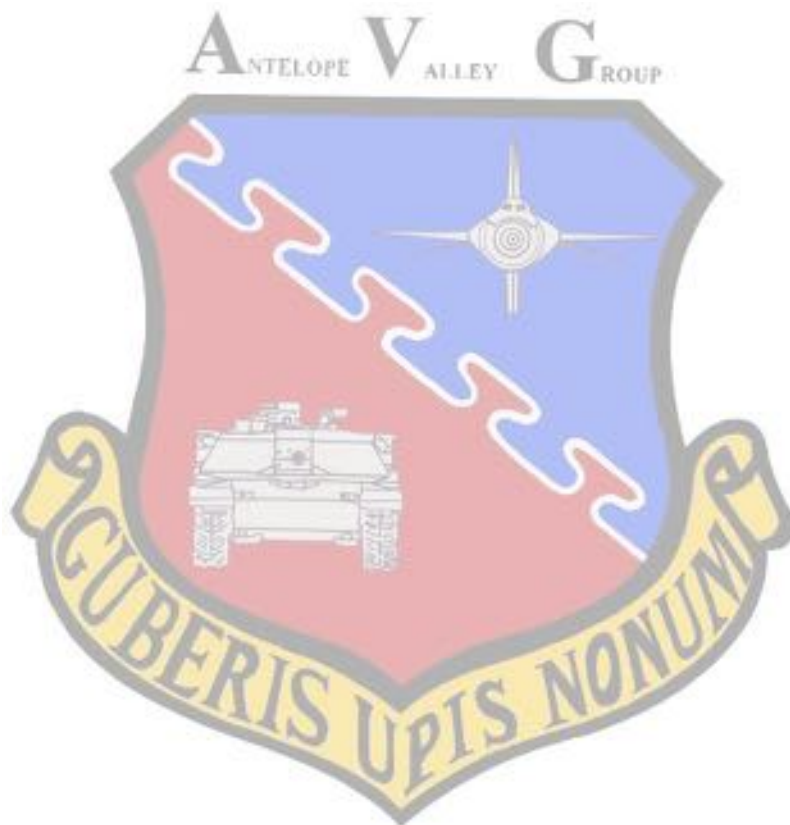


# The Smoking Hole

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## 2022 Club Officers

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## Club News and Business

DECEMBER MEETING 1:00 - 4:00 pm DECEMBER 10, AT DESERT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL, LANCASTER

### In Memoriam – David Newman



It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of long-time AVG member David Newman on November 30.

David was an early member of the AVG and made immeasurable contributions to the club.

Like Prez Bill and myself, David originally hailed from Northern California, but settled in the Antelope Valley, where he was a Professor of Chemistry at Antelope Valley College.

David was a keen aficionado of aviation history, with a special love of experimental test aircraft flown at Edwards Air Force Base. He was a big supporter of the Flight Test Museum at Edwards and constructed many of the models displayed on the Museum's "First Flights" wall, which chronicles all the aircraft that made their first flights from Edwards.

David had a talent for scratchbuilding. He produced models of many unique test aircraft, which he turned into a resin-casting business (originally Newman R&D, later Muroc Models) to make kits of these unusual subjects available to eager models. These kits were extremely popular – I had many people that knew of my acquaintance with David contact me to query how to obtain his kits. While most of his subjects were of flight test vehicles, he also produced some beautiful early bi-planes in the Curtis flying boat series.



He was fond of the smaller scales, with 1/144<sup>th</sup> being one of his favorites. As many of us age, we tend to gravitate to the larger scales to compensate for failing vision and dexterity, but David seemed to build ever-smaller kits. I recall him once presenting a fully-rigged 1/285<sup>th</sup> bi-plane, and he recently produce a series of 1/350<sup>th</sup> Douglas torpedo bombers.

David was always patient and willing to share his tremendous modeling skills with the other club members. And he had a sly sense of humor. The warning on the box of his Muroc Models 1/48<sup>th</sup> M2F1 kit stated "Not suitable for children and Mike V."

David was supported by his wonderful wife Stephanie, who we considered a member of the club. For a number of years, she organized the judges' luncheon for the Desert Classic contest, and often made special Halloween decorated snacks for the October meeting.

I counted David as one of my true friends and I, as I'm sure all of us, will miss him greatly. He leaves a giant hole in many of our lives. Goodspeed, David.

November Meeting General Meeting Notes:

The November meeting was a lively discussion of contest review, critique and suggestions for improvement

December Meeting

We're a week early this month, as Jay's daughter's birthday is on our normal meeting day

As we took care of the club officer's selection in November, no election this month.

Don't forget, we're doing our usual gift exchange this month. Anyone who wants to participate, please bring, please bring a kit or accessory you would like to receive yourself. Recommended value of \$25 or more, but not a requirement. Always remember Tom's immortal words: "No dogs!"

2022 Desert Classic Review and Recommendations

While our contest was a great success, especially considering our 2-year hiatus, some aspects did not go as smoothly as they could have, and there is of course always room for fine tuning and improvement. The membership had a very productive discussion, with a number of excellent suggestions.

Some of the suggestions included suggestions on improving registration, the raffle, category card placement and table arrangement, emphasis on overflow judging, and emphasis on pre-contest prep to include contest assignments and judging clinics.

We will be discussing all in detail in upcoming meetings.

With our next contest being our 25<sup>th</sup> and also the Regional, we need to be at the top of our game!

2023 Club Officers.

The current slate of officers have agreed to continue into 2023. Jay has agreed to be a backup for Rowdy as Veep.

November Meeting

Members brought a number of models to display, but we never got to the formal Show-and-Tell. We'll have the photos and writeups in a future newsletter

**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			
10 Dec	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm , 2023 Club Officer Elections, Gift Exchange			

## The Tool Crib

Nothing new this month

## Kit Reviews

1/72<sup>nd</sup> Moebius 2001: A Space Odyssey luxury commercial space transport space clipper Orion III



A giant space station, appearing like two huge wheels, slowly rotates. In the distance, a space transport vehicle approaches, dwarfed by the huge station. Inside the vehicles luxurious cabin, the sole passenger sleeps. His ballpoint pen, released from his grip during his slumber, floats in the zero gravity. The flight attendant walks down the aisle, her Velcro shoes keeping her affixed to the floor. She retrieves the pen, placing it in the passenger's pocket.

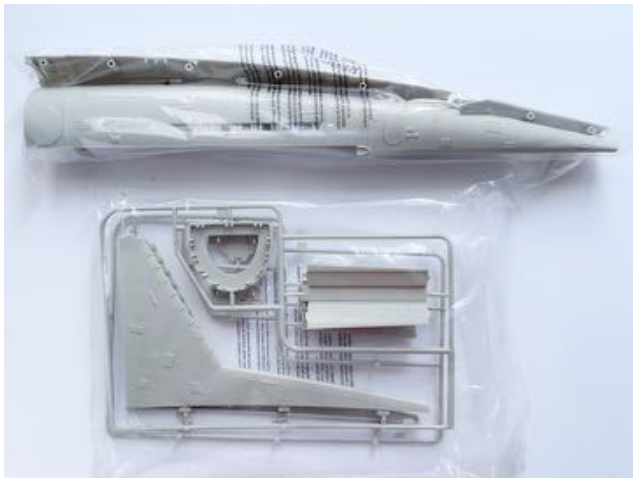
As the spacecraft approaches the station, it begins a roll maneuver to match the station's rotation. In the cockpit, the crew has sophisticated computerized displays showing the craft's position relative to the station and system status. To the soundtrack of Johann Strauss's *Blue Danube*, the spacecraft and station waltz in unison until the transport is finally docked in the station's central bay.

Such is the introduction of the Pan American Orion III Space Clipper in Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi classic, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Despite now being over 50 years old, *2001's* model-based effects are still considered some of the most realistic ever achieved. Kubrick was obsessed that the technology in the film be as scientific and technically accurate as possible, and employed NASA engineers Fred Ordway and Harry Lange as consultants and designers. The vehicles, in particular, seem especially realistic, with the Aries 1B lander echoing the LEM and the Orion displaying characteristics of the Space Shuttle.

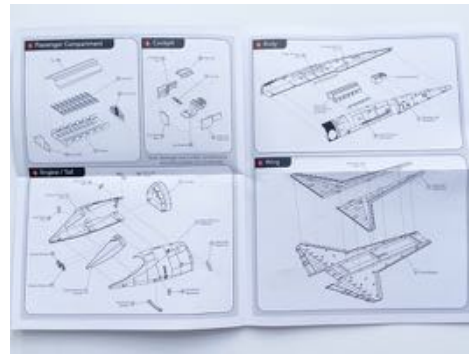
2001 vehicles have always been a popular subject with modelers, but until recently, only the Orion and the Moon Bus were produced as mainstream plastic kits. Two kits of the Orion were released to coincide with the release of the film in 1968, one from Airfix and one from Aurora. Both are listed as 1/144<sup>th</sup> but are probably closer to 1/160<sup>th</sup>, based on published dimensions of the fictional vehicle. The Aurora kit is by far the more accurate of the two (but not perfect). The Airfix kit suffers from a poor shape and even has the wrong number of windows. The Aurora kit was long unavailable and highly prized, but Moebius Models produced a newly-tooled version based on the original kit (as they have done with other Aurora subjects) and it is still readily available.

There have been a number of resin kits of the Orion. Probably the best were a 1/144<sup>th</sup> kit with a full interior cabin from Stargazer Models in the UK (I have 2 of these), and a truly spectacular 1/48<sup>th</sup> kit from Scott Anderson (“Captain Cardboard”). Due to a lot of personal issues Scott had, this kit was very hard to obtain – I ordered one from him on eBay and got nothing but excuses. Eventually had to get a refund from eBay. Not sure how many of these were actually produced – suspect not many.

In 2020, Moebius announce plans to produce a 1/72 injection kit of the Orion. They displayed 3-D printed prototype at 2021 Vegas Nats, and it caused quite a stir. Based on research from NASA engineer Adam Johnson (who’s considered the foremost authority on 2001 vehicles – he’s written 2 books and produced several kits), it’s certainly the most accurate mainstream kit of the Orion.



The kit is packaged in a large, very glossy box with a somewhat over-the-top illustration of the Orion in spaceflight. The box contains 70 parts in light gray styrene. Molding is crisp, and both a full passenger interior and cockpit are provided. Parts breakdown is similar to the old Aurora kit (or the newer Moebius small-scale reproduction) with the aft engine section being separate from the main fuselage. The wing comes a one-piece lower section and two upper surfaces.



Clear parts are provided for the cabin windows, the windshield and wing tip and landing lights. The kit has no landing gear, but include a large version of the old Aurora-style triangular stand. Instructions consist of clear exploded assembly diagrams, with a single page of painting and decal application notes. The instructions state to paint the interior components prior to assembly, but no interior color call-outs are provided. Fortunately, there are many color photos of the movie interior sets online.

Decals are rudimentary, consisting only black air scoop detail and some stencils. No Pan Am decals are provided – the rights to the Pan Am name are now owned by CSX Railways, and apparently Moebius didn't want to pay the licensing fee. There are, however, aftermarket decals available.

The kit looks quite accurate when compared to photos of the studio models (as would be expected, being based on Adam Johnson's research). This is a really exciting release for *2001* fans. The kit isn't cheap at \$179, but there's a lot of plastic in the box, and I'm sure some of the cost goes toward licensing from Turner Entertainment. I managed to find mine for \$119 from a retailer in California.

This is just a super kit – highly recommended if you're a *2001* fan.



## Aftermarket Accessory Reviews

### 1/72 2001: A Space Odyssey Orion III Spaceplane Decals



As noted in my review, no Pan American markings are included in the new Moebius kit, likely due to licensing fees.

There are, however, at least 2 sets of 1/72 Pan Am markings for the Orion. I obtained one set from Larson Designs and one from HDA Modelworx.

The Larson Designs sheet is the smaller of the two and are traditional screen-printed decals. This sheet includes the Pan Am globe, “Pan American” fuselage titles and “Pan Am” wording for the wings. There are also a number of small detail markings (most of which look like static pressure port stencil marking from modern aircraft). This sheet seems to be from a resin kit of the Orion that Larson once produced. They appear to be slightly smaller than 1/72 – the Pan Am globe doesn’t match up well with the circular area on the Moebius fuselage, being undersize.

The second sheet is from HDA Modelworx in Texas. This sheet has been created specifically for this kit and is laser-printed, so has a somewhat matte finish. The sheet includes the Pan Am globes and titles and exterior stencils, but also include detail decals for the interior, including the cockpit instrument panels and the seat back and main cabin monitors for the passenger cabin. The sheet also duplicates the black air scoop detail provided on the kit sheet.

Both these sheets sell for about \$20. The Larson sheet is available on eBay, while the HDA sheet is available directly from HAD, <https://hdamodelworx.com/>. They also have the Moebius kit

These decals are really a necessity to accurately duplicate the movie Orion.

**Club Demos**

None this month.

**Member Show and Tell, 36<sup>th</sup> COVID Edition**

Nothing in the group email this month

## Calendar

2/26/2023	Modelfest Contest and Swap Meet	Seaside park (Ventura City. fairgrounds) 10 Harbor Blvd. Ventura, CA
3/19/2023	Kit Collectors Swap Meet	UFCW Union Hall 8530 Stanton Ave. Buena Park, CA
4/23/2023	Herb Deeks' Floats, Rolls & Flys	Doubletree by Hilton 7000 Beach Blvd. Buena Park, CA
5/20/2023	Return of the Scale Model Show	TBD Rohnert Park, CA
8/19/2023	Best of the West 2023	Orleans Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, NV