

July 2019  
Vol 43, Issue 7

# The Pylon



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

## Next Meeting:

Saturday, July 20  
Euclid Public Library  
631 E.222<sup>nd</sup> St.  
1:15PM

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WR Shirts are in!

Quarterly Contest  
– Land Animals

Meeting is again  
on SATURDAY



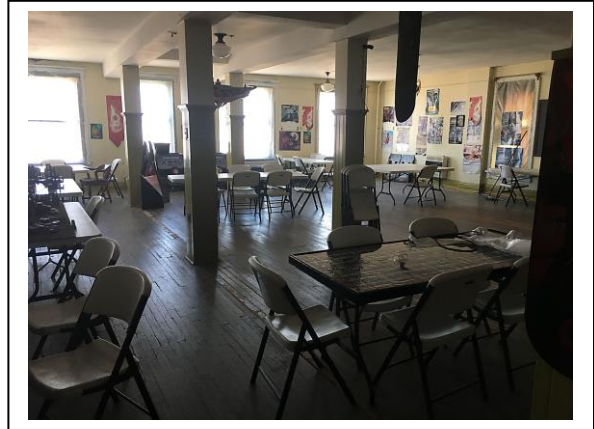
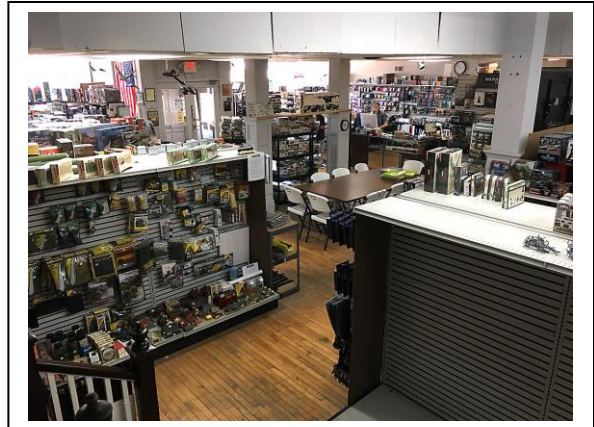
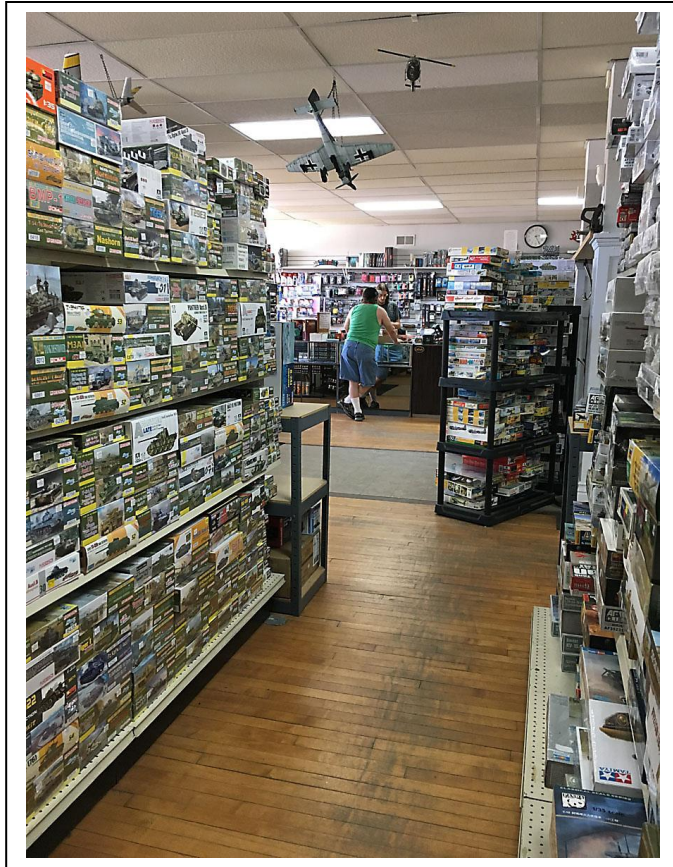
## From the President

This month, just some disparate thoughts...

First, like last month, history takes center stage. This July marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Neil A. Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin taking humanity's first steps on another astronomical object. The historic mission marked the culmination of America's human spaceflight program that began with President Kennedy's famous "We choose to go to the Moon" speech in 1962. In doing so, the United States accomplished a seemingly impossible goal on an equally improbable timeline. For some perspective on the audacity of the undertaking, the Eagle landed on the moon with just a 1.024 MHz guidance computer while my iPhone 6s has a 64-bit 1.85 GHz dual-core CPU. I still vividly remember watching the landing as an eight-year-old boy, lying on the living room floor in my pajamas, while visiting my grandparents in Arkansas.



Second, this past Saturday I took a ride to Massillon to check out **Wings, Wheels & Waves** (<http://wingswheelswaves.com>). I have heard nothing but good things about this hobby shop and I thought it would be worth seeing. In my opinion, the positive reviews are spot-on. This is indeed a full line hobby shop with plenty of plastic kits, accessories, and paint. The staff was friendly and knowledgeable. The store is in the location of a former furniture retailer and is quite spacious. In addition to plastic kits, they sell games, miniatures, R/C cars and planes, and rockets. Wings, Wheels & Waves is also the location of Model Car World Finishes (<https://mcwfinishes.com>), a source of factory-correct automotive finishes. I had first heard of these sprayable lacquer paints from John Vitkus and the scope of what is offered is indeed impressive. They are now branching out into military finishes. The other notable thing about Wings, Wheels & Waves is the second floor. It is wide open and is filled with tables and chairs. The space is intended to be used by gamers and modelers alike. Perhaps another WR field trip? Wings, Wheels & Waves is located at 125 Erie Street N., Massillon, OH 44646.



Finally, **congratulations to Kirk Ballash** for winning the Region 4 Newsletter of the Year. While Kirk makes this look easy, it is no small feat and requires considerable dedication. For us, *The Pylon* is our communal glue...aside from the interesting articles we can also check upcoming local and regional events, contests, and contact information. And with Jon Hudak's meticulous recaps, we can occasionally miss a meeting without missing it entirely. I think it is equally important to mention that not many chapters still put out newsletters. Last month I counted fewer than 30 IPMS chapter newsletters distributed by Kirk, yet there are over 220 national chapters. While I'm certain there are a few chapters with terrific newsletters that aren't circulated nationally (John H Glenn's *Recon*, with Jim Major as its outstanding editor comes to mind), the monthly newsletter seems to be becoming rarer. So well done and well-deserved Kirk!

See you at the July meeting.

Jim Wentzel

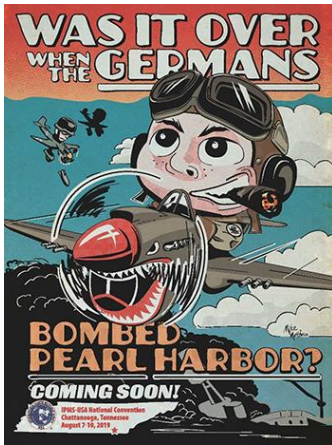
## From the Editor

The new WR Club shirts are in! Just in time for your trip to Chattanooga for the National Convention, or events less plastic-centric in your summer time schedule. I'll have the shirts at the next couple of meetings for you to pick up. Looking good Billy Ray!



## More from the Editor

### Big Contest – The National Convention



Next month is the big event of the IPMS year, the National Convention, this year being held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Aug 7 through 10. I know there are a couple of the WR folks going, along with some from the JHG club as well. If you didn't plan a visit to the show (about a nine-hour drive from Cleveland) then be sure to keep an eye on [ipmsusa.org](http://ipmsusa.org) or your favorite social media sites as many folks will be posting pictures and news as the convention unfolds.

I know I've said this before, and will again, but if you've never been to a Nats and you actually enjoy this hobby you need to make it to one. Imagine our CMS but five or six times more models and vendors, along with trips, demos, seminars and speakers. The 2020 convention is in San Marcos, Texas – a bit distance for a drive – but I'll publish the host city for the 2021 show when they announce it. Plan a family vacation around it – heck, my honeymoon was at the 2008 Nats in Virginia Beach (I have a very understanding Wife).

### Illness in the Extended Family

I am sad to report that two of our friends from the John H Glenn chapter are experiencing serious health issues. You may not know them by name but if you have spent any time at the JHG meetings or the Cleveland Model Show then you have likely met and talked with both Steve Forster and John Campbell.

We learned last week that Steve, now in Colorado, is critically ill with severe acute pancreatitis. The initial reports had him in a terminal condition, and while as of this writing things have improved slightly he is still "in the woods" and if he wins this fight he'll have a noticeably different quality of life. Steve, the Brit with the endless stories, was the driving force behind the CMS 10 show and is the one we have to thank for the polished look our show took on during that time and still retains. He is the spark-plug of a club, the one with the ideas, charisma and energy to make things happen, as well as a caring and generous man.

John Campbell is currently in hospice care in South Carolina, battling cancer caused by Agent Orange. Odds are you've bought something from him at his vendor table at our CMS over the years or sat and BS'ed with him at a meeting or other club function. John is also that type of man we all want to know and are better for having spent time in his company. I wish I had spent more time with him.

Our sincerest thoughts and prayers go to each of them and their families.



*Playmate of the Year  
1968 Angela Dorian's  
pictorial was copied  
into the Apollo 11  
operational manual by  
NASA pranksters*

## Meeting Minutes from June

Our June meeting was held on the 15th. Since we are on the Summer schedule the meetings are now on Saturdays. We had 11 members in attendance and started the meeting with the usual officer reports, starting with Ted giving us a Treasurer's report as well as informing us that we have \$94 in the coffers for the Christmas party fund. That's pretty good and we still have five more months to collect for it.

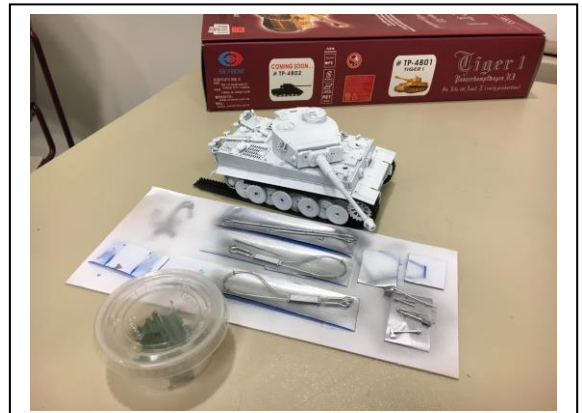
In other new news, the new club shirts are almost all paid off! We have only a couple of members who haven't paid yet. I'd say that's pretty good!

The July meeting is also our next Quarterly Contest. The theme will be continuing with the Animals theme -- this one will be for the land dwellers. Things like Bears (Tu-95), Badgers (Tu-16), Bisons, Buffalos, Tigers and Elephants, oh my! We also talked about having a summer meeting at Stewart's Hobby Shop and everybody was in agreement and liked the idea. We talked about our latest CMS (Cleveland Model Show) meeting and all that was discussed there. While going over things from the recent *Pylon* newsletter we talked about the "What the Heck is That?" subject which this time was a Japanese Type 61 main battle tank.

During the break and in the later part of the meeting we talked about the show-and-tell items on display. These included Kirk's Bandai 1:12th scale R2-D2 & BB-8 droids kit while I brought in a 1:72nd Model Collect T-72AV Main Battle tank and Airfix 1:72nd Me-262B-1a/U1 two-seater variant.

On the modeling tables we had Ted Bamber's in-progress Tamiya 1:48th F4U Corsair, mostly displaying the lovely interior work he has done to the cockpit. John Robinson brought in his Skybow 1:48th Tiger I, also in-progress. Jim Wentzel brought in an ARII Macross 1/2000 Queadol Magdomilla Quamzin Ship (okay, which one are you!? LOL) which is a futuristic Japanese space ship kit. I'd never seen this one before but am familiar with the ARII brand name of kits.

Jim Davis brought in a small collection of built kits which included his "captured" diorama which he did originally for the John Glenn club's "Captured" theme contest. It featured a captured German Kubelwagen and a Studebaker pickup truck loaded with German prisoners captured by the Russians. It also featured plenty of figures and details such as propoganda posters and even a Russian GaZ jeep. Jim also had a 1:48th AMT Stinson Reliant high wing monoplane in WWII era civilian air patrol which served on the West Coast to keep an eye out



for enemy submarines. Last but not least Jim did a cool Hasegawa 1:48th scale F-16F in United Arab Emirates Air Force markings. The F-16 was displayed on a base with equipment and a figure representing Jim's son who currently works over there, cool!

Kirk Ballash did a cool demo on packing up models for taking to shows. He had all sorts of good ideas using various sized boxes and foam inserts. Some of the boxes came with the foam packaging pieces already in place to protect the original contents. On some of these Kirk cut out shapes to fit the particular model he's transporting. On other ones he cut or modified foam he got somewhere else and glued it in place using a hot glue gun. Kirk's demo was an example of something that many of us can easily overlook. It was pretty easy to do. Some of them may take a little time to make but are nothing compared to the amount of time any of us can spend on a model. Why not protect all that hard work and toil and many, many hours we may have invested in a kit, right? Well, Kirk's demo certainly opened some eyes and illustrated how to do it with easily available everyday things. Thanks Kirk!

See you all in July!

Jon Hudak, WR Secretary



## USS Cod Salutes Cleveland on its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in city

USS Cod Submarine Memorial will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her arrival in Cleveland on Sunday, July 21, with free tours throughout the day, a salute to Rosie the Riveter who helped build the 312-foot-long sub, and other activities in conjunction with the Cleveland USO and the International Women's Air & Space Museum. The official anniversary program will begin at 1 p.m. at Cod's dock on N. Marginal Rd., between East 9<sup>th</sup> St. and Burke Lakefront Airport.

To celebrate the success of USS Cod as a Cleveland lakefront attraction, the normal admission fees will be waived on Sunday as a thank you for the support of Clevelanders over the last 60 years. The Cod arrived in Cleveland in July of 1959 to serve as a dockside training vessel for Navy reservists. The Navy ended the submarine reserve program in 1971 and was seeking to scrap the veteran submarine when a handful of Clevelanders, both civilians and veterans, organized to begin raising funds to keep the sub in town as a memorial.

"In the 43 years Cod has been under the stewardship of our non-profit group, we have always been able to count on the solid support of Clevelanders," said Paul Farace. "This is our way of saying thanks!"

Clevelanders are invited to dress as Rosie the Riveter and join the lookalike contest, which will offer prizes for the best Rosie in age-based categories. Judging will be provided by the staff of the International Women's Air & Space Museum and the Cleveland Chapter of the USO.

*Courtesy of Bob Taylor*

## What the Heck is That?

Last month the *What the Heck?* was the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Type 61 MBT.

At the end of WWII and after the surrender of Japan whatever heavy industries remained were not permitted to build weapons of war. As the US was occupying the islands having a military was hardly necessary or desired. The arrival of the Korean War and Godzilla changed all that.



When the Korean War started in 1950, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers General MacArthur ordered Japan to re-militarize. The US provided WWII surplus M4A3E8 Sherman medium and M24 Chaffee light tanks until their factories could ramp up production. Modern military vehicle design and production was learned by overhauling these used tanks and building new replacement parts for the damaged and worn vehicles from the Korean conflict.

By the time Godzilla first came ashore on Odo Island in 1954 the Japanese military was beginning to develop a tank design of their own. Two designs were first considered, one a lighter tank of 25-tons for use on the soft ground and rice patties of the home land and another heavier design of 35-tons capable of mounting the 90mm gun similar to that of the M26 Pershing. Their experience with the ineffectiveness of the lower caliber weapons against the monster convinced the military to choose the more heavily armed tank.

The Type 61 is laid out in the typical fashion with the turret in the center and the engine in the back. The hull was welded steel while the turret was cast, with the maximum armor thickness of 2.5". It was powered by a 570hp Mitsubishi HM21 WT V12 turbocharged engine moving the tracks through a front-wheel drive system, getting it up to 28mph on paved roads with a range of 125 miles.

It was armed with a 7.62mm coaxial gun in the turret and a 12.7mm machine gun at the commander's cupola for anti-aircraft use, in addition to the main armament of the Type 61 90mm gun. The bustle of the turret holds 18 rounds while additional rounds are stored elsewhere throughout the tank.

The Type 61 never saw service against conventional enemies and did not fair well when up against the killer kaiju of the Toho-period, but otherwise Japan's first domestic tank of the post-war era served the JGSDF well with 560 being built from 1961 to 1975. It was phased out of service during the 1990s, the last being decommissioned in 2000 and replaced by the Type 74 MBT.



There were a few folks that guessed the M47 Patton tank, primarily because of the bustle on the rear of the turret feature. The M47 and the Type 61 are like identical twins – when you see only one it's hard to figure out, but when you see them together it becomes obvious. The Type 61 is smaller (to better accommodate the shorter stature Japanese soldier), has a rounder turret, boxier hull and the drive wheel in the front.

Congrats to Fred H, our only winner this month (after a small hint). Honorable Mentions go to Doc S who made a valiant effort after the same hint and Jon H who was following the bread crumbs but didn't beat the clock.

This month we are toolin' around town. For this one I want the year, make and model (trim level is optional). Extra credit to anyone who can guess the movie the still is from. Good luck.

## Value in Building Old Kits?

Is there any value to building an old kit? Let's explore my thoughts on that question.

Many times when I read a review of a kit, I see things like "heavily recessed panel lines," or "raised panel lines," or "misshapen parts," or "poor fit." My personal favorite observation is that instruction sheets that are not clear. There are many other issues that are brought to light, and many of them are valid. Given these and other problems not listed, is there any value that can be gleaned from the old molds? I say yes!



Many of the older kits were subject to the molding techniques and technologies of their day. Not all were good kits, but many were. Correcting the issues are a learning experience. But, like learning anything, you first have to be willing to invest the time. I know time is an issue for most of us in our chosen hobby - we have many more kits than we will ever get to build. But, the time can be well spent if you take enough of it to learn and develop a technique to re-scribe the panel line. You can learn to reshape a misshapen fuel tank or landing gear oleo. Let's not mention missing, broken or lost parts (how many of us have crawled on the floor looking for that small piece that when flying off the sprue when you cut the gate).

Sometimes, scratch building is the only way to replace parts on these kits. Though it can be time consuming, scratch building can be remarkably rewarding, even if it is not done perfectly. A lot of scratch building (even on the most complicated parts) starts with the basic shapes, with detail added later. With some planning, this can be accomplished and with experience, it can be accomplished relatively quickly.

None of this is to say that there is no validity to preferring newer molds over the old. There is some real satisfaction of a well-engineered kit coming together quickly with no filler or sanding or other modification. However, there is some real value of putting forth an effort to improve the kits that came before.

Until next time - Happy Modelling!!

John Camper



# Foam-Core Model Transport System

by Clare Wentzel, IPMS Kalamazoo

Over a period of years, I have developed a system to safely and efficiently carry my models. The key to the system is a series of "U" shaped supports that support the models. **Photo 1** shows a typical "U" support. The bottom of the "U" is sufficiently high to support the model by the wings and lift the wheels into the air. The width of the "U" is sufficient to clear the chord of the wing and a thin strip of foam rubber in an elongated "H" shape is placed on top to protect the models. Finally, two triangles are glued to the sides of the "U" to enable the support to stand alone.

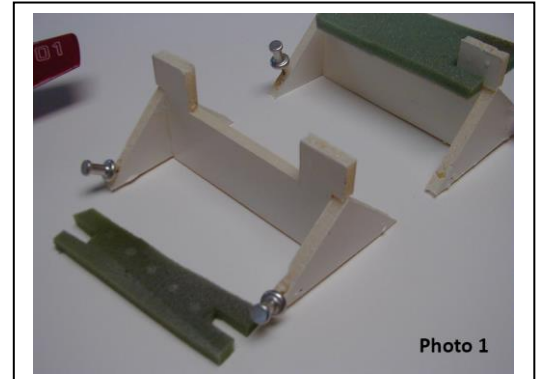


Photo 1



Photo 2

Next the box is chosen and prepared. I have one small box that holds one or two models and another that holds four or more models. The bottom and sides of the box is lined with foam-core to enable the supports to be attached as needed. The sides of the box are also lined with foam-core leaving about a one-inch space at the top to support a foam-core cover and provide some space to store model bases, reference etc. See **Photo 2**.

To use the system, a support is attached to the bottom of the box. I use pushpins to hold the

supports in place. The second support is then positioned to support the model by its wings without breaking any gear doors or other underwing parts. Finally, a strip of foam-core with a strip of foam glued to it is used to hold the model in place. Again, pushpins are used to hold the strip to the supports and keep the model from moving around. Again, choose the location of the holding strip so that it doesn't break any antennas or canopies.

**Photo 3** shows how a model can be retained by the system while

**Photo 4** shows how various supports are arranged in the box to allow a number of models to be carried. The photo also shows how the side pieces of foam-core allow space for the top cover to fit. The top cover is very important because it protects the models from being hit by a box flap and provides added strength to the box in addition to the storage space.

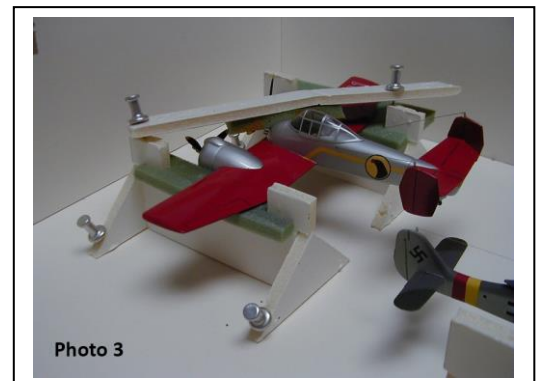


Photo 3

Make a number of different size supports to cover the variety of models in your collection. In some cases, you may also need to make a support for the nose of a particular model in case it can't be supported totally by the wings. The process is the same. As you can see from the photos, you don't have to be super accurate or neat with the supports and the foam padding as long as it works. Foam-core is available in art store and craft stores. The foam that I used is from some carpet padding.

I hope that modelers will enjoy my Adaptable Model box System. Enjoy and protect those precious models.

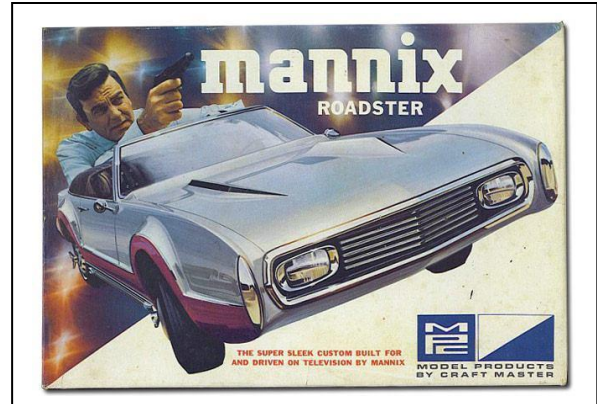
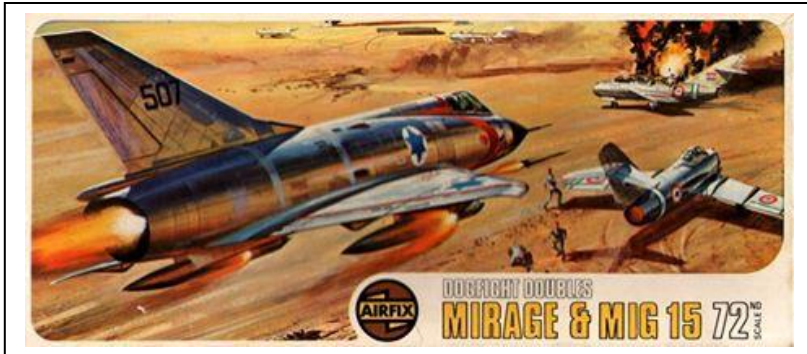


Photo 4



# Vintage Box Art

John C's article on old kits sent me looking for old box art. I love the old artwork and found many more pictures than would fit with the article so I'm going to share a few of them with you now. Enjoy the trip down memory lane.



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

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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**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Jul 20, 2019 | General meeting at Euclid Library Lake room – Quarterly contest: theme of “ <i>Land Animals</i> ”      |
| Aug 24, 2019 | General meeting at Euclid Library Lake room – Build & BS Meeting (bring something to work on)          |
| Sep 22, 2019 | General meeting at Euclid Library Lake room – Seminar on Tank Tracks                                   |
| Oct 20, 2019 | General meeting at Euclid Library Lake room – Quarterly contest: theme of “ <i>Air Animals</i> ”       |
| Nov 17, 2019 | General meeting at Euclid Library Lake room – Build & BS Meeting and the historic annual Turkey Raffle |

## **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 3-4, 2019         | Thunder over Michigan air show featuring gaggle of gull wing F4U Corsairs – Willow Run Airport, Ypsilanti, MI |
| <b>Aug 7-10, 2019</b> | <b>IPMS/USA National Convention – Chattanooga, TN</b>   |
| Aug 16-17, 2019       | D-Day Conneaut – Conneaut, OH   |
| Sep 21, 2019          | SVASMCN 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  |
| <b>Nov 3, 2019</b>    | <b>23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cleveland Model Show – Cleveland, OH</b>  |

Know of an event coming up? Let me know and watch this space for more!

## **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:

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