

'The Instruction Sheet'

IPMS / Granite State Modelers Club

Nashua, New Hampshire

Newsletter: January, 2018

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Facebook: IPMS/Granite State Modelers Club

GSMC/IPMS meets the third Monday night (4th Monday in Jan & Feb) of each month from 7 to 9 PM at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court Street Nashua, New Hampshire. Visitors are welcome to attend. Monthly show and tell pictures are posted on our website. Website maintained by Brandon Clifton.

Club Officers:

President: Mac Johnston (603-648-2244) macatflandersandpatch@hotmail.com

Vice President: Robert Ingalls (603-459-8551) binga10@yahoo.com

Secretary/Chapter Contact: Rodney Currier (603-726-3876) nickmatt2@roadrunner.com

Treasurer: Edward Mele IV (603-203-9878) emeleiv@gmail.com

Meeting Reminders:

2017 - 2018 Meeting Dates: January 22, February 26, March 19

Business Report

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but as I write this, SNOW is falling in the wilds of northern New Hampshire. AGAIN! So that brings me to our meeting cancellation policy. If we have a storm, the officers will confer and decide if the meeting is on or not. If the meeting is to be cancelled, I will send out an e-mail before 5 PM. I will call the few members who don't have computers. If we cancel, the library will be notified, and you can call them to be sure, just in case you are out and about and not near your computer. Their phone number is: 603-589-4600

We devoted our December meeting to a quick "show and tell" and our Yankee Swap. A great time was had by all, and a few gifts kept being "stolen." Nate Clark was lucky enough to get first pick (and last) so he his choice of gifts. Turns out he liked what he brought so much he took it home with him!

The only new business of the night was Mac's request to think about themes for Granitecon and bring them to January's meeting. See you there!

Participating Hobby Shops

These are the hobby shops that support us and our efforts year after year. They give our club members discounts, They support our club contests, and stock the supplies and new kits we crave. Please support them, too!

Hobby Emporium (978-649-5055) 440 Middlesex Rd Tyngsboro, MA 01879

The Spare Time Shop (508-481-5789) 222 E. Main St Marlboro, MA 01752

North East Trains Model Center (978-532-1615) 18 Main Street Peabody, MA 01960

Double Play Hobby (603-582-4224) 318 Nashua St Milford, NH 03055

Hobbies With A Twist, LLC (603-223-0132) 1 Depot St Concord, NH

Elite Hobbies (603-749-0800) 90 Washington St Unit 334 Dover, NH

Local Upcoming Events of Interest

March 18, 2018: Masscar Annual Model Exhibition Holiday Inn, Taunton, MA

March 25, 2018: Valleycon 28 Wings and Wheels Chicopee, MA

April 8, 2018: Downeastcon 2018 Thornton Academy, 438 Main St. Saco, Maine

April 21, 2018: CanAm Con Holiday Inn Plattsburgh, NY
April 28, 2018: Noreastcon 47 Museum of Armor Old Bethpage, NY
May 6, 2018: NorthshoreCon 2018 Gloucester High School Gloucester, MA
August 1-4, 2018: IPMS National Convention Phoenix Convention Center Phoenix, AR
October 21, 2018: Granitecon XXVI The Falls Event Center 21 Front St. Manchester, NH

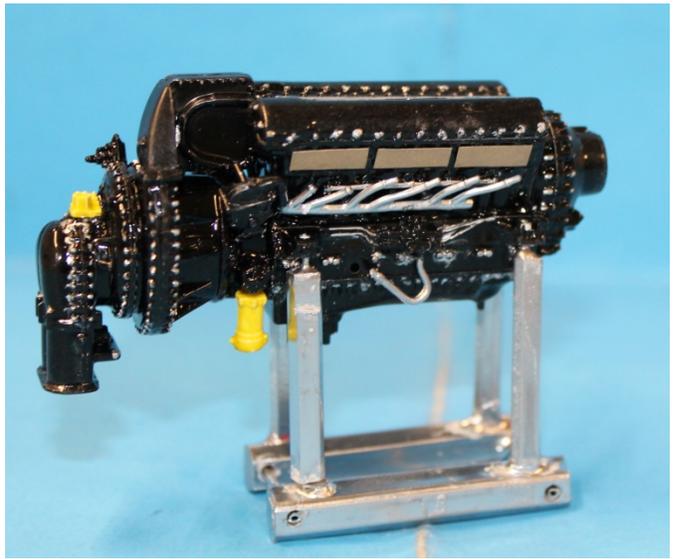
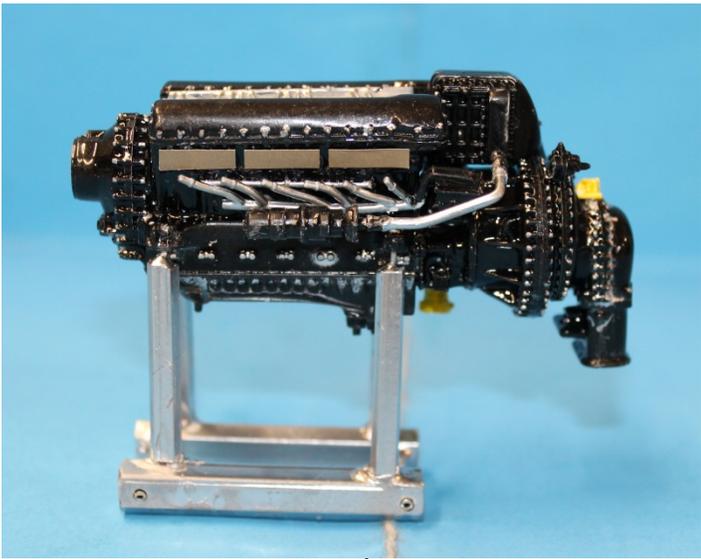
December Raffle Winners



December Show and Tell



Mac Johnston added window handles and cranks, directional signals, and cargo to his 1/72nd IBG 3T Bedford



Tony D'Anjou said his 1/24th MPC Packard Merlin Engine was an excellent kit



Chuck Converse's 1/72nd Lindberg Henschel HS 129



Chuck Converse's 1/25th Revell Hemi-Hydro Ski Boat



Brian Matteuzzi added rust spots to his 1/35th Tamiya JS-3 Stalin Tank



Brian Matteuzzi's "work in progress" 1/35th Meng King Tiger tank



John Walker's 1/35th Bronco 7.62 cm FK36(r) auf Pz.Jgr.Sfl.Zugkraftwagen 5 ton built "out of the box"



John Walker's 1/35th DML Jagdpanzer IV 70 (V) built "almost" out of the box



John Walker's 1/35th Tamiya Brummbar built "out of the box"



Paul Lessard built his 1/87th Funaro Camerlengo Pennsy H33 Covered Hopper "out of the box"

Pete's Ponderings --- Pete Davis

Good day all! I haven't been motivated to put one of these columns out there for quite a while now, but have been thinking recently on a modeling related subject that hits us all where it can really hurt...declining interest in model building in general!

I am a multi discipline model builder, as are many of you. In one of my focus areas, I have seen a dramatic decline in attendance at shows. That would be model railroading. I have noticed that I am not the only railroad modeler with white hair and receding hairline; there are a lot of guys and gals out there way older than I, and they are the key market for model railroad items. Unfortunately, they are all dying off, at an increasing rate, and there are not a lot of youngsters who are stepping in to fill the interest gap and replace the losses.

I attribute this to a lot of causes, most notable among them, an intense interest in tech related subjects (video games, robotics, drones, etc.) This is an inward focus which pulls them to not have to interact with the real world as much. They also have fewer opportunities to experience the thrill of interacting with real railroads than we did as kids, when this was one of the key ways to move people and goods around in bulk. Nowadays, you are lucky to see one or two trains a week, unless you live in intensely populated urban areas. No more trips to the depot with Dad to watch the trains come in, these days.

The model building discipline we work in as members of Granite State Modelers Club is not as much endangered as the railroading hobby, but we are not quite at the tipping point yet, so it is not overly visible to us. I think there is still time to bring new blood into the hobbies and to keep interest healthy and growing (this includes model railroading, by the way).

I have finally figured out that we not only need to go after kids and create an interest and enthusiasm in them for our three dimensional model building, but need to get their parents involved at the same time. If you bring them together to work on projects, they have quality time with one another and share an interest that can last a lifetime. Without the parental participation, the kids will drift from one interest to another and eventually settle back into tech because that requires the least effort to achieve success in. If both are working on something together, their experience will be more positive and fulfilling, and will keep paying the satisfaction forward with their kids interacting with *their* kids and so on. Direct result...a hobby that is healthy and stable.

I am not saying that this is the only way, but I think it is an important one. I must admit, I am guilty of blowing off kids who have an interest when I should be mentoring them...did so with my Grandson, Jack, until I woke up and realized what I was doing. I now actively try to work with him, when time permits, to help him learn how to put together something that will give him great satisfaction in this go around, and in future attempts.

We all have voluminous knowledge of how to build and need to take the time to share this, outside of club meetings and shows, so that we can make sure our hobby remains and grows. If we each impact one child and parent combination, we can make great inroads in the decline of three dimensional hobbies in general. And so I say to you...take some time to think about this approach and any others you think might work. I want to encourage a dialog that can actively pursue new ways to gain the attention and interest of future model builders. Help keep our hobbies alive and kicking!

Rod's Rambling ---Rod Currier

Going hand in hand with Pete's column, this Christmas, at their parents' suggestion, I bought some models to build with them while they were here from New York for the week. For the five year old, I found some new kits of the "characters" from Cars 3 that went together with large plastic screws and could be taken apart and rebuilt, much like a puzzle. I built the first with my Grandson, helping him fit the parts together, while he screwed the parts together. The second kit he built with his dad, involving them both.

For the seven year old, I found a couple of snap military kits, a Humvee and a tank. The first he built with his dad, with a little help from me. The second, he built with his older brother, nine years old, who was experienced with snap kits. For the nine year old, I had bought a couple of Level 2 kits, a tank and a helicopter. This is where I have an issue with some model manufacturers. The young man loved the kits, but when we got into the boxes, the helicopter had so much flash on the pieces that the very excited youngster became very discouraged! The actual construction of the kits was within his capabilities, but having to spend so much time getting those parts ready to put together taxed his interest. We had to take a lot of breaks. In order to get that helicopter finished before they left, I had to pretty much take over the build. So I reach out to manufacturers, in this case Revell, to look at those molds for the lower level kits and bring them up to a standard that doesn't cause the young modeler to give up before he starts!