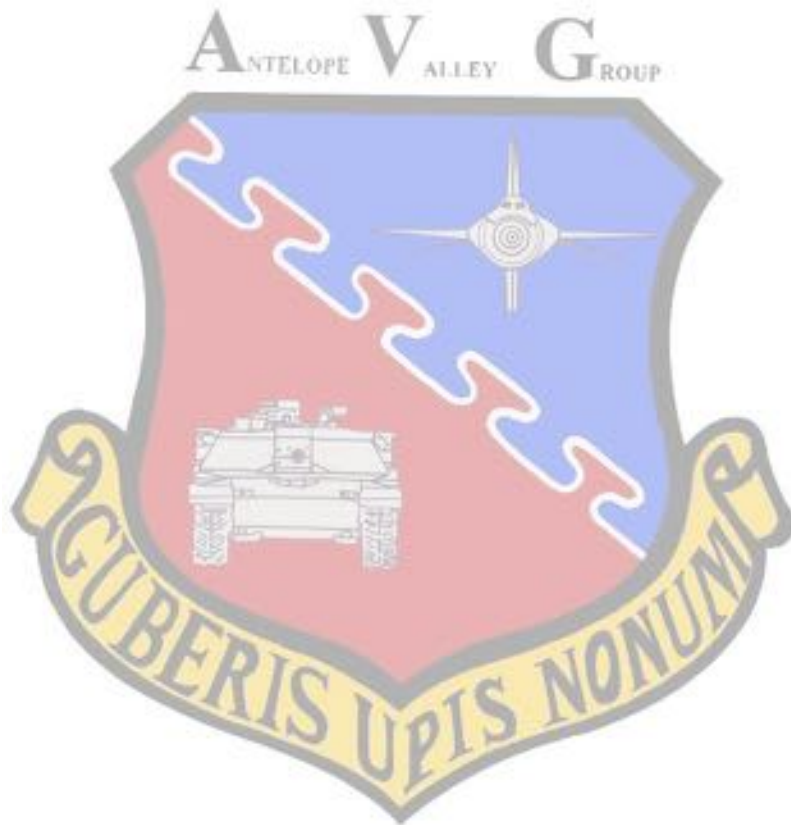


The Smoking Hole

A Publication of the Antelope Valley Group IPMS

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Club News and Business

NOVEMBER MEETING 1:00 - 4:00 pm NOVEMBER 19, AT DESERT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL, LANCASTER

October Meeting General Meeting Notes:

The October meeting was primarily devoted to contest prep

November Meeting

We're back to our normal meeting schedule of the 3rd Saturday. We'll have our contest 'post-mortem' and don't forget that November marks the nomination of club officers for the following year.

Once again, I'm going to make the plea to the membership to consider becoming an officer. If you get something from the club, consider giving something back. Don't like how we're doing something? Here's your chance to influence the club's direction. It seems to always be the same few people who volunteer (I've been an officer for most of the last 20 years and have held all the positions other than Treasurer). Yes, it will take some of your time, but it can very rewarding.

2022 Desert Classic

Our COVID-delayed 24th annual Desert Classic contest is now in the history books. Overall, the contest was a success. The new venue worked well, with the lighting being particularly outstanding. We had the largest turnout ever, with 497 entries from xx contestants. Despite some initial chaos and missteps (we'll talk about the at the meeting 'post mortem'), everyone pulled together to get things back on track, and we had another great AVG contest. I heard a lot of positive comments from both attendees and vendors alike.



We were graced by the presence of our IPMS Region 8 Coordinator, Joe Porche (who brought his incredible collection of Tom Daniel models), and were excited to hear Joe's announcement that we will be the host of the Region 8 Regional for our 25th Anniversary contest!

There were a lot of really outstanding models on the tables. Here's a small sampling. Not exhaustive, just some of my personal standouts:



Best-in-show Corillian Corvette. This was scratchbuilt from a large number of 3-D printed parts. Level of detail was incredible! The same builder has also done a the Hammerhead Corvette from "Rogue One"



Very impressive 1/48th B-52H from the HPH kit



Intricate "wave mirror" scribble scheme on a 1/48th Dragon/Revell Ju-188.



Beautiful build of a very difficult kit, the 1/25th IMC Ford J-Car. Definitely a 'silk purse'. This was built AVG member Jim B.



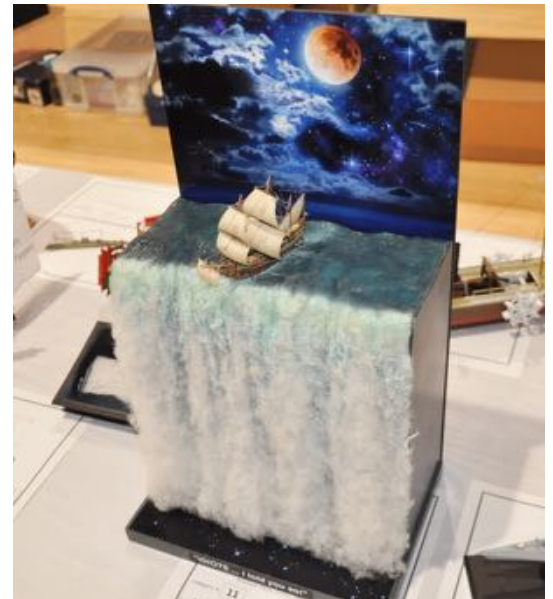
Aries 1B lunar spaceliner from "2001: A Space Odyssey". This is the new 1/48th Moebius kit



Extremely cool 1/72 Revell U-Boat with full interior.



RC Joe Porche's amazing Tom Daniel collection



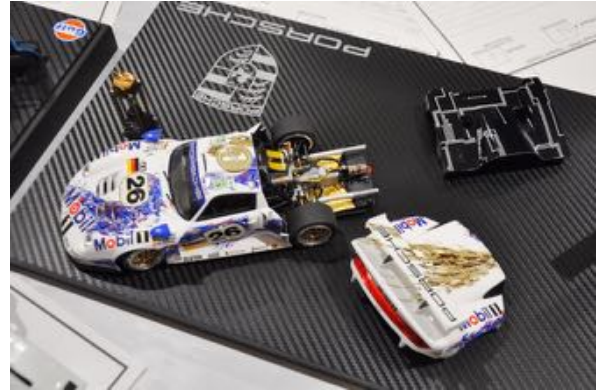
"Idiots!! I told you so...". I love the humor in this one!



A Rhino with rhinos in 1/35th.



Impressive, partially scratchbuilt Mercedes race car transporter in 1/24th



It's always cool to see female modelers. I chatted a bit with the girl who built this Porsche (she's an automotive tech). She says this is her first scale model build! Heck, I don't build this well after 50 years!



1/32nd Heinkel He.111Z, created from 2 Revell kits



Cool representation of a 737-800 just off the line at Renton. From the 1/72nd BPK kit



Prez's favorite. Not the new Modsvit kit, but a 1/32nd F-82, created from 2 Tamiya P-51's
This was at the Las Vegas Nats

October Meeting

Only a few models on display for Show-and-Tell.

John S. brought a really fun sci-fi build, his Pegasus "Apollo 27". This appears to be about 1/72nd scale.



Bliss off into the unknown and explore the furthest reaches of the Cosmos with the new Apollo 27 Rocket! Designed to safely transport its two man crew to wherever their mission takes them, it also provides them with an all around view was never been available to the other astronauts who traveled before them. Hyper-dynamo-tension rocket engines give the Apollo 27 an acceleration rate that staggers the mind, and yet completely protects the crew from the massive amount of G's that would normally crush them! This makes far journeys possible in just a few short months, not decades. Man is just a hop away now! Get there first with your own Apollo 27 Rocket from Pegasus Hobbies.

Look for other exciting releases coming soon from Pegasus Hobbies in our Rockets and UFO's Collection range of plastic model kits! They're out of this world!

John came up with a really cool paint scheme that riffs on the checkerboard pattern applied to many vintage rockets. He said it took a considerable time to mask. Paint is all Alclad – Gloss Black and a mix of White Aluminum and Pale Burnt Metal. Decals came from a 1/32nd Hasegawa Ki-61

Mike S. continues with his 'movie car' builds. This is the 1/25th AMT 1966 T-Bird built to represent the car driven by Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis in "Thelma & Louise"



The build took 8 hours, and Mike used Pegasus whitewall tire stickers. Paint is Tamiya lacquers and acrylics and Future, with a Flysea chrome paint marker for the trim . Mike says: "Mixing the paint to match the "turquoise" was tricky. The Pegasus whitewall "stickers" are very thing, and would much rather stay on its carrier paper than the T-Bird's tires."

Mike O. had one tank, a RyeField 1/35th Egyptian T34-122.



Mike painted the cammo with Israeli Sand and Model Master Russian Armor Green. He says the kit included the complete 122mm gun with a detailed breech, but oddly no other interior.

2022 Meeting Schedule (Tentative)

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
15 Jan	Physical meeting at Prez Bill K's house, Palmdale 1 – pm			
19 Feb	Physical meeting at Admin Amateur Matt's house, Palmdale 1 – 4 pm			
19 Mar	Physical meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster 1 – 4 pm			
16 Apr	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
28 May	Meeting at Rich R.'s house, Rosamond, 1 – 4pm			
18 June	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm. "Your Personal or Professional Experience" in-house contest			
16 July	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
20 Aug	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm. "Jurassic Plastic" in-house contest.			
17 Sept	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
22 Oct	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
29 Oct	2022 Desert Classic, Desert Christian High School Gym			
19 Nov	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm, 2023 Club Officer Nominations			
17 Dec	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm , 2023 Club Officer Elections, Gift Exchange			

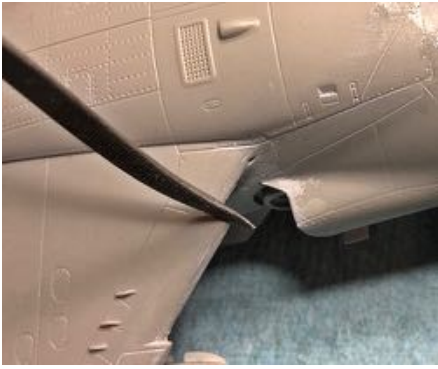
The Tool Crib

Curtis found a nice set of riffler files



"I picked up a new set of Riffler Files off of Amazon, these were Sold under the name "BigHorn" and ran about \$10 for 10 files.





These Riffler files were mentioned at last month's meeting, some had never used them before. they are very useful for getting onto exact areas due to the curve of the file, there are 10 different shapes that allow you to file any profile. I have picture some "In action" shots got how I use them to clean up the dog tooth on the wing of my Harrier, and a flat a seam on a curved surface."

Kit Reviews

1/48th Eduard F4F-3 Wildcat (Profipack)



The gestation of what was to become the Wildcat began in the late 1930's. Grumman had produced a successful series of bi-plane fighters, culminating in the F3F, which featured retractable landing gear. By the late 1930's the Navy showed increased interest in monoplane fighters, and placed an order with Brewster Aircraft for their Model 239, which showed great promise. The Navy designated the 239 as the F2A-1 Buffalo. At the Navy's request, Grumman began follow-on development of an improved version of the F3F, internally designated G-16, as a backup for the F2A, and allocated the designation XF4F-1. But Grumman could clearly see that the performance of a bi-plane fighter would be inferior to a monoplane and began a parallel effort to design a monoplane design. The Navy accepted this design over the XF4F-1, assigning the designation XF4F-2. Grumman built a

prototype airframe, but its performance was clearly inferior to the Brewster design, so Grumman began a crash re-design effort to improve performance, resulting in the XF4F-3.

The Navy ordered the Buffalo into production, but became disenchanted with the aircraft, as, although it was a reasonable performer, it was clearly obsolescent, and suffered from major production delays and stoppages due to mismanagement at Brewster. The Navy ordered the Grumman design into production as the F4F-3.

While a rugged aircraft, the F4F was inferior to its Japanese opponent, the A6M "Zero", being slower, with a lower rate of climb and inferior maneuverability. It was relatively successful in combat, however, owing to superior US pilot training and development of specialized combat techniques capitalizing on the aircraft strength, by such famed Wildcat pilots as Jimmy Thatch and Butch O'Hare. The Wildcat was supplanted on the Grumman production line by the far superior F6F Hellcat, but continued to be produced by General Motors in an updated version for operations from small escort (or "Jeep") carriers in the anti-submarine and ground attack roles. The Wildcat also found some success in British Royal Navy use.

The Wildcat has been fairly well represented in 1/48th scale. The first example is the now-Jurassic Monogram kit from the early '60's. It's definitely a product of its era, with a sparse "pilot-on-a-post" cockpit, oversized rivets, and working features like folding wings, but has a fairly accurate outline.

The defining 1/48th kit for many years was the folding-wing F4F-4 from Tamiya. While getting a bit elderly, it still holds up well.

Hobby Boss released the F4F in fixed-wing F4F-3 and folding-wing F4F-4 variants. While possessing some inaccuracies (like most Hobby Boss kits), they build up well and look good. Hobby Boss also produced a wildly inaccurate FM-2 variant that is best ignored.

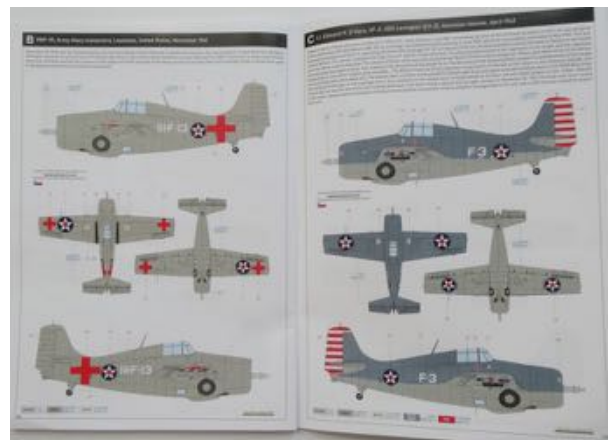
A couple of years ago, Eduard announced the intention to produce the entire Wildcat family in 1/48th and this is the first of these kits, the fixed-wing F4F-3.

Everyone knows what to expect from an Eduard Profipack kit by now; well-molded light gray plastic with fine surface detail, a set of photo-etch detail parts, "kabuki" masks and a number of interesting decal options.

Eduard kits have been criticized (certainly by me) for including a large number of very small detail parts (why include 1 part when you can have 6...), in contrast to Tamiya, who tends to include a smaller number of intricately detailed parts. This kit, however seems to continue the trend began with their 2nd generation Fw-190's and A6M's of a reduced count of more detailed parts.



As is typical of Eduard kits, it includes a number of parts for future versions that will not be used (including 3 different cowlings), but only the fixed wings of the F4F-3 and the fuselage of the Pratt & Whitney-powered versions. The kit includes excellent detail for the inside of the fuselage easily visible through the Wildcat's wheel wells, all though, in Eduard tradition, additional finer-detailed resin detail sets are available.



Instructions are standard Eduard, and no less than 6 marking options are included. The include expected options such as a colorful pre-war example and "Butch" O'Hare's mount, but includes an Midway option and an unusual scheme from the Louisiana Maneuvers.

As expected, this takes the crown for the best F4F in 1/48th, and I'm really looking forward to finally having an accurate FM-2 in this scale.

Price is typical for a recent Profipack kit, with a street price around \$43, although I got mine on sale for \$32, and I'm sure a Weekend edition is forthcoming, and there are always the Overtrees, which are an outstanding value if you already have a set of decals.

Recommended!

Aftermarket Accessory Reviews

With the proliferation of mind-boggling amounts of aftermarket, I've decided to break out the accessory review as it's own section. To kick it off, Curtis has a number of accessories he's obtained for his Sea Harrier build

1/48th Reskit Paveway-II (UK)



“RAF Paveway II's from ResKit. Having built 2 Falkland RN/RAF Harries in my earlier days (1/72) I wanted to build these Kinetic 1/48 kits to be armed in the same manner I displayed those years ago, so I needed a Paveway-II. Again, ResKit had them and they looked good on-line,





I picked up a set, they come with 2 1000lb Bombs, 2 types of guidance seekers,(covered and uncovered) mounting lugs, forward fins and a decal set. these were definitely printed and cast, you can spot some layering but looks very fine and should disappear once painted.”

1/48th Reskit Marta-155



“Back to my Falkland's Harrier subjects, the Kinetic kit although offering a moderate selection of ordinance they do lack in detail and accuracy, and I wanted something a bit more interesting.

I searched available options and found ResKit offers a large range of items for the Harrier.



I picked up a set of Marta-155 Rocket Launchers which came with 4 units, they appear to be CAD printed master then resin cast. I could find no noticeable layering on these (unlike the Paveway-II).



These are a major improvement over the kit parts. they are cast in 2 pieces for the body with mounting lugs cast separately and have a photo etched piece that represents the aft end of the rocket launcher, no decals.”

1/48th Reskit Harrier wheelset



“And lastly from ResKit are their Harrier wheelset for the Earlier Harriers. the kit parts sucked, really bad....so a replacement set was needed. here they are, Printed and cast, no layering found, good tread detail, Michelin Air and other stampings on the tires, both sides with no compromise in detail, it comes with 5 tires, 2 main 1 nose and 2 outriggers, the outriggers also have legible tire logos on them, however you will have to get creative or scratch-build the forks that hold the tire to the gear, none is provided and the kit part is molded to the tire.



I purchased these sets from PJB Hobby in Poland, they were the only shop that had all items in-stock, their prices were also one of the lowest, and to top it all off shipping was only \$3.80.... they arrived in 10 days, I was pleasantly surprised with that. These are nice additions to the Harriers or any other RAF subject that carries these weapons... Desert Storm Typhoon.”

Club Demos

None this month.

Member Show and Tell, 35th COVID Edition

Nothing in the group email this month

Calendar

5/20/2023	Return of the Scale Model Show	TBD Rohnert Park, CA
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