

The Iron Works

By Bill Schwarz, President



May, 2017

By Big Bill Schwarz, President

Hi Guys, Skeetercon has come and gone. We are already working on the next show. Can't believe it's going to be 27 years! But it will be and it is Mosquitocon! It's what we do and what we are best known for! Nuff said on that.

Next up, The annual BBQ outing is on June 11th at Famous Daves. Figure 12ish to 4ish will be good. We have serving for around 40 but if more come our friend Sandy will gladly accommodate us. Well, I think that's enough on this as well.

The meetings have been very well attended indeed. That's a good thing. I am also seeing an upward swing in some shows which is a great thing. The most recent show from the Nova boys had some 500 models which is great. Marauder.Con was very well attended too. I have it on good info that Mike and Ivan won a bunch of awards this past weekend too. Very well done! I hope this continues for all the shows, but we will see!

Thats it for now boys. See you all at the meeting Friday, and at the yearly outing at Famous Daves, Metuchen, right off Rt. 1 by the Menlo Park Mall.

Take Care, Big Bill

From the Editor: I love the BBQ get-together! Great food, fun folks and we get to talk about models some more! Here is a quick kit review and some WIP pictures from Big Bill.

"Quick Look"

" AMT 25th scale Fiat Toppolino Altered Coupe"

I wanted to show you guys a pet project of mine, It is from the 60's vintage AMT 25th scale Double Dragster kit. I highly modified the chassis and reworked the body into 1 piece. I used the rear wheels from a '40 Willies Gasser kit; the front axle and wheels from a Revell Tony Nancy Dragster kit, and just started to work on the engine. It's a Hixlborn injected 392 Hemi with 17 inch velocity stacks.

This is just a few nights work. I will have it at the meeting. The intake manifold, wheelie bars and stacks are from Speed City resins. This will be a classic Gasser from the '60's. More to come, BB.





From the Editor: Here are some pictures I took at the (very well attended) April meeting.



From the Vice President's Desk

By Joe Smith



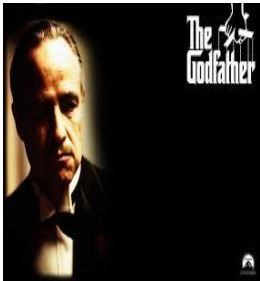
Now that M.Con. 26 goes into the history books, we now start to prepare for #27! I got many positives from many people from various other clubs. Once again a big thank you goes to the many people who did great work to make this a great success. Congrats to our members who were winners as well!

Happy Modeling

Joe Smith

From the Vice President's Desk

By Vince D'Alessio



The next meeting is on Friday May 12, 2017, Mother's Day is the 14th and then comes Memorial Day! Time sure does fly! I'm writing this a few days after coming home from the AMPS Nationals held in beautiful Danbury Connecticut. It was a 3 day event, Thursday April 20 to Saturday April 22. I along with Mike Pavlo had a great time. There must have been 500 AFV models along with Military figures and heavy weapons on display. There

was a good sized vendor room filled with anything armor and all the paint supplies you could think of! The seminars were top shelf. Cookie Sewell, one of the founding fathers and Master Certified builder of AMPS was supposed to be there, but had suffered an accident, injured his back and could not attend. One seminar, was given by Steven Zaloga, author of Armored Attack 1944 and many other books. It was an hour and a half long, but seemed like only 5 minutes because it was that good. His focus was on building techniques and I learned some good things. Mike Roof, also another fine builder, gave a seminar on soldering and building techniques, which caused me to fill my notebook with tons of information. Ian Hamilton of MIG productions was there too. A few of our members were there also, including Jim Casedes, Tibey Kiraly and Ed Minto (the Phantom), made his usual 2 hour appearance. I also ran into Jerry Rutman, a former member.

I did very well at the raffle drawings. 7 of my 30 tickets were drawn, my best to date. I entered 3 pieces in the same category, number 2, hard top German tracked vehicles, which meant if any qualified I could only get one award. Both my Panzer 4's scored well, one got 28.6 and the other got 28 out of 30 which gave me a gold. My Brummbar scored a 24. There are four written judge evaluations. One is thrown out and the other three are your score. In reading their remarks, they did not like the Scherzin or skirts alignment on the Brummbar. It was an enjoyable 3 days of modeling fun.

Hope to see you all at the K of C in Garwood.
Stay Healthy and stay modeling.

From the Editor: here a few other pictures from the April meeting.



THE JUDGES TABLE

By Jon Da Silva



Hey gang! I don't have a huge update this month, not a lot has changed since the last. Mosquito.Con has come and gone yet again and we move on to the rest of the year. Typically this is a time when fewer of us build models in favor of outdoor activity. We do have two more open months this year if anyone wants to sponsor them: August and November.

In some other news/observations, can someone fill me in on when Airfix discontinued their 1/600 line of ships? I went on the net in an attempt to pick up the Prinz Eugen and King George V, both of which had been reissued as of 2-3 years ago, and the entire line has been discontinued!

That's a huge blow to me, and to the industry in general. It's always a bad thing when inexpensive kits are discontinued. It gives young modelers less options. Parents aren't going to spring for the big expensive kits and that means less new blood in the hobby

At any rate, I'll catch you all at the meeting.

My best,
Jon DaSilva

The Contact's View

By Mike Pavlo, VP



A few weeks ago I was able to cross an item off my bucket list: attend an AMPS National Convention. The timing was right, and it was finally relatively close by (Danbury CT). I wasn't able to attend all three days since I had to scoot on Friday afternoon, but I had a very enjoyable time nonetheless. The organizers did a good job with displays, seminars, a huge raffle and lots of vendors. I found some hard to find items and spent more green than intended, but isn't that usually the case when we're surrounded by all those goodies? On my list of things to be on the lookout for were some 1/72 armor kits. Unfortunately, small scale kits were virtually non-existent among all the vendors. Fully aware that 1/35 is king among armor modelers, I was still shocked by the alarming lack of smaller scales on the vendor tables.

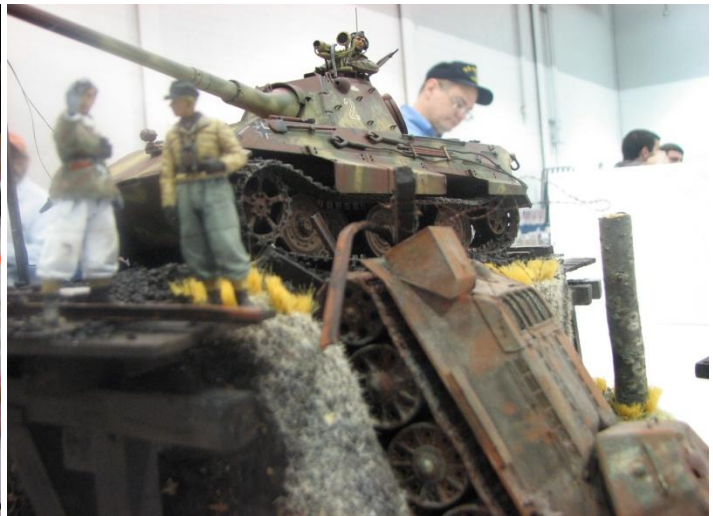
Another disappointment was how unavailable the finished models were for viewing. I know that the AMPS judges work in teams in a back room that

is “off limits” to non-judges. Understandably, this means that the models being actively judged are unavailable for viewing. But sadly, so too are the hundreds that are “in queue” waiting to be judged. At any given time during my stay, the display room was largely empty. I assume that changed gradually as judging progressed and award time came around, but as someone who loves to admire the quality work of other modelers, I wish they could devise some other way to accomplish what they need to. I did however have a fantastic time and kudos to all those who contributed to make it a great show.

Best Wishes,

Mike P.

Editors Query: Sounds like a good show from Vince and Mike, but no pictures at all? Here are a couple more from the files. These are Mosquito.Con’s. But what year?





May TERREGRAM!

Mike and Ivan's Big Adventure

On April 29th Ivan Ordonez and myself attended the Northern Virginia Modelers (NOVA) "Model Classic 2017" which was held at Fairfax High School, Fairfax Virginia.

I left from Milton Delaware early Saturday morning and after an hours' drive picked up Ivan at his home in Denton Maryland. I am very proud that I found his house by use of a "BBOM".....what's a BBOM you ask? Well, it stands for Big Book of Maps, aka a Road Atlas. I've attached a picture if you're still mystified. Worked like a champ. I had the whole route mapped out from Ivan's house but this was not to be because he had a GPS and it even talked. I am "tech distrustful" but Ivan patted my hand and assured me it would work just fine. Dan Spera has done the same thing when "technology" has

reared its ugly head with me.

I had planned to take the Capital Beltway to get to Fairfax but the GPS took us directly through Washington DC! While the GPS was telling me where to go, Ivan was busy calling out the sights, "Hey, there's the Washington Monument"....."I bet the White House is over there"....."Look, there's the Pentagon!".....intermixed with "Mike you better take the next right" (when I was in the left lane and on top of the exit!) But technology and my driving skill triumphed and we got there after a 1 ½ hour ride.

Fairfax High School was just spectacular. The campus, playing fields and stadium would make any University proud. The cafeteria had flat screen TV's all around and rather than just plain cafeteria tables, there were booths with the school crest on the table tops. Just an unbelievable place. The school newspaper was printed on glossy paper and looked more like a magazine. There was plenty of parking that was very close to the show entrance.

Ivan and I had brought a total of eighteen models that were to be entered in eleven categories. We had all our paper work completed before we arrived and registration was a snap. The NOVA guys did a splendid job with the registration process, it was just painless, no long lines, took less than five minutes before we were putting our

models out on the competition tables. Registration cost \$10.00 for an unlimited number of models.

The tables WERE CROWDED, but the NOVA guys were on top of things and made space available for more models. We found out later that this was the best turnout for the show, with 546 total models entered in competition so perhaps they were a little overwhelmed, but they came through fine.

The competition tables and most of the vendors were in the same room, which was the cafeteria, and it was a little crowded but not too bad. There were additional vendors in hallways outside the cafeteria as well. The vendors had all the usual stuff, and there were bargains to be found. Every time I saw Ivan he had a couple of big models and was heading to my truck to pack them away. Although I like vacuform and biplanes I found a very nice Pavla 1/72nd Kawasaki Ki-102 "Randy" for \$5.00 which was a steal!

I always wonder at the energy some of vendors have. They have to pack up all their stuff, drive it to the show, and then unpack and set up. How the guys that sell books do it is beyond me, those books are HEAVY! Then after the show you pack it all up and head home, makes for a long day!

There was food available at the show, hotdogs, pizza and sub sandwiches sold from the cafeteria by school moms and it was good.

A dirty water dog, chips and soda for \$3.00, how could you go wrong?

The competition was very good with many outstanding models on the tables. The NOVA guys did a great job with the judging in spite of a scarcity of judges. There were no categories where there wasn't a model entered, very good participation in all the categories. The award presentation went off without a hitch and was completed in about twenty minutes. They use a method in which categories are called out in numerical order and the winners for that category are named. Naturally Juniors go first! There are three club members next to the announcer with the numbers 1, 2 and 3 on their shirts. If you get a First Place you walk up to the Number 1 guy and get your award....Second Place, go to Number 2 guy....you get the picture! This system really worked well, something we might look at for MosquitoCon. Oh, and the awards were very nice, being painted metallic coins, one of which I've attached a picture.

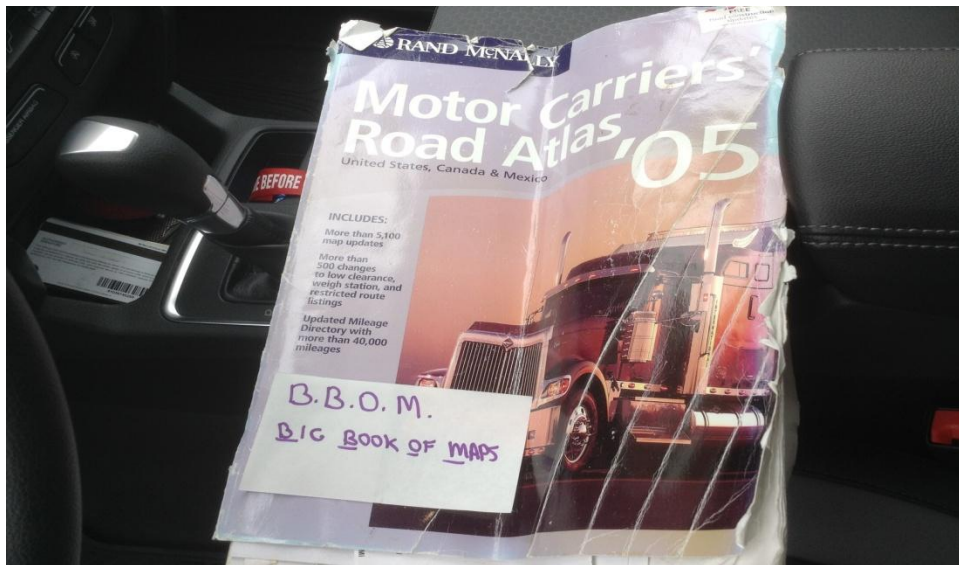
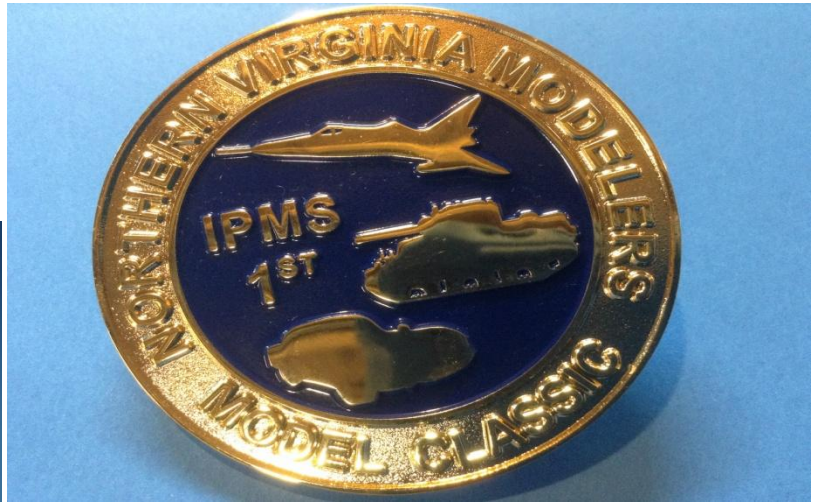
Ivan and I did very well, as stated above we entered eighteen models in eleven categories. Out of that mass of models we took one first place, eleven second place and one third place awards. I was particularly happy to win a Second Place in "Ships, Oars and Sail" with my USS Harriet Lane. It was my first win in a ship category and to make it very special the Category was sponsored by NJIPMS

in memory of Keria Quinn. I've always admired Martin Quinn's ship models and to win in a category that was in memory of his daughter was very gratifying. I also wore my NJIPMS shirt so competitors knew who was picking up the awards.

The drive home was uneventful as I was getting used to having the GPS and Ivan giving me directions. We had a very nice conversation with a Maryland State Trooper on Rt. 50 but he just told us to drive safely and that was that. I got Ivan home and then successfully BBOM'ed my way home. Total road time for the trip was twelve hours with about 250 miles driven. A fun day of models, modelers and dirty water dogs, what more can you ask for?

I highly recommend attending this show. The location was easily accessible, the competition was very good and the NOVA guys great! I'll be back (sounds like Arnold?)

Thanks for reading, hope to see you all at the May meeting, now get down to your bench and build something to enter into next years "Model Classic". Mike Terre



EDITOR'S NOTE: I agree with Mike. Give me a good map and I can get anywhere; a vestige of my summers in college driving a tractor trailer around the country for North American Van Lines. The Good Old Days??

P.S. What in the world is a "dirty water dog?" And if Mike Terre actually ate one!....I'm calling the PETA people! Lol.

Dave DeNardo is healing well, and wishes to thank the club for the delicious 'Edible Arrangement' we sent, to wish him a successful recovery. I've seen him a few times and he is slowly getting there. He may make an appearance this week!

Here's a request from Ed Minto.

Looking for a few model kits

I'm wondering if any club members might have a few model kits that I haven't been able to locate by other means. I'm looking for the following 2 kit. I'm interested in these kits in and condition. Complete unbuilt, partial built, or otherwise. Will pay cash.

- Bandai Panther G 1/48 scale
- Revell Mirage III or FJ 1/32 scale

Contact info: Ed Minto 908-377-2046 (emoji5@comcast.net)

That's it for this month. Bill Schroeter