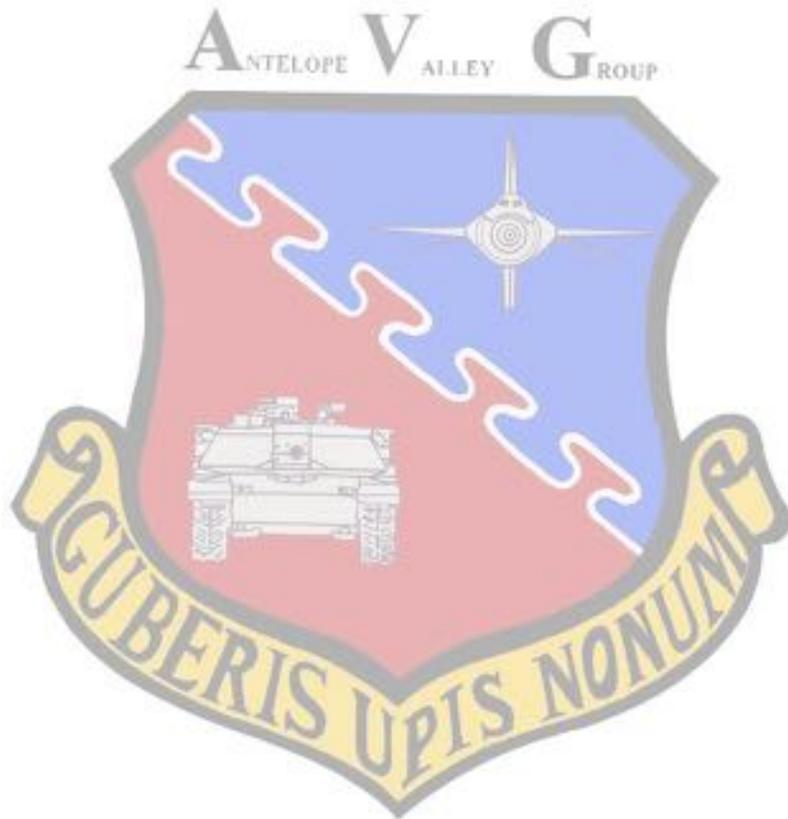


The Smoking Hole

A Publication of the Antelope Valley Group IPMS

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

2022 Club Officers

President

William Kelly

v1rotate@verizon.net

Co-Vice Presidents

D.J. "Rowdy" Yates

yatesaircraftco@gmail.com

Treasurer

Niilo Lund

niiloj7@verizon.net

Secretary

Matt Graham

flighttester64@gmail.com

Club News and Business

APRIL MEETING 1:00 - 4:00 pm MAY 28, AT JURASSIC WRANGLER RICH R.'s HOUSE "CASA DE CANINE", ROSAMOND

April Meeting General Meeting Notes:

For April, we convened our second meeting in our new meeting space. Club dues were collected and we had further discussion of the contest

Latest Club Status

We are starting to settle in in our new meeting place. I, for one, think it is quite nice and should work out well for us.

A couple of club member asked me if there was any status on our old meeting place at the Rosamond Library. Out of curiosity, I talked directly to the Kern County Library System in Bakersfield. They told me that they have not had a budget increase since 2019, and although there have been many requests, they are not able to expand their limited opening times unless they receive more funds. Even the main Beale St. Library in Bakersfield is only open 3 days a week. So despite our long history at the Rosamond Library, I don't see us returning unless something drastically changes.

May Meeting

After 2 meetings at Desert Christian High, we're back to meeting at a club member's residence this month, as Jay unfortunately not available to open up the school for us. This month, Guru of all Kits Jurassic Rich R. has graciously offered his residence. An email has gone out to the club with directions.

Club Dues for 2022

Most members paid their dues at the April meeting. Just a reminder if you haven't dues are still \$36 for a year.

2022 Desert Classic

Since we have settled on the venue, we can finalize the flyer. Previous Prez Dwight has the file and confirmed that he will update the flyer

We did add one special category, "40th Anniversary of the Falklands", at the request of Mike W., who will sponsor the award

We planned to view the gym at Desert Christian at the meeting, but as the floor had just been refinished, so we'll look at it during a future meeting. Jay also made us aware that there are only a small number of tables available, so we'll need to source additional tables (likely rentals – we have done that previously for a Regional).

Updated Group Membership Picture

Partially due a snafu distributing the newsletter with the reminder to wear a club shirt so we could update the club membership phot, and the members who WERE aware (me, again) forgetting to wear their shirts, we didn't take the photo at the April meeting. It was suggested that perhaps the photo be postponed until the contest, as that is usually when we have the largest membership turnout. The majority of the members in attendance agreed, so that is the current plan.

Upcoming In-House Contests

We still have 2 postponed in-house contests, "Jurassic Plastic" and "Your Personal/Professional Experience". "Jurassic Plastic" is the same rules as always – build a pre-1980 kit OOB. "Personal/Professional Experience" is to build a model of something from your life or career (and airplane you flew or tested, a favorite car you owned, a ship you served on, etc.)

Were currently planning "Personal/Professional Experience" for June and "Jurassic" for August.

April Meeting

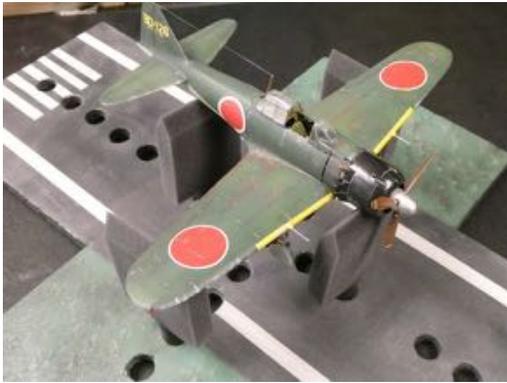
Another great meeting in our new digs with a good turnout in attendance
As usual there were a number of nice models displayed

John S. had his 1/72nd Beech 1900 ail ambulance from Sova-M. Sova-M appears to be an offshoot of A-Model as this is the same as A-Model kit



It's a limited-run kit, but John says it goes together well once the parts are cleaned up. He says the most effort was modifying the propellers so the blades were in the feathered position, as the 1900 is powered by PT6 engines, which, as free-turbine engines, are parked with the propellers feathered.

Luis built an 1/48th Tamiya A6M5 Zero



Luis painted his model with Tamiya paints. He originally used aftermarket decals, but disaster struck when the Solvaset he used destroyed them. He was forced to fall back on the kit decals. Luis made the custom base for a grand total of \$3!

Mike W. brought his 1/700th HMS Audacity.



It's a 3-D printed kit, which originally cost a princely \$7.50! Mike added some guns and a small amount of etch and hand-painted the model with Scalecoat paints

Mike O. brought 2 models, a Takom 1/35th Hanomag SS-100 tractor and a Tamiya 1/48th M1A2





The SS-100 was originally a pre-war civilian tractor that was pressed into service by the German military in WW2. It was often used to tow V2 missiles. After the war, many once again reverted to civilian service and that what Mike has built his model to represent. Mike says the Tamiya M1A2 was a relatively simple kit and an easy build.

Mike S. has produced a beautiful model of a Ukrainian T-64BM Bulet, from a 1/35th Trumpeter kit. Mike notes although the cross markings may at first appear to be Romanian, they are in fact the symbol of the Ukrainian Ground Forces.



It took Mike 25 hours to construct, and he didn't add any aftermarket. Paint is his usual Tamiya and Vallejo and he produced the digital camo scheme with "lots of little pieces of Tamiya masking tape". Additionally, Mike says; "Plastic pieces, 740+. There were also 125 1mm photo-etch discs that went to the top and sides of the turret. I wish I'd just filled the turret indentations with putty, since most can't be seen under reactive armor and stowage."

I'm not really sure where Niilo finds these weird old Jurassic kits, but this time he's built the Lindberg 1/64th stern-wheel riverboat "Southern Belle"



It took 80 hours over 1 month for Niilo to complete his build. He used Tamiya and Testors paint and a couple metallic Gundam marker for finish. Aftermarket is printer's packing twine for the ropes. Niilo writes: "The stern-wheel riverboat, also known as a tow boat, was built to move a string of barges in shallow rivers, most notably the Mississippi. In most ports, the barges were lashed together in a string and were pushed wherever they need to go. Empty barges upriver to pick up cargo and back down river to delivery ports like Now Orleans.

The build was fairly straightforward , with good fit for most parts. Unfortunately, the hardest and most assembly of difficulty is contained inside the lower aft cabin. A small battery location and paddle wheel gearing, which allows the model to be powered and move the paddle wheel if assembled correctly. The wheel operates as it is supposed to, but is not powered for this mode.

Figures provided with the kit were not completed and positioned appropriately on the model as a personal choice. Interesting build with operating challenges if you care to power the paddle wheel. Try it if you want to build something different"

2022 Meeting Schedule (Tentative)

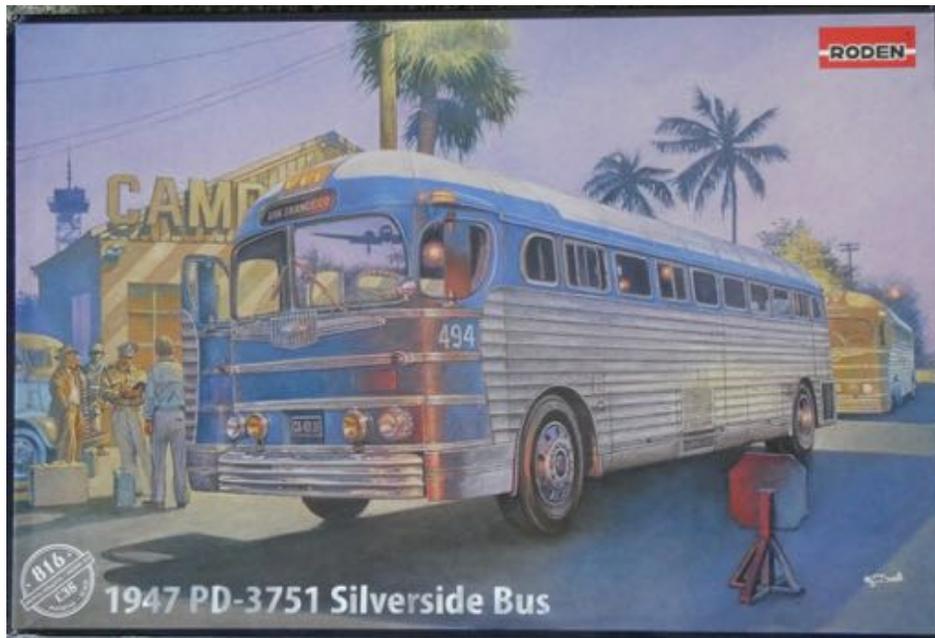
Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
15 Jan	Physical meeting at Prez Bill K's house, Palmdale 1 – pm			
19 Feb	Physical meeting at Admin Amateur Matt's house, Palmdale 1 – 4 pm			
19 Mar	Physical meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster 1 – 4 pm			
16 Apr	Meeting at Desert Christian 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			
16 July	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
20 Aug	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
17 Sept	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
15 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

Nothing this month

Kit Reviews

Roden 1/35th 1947 PD-3751 Silverside Bus



Modern intercity busses trace their lineage back to the stage coaches of the 19th Century. Early motorbuses were derived from heavy trucks, with the first motorbus in the United States being built by the Mack Truck company. The first purpose-built bus (not a converted truck) is credited to the Faegol company of Oakland, CA.

The Greyhound Stage Line began in Minnesota in 1913, running a 10-mile route with a single Hupmobile automobile. Greyhound produced their own busses (based on truck frames) for many years, but in the 1930's, they entered into an agreement to purchase busses from Yellow Coach, a division of General Motors. Yellow had introduced a series of advanced designs, created by designer Dwight Austin, formerly of Pickwick Coaches. The Yellow Coaches were purpose-built as busses introducing features such as rear-mounted engines and underfloor luggage compartments. The Yellow Coaches also introduced diesel engines, using Charles "Engine Charlie" Kettering's blower-scavenged 2-stroke Detroit Diesel design, the 6-71. Incidentally, these engines were quite robust and were used extensively in WW2, powering landing craft and the A2 variant of the Sherman (in a dual installation). It was copied by the Russians and used in trucks. Greyhound ordered 900 Yellow Model 743's in 1939 and a number of 1201's. These had polished, fluted aluminum sides and became known as "Silversides"

Bus production was mostly halted during the war although GM was allowed to produce some busses for Greyhound in 1944. Following the end of war, Greyhound needed to replace much of their fleet, and ordered an updated version of the 1201 smaller. Yellow Coach had been re-branded as General Motors Truck and Coach, the new bus was designated the PD-3751, where "PD" signified "Parlor Coach" (as

opposed to “Transit” -a city bus) and “Diesel”, “37” was the passenger capacity. The last 2 numbers usually indicated the series revision (i.e. 3702, 2nd revision, 3704, 4th revision), but in this case, “51” indicated a special version for Greyhound. Over 1600 PD-3751's (and similar 4151's) were produced. As in indication of the quality of these vehicles, a number are still operating as private vehicles (many have been converted to RV's). GM went on to dominate the intercity bus market with the iconic Raymond Lowey-designed 40-ft Senicruiser, exclusive to Greyhound, and the PD-4104, which incorporated much Senicruiser technology. At one time GM had over 80% of the intercity coach market. But by the late 1970's, lack of innovation, Greyhound's purchase of Motor Coach Industries (MCI) and their switch to an MCI fleet and strong transit bus demand led to GM discontinuing intercity bus production in 1980.

There have not been a large number of bus kits produced. Revell released a couple in recent years in 1/24th scale, the iconic London Routemaster double-decker and the futuristic Neoplan Cityliner. There have also been a 1/32 Japanese intercity and transit busses from Aoshima and Fujimi.

Roden has also produced several previous bus kits, in more standard 'armor' scales of 1/35th and 1/72. These have mostly been more military oriented, with the 1/35th kits depicting military wartime Opel Blitz busses, but several of the smaller kits depict the spectacular Art Deco Blitz “streamliner” civil busses from the 30's. So it was to some surprise that Roden announced a kit of the PD-3751. This is, to my knowledge, the first ever plastic kit of a mainstream GM bus.



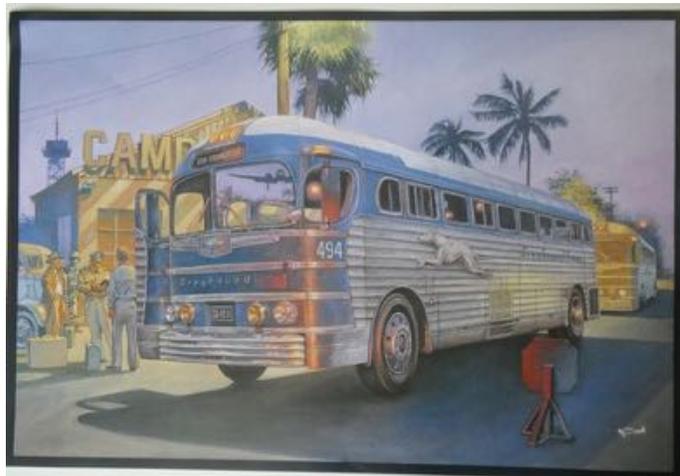
The kit packs quite a large number of parts in a medium-size, fairly flat box. There are 14 sprues of light gray parts, one of clear and a small etch sheet. This is a full-detail kit, with a full interior with 37 passenger seats and luggage racks, a very neat replica of the Detroit Diesel 6-71 engine and full suspension detail. The wheels and tires are all plastic and are molded in halves. This is one area where I noted a slight inaccuracy – the wheels are of the modern 10-hole aluminum style, not the steel wheels the original bus would have had.

The body builds up from a number of parts – 2 sides, a 2-piece floor, nose and tail pieces and the roof. All the light lenses are on the clear sprue.

The small etch sheet contains the screen for the radiator intake and 2 running dog-shaped backer boards for the Greyhound logos.



The decal sheet reproduces the Greyhound logos and titles and has bus numbers for 8 different busses and a number of destination signs. There is a military connection – titles for the Northwest Service Command are included.



Also included is a full-size poster of the evocative box art by late artist Valery Grygorenko, who sadly was killed recently during a Russian attack on Kiev. One neat detail of the painting is the reflection of a landing twin-engine airplane (look like a Lockheed Electra) in the busses' windshield.

This will not be a quick build – it's a complex kit with a lot of parts. Roden also doesn't have a reputation for the best fit, although they have been improving. I have heard the Blitz bus kits assemble well, though, so with luck this will, too. The finished model will be good-sized (over a foot long) and will be an impressive model of an unusual subject.

The kit retails for \$90, but there's a lot of plastic in the box. I routinely see them for sale on the discount sites for \$65 to \$70. I got mine directly from Ukraine for about \$45, from my favorite seller (The Plastic Model Store), who just announced they are back in business!

Club Demos

None this month.

Member Show and Tell, 29th COVID Edition

Number of nice builds on the club email thread this month

Prez Emeritus Tracy has completed several models. I think Tracy's modeling tastes are about as eclectic as mine – he's built a car, a ship and an airplane!





The airplane is a Bf.109 (of course!). It's the 1/48th Hasegawa Bf.109F. The car is the 1/24th Tamiya Sauber Mercedes Le Mans racer, and the ship is the 1/700th Cyber Hobby Independence-Class LCS. (USS Coronado).

Tracy says:

The car is the Tamiya Sauber Mercedes C9 endurance race car. I used the Studio 27 carbon decal set that adds carbon fiber details to various places and the Studio 27 upgrade set. Its PE that adds a lot of extra detail to the base kit. I painted it with Zero Paints Sauber Mica silver paint on the body and mostly Tamiya paints elsewhere only because it's what they called out and I didn't feel like translating to another product. I used IndyCal decals on it because the kit decals came apart as soon as they hit water. I'm really happy with the way it came out but like my Honda 272 F1 car this thing required a lot of cleanup of the parts. There was flash everywhere.

The 109 is a Hasegawa Bf109F-2. I used a basic Hase F-2 kit that I added an Aires resin cockpit and Eduard PE instrument panel. I used an Eduard drop tank and mount from my spares box as they have better detail than the Hasegawa. I used Eduard PE seatbelts and fitted Eduard Bronze gear legs to the Hasegawa wings. The decals came with the kit and are from Aeromaster. I used my normal MIG Ammo paints but tried their new acrylic wash. I usually use their filters and pigments but wanted to try their wash. I don't like it at all. It went on to dark and I'm not happy with the finish but at least I tried and now I know I don't like it. Live and learn.

The last one is the CyberHobby 1/700 USS Coronado LCS-4. It's a tiny little thing being only a bit over 7 inches long. It comes with all kinds of details including PE for the nets around the flight deck. I used mostly MIG Ammo paints, filters and pigments with a few things done with Tamiya paints. It didn't come with the Harpoon tubes on the bow deck but the LCS-2

Independence had them so I robbed from them. I still have to add a helicopter to the flight deck but haven't gotten it done.

Veep Rowdy has done a really cool build as a presentation for a WW2 Vet. Atlantis re-pop of the old box-scale Revell B-24. He's done a great job on that ancient kit.



"This is the B-24 I built for a WWII USAAC 8th AF B-24 Pilot & POW (also one of the last few survivors from the Buchenwald Concentration) who happens to be a long time friend of the family's, as a present for his 99th Birthday & Christmas back in 2020. He said that it was "The best present he ever got!" (and he also had "something in his eye"...). The day I brought it to him, I had put on my WWII USAAF uniform (from volunteering with the CAF), he was also glad to see me in my Army Air Corps 'Pinks', and dug out his old Pinks & Greens, he said if he'd had known about it, he'd have dressed for the occasion!...

He later gave it a place of honor on it's own shelf in his room (He put the brass plate under the wood base I made) and according to his daughter he spins the props almost every morning - though he doesn't know she sees him doing it! He's since turned 100 last December! (And I can honestly say, I've known him ALL my life!)

The kit: This is The Atlantis re-issue of the 1954 Revell B-24J. It required quite a bit of work to make it presentable, but was well worth the time & effort! (It also took TWO kits to get one model...) About a week's worth of work in total. Painted with lacquers, buffed & polished.”

Calendar

6/4/2022	San Diego Model Contest & Swap Meet	San Diego Air and Space Museum Annex, Gillespe Field 335 Kenney St. El Cajon, CA 92020
6/25/2022	SilverCon 2022	Town and Country Lutheran Church 4049 Marconi Ave. Sacramento, CA
7/20-23/2022	IPMS/USA National Convention	La Vista Conference Center 12520 Wesport Parkway La Vista, NE
8/27/2022	Best of the West Region 8 Convention and Contest	Orleans Hotel & Casino 4500 W. Tropicana Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89103
10/8/2022	IPMS Reno "High Rollers" 21 st Invitational Contest	Reno Elk's Lodge #597 597 Kumle Ln Reno, NV
10/1/2022	OrangeCon	Hotel Fullerton Anaheim 1500 S. Raymond Ave. Fullerton, CA 92831
10/22/2022	Fresno Scale Modelers Fall Contest	Clovis Veterans Memorial District 808 4 th St. Clovis, CA 93612
10/29/2022	Desert Classic XXII	Desert Christian High School 2340 W Ave J-8 Lancaster, CA 93536
11/5/2022	ModelZona 2022	TBD Mesa, AZ, 85215