



**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODEL SOCIETY**

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FROM THE IRON WORKS

By

Big Bill Shwarz, President

Hi all. Hope y'all having a decent summer beyond this ridiculous heat. Bill has words about the Nats so I'll leave that to him. The guys from the Nats did there thing, and we had a very nice small group meeting with many off topics and it was just fun and relaxing!

Next up and final is the NJIPMS "Dum Dum" Gundam build! we have 14 builders for this group! We are featuring 30 mm 1/144th scale gundams of all sorts! Jon and I discussed the rules and we will give you the skinny on those and pick a date for Gundam Night

Lastly don't forget summer night NJIPMS BBQ. It's meeting night as well. Thats it for me. I'll see y'all in a few Fridays! STAY COOL !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

"BIG BILL SCHWARZ PRES "



Hi everyone! I thought that in the absence of a regular Newsletter which I could not do Since Eric and I were going to the National Convention in Virginia, that a short overview of the Convention would serve.

Eric and I left NJ at 1100 AM on Wednesday of Convention week. We left later than we had hoped due to my oversleeping! Rather than battle our way down I-95, which we did many times to see his sister at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, we hung a left out of Delaware and took the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel System down-which is pretty impressive. No real trouble along the way. When Dave DeNardo and I drove out to Omaha, we passed the remains of some gruesome, and probably fatal accidents!

We arrived at the Convention site in Hampton Roads, VA, about 700 PM, and checked in. When the date came to try and get on-site reservations in January, a lot of people on social media were upset about not getting through, long waits, etc. At the end of the IPMSUSA announcement were long links to each hotels automatic self-booking sites. I guess for some people they need to hear and speak with someone, but I jumped on the Embassy Suite's site, and had booked two rooms in just a few minutes! I was so shocked at how easy it was, that I called next day to be sure!

Registration on Thursday was the smoothest. It seemed like the majority of modelers entering the contest had completed their forms at home, so there were very few having to do so.

Eric brought three to display, and then I went to the volunteer table to find out my options. On Thursday afternoon I acted as Security/Assistant in the display room, helping people get their models placed on the right table, as well as keeping people from touching the models, or leaning over other kits to take a picture of something else. I was surprised at the umbrage people displayed when asked to step back, not touch, or otherwise cause possible damage!

Friday was club lunch at the CRAB SHACK! Club members Devon Poore, Martin Quinn, Joe Smith, Jerry Hughson, Eric Schroeter, Mike Paavlo, Dave DeNardo, Mike Doberclecki, past member Bob LaPadura, myself and a couple of others enjoyed a great lunch!



I again volunteered on Friday, helping to provide Security in the Vendor's Room, which was very good-filled with some vendors we're used to seeing, but new ones as well.

Once 500 PM rolled around, it was time for the Judges Meeting, and here was the only snag in the whole week. The elevators at Embassy were an on again off again issue throughout the week-one could wait ten minutes plus for a ride! This caused me to be 16 minutes late for the Judges Meeting, where I was denied admittance!! I calmly explained the issue, noted my volunteering each day, as well as I was hoping to get my Three year Judges Pin. So they let me in and I had to wait to speak to the head judge. Prior to that, I was called up with about ten others for our Three Year Pins. Once the head judge saw that, he just waived me over and said no problem.

I was part of a three-man team, with a Judge in Training as well. We judged Armor and military vehicles from about 630-1100 PM. I learned a lot about these categories, as our leader was one of AMPS VP's.

Saturday was more of a rest day, because being on my feet in the display room for two and a half hours as Security, and three and a half hours judging had really tuckered me out!

The finale was the banquet which was a real disappointment in that the food was awful-dried out piece of chicken, solid as a rock piece of broccoli, and a scoop of something I didn't try.

One good change was that rather than announce every winner in every category, a slide show of the winning models was shown, which saved a ton of time, and allowed the winners of the big prizes to get more attention. Martin Quinn, Dave DeNardo, Bob LaPadura, and maybe Devon Poore earned awards. Congrats! Please bring your winners to the next meeting!

We left Hampton Roads the next morning and had a worry-free ride home.

This was my ninth Nationals, and I enjoyed it. I didn't spend a lot, really liked the people I met, and the kits on display were fantastic! Maybe see you next year in Fort Wayne, IND.

Bill Schroeter, Editor

PSI still can't copy pictures from my phone into Windows 11. I'm sure there will be tons out there very soon,