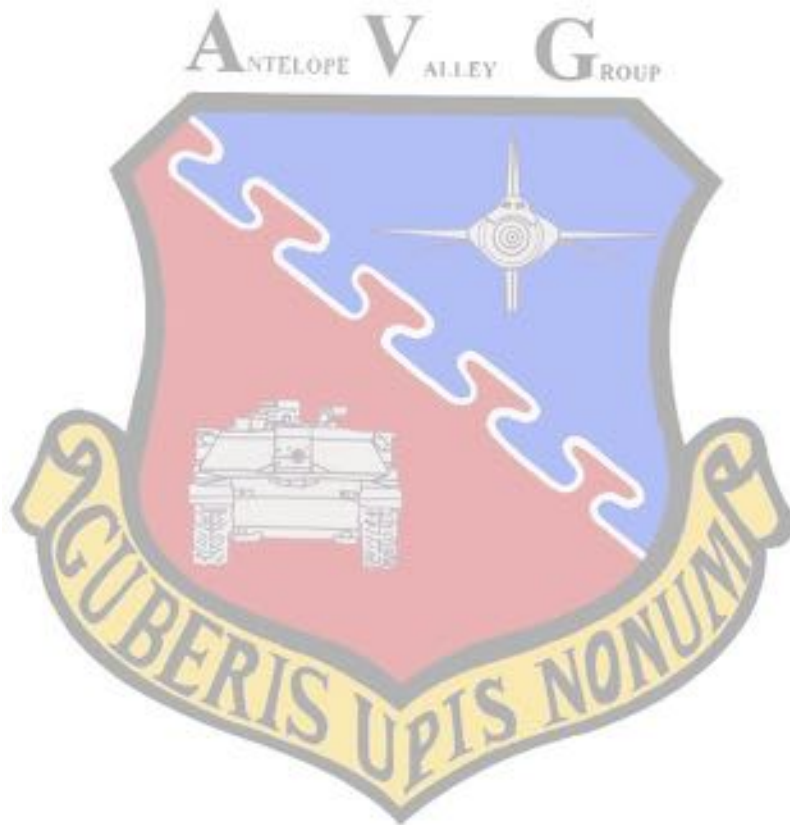


# The Smoking Hole

A Publication of the Antelope Valley Group IPMS

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## Club News and Business

### NOVEVEMBER MEETING IS CANCELLED

#### October Meeting General Meeting Notes:

The October physical meeting was canceled (again...), due to the closure of the Kern County Library system. However, Prez Dwight did arrange a 'virtual' on-line meeting

#### Latest Club Status

As of Monday, Kern County has regressed back into the 'Purple Tier' of coronavirus restrictions. This results in closing of indoor dining and reductions in capacity for retail establishments to 25%. At this time the Kern County Library System website is still showing limited on-site activities with an appointment. Unfortunately, I suspect this will soon change, and not for the better. So I wouldn't expect our ability to resume in-person meetings to resume anytime soon.

#### October Virtual Meeting

Prez Dwight set up an on-line 'virtual' club meeting on Google Meets. About 10-12 members participated. There really wasn't much club business discussed, it was more a chance for the participants to show off their latest projects, show their modeling areas and discuss modeling news. I thought it was a lot of fun and worked pretty well as a format, although the video quality was spotty at times (lots of 'freezes'), at least on my end. If we continue to face COVID meeting restrictions for an extended period, this could be a viable way for the club to meet periodically.

#### December "Secret Santa" Gift Exchange

Given the increasing trajectory of COVID infections, it's looking extremely unlikely we will be able to hold our traditional December potluck and gift exchange. Prez Dwight has come up with an outstanding novel idea to hold a 'virtual' "Secret Santa" gift exchange. Here's how it works:

1. Members sign up to participate, and include a short note of their favorite subject area and scale.
2. Participants are matched, at random, to recipients.
3. Participants may choose to mail a suitable kit from their stash or to order a kit online to be sent to the recipient. Value to be between, say, \$25-\$40. Remember Toms' immortal words: "No Dogs"! When ordered online, a special instruction may be added to mark the package "Do Not Open Until [December meeting date], and the giver's name inside, if desired. If you are uncomfortable mailing the kit, you can choose to meet up in a mutually-agreeable, neutral (and COVID-safe) place to exchange gifts.

Dwight has set up a sign-up form on Google Docs. Here's the link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwaLlqfP7aq38-j1Ysiw30re0kVaWrNZPuiUFFOK5M-mjXw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwaLlqfP7aq38-j1Ysiw30re0kVaWrNZPuiUFFOK5M-mjXw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Dwight is requesting everyone that wants to participate please sign prior to next Wednesday , 25 November so he can have everybody matched up by then, so members can take advantage of the Black Friday sales, if desired.

## 2020 Meeting Schedule

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
18 Jan	Member Dues Collected	Steve/Mike -Main Jim- Drinks Jay - Chips		
15 Feb		Bill, Mike O.		
21 Mar	<b>CANCELED</b>			
18 Apr	<b>CANCELED</b>			
16 May	<b>CANCELED</b>			
20 June	<b>CANCELED</b>			
18 July	<b>CANCELED</b>			
15 Aug	<b>CANCELED</b>			
19 Sept	<b>CANCELED</b>			
17 Oct	<b>CANCELED Virtual meeting planned</b>			
31 Oct	2020 Desert Classic <b>(CANCELED)</b>			
21 Nov	<b>CANCELED</b>			
19 Dec <b>(TBD- but not looking likely)</b>	Gift Exchange, In-House Contest "Your Personal or Professional Experience" <b>(POSTPONED)</b>	Everyone!		

## The Tool Crib

Not really a tool, but more of an accessory

This is one for the automotive modelers:

ConnKur Pre-wired Distributors



If you're like me, you despise wiring model car engines. Drilling those tiny holes for ignition wiring – I can never get the drill bit centered on the distributor towers. Or it slips and I end up making a mess of the distributor.

There are a number of pre-wired scale distributors available for the lazy, or ham-handed among us. I have used several and they are of varying levels of 'convincibility'. I stumbled across these and am absolutely in awe – these are, by far, the highest quality, most realistic pre-wired distributors I have found.

ConnKur Model Accessories (clever name) is Kurt Heber and he is also a dealer of Pro Tech line of resin, machined and etched auto detail parts. Kurt takes the Pro Tech distributor kits and assembles them for you. He produces them in 6 and 8 cylinder configuration as a factory-style or 2 different aftermarket (Accel and Mallory) distributors. They come in a number of different wiring colors and are complete with the wiring boots!. They also include pre-cut boots for the spark plug ends. There is also a wired Cirello magneto available.

These must be seen to be believed – the workmanship is outstanding. They are priced towards the high-end of the prewired distributors out there (\$9), but IMHO they are so superior to the others that they are

worth every penny and then some. Kurt is very friendly and has outstanding customer service, and will entertain custom requests (he's doing a custom magneto for Rich R.)

Can't recommend this product highly enough! Check ConnKurr out! <https://connkurmodelparts.com/>

Rich the Toolman shared a link on the club e-mail thread to a set of plans for a DIY spray booth he's building. I'm reposting the link here:

<https://vent-works.com/blogs/the-ventilation-blog/15945741-diy-hobby-spray-booth>

## Club Demos

Little bit hard to do demos during "social distancing", though suppose you could do a YouTube demo or Zoom session.

Anyway, hope to see some demos when we all get back together.

## Member Show and Tell, 9<sup>th</sup> COVID Edition

Number of cool builds have come across the e-mail threads this month:

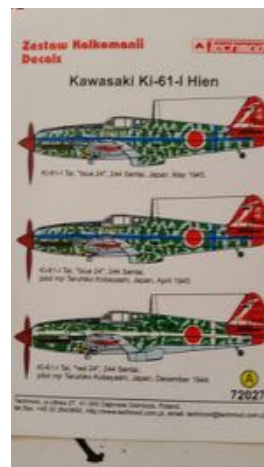


As a change of pace, Mike S. has been working on figures lately. The ones on the left are 1/72 Airfix Napoleonics. The others are, well, I'll let Mike describe them: "Got bored with painting identical uniforms, so I switched to early D&D figures. The last stuff I did was a rather unique set of civilized dinosaur-type beasties. No idea what company made them, but I still have to build/paint the "fishoid/amphibian" army to oppose them."

Speaking of figures, former Veep Jim completed a really cool fantasy figure, just in time for Halloween. Kind of reminds me of the Pumpkin King.



Mike O. has built another motorcycle. It's a 1/12th Tamiya Kawasaki Zephyr with a paint scheme reminiscent of a Kawasaki Ki-61 fighter. Mike says the model was inspired by a real bike with a similar scheme.



Prez Emeritus sent some pictures of his latest project, a 1/48th Revell Aerobatic Stearman



Mike says: "This is the 1/48 Revell kit. Nice, quick and easy build. Black EZ line (fine) painted with a brush and Testors silver after rigging made it easy (elasticity) compared to the other two (one with piano wire, the other with nylon thread painted silver). About 25-30 hrs. Now my Stearman collection is complete. The Navy version took 1<sup>st</sup> at Nats in Omaha 2017.

John S. has been busy as usual with a couple of new builds. First is a 1/72<sup>nd</sup> Special Hobby Dornier Do.27. This depicts a very well-known Do.27, operated in Africa by Prof. Bernhard Grzimek, a German wildlife researcher.



About the kit, John says: "This Special Hobby kit builds quickly. Applying the stripes is another matter. It's in 72nd scale, which I generally avoid, however, I'm tempted to do another one in a white and green scheme."



John also finished a 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Hasegawa P-47D. He used EagleCals decals, a Yahu instrument panel and Eduard cockpit details. He was surprised by the number of fit issues with kit.



## Calendar

Postponed. Date to be announced	50 Years of Modeling Excellence	Fresno EAA Chapter, Hangar 379 4344 W. Spaatz Ave. Fresno, CA
Postponed. until 2021	San Diego Model Expo & Swap Meet	San Diego Air and Space Museum Annex 335 Kenny St. El Cajon, CA
Cancelled	IPMS/USA National Convention	Embassy Suites and San Marcos Conference Center 1011 E McCarty Ln. San Marcos, TX
Cancelled	Best of the West	East Side Cannery Resort & Casino 5255 Boulder Hwy. Las Vegas, NV
Postponed. until 2021	Silicon Valley Classic VII	Napredak Hall 770 Montague Expressway San Jose, CA
Cancelled	IPMS Reno "High Rollers" 21 <sup>st</sup> Invitational Contest & Swap Meet	BPOE Lodge 597 597 Kumle Ln. Reno, NV
Cancelled	OrangeCon 2020	Hotel Fullerton Anaheim 1500 South Raymond Ave. Fullerton, CA
Postponed. until 2021	Desert Classic XXIV	Antelope Valley College Cafeteria 3041 W Ave. K, Lancaster, CA

**From the Oval Office – Notes From the Prez**

## An Attitude of Gratitude

This is the time of year when we take stock of all that has happened, all that we have, and what we have learned up to this point. As the year winds down, we pause to contemplate those positive things, and share our thankful thoughts with others.

This has not been an easy year. There is a global pandemic, alternating between terrifying, horrifying, and just plain frustrating. Economies everywhere have taken a massive hit that may need several years for recovery. Our nation, along with many others, has seen political differences turn into points of contention that can seem insurmountable.

That's heavy, man.

When it gets heavy like this, I need to refocus my gaze on what is going right, and what is getting better, no matter how tough that may seem.

I look at my job as an elementary school teacher. I have changed school districts over the summer, and I have a new position with a new curriculum to challenge me. I teach in a beautiful classroom at a wonderful old neighborhood school. I have to distance teach, but I am grateful--oh, so grateful--that this situation did not arise ten years ago, or even five. Because it is happening now, when publishers have taken note of how much teachers and school district purchasing departments want materials to exist online, I do not have to recreate everything in digital form in order to do my job. Online classroom management platforms have matured a lot since their introduction, and videoconferencing is common, well-supported, and rapidly getting more robust and secure. Our nation's communication infrastructure has invested a lot in internet connectivity, even over cellular phone networks and out into rural areas. The hardware required to participate in online learning, notebook computers and tablet computers, have become ubiquitous and inexpensive to the point that even small school districts have been able, with the help of grants, to ensure that all students have a device to connect to class and all families have at least an internet hotspot connecting through cellular data networks. None of it is perfect. The students who had a hard time finding motivation often still seem to want to fall through the cracks by not participating, but other students, and not just the expected apple-polishers, are taking advantage of being online as a routine matter of course instead of a smaller part of the day, and discovering their inner perpetual learner. I am still embracing the development of my real-world classroom, with its bright, sunny windows and possibilities for arranging students for learning, but I am also jumping feetfirst into developing my digital classroom as a real community for my students.

As a scale modeler (I still miss that magazine!), I have had many opportunities to pursue more research into my subjects. A question just has to cross my mind, and within 20 seconds I have 53 color photos of WWI German Luftstreitkräfte seatbelts, and links to suppliers all over the world offering me accurate replicas in any scale, both thin photoetched metal and cloth with metal buckles. My oddball short-run Ukrainian kit of a Soviet x-plane shipped with an underscale pilot canopy? Here. This is how you build a vacuum-forming box. Here is where you can order clear plastic sheet. Oh, and be sure to check this comparison piece to determine which material best suits your needs. And, don't forget, here are accurate scale drawings of the cockpit glass. I can watch video demonstrations and read the reviews of kits and tools and workarounds I might not have discovered on my own, and many of them in my own club newsletter. I feel like my time at my workbench is more focused, more accurate, and more satisfying, especially at a time when I need all the positive feelings I can get to keep more mundane worries at bay.

I hope this current newsletter finds you in good health, and with an engaging project on your workbench. Best Thanksgiving wishes to all of you and your families.

If you haven't already, please consider joining our club Secret Santa Gift Exchange!  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwaLlqfP7aq38-j1Ysiw30re0kVaWrNZPuiUFFOK5M-mjXw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwaLlqfP7aq38-j1Ysiw30re0kVaWrNZPuiUFFOK5M-mjXw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

I want to be able to have all givers and recipients matched up by next Wednesday, to better be able to take advantage of Black Friday sales.

*Oops. Glued my knife to the workbench again.*