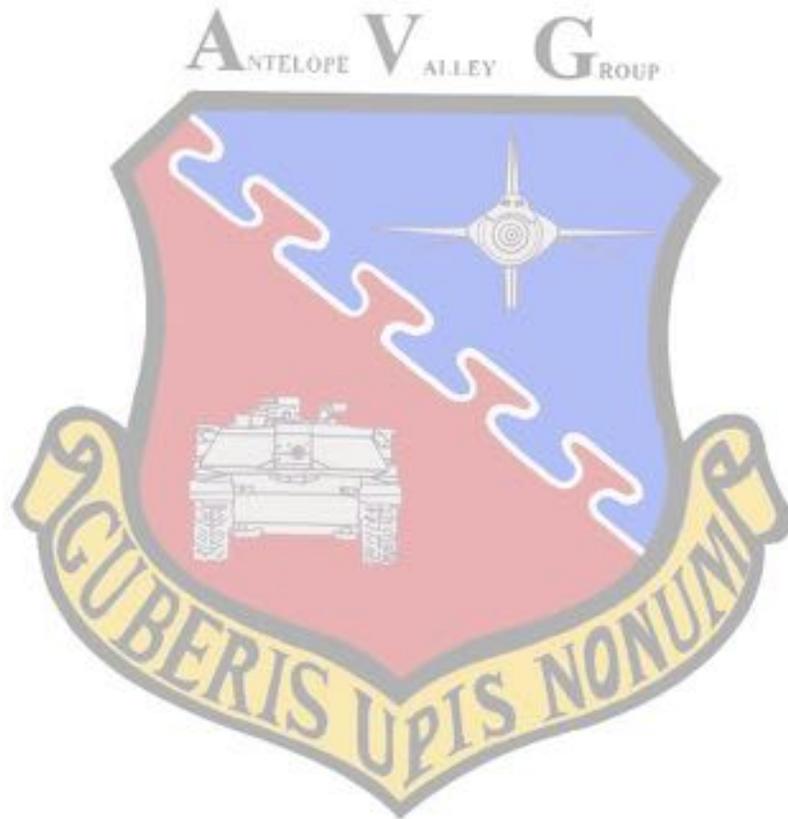


The Smoking Hole

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Club News and Business

MARCH MEETING IS CANCELLED!!

February Meeting General Meeting Notes:

In February, we continued our planning for the Desert Classic.

COVID-19 and the AVG

Out of concern for the novel coronavirus outbreak and an abundance of caution, the Club Officers have decided to cancel the March club meeting.

On Monday the 16th, Kern County declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19. As part of the declaration, all county buildings were closed to the public, with only essential services offered. Included in the closure is the Kern County Library system. We had a brief discussion of possible alternate meeting sites, but in light of the White House recommendation to limit gathering to less than 10 people and the recognition that many of the member fall into the CDC definition of “vulnerable groups”, we decided the prudent course of action was to cancel this month’s meeting. We will postpone the “Small World” in-house contest until the next meeting.

The current plan is to hold the April meeting as scheduled. The Kern County emergency declaration is scheduled to end on April 14, but this is obviously a dynamic situation, and we will re-assess as developments occur.

Everyone please take care of yourselves and your loved ones and stay safe.

There is an old Chinese curse: “May you live in interesting times.” Oddly appropriate for the current situation...

West Coast Contests Postponed or Rescheduled

Many club members enjoy attending our fellow IPMS chapters contests. However, a number of nearby chapters have postponed or rescheduled their upcoming contest in response the coronavirus outbreak.

I’ve captured the latest information in the “Calendar” section, but here’s the Cliff’s Notes: IPMS Fresno and Silicon Valley have both postponed their contests. Neither has established a new date at this time. IPMS Las Vegas has rescheduled their contest for September 5th. Other contests scheduled later in the year (including the Nats) are currently unchanged at this time. Stay tuned.

A Generous Offer from Co-VP Jay

With the recommendation that all of us maintain “social distance”, it’s a great time to stay home and build models. But with the disruption to society, especially to the service industry, some of our members may be experiencing financial uncertainty.

Jay has made a very generous offer to the membership. If any member would like a kit to build, but feel they cannot afford to buy one, Jay will provide one free of charge from his stock of kits for sale.

I don’t want to publish his contact information here, but will provide it in the newsletter email.

2020 Desert Classic

At the last meeting, we finalized the categories and special awards.

We have a total of 32 categories (including the special Tom Daniel category).

Theme is “The Italian Job” – anything Italian!

Special awards:

Best of Show

President's Award

X-Plane Award

75th Anniversary of VJ Day

Jurassic Plastic

We added 3 more special awards:

“Red October” – Any Communist Bloc subject

Since our contest falls on Halloween – “Spooky” – movie monsters, F-4 Phantom, etc.

Best Auto Paint and Finish.

An excellent suggestion was to provide a kit to each junior category entrant. Several members stated they would be willing to donate kits.

In order to ensure we had trophies in hand on time for the contest, Niilo wanted to settle on trophy designs so he could place the order. He sent out a link to Palmdale Trophy's supplier (Huang Acrylic) for the members to choose a design.

The designs chosen are:

For the standard categories:



WAVE-TOP BLACK BACK RECTANGLE AWARD

For the special awards:



ETCHING TRIANGLE AWARD

Curtis suggested an alternative special award:



FROST WAVY EDGE RECTANGLE AWARD

Wayne at Palmdale Trophy said the Etching Triangle availability may be limited, so Niilo put in the order in for the Frosty Wavy Edge Rectangle as an alternate.

In-House Contest

"It's a Small World" (April - Tentative) – Build a small-scale kit. 1/72 or smaller for aircraft, 1/48 or smaller for armor, 1/600 or smaller for ships, 1/32 or smaller for autos, 54mm or smaller for figures. There are not a lot of large scale sci-fi kits, so probably most would qualify – suggest 1/144 or smaller for this contest.

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	CANCELED			
18 Apr	In-House Contest "It's a Small World"	Matt, Tom, Robby		
16May		Mike, Rich E., Mike S.		
20 June	In-House Contest "Here, Kitty, Kitty"	Mike A.		
18 July		Mike H.		
15 Aug		Jim B. Dwight		
19 Sept	In-House Contest "Jurassic Plastic"	Luis, Stephen		
17 Oct		Steve		
31 Oct (tentative)	2020 Desert Classic			
21 Nov	2021 Club Officer Nominations	Dwight		
19 Dec	Gift Exchange, In-House Contest "Your Personal or Professional Experience"	Everyone!		

The Tool Crib

Tracy brought in a couple new items from Mig AMMO



Mig Solution Box. This is an all-in-one set that provides everything needed to paint and weather modeling subjects. Included are paints, washes, pigments and oils, with instructions on how to employ them. There are even brushes included.

There are several of these sets available for armor, aircraft and even starship subjects. The sets are not especially cheap (they are listed for over \$100 on Sprue Brothers), but if you add up the cost of all the components of the set individually, the set is a significant savings.



Mig Solution Book. This is the instruction book that is included in the Solution Box. Provides step-by-step on how to paint and weather modeling subjects. The books are available separately from the Box. Cost is about \$20 at Sprue Brothers.



Curtis brought a selection of tapes available at Home Depot. Most are probably familiar with green Frog Tape, but Frog Tape has a new yellow tape that is pretty much equivalent to Tamiya Kabuki tape, and at \$6 a roll, is much more economical.



Luis brought in his new Badger Patriot Arrow airbrush that he picked up during the recent Badger sale. This one has a 3mm needle.

I have an almost identical airbrush (a Patriot Extreme – only difference is a larger color cup). Haven't used it much, but seems to be a great all-around airbrush. It will probably replace my Iwata Revolution as my primary brush. If you catch one of Badger's periodic sales, this brush is a great value. I paid \$60 for mine, but I believe it was available for \$55 during the recent "55" sale.

Club Demos

It's been a while since we've had a demo. Let me know if you would like to give a demo and I'll put you on the calendar

Member Show and Tell

Name:

Jim Peterson

Time To Build:

4 weeks

Kit & Scale:

Freedom Models MIM-14 Nike
Hercules Missile

1/35th scale

Aftermarket Items:

None

Paints Used:

Tamiya spray White
Tamiya JSDF Olive Drab

Comments:

Watch for proper alignment of
booster units - mine were off, but
couldn't tell until final assembly



Name:

Jim Peterson

Time To Build:

4 weeks

Kit & Scale:

Revell Nike Hercules Missile

1/40th scale

Aftermarket Items:

None

Paints Used:

Tamiya, w/airbrush

Comments:

Too many rivets – had to sand most rivet detail off – over-scale



Name:

Stephen Lucy

Time To Build:

44 hours

Kit & Scale:

Tamiya Mitsubishi Betty

1/48th scale

Aftermarket Items:

Eduard seatbelts

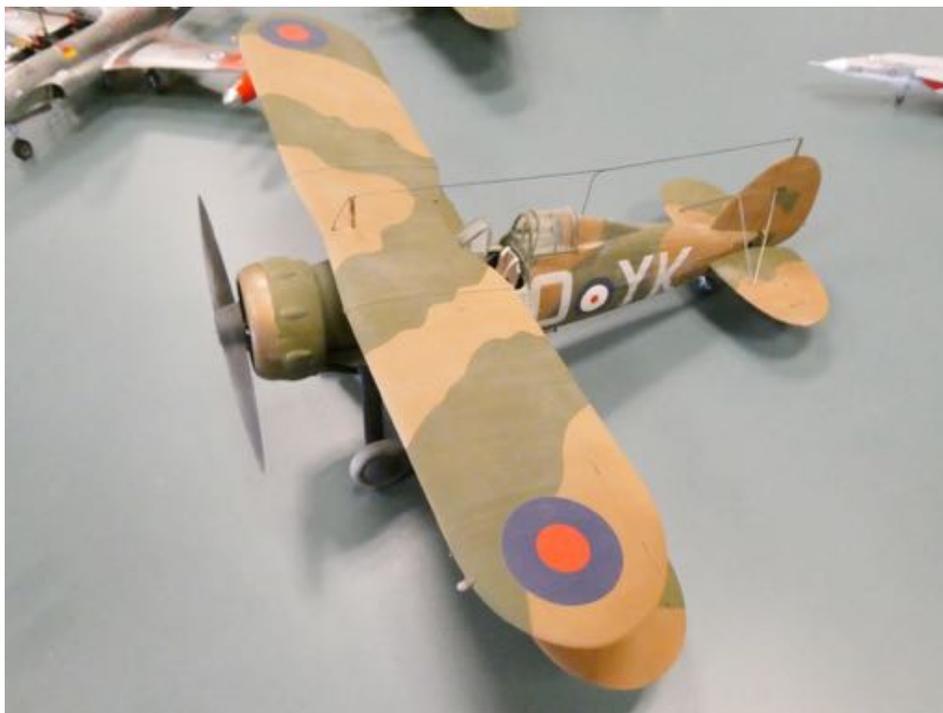
Techmod decals

Paints Used:

Gunze & Model Master

Comments:

AC 360 of 705 Kokuta, Rabaul New Britain, June 1943



Name: John Summerford
Time To Build: 38 (?) hours
Kit & Scale: ICM Gloster Gladiator 1/32 nd scale
Aftermarket Items: Seatbelts
Paints Used: B&W acrylic, green and earth enamel, weathered with Mig "Dust" pigment
Comments: .015 steel wire for rigging



Name:

Tom Hamel

Time To Build:

2 months + 3 weeks

Kit & Scale:

Trumpeter Engineer Squad Vehicle
with Mine Plow

1/35th scale

Aftermarket Items:

Some stowage

Paints Used:

Tamiya NATO Green, Desert Yellow
Model Master

Comments:

Mine plow was tedious and
requires a lot of patience.
Attaching plow to vehicle was
contingent on attachment points
aligning perfectly



Name:

Mike Hutchison

Time To Build:

3 weeks

Kit & Scale:

GWH RoCAF T-33A

1/48th scale

Aftermarket Items:

None

Paints Used:

Alclad III gloss black primer & chrome

Mr. Color Green

Model Master

Comments:

Beautiful kit! Alclad paint is very susceptible to rubbing off...



Name:

Tracy Ackeret

Time To Build:

60 hours

Kit & Scale:

Hasegawa 1/72 Heinkel He-111

1/72nd scale

Aftermarket Items:

CMK resin wheels, Quickboost He-111 late gun barrels, Eduard color interior PE detail set

Paints Used:

Mig Ammo paints, pigments, panelline washes

Comments:

Fun kit to build, but 1/72 PE was hard to get installed and little pieces



Name:
Mike Steinke
Time To Build:
4 hours (40 hours of airbrush cleaning)
Kit & Scale:
Atlantis Vic Tory's Flying Saucer"
1/120 th (?) scale
Aftermarket Items:
Mirrors added to inside to reflect LED lights
Paints Used:
Krylon Gloss Black primer Vallejo color-shift paints
Comments:
Vallejo paints need to be airbrushed in very fine coats and allowed to dry. Several coats are usually needed for color-shifting paints



Name: Niilo Lund
Time To Build: 5 hours to finish assembly
Kit & Scale: Airfix B-17G 1/72nd scale
Aftermarket Items: None
Paints Used: None
Comments: Completed build presented at the January 2020 meeting. Now working on how to display and represent the 4735 lost during the war as a memorial.

**Name:**

Niilo Lund

Time To Build:

10 - 15 hours over 3 months

Kit & Scale:Otaki North American RA-5C
Vigilante1/144^h scale**Aftermarket Items:**

None

Paints Used:Testors Flat Light Aircraft Gray
Testors Black Gloss
Testors White Gloss
Testors Dullcoat**Comments:**

The North American RA-5C Vigilante was a variation of the A-5, a nuclear-strike aircraft designed for fleet operations. The RA-5C was a tactical reconnaissance variant which saw extensive service during the Vietnam war.

	<p>The build of this kit was fairly straightforward with a minimum of sanding and filling. Again because of the age of the kit, decals were difficult. Many of those installed were split and had to be gingerly restored on installation. After model completions, a couple of the decals disintegrated and were not replaced</p>
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Name:

Matt Graham

Time To Build:

Approx. 120 hours over 9 years(!)

Kit & Scale:

AMT Peterbilt 352 and Fruehauf Box Van

1/25th scale

Aftermarket Items:

P&P Resins 352 "Uni-Lite" cab
 Moluminum 5-hole disk wheels (resin)
 Czech Truck Model interior (color) and exterior PE, resin head, tail and trailer maker lights
 Model Car Garage PE truck wipers and Peterbilt emblems
 Modeltruckin' wood floor decals (trailer)
 Parts from other AMT truck kits (engine, suspension)
 Archer rivets

Paints Used:

Krylon Sun Yellow (cab)
 Various Alclad (trailer)
 Model Master Pontiac Engine Blue (interior)
 Gunze and Tamiya Semi-gloss Black
 Gunze Flat Black



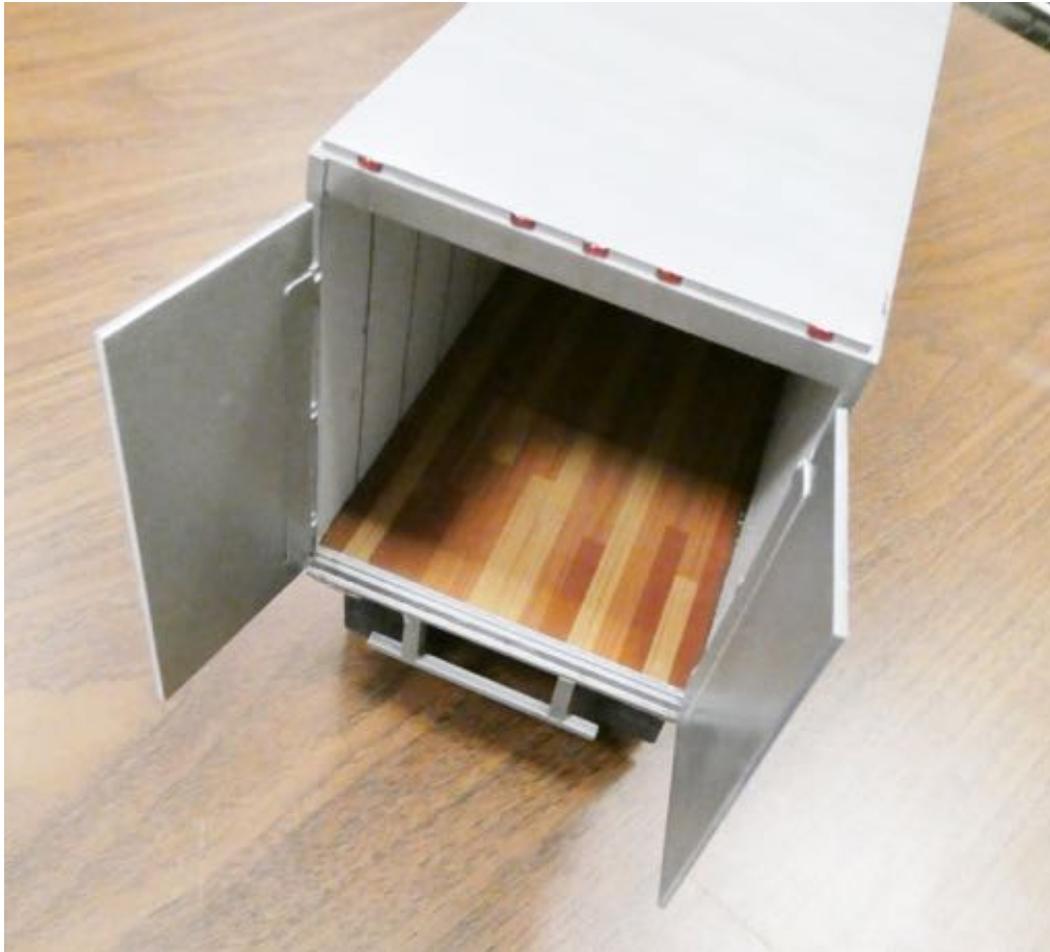
Tamiya Fine White Primer (engine, wheels)
Various Mig Ammo and AK
Interactive weathering products

Comments:

The inspiration for this built was a photo on p.121 of the book "Semi-Truck Color History". While the main subject of the photo (a 12V71-powered Kenworth W900) would be a great build subject, I was intrigued by a truck in the background, a Peterbilt 352 in Ryder colors. Ryder usually purchased cheap, mass-produced Class 8 trucks, like Fords, GMCs and Internationals, so it was unusual to see a relatively expensive, custom-built truck like a Peterbilt in their colors (it had probably been purchased for a specific fleet lease). I thought this would make an unusual subject.

The 352 and box van were the second and third truck kits produced by AMT (after the Peterbilt 359 "California Hauler") and were released in 1970. The 352 was the first truck kit I ever built, when I got my dad to buy me the kit (along with a Monogram Boeing SST) at Fedco in 1970.

When I started the tractor build, stock 352 kits were rather expensive, so I began with a later issue unstarted 352 "Turnpiker" kit I got for \$5. The Turnpiker was a customized 352 (that I never really liked). The Turnpiker is



missing several stock parts, so I got a built 'glue bomb' 352 from evilBay. The trailer was a Budweiser edition I had in my stash, which I prefer as it has no chrome parts.

The entire truck isn't visible in the reference photo, but it was pretty clear it was a basic fleet specification 352. The AMT kit represents more of an owner-operator spec, with aluminum wheels, large bumper, air-ride suspension and dual stacks. I set about converting the kit to more of a fleet spec. I substituted a Cummins NCH-250 engine from an AMT Freightliner for the kit Detroit 2-stroke, got a Hendrickson spring suspension from a junked AMT Kenworth W925 and a base front bumper from the California Hauler.

Anyone who's built an AMT truck knows they are not exactly state-of-the-art and require a lot of effort to yield a contest-quality result. The parts suffer from flash, sink marks, mold lines, excessive mold draft, etc. The trailer axle halves had a 1/16th inch step when assembled! EVERY SINGLE PIECE requires attention, which leads to a frustrating build. I often get fed up during this process and the model would go back in the box for 6 months or a year, which is why it took 9 years to finish!

Examining the photo, it became clear the real truck was actually an earlier

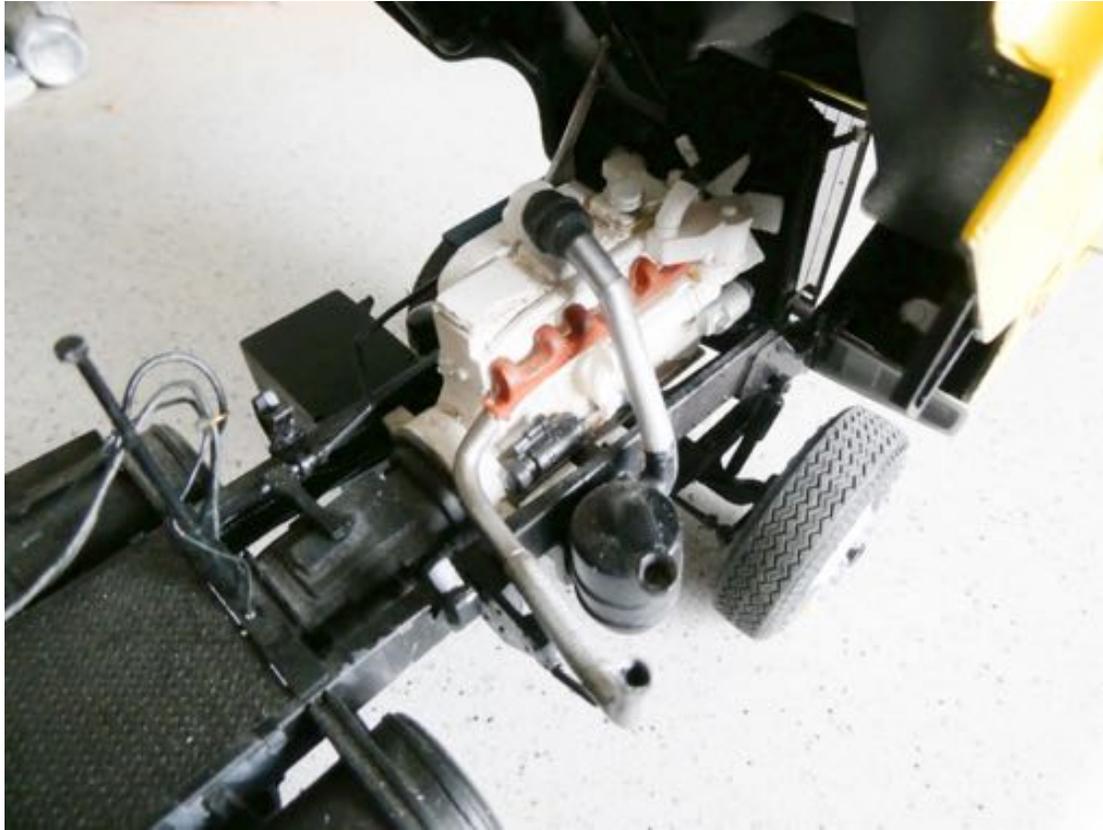


“Uni-Lite” 352, rather than the “Pacemaker” of the AMT kit. The differences are rather subtle, so I decided to make a couple corrections to the AMT cab (such as the recessed exhaust stack) and call it good. But, perusing the ‘Bay one day, low and behold, what do I find? A resin Uni-Lite cab! I promptly purchased it, but this would ultimately compound my misery, as fitting the AMT interior tub to the resin cab proved a difficult task.

I couldn’t find any model paint that I though looked like “Ryder-truck Yellow”, but perusing the paint aisle at Home Depot, I came across Krylon Sun Yellow. It may not be exact, but it looks close enough for me. It sprayed on to a nice finish right from the rattle can.

The kit chrome appeared unrealistic, especially for a work truck, so I stripped all the chrome off and repainted with Alclad polished aluminum over gloss black.

During the build, I discovered a new aftermarket producer, Czech Truck Model. He produces a number of photoetch sets, both interior and exterior for the old AMT, Revell and Italeri trucks. The sets appear to be produced by Eduard, and the interior sets are pre-painted. The instrument panels look much better than anything I can do, and the see-through effect



on the radiator grills is a huge improvement over plastic kit parts. He also produces some really neat headlight, taillight and marker light sets that use resin over photoetch pieces. They are similar to what has been available for armor models for a few years and look very realistic.

Getting everything on the tractor finally assembled was a challenge. As mentioned, the AMT interior didn't fit well into the resin cab and a 6 hour grinding and test fitting session ensued. AMT cab hinges are notoriously weak, so I scratchbuilt new ones, but getting the cab lined up and attached properly was difficult.

Finally, the Ryder decals come from the Round 2 reissue of the AMT Mack Cruiselineer.

The van trailer was built OOB, with the exception of the CTM resin lights. I found some really neat decals from Modeltruckin' to replicate the wood trailer floor. I intend to put some G-scale railroad freight in the trailer at some point. The trailer was airbrushed with several shades of Alclad to give hint of the trailer structure.

I used Mig and AK weathering product to show a bit of use. AK has a new set specifically for road vehicles. I also used AK 'Starship Grime' blown back with canned air to simulate the dirt splashed up on the sides of the trailer

seen after a truck drives through a rainstorm.

It was a long slog, but I'm pretty happy with the results. But I have no desire to build another AMT truck any time soon. Next one will be from Revell or Italeri, they go together much easier!

Calendar

Postponed. Date to be announced	50 Years of Modeling Excellence	Fresno EAA Chapter, Hangar 379 4344 W. Spaatz Ave. Fresno, CA
Postponed. Date to be announced	Silicon Valley Classic VII	Napredak Hall 770 Montague Expressway San Jose, CA
5/16/2020	San Diego Model Expo & Swap Meet	San Diego Air and Space Museum Annex 335 Kenny St. El Cajon, CA
7/12/2020	Kit Collectors Exposition & Show	Garden Grove Community Center 11300 Stanford Ave. Garden Grove, CA
7/29 – 8/1/2020	IPMS/USA National Convention	Embassy Suites and San Marcos Conference Center 1011 E McCarty Ln. San Marcos, TX
9/5/2020	Best of the West	East Side Cannery Resort & Casino 5255 Boulder Hwy. Las Vegas, NV
11/3/2020	IPMS Reno “High Rollers” 21 st Invitational Contest & Swap Meet	BPOE Lodge 597 597 Kumle Ln. Reno, NV

From the Oval Office – Notes From the Prez

Mentoring Others

Greetings, everyone! It looks like we'll be meeting mostly virtually, by email or through our online presences. This month, I wanted to talk about mentoring others. In ordinary times, mentoring others happens predominantly at our meetings, but these are no ordinary times. Opportunities to find a mentor or to be a mentor are still available, though, and actually always have been, online.

If you have a technique to share with someone who is asking for your assistance, consider using FaceTime (if you both have iPhones or iPads) or Skype. If you have a general urge to share modeling information, videos can be recorded and uploaded to YouTube or to your timeline or in your groups on Facebook and MeWe.

Finding mentors for what is, often, essentially a solitary pursuit, can seem daunting. When I was first hungry to learn about how to build better models, I scoured the collections of my public library and my school libraries. Most of the information, while very interesting, was out-of-date and largely concerned making models out of solid wood and/or cardboard, or constructing flying models with stick-and-tissue and glow-plug engines. I found Scale Modeller magazine for sale at my favorite store, Mini City, and convinced my parents to let me get a subscription. Now, I was cooking with gas! If I had been outgoing, I would have then sought out a membership in a local modeling club. Alas, that had to wait until I was returning to the hobby much later as an adult.

As an adult modeler, not only have I joined my local club, I actively follow and participate in modeling groups online. I have had the opportunity to meet others at all skill levels, learning from them and sharing with them what I have learned. I follow several YouTube channels and get all kinds of ideas from them. The stop-motion work of Tom Grigat is mesmerizing, even if he doesn't often go into detail about his specific techniques. Scale-a-Ton and Plasmo are very good about sharing their techniques. When I start a new kit, I will often do a Google search and a YouTube search for kit reviews, prototype pictures and videos, and, of course, build logs. Letting someone else find the faults first makes my build go that much smoother.

This is the essence of mentorship: finding and sharing experiences. Be open to sharing with others. Be open, also, to opportunities to learn from others. This is how we maintain our hobby, by keeping the new hobbyists engaged and confident. Thank you for being involved in this dialogue!

Oops. Glued my knife to the workbench again.