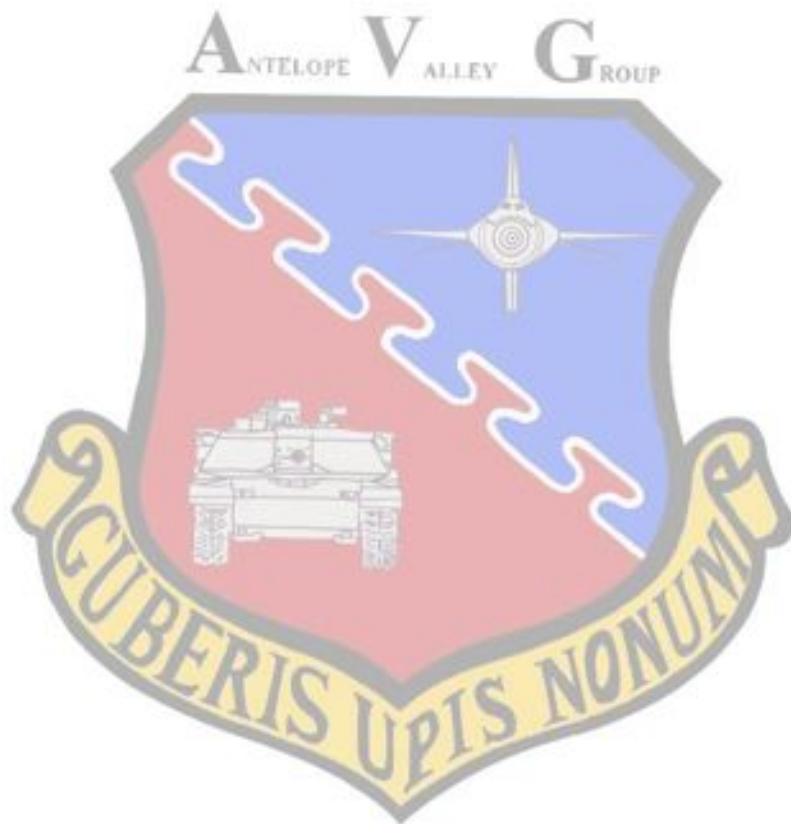


The Smoking Hole

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www.avg-ipms.org
avg_ipms@yahoo.com

2015 Club Officers

President

Mike Otis

MOTIS93550@aol.com

Vice President

Richard Manaseri

rmanaseri@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Curtis Stidham

cbstidham@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Matt Graham

mgraham4@bak.rr.com

Club News and Business

NEXT MEETING December 19, 2015, 1:00 PM AT ROSAMOND LIBRARY

General Meeting Notes:

Primary business discussed November were contest recap and 2016 club officer nominations.

Contest Discussion

The members conducted a recap and rundown of the contest. The consensus was the contest went smoothly, but the turnout was somewhat disappointing, with few of the “name” modelers or IMPS Orange County members present. This was possibly attributed to the date conflict with the IPMS Phoenix contest.

As neither the Phoenix chapter nor the IPMS Regional Coordinators seem to show any interest in helping to resolve the conflict, there was discussion on changing the date for the 2016 contest. It was suggested to shift the date to the following week in November, but David informed us that our usual venue, the Antelope Valley College cafeteria, is not available that weekend. Another proposal was to shift the date earlier in the year, possibly in September. There will likely be a club vote in the future on a contest date change.

2016 Club Officer Nominations

November is the time for nominations for club officers for the following year. Here are the candidates (Donald Trump excluded):

President: Tracey Ackeret

Vice President: Dwight Young, Jim Abercromby, Bill Pressley

Secretary: Matt Graham

Treasurer: no nominee

Curt has been Treasurer for some time and would like to step down. Here is your chance to give back to the club!

We will vote on the slate at the December meeting.

December Potluck and Gift Exchange

Hard to believe another year has come and gone!!

The December meeting traditionally marks our annual potluck and gift exchange. President Mike has sent the potluck signup by e-mail to the members.

Participation in the gift exchange is voluntary. If you wish to participate, bring a gift-wrapped kit. It should be something you would enjoy building yourself (target value of about \$20). Remember what Tom says: “No dogs!”

2015 Meeting Schedule

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
17 Jan	Member Dues Collected			
21 Feb		Rich R. / Mike O.		
21 Mar		Jim / Robbie	"Things Under Wings" (Henry)	
18 Apr	In House Contest-"A is for April"	Rick / Curt		
16 May		Dwight / Nick	"Things Under Wings" (Henry)	
20 June	Club BBQ			
18 July	In House Contest - "Built a Tamiya Kit"	Niilo / Bill P.	TBD - Steve	
15 Aug		Mike W.		
19 Sept		Jeff / Joe		
17 Oct	Judge's Clinic			
7 Nov	2016 Desert Classic			
21 Nov	2016 Club Officer Nominations	Bill P.	"Things Under Wings" (Henry) (tentative)	
19 Dec	Christmas Potluck Gift Exchange 2016 Officer Elections	Everyone!		

The Tool Crib

No report from "Rich the Tool Man" this month.
If you have a cool tool, bring it and share the info with the club!

Club Demos

Let me know if you'd like to do a demo for the club and I'll highlight it in the newsletter.

Member Show and Tell

Robby was kind enough to send me pictures of the member's models from November. Thanks, Robby! Sorry I don't have the usual info on them.







Stuff for Model Geeks on Oahu

Okay, so the family or “significant other” has convinced (coerced) you into a Hawaii vacation. Now, beaches, pineapples and luau’s are fine, but you find yourself going through “modeling withdrawal”. What to do? Well, you’re in luck, as there are plenty of modeling-related things to do (at least if you’re on Oahu), and, best of all, you can convince your traveling companions that’s it part of the vacation!

A natural is, of course the Arizona Memorial and Pearl Harbor Museum. This is a National Monument and operated by the National Park Service. The Memorial and Museum are free, but the number of tickets for the boat to the Memorial is limited, so it is best to arrive as early as possible if you are visiting at peak season if you want to secure tickets.

The Park Service constructed a new museum in 2006, and it is outstanding. It tells the story of Pearl Harbor and the buildup to the War in the Pacific very well. There are some jaw-dropping models on display.



1/96th Carrier *Akagai*. This model is constructed from hundreds (maybe thousands) of resin castings. A team consisting of a professional modeler from Chicago and a local Hawaiian modeler, who made the aircraft and figures, produced it. Detail is phenomenal! Think of this as the ultimate resin kit (and you thought the HPH 1/32 PBV Catalina was impressive...). Original cost was \$25,000 in 2006, but the estimate is \$50 to \$70k today. The same team also produced a 1/96th Arizona, and a depiction of the *Arizona* Memorial, showing the arrangement of the *Arizona* wreckage underwater.



The *Arizona* Memorial itself is a very moving experience and is a 3-minute boat ride from the Museum. I highly recommend it, but there are only 1300 tickets each day available, so in peak tourist season, you need to get to the park when it opens at 7am if you hope to get tickets.

There is a ‘pay’ side of Pearl Harbor also, which consists of three museums. Immediately adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Museum is the *USS Bowfin* museum. The *Bowfin* is an illustrious *Balao*-class submarine that operated from Pearl Harbor. The *Balao*s were updated versions of the famous *Gato* class. *Balao*s served in the Reserves up until the 1960’s. There is an interesting display of submarine-launched missiles, including the Vought Regulus 1, a very early cruise missile that looks like a small F-86 that the *Balao*s carried in the ‘50’s. Revell makes a fabulous 1/72 *Gato*, and Nautilus Models has several *Balao* conversions.



USS Bowfin

A short bus ride across the bridge to Ford Island brings you to the *USS Missouri* Museum. The *Missouri* is, of course, the *New Jersey*-class battleship on which the Japanese surrender was signed. The areas of the ship open to tour are extensive. Although the *Missouri* remains in its final 1990’s updated configuration, there is extensive material presented on how the ship looked in WWII. There is a beautiful 1/96th model of the *Missouri* on display in the Officer’s Mess. One interesting thing I learned is that the *New Jerseys* originally had very small, heavily armored bridges with slit-like view ports. After several harbor accidents caused by the poor visibility through the viewports, external, open bridges (later enclosed) were constructed around the armored bridge. These bridges were surprisingly small also. Tamiya has kitted the *Missouri* in 1/350th in both 1945 and 1990’s configuration. I was impressed enough that, when I found a Tamiya kit for a *very* reasonable price on Black Friday, I bought it!

*USS Missouri**Missouri Armored Bridge*

Down the road a bit is the Pacific Aviation Museum, which recently moved from its previous location at Honolulu Airport. The museum is a bit of a work-in-progress, consisting mostly of an outside display of aircraft that operated in Hawaii, although there are a few surprises, such as a very nice ROK F-5A and an Australian F-111G. There is a very nice indoor display of Pearl Harbor related aircraft, including wreckage of an A6M2 from the raid and a depiction of a Doolittle Raid B-25B. The museum is refreshingly honest about the displays, pointing out that although the P-40 is in the markings of George Wheeler, it is a P-40E and not the correct P-40B, and that the B-25B was constructed and converted from several wrecked B-25J's. But the real surprise, and gem of the museum is the "Swamp Ghost". Located in the restoration hangar, the "Swamp Ghost" is a B-17E that was forced down in a New Geneva swamp early in the war, where it remained for over 60 years until it was recently recovered. The museum intends to restore the aircraft for display.



A6M2 Wreckage



B-25B Replica



B-17E "Swamp Ghost"

Pearl Harbor is still a major operational Navy base, so there is an opportunity to see current naval hardware in operation.



UH-1Y's in flight



Guided Missile Destroyer DDG-93 *Chung Hoon*

There is an incredible amount to see at Pearl Harbor, so I recommend planning an entire day.

In Waikiki is the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. Located on Battery Randolph, admission is free. There is an M24 Chafee and a Japanese Ha-Go tank on display in front of the museum, and an AH-1S Cobra on the roof. Unfortunately, I did not have time to visit the museum.



Army Museum of Hawaii

Although it seems a very “touristy” thing to do, I highly recommend booking a helicopter tour of Oahu. There are some very polished, slick tour operators, but I flew with a small, family-run operator from North Shore that operates an authorized replica of the “Magnum P.I.” Hughes 500D, right down to the N-number. The helo is even signed by the actors that played T.C. and Rick. The MD500 is the Ferrari of helicopters, and this operator (Paradise Helicopters) conducts door-off flights. Our pilot took us on the course that the Japanese took on the PH attack, and you get views of PH (such as the ‘boneyard’ and sub pens) that you cannot see any other way. Well worth the cost!



“Magnum” MD500



DDGs and CGs in port

If you're an airliner modeler, Honolulu Airport offers some unique observation opportunities. Due to the mild climate, the passages from the main ticketing areas to the gates are open-air, which is very rare. Plus, there seem to be more unusually marked aircraft in attendance.



Alaska "Islands" 737



Alaska 'retro-jet' '40's scheme 737



Hawaiian A330

Finally, if your of a ‘certain age’, or are a retro-TV junkie, you’ll recognize a lot of spots on Oahu that have appeared on TV. Going back to “Hawaiian Eye”, portions of “Gilligan’s Island”, the original “Hawaii Five-0”, “Magnum PI” to “Lost” and the re-boot of “Hawaii Five-0”, many TV shows (and movies) have been filmed on the island.



Ali Wai Yacht Harbor, Waikiki. This is where the S.S. Minnow set out from for a ‘three hour tour’ on *Gilligan’s Island*”. Although most of *Gilligan’s Island*” was filmed in a parking lot in Burbank, the actual island that appears in some shots in the show is on the opposite side of Oahu from Honolulu. The building farthest to the left in the photo is the Ilikai Hotel, which you see Jack Lord standing on the roof of during the opening credits of the original *Hawaii Five-0*. There is also the same shot of Alex O’Loughlin in the new *Five-0* reboot.



Iolani Palace, home to the last King and Queen of Hawaii, but also Five-0 Headquarters in the original series.



Hawaii Justice Museum and King Kamehameha statue. This is supposedly the Five-0 Head-in the new series. It is right across the street from Iolani Palace.



‘Robin’s Nest’ from *Magnum PI*. Located on the east side of the island. This estate recently sold for \$10M.

Interesting Visitor

Stumbled across an interesting visitor to town the other day...



The Skyfox!

The Skyfox was an attempt in the 1980’s by some former Lockheed engineers (including the original designer of the T-33) to update the T-33 airframe and market it as a low-cost trainer and light attack aircraft (particularly to existing operators of T-33’s)



The original J33 (or Nene) centrifugal turbojet was removed and replaced with fuel tankage, and 2 Garrett 731 turbofans (like on a Lear 35) were mounted on the aft fuselage. Aerodynamic and avionics changes were also made. The aircraft was modified at and flew from Mojave Airport. Unfortunately, even with marketing help from Boeing, the aircraft garnered little interest. Portugal initially signed up for 20 conversions, but backed out. The aircraft was also evaluated by the Air Force and also by the Army (as a possible replacement for the OV-1), but ultimately, no orders were forthcoming and only the single airframe was produced. The aircraft had spent many years in Oregon, but is now obviously back in California. The owner of the aircraft at one time lived in Tehachapi (and may still), so perhaps it is going to remain here in town. An interesting aviation footnote.

Calendar

2/20/2016	IPMS Silverwings Wintercon	Town & Country Lutheran Church and School 4049 Marconi Ave Sacramento, CA
3/22/2015	Kit Collectors Exposition and Show	UFCW Local 324 Union Hall 8530 Stanton Ave., Buena Park, CA
4/2/2016	Silicon Valley Classic III	Naperdak Hall 770 Montegue Expressway San Jose, CA