk Ballash

The following pages feature the **Best of Class** winners followed by select models I thought looked cool. Enjoy.

Also, don't forget that this SATURDAY's meeting will be held at Stewart's Hobbies in Willoughby, not at the Library as I printed last month. Bring a chair if you have one; we'll supply the tables.

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# The Pylon







About half of the Display Only tables, early on Thursday



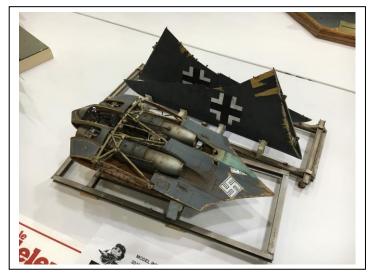




Some Sharp Dressed Men
- the IPMS/Three Rivers group

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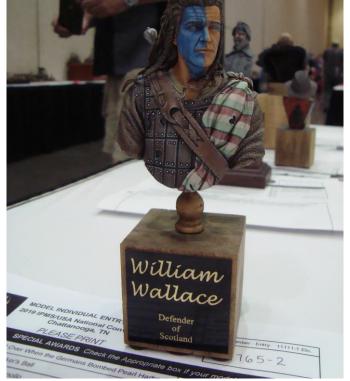




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# The Pylon







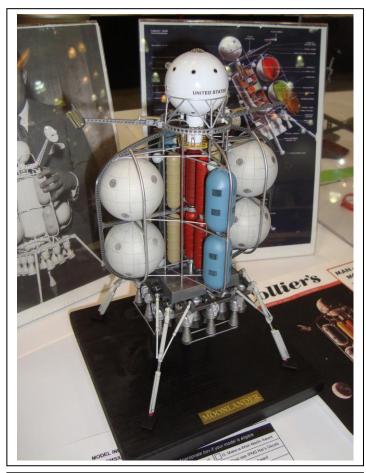














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### The Pylon





A few models from the Display Only tables, all scratch built







Not only is Chattanooga the namesake of the first song to ever be certified Gold (sell more than a million copies), it's also the home of the Moon Pie, as these young ladies will tell you



#### Western Reserve Officers

#### President

Jim Wentzel (216) 536-7346 JTWentzel@aol.com

#### **Vice President**

John Camper (440) 375-0007 ruffneckjc@gmail.com

#### **Secretary**

Jon Hudak (216) 351-6086 F4U2636@sbcglobal.net

#### Treasurer

Ted Bamber (440) 946-5881 Belfast1947@yahoo.com

#### Chapter Contact **Newsletter Editor**

Kirk Ballash (440) 946-8074 Kapitan219@aol.com

Region IV Newsletter Editor of the Year 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018

Visit us on the Web! See us at: www.ipmsusa.org

The International Plastic Modelers Society is dedicated to promoting the hobby of plastic modeling through meetings, demos, seminars, conventions, contests and most importantly through friendship and enjoyment of the hobby.

Visit us on the web at or join, either online or with the form at right and enjoy the full color magazine, discussion forums and vast knowledge and experience to help you enjoy the hobby to the fullest.

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### Western Reserve Meetings and Events - meeting now on SATURDAY

Aug 17, 2019	General meeting at Stewart's Hobbies in Willoughby – Build & BS Meeting (bring something to work on, a chair and wear your new club shirt)
Sep 21, 2019	General meeting at Euclid Library Erie room – Seminar on Tank Tracks
Oct 20, 2019	General meeting at Euclid Library Shore room – Quarterly contest: theme of "Air Animals"
Nov 17, 2019	General meeting at Euclid Library Shore room – Build & BS Meeting and the historic annual Turkey Raffle
Dec 15, 2019	General meeting at Euclid Library Shore room – Annual Gala Christmas Party and related activities

#### **IPMS and Regional Events**

For any show listed go to the IPMS/USA Upcoming Events page for more information, or if you don't have web access contact Kirk Ballash

#### 2019

Aug 16-17, 2019	D-Day Conneaut – Conneaut, OH
Sep 21, 2019	SVASMCON 35 Annual Show – Sharon, PA
Oct 11-13, 2019	45 <sup>th</sup> Annual Military Miniature Society of Illinois Show (the big one for Figures) – Chicago, IL
Oct 19, 2019	CSM Annual Show – Cincinnati, OH
Nov 3, 2019	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Cleveland Model Show – Cleveland, OH

#### <u>2020</u>

Feb 1, 2020			
Apr 3, 2020			

Mid-Michigan Modelers 36th Annual Show - Bay City, MI

Region IV Convention hosted by Wright Field Scale Modelers - Dayton, OH

### **IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

IPMS No.: Nam Address: If Renewing	First	Middle	Last	
City:	State:	Zip	D:	
Phone:	E-mail:			
Signature (required by P.O.)				
Type of Membership 🗌 Adult, 1 Year: \$30				
Unior (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 C	Drder			
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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