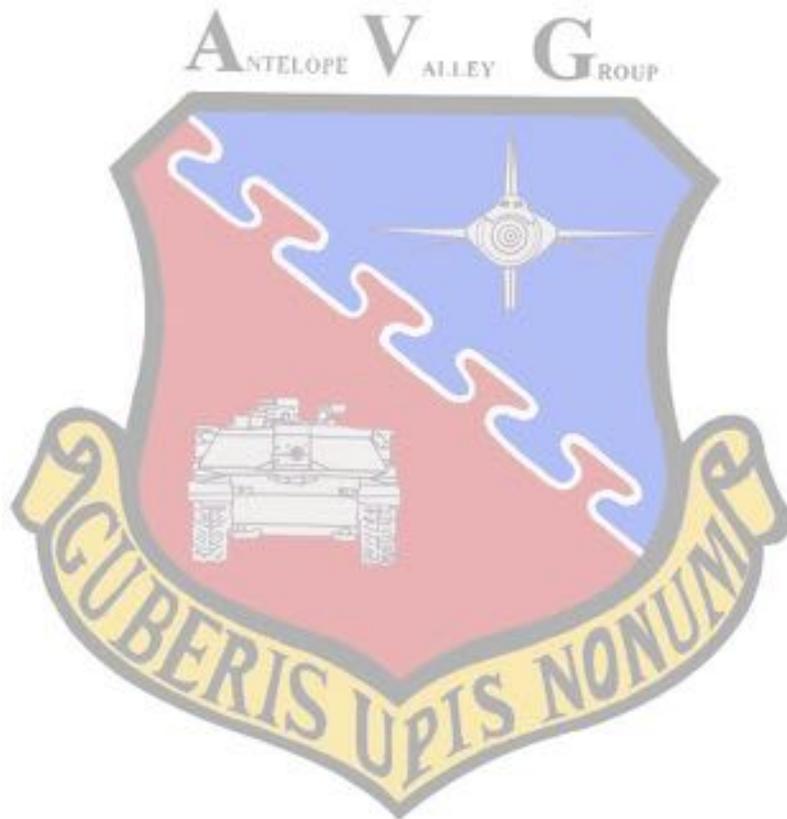


The Smoking Hole

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Club News and Business

JUNE MEETING IS CANCELLED

May Meeting General Meeting Notes:

The May meeting was canceled due to closing of the Kern County Library system as a result COVID-19 shelter-in-place recommendations

Latest News on Meeting Status.

As we transition to summer, the Kern County Library system has not yet announced a re-opening date.. They have instituted curbside service for library materials at some branches starting this week. The Board of Supervisors has committed to re-opening County offices, but Kern County has not met some of the metrics to progress to the next stage of re-openings. With any luck, the Library system MAY be re-opened by July.

West Coast Contests Postponed or Rescheduled

Although it's not showing up on the IPMS Calendar yet, Orange County has announced OrangeCon for October 10th. They will have it at the Hotel Fullerton again this year

At the moment, IPMS is still planning to hold the NATS as scheduled, with the assumption that limits on public gatherings will be lifted by that time. However, national leadership has cautioned that, based on the low number of pre-registrations received so far, the convention may be drastically scaled back from previous years.

2020 Desert Classic

Current plans are to proceed with the contest for our scheduled date. This will obviously be dependent on availability of the facility, and the "situation on the ground" with regards to restrictions on public gatherings.

In-House Contests

Well, look like we will slip our first 2 in-house contests to July.

"It's a Small World" – 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.

"Here Kitty, Kitty" – Build something with a cat theme. Something with a cat name (a Grumman Panther, a Mercury Cougar, the USS Tigerfish, etc.), or something with cat markings (a Tiger Meet jet, or the Korean War M48 with the cat head markings come to mind).

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 | | CANCELED | | |
| 16 May | | CANCELED | | |
| 20 June | | CANCELED | | |
| 18 July | In-House Contests, "It's a Small World" and "Here, Kitty, Kitty" | 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

If you've come across a cool tool lately, send me a pic and a description and I'll include it here.

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, 4th COVID Edition

We'll start out this month with a really cool build from Mike O. I like this one so much I asked him to do a write-up for us, which he graciously obliged



Revell 1/24th Volkswagen Samba Bus Flower Power Edition

This was my 2nd attempt at building this kit. About 5 or 6 years ago I started building one of these kits, but the inner floor was so badly warped that it would have affected the attachment of all the body panels. When I tried heating the plastic to bend it back, I bent it too far. On my 2nd attempt, the thing I really wanted to do was to alter the suspension and lower the bus. After close examination, I figured out a way to alter both front and rear suspension. The next problem I ran into is that the tires and wheels on this kit are too tall. They are considerably taller than the tires in the Hasegawa kit. So I would only have been able to lower the suspension 2 or 3 mm or

the tires would rub against the wheel wells. In the end I just decided to build it stock. I might build another down the road, and maybe I will revisit the stance then.

At first I was going to paint it black over a medium gray, with red wheels. At the last minute I decided to go with black over Tamiya Coral Blue spray can. I'm glad I did. I decided to do a two tone gray interior which is pretty standard. On this kit, the body parts have molded detail of the interior on the inside. So you have to paint the interior colors first, then paint the exterior colors on the outside, then attach the body parts to the chassis. The separate roof helps to align everything and hold it together. The bumpers are molded in gray plastic, so if you want chrome ones, Alclad Chrome is really your only choice. I chromes the bumpers and the wheels. I then hand painted the black on the inner part of the wheel, so it would kind of look like the wheels have chrome trim rings. I had to paint black around the edge of all the windows. Then because this is a deluxe micro bus I masked them and painted the chrome trim on the windows, which I think added a nice touch.

On to the funnest part of the build, the interior. The interior of this vehicle is so roomy, and with the open top, it allows whatever you put inside the model to be seen. I have many photo reduced copies of newspapers that I have made over the years. I had a nice clearly printed one of the L.A. Times that I put on the front seat. The map tucked into the shelf on the dash board is an old Verlinden item. The Cheetos bag comes from a sheet of photo reduced food and drink containers made for 1/35th. But it looks close enough to the proper size. Rich Rabauda suggested that my bus was missing a copy of Rolling Stone magazine. So I Googled Rolling Stone magazine covers. I shrunk them down and printed them. I could not stop at just 1 copy of 1 magazine. That sent me down a whole other path. My son is a musician. He has a bass guitar. The guitar you see in the bus is a copy of his Fender Squire Jazz bass. The body of the guitar was easy to make from stacked sheets of sheet plastic. The neck was made from wood. That wasn't too hard. The head of the guitars was difficult. I first made it from wood, but it snapped in two on me. I decided to make it from plastic. I had a hard time keeping the neck and the head of the guitar together. I first tried using EZ line for the strings. But the tension kept snapping the head off. Then I tried very thin metal wire, but it was too stiff when I tried to bend it around the thumbscrews on the head. Finally I decided to use very pliable lead wire. I think there is more glue in that guitar than there is in the bus. The baseball bat was made from a piece of bamboo sanded to shape. The softball is a bead painted light gray. The Pepsi carton came from the same set as the Cheetos. The tools came from Revell's 1954 Chevy Panel truck kit. I found some photos of VW bus repair manuals that I put in back with the tools. I was very glad that the big VW emblem on the front of the bus is a separate already chromed part. It really looks sharp. On the Hasegawa kits the VW emblem is molded on the body, so it would be very hard to chrome. I thought about having some of the windows open, which would have meant scratch building window latches. In the end I felt that would have been some that would have easily gotten knocked off when handling the model.

In conclusion, this was a very fun build. It did not take to long, and the fit of this kit is pretty good. The suspension fits perfectly so the bus sits nice and level. All the windows fit from the out side which makes the painting easier as you can put the windows in last if you want. Some complaints about this kit: The engine is very basic, so much so that I glued the engine door shut. When you glue on the roof, there are some gaps that you can see light thru. I filled them

with white glue using a tooth pick then painted over the dried glue with black paint. It worked pretty well, but it may show up more on a bus with a white roof. The biggest complaint about this kit is all the pin ejector marks on the inside of every body piece. Each door has 6 or 7 punch marks. They are very hard to clean up. Some I could not do a very good job without removing molded in detail, so they are still visible when the doors are opened. Overall I think the kit came out pretty good for me, considering I have a hard time with glossy finishes due to the condition of my dirty cluttered garage where I paint. You guys will see the flaws when you see it up close. Whenever that is.

Emeritus Member Rick R. has completed another one of his outstanding Wingnuts Wings builds



This one is the DH.2, the "Duellist" partner to his Fokker E.III. Rick says:

I use e-z line (black) for control wiring and the boom, and Pyrm (white) for the flat aero wiring on the wings. I painted both wires with Tamiya metallic grey (XF-56) once attached. I used Bob's Buckles for the tubing (1.5 mm length)

The aircraft was flown by two pilots William George Seller "Growler" Curphrey. Total of six kills. He was shot down not in this aircraft but another DH.2. Ethelbert Godwin Stockwell Wagner was shot down in this aircraft by an Albatross D.II on 7 Jan 1917.

The Fokker E.III (last image I sent) may or may not have met in combat, but operated in the same vicinity

Barry had some armor to share



Barry says:

First up is the Dragon Jagdtiger, I got this as a started kit and it's built OOB with the exception of Tamiya tracks as the kit didn't have them. Light weathering and my first time with a 2 tone using an airbrush. BIG kit...

Second is the Heller CCKW 2.5 cargo truck. A real piece of coal that never finished turning into a diamond. Anyway, lots of scratch building, lots of putty, clamping, cussing and dust to hide the ugly. This kit was really a turd as 1/35 military kits go...looking forward to building the Tamiya version in the stash.

In progress kits are the Dragon Tiger I Initial, bought started and OOB, Dragon M2A1 Halftrack, bought started and OOB and Italeri Puma...new and lots of PE.

I've learned that buying started kits comes with many perils...the Jagdtiger needed quite a bit of work, the Halftrack was a 2 in 1 and the original builder used 1 piece of each version to start...so the M2 is a frankentrack.

If it wasn't for Mission Models Paints, I don't think I'd be airbrushing anything let alone pushing it a bit by going into multi-color or even buying a second airbrush. They make it basically ID10T proof when using their products and the paint is very forgiving. I learned that a few eggs of Silly Putty for less than \$10 bucks works very well for masking...just keep it in a ziploc when not using.

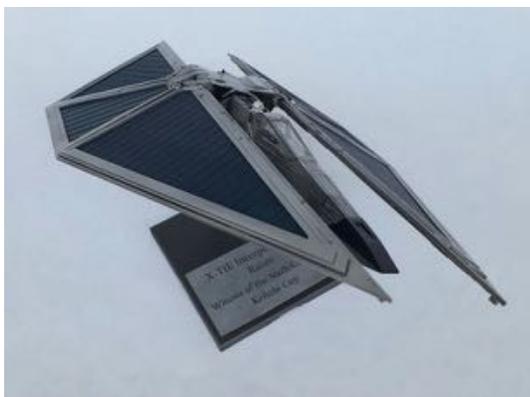
Stephen's been working on another of his fine jet models. This one is the 1/48 Tamiya F-14A



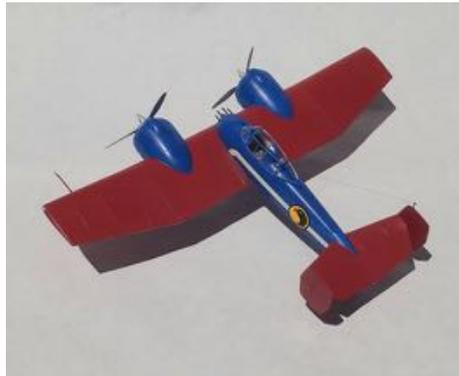
And just this morning, Mark posted another build.

John S always has some interesting subjects

He's done another one of his Star Wars 'mashups'. This one is a racer. Very imaginative!



John's also built up the 1/48 Minicraft XF5F-1 Skyrocket in the markings of the Blackhawk squadron from the comic books.



The Blackhawks were far more successful with the Skyrocket than the U.S. Navy was!

Couple of 'works in progress'. Bill K. is progressing on his 1/72 F-4



Cockpit looks fantastic.. Bill's workmanship is always second-to-none. He's also working on a DC-8 and an F-86D

Nick is working on the 1/48 Mauve P-40N



Mauve (like Fine Molds) was formed by ex-Hasegawa employees. The only kits they produced were the P-40M and P-40N before their factory was destroyed in the 7.2 Kobe earthquake. The P-40's were also released by Eduard as Profipacks (I have one of those boxings).

I've gotten very little modeling done in the last month, due to other commitments. Still working on the NB-36H. Have been applying decals. B-36 wing walkway decals seem to be the bane of my existence. While not as bad as the Warbird 1/72 decals I applied to the club B-36 build (which broke into MULTIPLE pieces when put in water) the Hobbycrap walkway decals also tend to break, although into an order-of-magnitude fewer pieces...

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 |
| 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 |
| 9/26/2020 | Silicon Valley Classic VII | Napredak Hall 770 Montague Expressway San Jose, CA |
| 10/3/2020 | IPMS Reno “High Rollers” 21 st Invitational Contest & Swap Meet | BPOE Lodge 597 597 Kumle Ln. Reno, NV |
| 10/10/2020 | OrangeCon 2020 | Hotel Fullerton Anaheim 1500 South Raymond Ave. Fullerton, CA |
| 10/31/2020 | Desert Classic XXIV | Antelope Valley College Cafeteria 3041 W Ave. K, Lancaster, CA |

A Visit to the Musée de L'Armée

With international travel currently severely restricted, let's take a 'virtual' trip to the Musée de L'Armée (Army Museum) in Paris.

The museum is located in the Hôtel des Invalides in the 7th arrondissement (administrative district) of Paris. It is about a 10 minute walk from the Eiffel Tower.

Despite the name, the Hôtel des Invalides is not a hotel, but was a hospital and residence for French military veterans. Only a very small portion of the facility is used for that purpose today.

The Hôtel des Invalides (or Hôpital des Invalides) was commissioned in 1670 by Louis the XIV. Upon completion of the primary facility, a chapel (the Église Saint-Louis des Invalides) was added in 1679, after which Louis XIV commissioned a private domed chapel, the Église du Dôme, which was not completed until 1793.

In 1791, the Musée d'Artillere (Museum of Artillery, in reality, 'museum of weapons') was relocated to the Hôtel des Invalides. The Musée Historique de L'Armée (Museum of Army History) was created in 1896 following the Paris World's Fair. In 1905, the two institutions were merged into the Musée de L'Armée, in the space of the former Musée d'Artillere



Main Entrance to the Hôtel des Invalides



Ornate dormer window architecture



Main courtyard with the Dôme des Invalides in background



Napoleon Bonaparte stands watch over the courtyard



Museum entrance

The Musée de L'Armée houses a number of significant collections:

Main Courtyard Artillery Collection – a collection of 60 classical French bronze cannons and a dozen howitzers and mortars

Armor and Weapons of the 13th through 17th centuries

Modern Department-Louis XVI to Napoleon III, 1643-1870 – Military, political, social and industrial history of France during the period

Contemporary Department-Two World Wars, 1871-1945 – Story of the French Army during the period

Charles de Gaulle Monument – Interactive, multimedia exhibit dedicated to the work of Charles de Gaulle

The *Cabinets Insolites* – Three cabinets containing special collections; Artillery models, Military musical instruments and Military figurines

Contemporary Department-Two World Wars, 1871-1945 – Story of the French Army during the period

Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération – Museum dedicated to l'Ordre de la Libération, France's second-highest honor, following the Légion d'honneur.

Musée des Plans-Reliefs – Collection of military models of fortified cities from 1688 to 1870

The Cathedral of Saint-Louis des Invalides.

The Dôme des Invalides – Houses the tomb of Napoleon I

As I only had an afternoon to visit, I concentrated on the Dôme des Invalides and the Contemporary Department.

The Dôme des Invalides was designated to be burial place of Napoleon Bonaparte (Napoleon I) in 1940. Napoleon had originally been interned on his island of exile, St. Helena, but had retained such popularity in France that King Louis-Phillppe arranged for Napoleon's remains to be returned to France. Naploleon's remains were interred in the Cathedral of Saint-Louis des Invalides while a tomb was excavated and constructed in the Dôme des Invalides, which took 20 years, from 1841 to 1861.



Interior of the Dôme des Invalides



Tomb of Napoleon I



Sarcophagus

The sarcophagus itself is made from red quartzite and rests on a base of green marble. Several members of Napoleon's family are also entombed at the Dôme des Invalides, including his brothers Joseph and Jérôme and his son Napoleon II, along with many French military heroes, such as Marshal Foch, Pierre Auguste Roques, founder of the French Air Force and Marshal Leclerc, commander of the 2nd Armored Division.

The Contemporary Division begins with the Franco-Prussian War, continues through World War I and ends with the dropping of the atomic bomb to end World War 2. Due to space constraints, there is not very much large military hardware on display, such as vehicles, but there is a very good representation of uniforms and smaller weapons, such as rifles and sidearms and components from larger hardware, such as turrets and engines. The history of the conflicts are well explained in French and English, as well as the socio-political influences.



Renault FT-17. There are several nice kits of this tank, including large-scale (1/16) from Takom



WWI uniform collection. Not the flyer's helmet on right.



APX Mle 1985 8mm Gatling Gun



1914 Renault AG "Taxi de la Marne". ICM has produced kits of this in 1/35 and 1/24

There is an extensive, interesting section on The French Army requisitioning Paris taxis to transport troops to the Battle of the Marne and a section on the Lafayette Esquadille

The composition of the World War 2 section is interesting, given France's capitulation to Germany in 1940. The Phony War, Battle of France, and the treatment of the French populace by the German occupation are covered extensively. The remainder of the exhibit is dedicated to the Resistance and the Free French forces, with considerable information on Charles de Gaulle, and to the efforts of Allied forces. There is very little on the Vichy Government, which is to perhaps be expected.



Char B1 turret



Renault UE light armored vehicle. Mirage Hobby makes a kit. I could not find the backup lights...



Fiesler Fi.103 V-1 hanging in the stairwell



Panzer "Goliath" remote control tank. These were often packed with explosives and used as anti-tank weapons, and were not very successful. Tamiya has a kit with some very nice figures



The Fascist Menace...



Large-scale model of Mike V.'s favorite airplane...



Very nice model of CV-6 USS Enterprise. Estimate 1/96th scale

When this craziness is over and international travel is safe and practical again, if you find yourself in Paris, the Musée de L'Armée is well worth a visit, especially if you are a student of history. Dedicate an entire day, if you can, there is much to see and it's all interesting

From the Oval Office – Notes From the Prez

Meditative and Restorative Aspects of the Hobby

These days, it sometimes seems like the world is spinning out of our control. There are many things to worry about, and if we stop worrying for even a moment, the news and social media reveal something new for our anxiety to gnaw on.

This is not necessarily unique to just this period in time. Psychologists and sociologists have long advised that people find a way to free themselves temporarily from their mundane worries, allowing themselves to later return with a fresh outlook and a new perspective. That new perspective often leads to workable solutions that previously might not have been considered. Meditation is often suggested as a way to achieve that disconnection from worry. Traditional meditation, however, is not always easy for everyone to do. The end goal, living in awareness of the present moment, and only the present moment, free from distraction and worry, can be attained in many ways. Some find it in repetitive exercise, like running or, my favorite, lap swimming, while others get it by tending a garden, pulling weeds and loosening the soil or kneading dough to bake bread.

The key, it seems, is a sort of repetitive motion that still requires attention to the task at hand. Our hobby has many outlets for that repetitive motion. This is where those cheap kits from eBay, or those bargain shelf kits from well-worn molds, come in handy. Having to fill a seam, sanding a sloppy joint, and then polishing the plastic to like-new (or better) smoothness brings its own feeling of relaxation and satisfaction. Admit it. As much of a PITA as those lousy wing-to-fuselage or sponson-to-hull joints are, the moment when that imperfection fades away is highly satisfying. Once that joint is perfect, and the surface details have been re-scribed, I have a renewed sense of calm!

Another way to distract ourselves temporarily from external concerns is to follow completely unrelated questions. Finding out about the exact history of the item you are modeling fits this very well. I find myself looking for publications on Amazon, or available at one of the hobby supply sites. I then decide I can't wait 3-4 days for a book to be delivered, and so I spend 3-4 hours diving down a rabbit hole of period photos or paintings, Youtube videos, and forum discussions about the exact shade of Grumman Interior Gray that should be used and a flame war about fading or scale colors or discoloration due to heat and grease. Good stuff. And completely unconnected to things I "should" be worrying about.

It's not just the crappy kits that put me in that meditative "zone," though. Working with a really nice Tamiya, Eduard, or Wingnut Wings offering allows me to concentrate on what I am doing, and to just enjoy how the steps flow, one into the next. Adding the details, like the spark plug wires, brake lines, or wire bracing, or aftermarket resin and photoetched brass enhancements, brings on that concentration that eliminates outside distraction, too.

Getting that project to a place of personal satisfaction is great. Arriving at a level of relaxation afterwards is priceless.

Oops. Glued my knife to the workbench again.