

MosquitoGram

The Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of IPMS

The Iron Works

By Bill Schwarz, President



Welcome to the August, 2017 NJIPMS Newsletter

Hi all.

It's August and slow but a few things need to be said so here we go. When I tell you at the meeting about enjoying life, I really, really mean it. As you can see we lost my great friends Andrei and Wally. Now last week we lost another. Long time member Ronnie D. Loss is a part of life and no one has to like it. I hate it a lot but don't readily show it. I hate to see people I've known a lifetime go. Sad it is, just part of living. Enough said on this. Mikey D will fill you in on the rest about his brother because the services are kind of complicated at this moment. As always Vin will send the right tribute for Ron. Godspeed Ron, I hope you are well and in a better place.

Next up, the Nationals are over & the Tamiya group build did ok with 10 entries. I haven't seen member wins but I'm sure Joe will tell us more.

August is here and the shows will start back up in September & October and so on. If you can, please attend where you can. A lot of people support us and we should do it too. Jerseyfest is coming up as well as the VA shootout and the HVMG show in Poughkeepsie! My crew will most likely be going to one or two of these events.

Mike Terre has started the Del Marva Marvels chapter of IPMS. Along with Mike Witkowski and Ivan Ordonez, It's great startup material for a great Chapter. There are a lot of potential

unorganized members of all modeling genres down there. Let's hope it goes and grows. As a gift we will be picking up their charter fee the 1st and 2nd year as well. To the three of you, Greatest of luck and remember Have fun and enjoy life! Cause you truly never ever know!

That's it for me this month. Enjoy enjoy enjoy, life and all other things.

P/S Buzz is getting better each day and hopefully will be back to us soon!

Regards/live long, well and Have fun!!!!

Big BillSchwarz

From the Vice President's Desk

By Vince D'Alessio



Sad news. I just heard from Mike Dobrzelecki that his brother Ron passed away from complications of by-pass surgery. In case you new guys don't know Ron, he was an active member of the club but resided in Florida. He did travel up for Mcon and other special events. Ron was one of the founding members of NJIPMS and will be missed, but his legacy will live on through his extended service to his country and his collection of built models. Let's all say a prayer for Ron's soul, may he rest in peace and God bless him.

It's August seems like I just did the July news letter.

My wife and I did the Ancestry tests a couple of months ago. She is 48% Irish and 49% English (she fights among herself). She and other members of her family are into Genealogy. My wife's matches in the Ancestors' data base came up a match to a fellow- a third cousin once removed in Edmonton Alberta. Once contacted, he sent my wife a family history from that side of her family. Some things I found very interesting. The first was a connection to Dunkirk- yes that Dunkirk! When my wife came to me and said do you know what Dunkirk is(Yes it really happened). I explained the history of the Miracle of Deliverance that happened there. She then told me that one of her cousins was there and fought in the delaying action and was captured and escaped and was recaptured and spent the remainder of the war, five years, in a

German prisoner of war camp. That was not the end of it. Another cousin was a ground crew member of a Spitfire crew during the attempted siege at Dunkirk and the battle of Britain. This cousin invented a constant switch which pilots used to keep radio communication between themselves and their ground commanders during dogfights. He received an award for this invention. Pretty good stuff. I included a picture and the written award. She also found out she has a cousin in Australia- maybe Crocodile Dundee type HaHa- we shall see, we have not heard from him yet. We all went to see Dunkirk Sunday night. The movie never went into detail as to why the British and French military forces were in the position they were, disappointing really. Overall the movie was so-so. The Spitfire scenes were the best.

The Nationals are in full swing as I write this article, and we will have to wait to hear from Joe Smith on how that went.

I finally finished the P-47 and pictures are included.

I have not heard anything about Buzz Lockwood so I guess no news is good news, Buzz if you read this God bless you and get well soon, we all miss you and are praying for you. .

Hoping the guys in Omaha a safe trip home.

Be happy and stay modeling - Vince



Editor's note: Sorry for the mis-match in placement, couldn't get them to straighten up. Two more pictures of Vince's P-47 are below.



From the Vice President's Desk

By Joe Smith



On a very sad note, I would like to send my condolences to Mike D. and his Family on the passing of long time member Ronny D.

I don't know how many years Ron was a member, but I remember my first meeting in June 1983, meeting him and I realized the passion he had for modeling! Last week Martin and I attended the Nationals in Omaha Nebraska , what a great show! Congrats to Martin and any other winners from are club. The F14 models looked great as well!

Joe Smith

Editor's note: here is a link to pictures from the Nationals taken by Devon and Martin. There are a lot of them! Many thanks for their sending them to me.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/New-Jersey-IPMS-124068277612000/photos/?ref=page_internal

<http://njipms.zenfolio.com/p610049940>

There are two links, one from Martin and one from Devon. Martin's USS Intrepid won 1st in it's category. Congratulations!

THE JUDGES TABLE

By Jon Da Silva



Hello gang. Really sad news about Ron. It always sucks to lose one of our own. It might not seem like it some days, but we're all really one family. We may have differences and vary in our techniques, but the hobby and a general love of history (and great food and drink) bring us all together. It's just a reminder to live each day to the fullest.

On a happier note, this month is an open theme, so feel free to bring in any type of kit that you like. I expect a lot of entries, especially given that the theme nights have done so well. There was some great stuff on the table last month. I'll admit I've been lazier than I like with models, but I've just had so little time with all the work I've been doing. I'd like to sit down for several nights in a row and just work on my Graf Spee and Renault tank. There's a couple other models that I want to buy, but I'll have to put those off for now!

Lastly, I'd love to know how the Nationals went. I'm curious if any of my favorite brands put out new kits at the show (Bandai, SWS, resin/plastic WWI ships). If you've gone to the show and know about this stuff, feel free to shoot me an email. I'd love to know about all the new items!

I'll see you all at the meeting,

Ciao,
Jon

The Contact's View

By Mike Pavlo, VP



I'm saddened that we have lost yet another long time member. Ron (and his brother Mike) were actually the first IPMS members I ever met. I met them both at the McGuire AFB airshow nearly 40 years ago. Until he moved to Florida several years ago, Ron was a constant, attending virtually every club meeting and function. Even after moving, he seemed to always make it back up north for MosquitoCon and of course, the Nationals, where he was a long time judge. Truly a "Jersey guy", when he was around, you knew it. Never shy, and always enthusiastic, Ron was memorable. He was well known throughout the modeling community. There was never a modeling project too big for him to take on, and the bigger the better. He will be missed by all of us who knew him, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Mike and the family. I know that Ron has already visited heaven's hobby shop and has all his projects ready to go. We miss you Ronny, and Godspeed.

Best always,

Mike P.

Editor's Note: Mike D. sent the following about the passing of his brother.

My Brother, Ron Dobrzelecki

By Mike Dobrzelecki

We grew up together in the Ironbound section of Newark, NJ, sharing a bedroom for most of our childhood. We come from a large Polish-American family. My mother had 10 brothers and sisters, and my dad, two brothers and a sister. We have about a bazillion cousins. With only 3 years separating us, Ron and I were very close, and remained so to his last day. Like me, Ron was an avid modeler, the two of us picking up the modeling bug from our elder brother, Dan, who also still

builds models to this day.

Ron loved to build large scale aircraft, resin aircraft (especially racers), vacu-form aircraft and submarines. He built models for money, too, either as contract jobs for individuals, or for various model companies as promotional items. One of his TBM Avengers was featured on the box top of an Accurate Miniature's kit. He was also instrumental in making the 1/32nd scale Polish PZL P.11c fighter kit a reality. He was also famous for his misadventures in shipping these finished kits to clients. They would arrive in various states of assembly/disassembly, and a lively debate would sometimes ensue as to who was going to repair it. He thought nothing of shipping finished kits to contests. Once, when he could not attend an IPMS National, he finished a 1/24th scale resin Bf-109G conversion at the 11th hour, then mailed it to me via Fed Ex at the convention hotel. When I opened the carton, I discovered that everything not an integral part of the airframe, including the gear, props, gun pods, antenna, rigging, etc., was rattling around in the bottom of the box, having parted ways with said airframe, in-transit. I spent a good part of one evening at that National, repairing his 109. He wound up winning a 2nd or a 3rd place award with it, anyway.



That's Ron for you.

Ron and I shared many things together over the years – planning trips to airshows, gun shows, shooting at the range and, of course, attending model conventions. It was models that were his passion, though. He was a plank owner of New Jersey IPMS, as well as, another non-IPMS affiliated club in Jersey, SME – Scale Modeling Enthusiasts. One of Ron's claims to fame was that he did an episode of “Adventures in Scale Modeling” for PBS TV in 1993. I had appeared in two previous episodes and recruited him to do one, also. The show was like PBS “The Yankee

Workshop” of model-building. He converted a Monogram B-25J into a Doolittle Tokyo Raider B-25B. In his episode, he showed how to fair in a piece of clear plastic into an oversize hole, sand and polish it out, and mask off the smaller window leaving a perfect seamless result. He also showed how to mask-off markings and airbrush them, when no decals were available.

He loved that 15 minutes of fame.

He would often support me in the museum projects that I supervised in honor of U.S. vets, and those of our allies, by building models for the various exhibits that New Jersey IPMS (International Plastic Modelers Society) did aboard the Intrepid Museum and other venues, such as the Museum of Polish Military Heritage, as well as other projects coordinated by NJIPMS. He could always be counted on to help.

Ron was a veteran having served over 35 years in the US Air Force and Air Force Reserves. Emulating the example of our father, and most of my uncles, who served in WWII, he enlisted in the USAF in the early 1970s, following my other brother, Dan, who had joined the USAF a few years before him. Ron served during the Vietnam War, refueling F-4 Phantoms at Udorn AFB in Thailand. After his tour, he left for civilian life, but later rejoined the service as part of the Air Force Reserves, based at McGuire AFB in New Jersey. During this time, he also worked at the Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, NJ, making explosives (accelerants as he called them). He finally retired a couple of years ago from both the USAF and Picatinny. A good part of his life was dedicated to defending the USA and our allies. He was very, very, proud of his military service, and would brook no one making disparaging remarks about the military or America in general.

While serving with the 35th APS at McGuire AFB, he got another 15 minutes of fame, when appeared as an extra in the movie, “Taking Chance” (2009), which was based on the real-life events of Lt. Col. Michael Strobl, a volunteer military escort officer, accompanying the body of a 19-year-old Marine, Chance Phelps, back to his hometown in Dubois, Wyoming. Ron appears in the opening sequence, as one of the uniformed bearers carrying the casket off the USAF transport. McGuire AFB substituted for Dover AFB, which handles most of the bodies of military killed in service. Apparently, hangar repair work at Dover obviated the use of the proper facility for safety reasons. In a strange coincidence, my other brother, Dan, did work supporting the Dover AFB morgue, as extra duty, when he was in the USAF. The movie starred Kevin Bacon as Col. Strobl. So, if you ever heard of the “6 Degrees of Kevin Bacon” phenomenon, anyone who knew my brother, is now connected to Kevin Bacon.

Ron married his first wife, Nancy, a nice Italian-American girl in 1979, having met her at a club I took him to, called, “Mother’s” in North Jersey. They lived for a couple of decades in Clifton NJ. Nancy passed away in 2009. About a year later he became the only one of three brothers to fulfill my mom’s prime directive, namely to “marry a nice Polish girl”, when he met Grazyna (Grace).

Grace had been a lawyer in Poland, but then immigrated about 20+ years ago to the USA and worked as an office manager for a doctor in North Jersey. I was his "Best Man" at his wedding, at which he wore his USAF dress blues, decorated with his extensive set of ribbons, and a USAF sword, no less. He was so proud and happy that day. While Ron had traveled to many European bases when he served in the Reserves, including Ramstein, Germany, and Aviano, Spain, Grace broadened his horizons even further, taking him several times to Poland to visit his ancestral country and her family. Those past 7 years he spent with Grace were some of his happiest days of his life. They two of them enjoyed themselves in their retirement, making every day a special day. She was truly proud to be married to Ron who had such a distinguished military career.

Ron's Last Finished Model

Though Ron's modeling skills were starting to be affected by his diabetes, he was still thinking of others. We have another mutual close friend, Buzz Lockwood, who has had the misfortune of having his cancer return with a vengeance. Buzz was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, flying Loaches and Cobra gunships. He was shot down 11 times. If you ever met Buzz, you'd know what a great guy he is. Ron decided to build a 1/32nd scale F-86D Sabre Dog as a "Get Well" gift for Buzz. As Ron put it, it wasn't necessarily his best work. As Buzz put it, "It was really the thought that counted". And yea, Ron shipped it from Florida to Buzz in PA in his usual optimistic manner, and it arrived pretty much intact, as Buzz reported. Even though Ron was in bad health he was thinking of someone else that seemingly was in worse condition.

Ron had just turned 65 on July 10th. On the 14th he had a heart attack and underwent a quintuple bypass on the following Monday. I'm glad that I got a chance to talk to him about 40 minutes before they put him under sedation. Believe it or not, the thing that Ron was most concerned with was missing "Game of Thrones", vowing that the first he would do when he got home was to catch up on the series online. Those of who know him would agree, "That's typical Ron, for you." It was not to be, however. The damage was just too much, his diabetes wreaking havoc over the years on his heart, liver and kidneys. He passed away this morning. I'm just so glad that I got a chance to talk to him one more time.

I got the call from his wife, Grace, here at the IPMS National Hobby Convention in Omaha, then set about telling everyone in my family and other friends of Ron via Facebook, then made flight arrangements, cutting my vacation short to leave directly from Omaha and travel to Florida. It was only after I had completed this coordination work, that I sat down to write this tribute to Ron, tears welling up in my eyes, as I remembered each thing and tried to put it into words. I finally lost it, blubbering like a baby. We loved like brothers, and sometimes fought like brothers, but that brotherly bond could never be broken and never will.

I'm really going to miss you, bro.

It's just not going to be the same without you.

Your bro, Mike



Editor's note:. Looking at the picture of Ron giving the thumbs' up, and after reading how all of our E-Board felt, as well as the very moving tribute from Mike D about his brother, seems a fitting end to this Newsletter. Mike Terre and Simon Vichnevetsky both sent reviews of kits for this issue, but I think it appropriate to save them for next time.

Hope to see many of you at the meeting on Friday.

Bill Schroeter