

December 2018  
Vol 42, Issue 12

# The Pylon



*The newsletter of the Western Reserve Chapter of the  
International Plastic Modelers Society*

## Next Meeting:

Sunday, Dec 16  
Euclid Public Library  
631 E. 222<sup>nd</sup> St.  
1:15PM

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Officer Elections

Holiday Party

Dirty Santa

Dues are Due



## From the President

Hi guys. I had some relatives up for Thanksgiving they are big HO train guys. They asked if I could weather some engines and box cars they had brought along and I said I'd give it a go. We went to the Conrail yards (a co-worker's brother is a mechanic there) and I got to see stains and soot at fueling spots, exhaust stains, and normal wear grime up close. We went back home, fired up the air brush and it went well. I guess modeling is where you find it. One thing I noticed was both of their sons were eyeballing my models and asking questions (heh heh heh). See you guys at the meeting!

Joe Barteld

## From the Editor

Welcome to the Holiday Season! Giving, receiving, shopping, wrapping, cooking, eating and spending time with family and friends. All of that is just at our Gala Holiday meeting, and when you factor in all that again for your non-modeling family this month gets a bit busy.

And busy is what our December meeting will be. We'll have the Christmas Fund Raffle, the Dirty Santa event, Officer Elections (the club By-Laws ruled November's vote a false start), and of course food and soft drinks. Dues are also being taken so be sure to bring in your \$15 to stay in good standing with club. Read on for more details on much of the above.

One more thing. If you can afford it, either through funds or time, give something to those less fortunate than yourself. Find a cause you support, be it a veterans group, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, a local animal shelter or a food bank and donate. They will appreciate it and it'll give you some warm fuzzies as well.

Kirk Ballash

*Carole, and the rest  
of WR, wish you a  
Merry Christmas!*

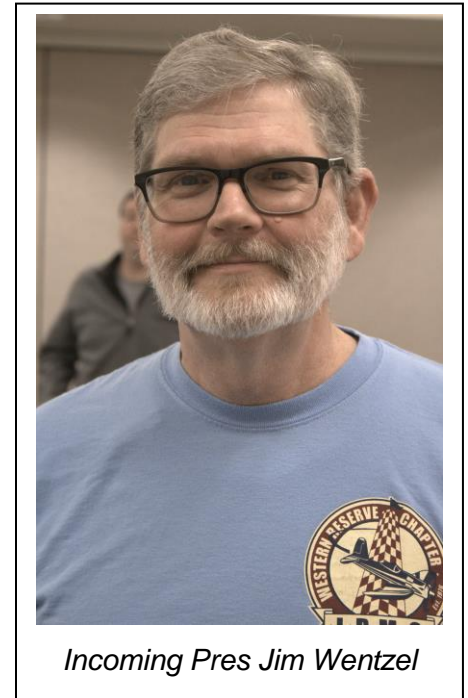


## Meeting Minutes from November

November's Western Reserve meeting was held on Sunday the 18th. We had 13 members in attendance and it was nice to have all of our officers present for a change! One of the things being talked about was the pushing back of the December *Novel Novelties* Quarterly contest to the January 2019 meeting. This is simply because we will have a lot going on at the December meeting. Things like the gift exchange and the party eat into a lot of the regular meeting time hours. So, if you haven't finished your novel build you still have time! It was also decided to push back the *F4U Corsair Challenge* to November 2019 just to give people more time.

Kirk was unable to make the meeting but we held the officer nominations anyway. We are fortunate to have staying on in the following positions -- John Camper as Vice President, Ted Bamber as Treasurer, myself as Secretary and Kirk Ballash as Editor and Chapter Contact. Sadly, Joe Barteld announced that he would not be running for President this time around. It was nice to see Joe at the meeting and getting around pretty good and doing well. Joe recently has had some health issues which we talked about at the meeting. On top of all of that he had knee surgery earlier in the year too! It's very understandable that Joe would like to take a break from having more responsibilities and demands for his time that he doesn't necessarily need right now. I, on behalf of all the club officers and Western Reserve members, would like to thank Joe for two wonderful years as our President!

So, who is going to be our President now? Well we can all breathe a sigh of relief as Jim Wentzel stepped up to the plate and has volunteered (and has been nominated) for the role. Welcome Jim! I am looking forward to the next couple of years and wish Jim and all of our other officers the best of luck as our new terms start next month.



*Incoming Pres Jim Wentzel*



During the meeting we talked about many new kits and products that are coming out. November was also our annual turkey raffle! Names were pulled from the coffee can and the lucky winners could go up to the table and pick a wrapped gift. As people went up to the table to pick the said wrapped gift you had to be careful so that you didn't end up with the cranberry sauce or stuffing mix! Don Nehez was the "lucky" winner this time around!

We also discussed the upcoming December Christmas Party and gift exchange. The show of hands for people when asked to volunteer to bring something in for the party was a little on

the weak side so here is hoping that some people reconsider during this holiday season. If you want to bring a gift for the gift exchange please bring something that you would like to receive yourself. For example, no moldy oldies with crumpled boxes from the basement stash! :-)) We usually say to bring in something with a \$20-25 minimum value. The kit doesn't have to be shrink wrapped on the outside but preferably should have the parts on the inside still in their sealed bags and obviously not something that is started or missing parts.

We also had a few models on the table including Vince Spisak's 1:72nd scale WWI biplane and my Dragon 1:72nd T-34 in progress. John Camper brought in a couple of things for show and tell but sadly we forgot to do table talk and show and tell!

### Tool Time:

John Vitkus did a demo on using a Dremel motor tool for thinning down parts. This tool can be used for many things revolving around modeling and John showed us a few tricks and tips he has been doing over the years. John's demo was very informative and he made it look easy since he is an old hand with his Dremel tool. He has owned it for a very long time -- I believe over 40 years! One of the things John showed us was that by using a speed controller switch device that you can actually slow down the rpms of your motor tool to almost any speed you want. This is very important as you can easily burn through or melt the plastic if you're not careful. One of the things John demonstrated was thinning out the trailing edges of wings on older kits. As you know some of the old classics still may be the only game in town but like John and Kirk will tell you, with some simple improvements and some scratch building you can easily improve an old kit. John brought in some of his previous builds like his beautiful Italeri 1:72nd scale Junkers Ju-86 in Swedish livery. John used the Dremel tool to not only thin down things like the wing trailing edges but also the inside trailing edges of the engine cowlings to give them a more realistic scale appearance -- very nice!



So, as we can see thanks to John's demo, a Dremel tool has many uses for modeling. Another example is say on an aircraft kit that supplies you with a resin cockpit interior. Often you get a set of resin sidewalls for the cockpit and they usually are not going to fit unless you sand or grind down the inner walls of the fuselage. Here is another example of where a Dremel tool can make short work of that! The same applies to an aircraft kit where you have a nice set of resin wheel wells you need or want to put in. Usually you will have to grind down and thin the insides of the upper wings to get them to fit (just ask Ted about his experience with certain Special Hobby/MPM kits!) Dremel tools can also be used for "sculpting out" ruts or depressions in a base you plan on using for your model or in a diorama setting. Sometimes we may have all the tools and things that we need at our disposal but we may not realize it until we see someone else doing it. Thanks John for doing just that!

Here is looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Jon Hudak, WR Secretary

## December Meeting Activities

### Officer Election – per the club By-Laws

Last month members present took nominations for the Club Officers, with Jim Wentzel running for President with the rest of the current officers opting to continue on for another term, and then promptly held a vote. Unfortunately, the vote didn't follow the club's Constitution and By-Laws so we'll do it again all proper-like this month. Sure, the suspense is gone and the outcome will certainly be the same, but as long as we have rules we should abide by them.



Who doesn't love holiday food?

### Holiday Party – Who is bringing what?

John Camper took notes of who is bringing what for the Holiday party. He will bring the deli tray, Ted is bringing chili, bowls, spoons and cheese, and Don is bringing chips/pretzels. Jon will bring a pizza and Joe B will be bringing assorted snacks. Vince will bring cups, ice and regular pop while Kirk will bring in diet pop and fattening desserts. What are **YOU** bringing?

### December Quarterly Contest moved to January

The December Quarterly Contest with the *Novel Novelties* theme is being moved to the January meeting to give more time for this month's Gala Holiday activities. This also gives us slow modelers another month to finish our egg plane, super deformed or other silly subject.



### Dirty Santa Gift Exchange

Yes, it's time again to pass off one of your unwanted kits and go home with someone else's unwanted kit. To remind everyone of how this works, if you want to participate (and who wouldn't – it's fun) bring in a wrapped model kit in the \$20 or up range. I joke about going home with an unwanted kit but we want folks to bring in decent kits, something most of us *would* want to take home. I'm sure you've won a raffle prize that while it's a nice kit it's something you'll never build. The Dirty Santa event is tailor made for those type of models. Here's how it works -- a name is drawn and that person gets to pick any wrapped kit from the stack. He unwraps the kit, shows it off and sits down. The next person drawn can steal the first kit (or any kit selected before him) or pick from the stack. Should your kit get stolen you get the same choices – steal another or pick from the stack. And so it goes until all the kits have been picked and unwrapped. We do limit the number of times a kit can be stolen to three, otherwise it can get out of hand.



Note: Not the desired reaction to a Dirty Santa gift

Bring in a wrapped kit and have some fun!

## What the Heck is That?

Last month the *What the Heck?* was the SB2A Brewster Buccaneer, shown here in the UK version known as the Bermuda.

The SB2A Brewster Buccaneer was an ugly duckling. An unloved, ugly duckling. And deservedly so as it was a weak design, under powered, poorly built by unqualified workers and it was constructed in a downtown New York City building, miles away from an airfield. On top of all that the company was so badly run that the US Government took control of it in 1942.

In 1939 the US Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics was looking for a larger scout/bomber to operate from its aircraft carriers. Brewster was given the approval to build a prototype based on one of its earlier scout/bomber designs, the SBA. The new SB2A was larger, had the more powerful Wright R-2600 engine and was a two-seat configuration instead of three-seat. The design looked promising with a bomb load of 1000 pounds, two .50 cal machine guns in the fuselage, two .30 cal guns in the wings and two more in the rear seat gunner's turret. Testing of the prototype resulted in a number of changes to fins, canopy, rear gun position and fuselage length as well as increased armor, bumping up the weight of the beast by 3000 pounds, an over 40% increase, seriously hindering any performance it might have had. The final version weighed 9,924 pounds, had a max speed of 274 and a max range of 1,675 miles with its maximum bomb load of 1000 pounds. (For comparison, the 10,547 pound Curtiss SB2C Helldiver could carry 2000 pounds of bombs with a max speed of 295 and max range of 1165 miles).



*A Brewster bodied 1929 Ascot*



The Buccaneer was developed for the US Navy and foreign orders for the aircraft were plentiful even before its first flight in June of 1941. The French ordered 250 but they fell to Germany before the plane's first flight, so the British took over the order and added another 500 units during 1940. The Dutch ordered 162 but they too fell to Germany before delivery. The Australians, who didn't fall to the Germans, ordered 243 in mid-1940, but because Brewster was having trouble completing orders for F2A Buffalos and with a slew of modifications required by the British after testing the early Buccaneers (pronounced "Bermudas" in the King's english) they gave up and ordered Vultee Vengeances instead. The US Navy got 140 of folding and non-folding wing versions and the US Army Air Corps took some of the British order that was appropriated by Uncle Sam after Pearl Harbor.

All the countries that got to fly the SB2As didn't like them for all the reasons at the beginning of this article and determined them unsuitable for combat. Many were used as target tugs, others as hacks and probably more than a few of the 771 Buccaneers produced went from factory to scrap yard without ever leaving the ground.

Congratulations to Fred Horkey, John Vitkus, Robby Goldberg and Bob Taylor via email.

This month we back in the dirt. Good luck.

## Nearly Impossible What the Heck is That?

I had responses from Robby and John V, each of whom got one correct, which to be honest is better than I expected. Nice job gents.



*French Hurel Dubois Hd 321*



*American Fairchild  
AT-21 Gunner*



*British Vickers Type 253*



*American Boeing  
XPBB-1 Ranger*



*French 1953 Panhard Darrin*



*French 1948 Talbot Lago T26*

## Game Time Answers

Matching the WWII Aircraft Manufacturers with their company's home town (not necessarily manufacturing location, per Wiki). Congrats to John V who got 10 of 12 off the top of his head.

Bell  
Boeing  
Consolidated  
Curtiss  
Douglas  
Grumman  
Lockheed  
Martin  
North American  
Northrop  
Republic  
Vought

Buffalo, NY  
Seattle, WA  
San Diego, CA  
Buffalo, NY  
El Segundo, CA  
Long Island, NY  
Burbank, CA  
Santa Ana, CA  
Los Angeles (Inglewood), CA  
Long Beach (Hawthorne), CA  
Farmingdale, NY  
Long Island City, NY

## Upcoming Things to Know

### The 2019 Quarterly Contest Themes

My fellow Club Members, your always seen, seldom heard from Vice President John Camper here:

I am pleased to announce the Quarterly Contest Themes for 2019: This year we will explore the animal kingdom. These will be subjects named for, or actually of, animals.

March 2019: Sea - any animal that lives in the water (amphibious is ok)

June 2019: Land - any animal that lives primarily on the land

September 2019: Air - any animal that flies

December 2019: The Kingdom (any subject named after any animal you'd like)

*For those of you smartasses like me who might pose the question, according to Wiki **Animals** are multicellular eukaryotic organisms that form the biological kingdom **Animalia**. With few exceptions, animals consume organic material, breathe oxygen, are able to move, reproduce sexually, and grow from a hollow sphere of cells, the blastula, during embryonic development. Over 1.5 million living animal species have been described—of which around 1 million are insects - but it has been estimated there are over 7 million animal species in total. – Kirk*

All contests are open to any type of model, any scale including American Bison, dinosaurs, dogs, rampaging scorpions, etc...(attention Kirk!)

Good Luck and Have fun!

### Corsair build challenge moved to November 2019

Another contest being postponed, mainly due to slow modeling progress of most everyone involved, is the *Dave Virant F4U Corsair Challenge*. The change from February to November gives you an extra nine months. Heck, even I could finish a model in that amount of time. John Camper might get two done in that amount of time.

### Dues are Due.

Pay up and keep getting this award-winning newsletter. The cost is \$15.00 for the year for adult, \$12 for Juniors and \$20 for Family. Get your money to Ted soon.



Danica is all ready to stay up for Santa



Hanna loves her ugly Hanukkah sweater

## It's Magic! Plastic Magic

If you've been reading this newsletter (and I don't know why you wouldn't because it's excellent) you'll recall a few months ago I went on a rant about the unavailability of Tenax. I was relatively new to the stuff and I loved it, except when I would knock over the bottle.

Well, I have settled on a replacement - Plastic Magic. Why? I'm so glad you asked. Just know that my reasons are my own and are not meant to sway anyone, nor do I own stock in Deluxe Materials, but I digress.

I like this stuff because of the low odor (my nose is a bit sensitive). Tamiya Extra Thin cement gave me a headache which is odd since they smell the same to me. Plastic Magic comes with two brushes - a regular sized one and a really thin brush for pin-point application. Best of all, the bottle is square so my natural clumsiness is defeated.



Plastic Magic also has a longer setting time than Tenax, which helps when doing the final fitting of parts (see the above mentioned clumsiness). I picked up my bottle at Stewart's but it is available at other hobby shops and online.

Happy modelling!

John Camper

## Fantasy of Flight Museum – a review

Last month Lovely Wife had a training week in Orlando and so I took time off and went along with her, figuring this would be my chance to get to see Kermit week's *Fantasy of Flight* museum. I had been in Orlando for the 2012 IPMS/USA Nationals but after three days at the Disney parks with the family as well as the convention I just didn't have the energy.

Kermit Weeks was building his first airplane at 17, test flew it at 21 and three years later was building the "Weeks Special", an aerobatic airplane of his own design. He inherited some valuable oil and gas royalties that allowed him to pursue his interest in vintage aircraft, amassing a collection of over 140 of them, most flyable and if possible flown by him.

Originally his *Fantasy of Flight* museum was located in Miami and I remember visiting it during the 1990 IPMS/USA Nationals there. Two years later Hurricane Andrew relocated his collection all over a wide swath of south Florida.

He had already purchased 250 acres near Polk City, just a few miles southwest of Disney World, and so when he rebuilt his museum he did it at the now current location. Hangers constructed are designed to withstand hurricanes and so far have been successful. Sadly, the cost of these structures and the professional rebuilding of the aircraft is expensive and since 2014 the *Fantasy of Flight* museum has scaled back its public operations, having only one hanger open for tours and only for weekends from November through March. As luck would have it, I was there the second open weekend of the season.



To be frank I was disappointed with my visit. Only about two dozen aircraft are on display and while that is good I was hoping for more of his wide-ranging collection. The tour guide spoke of many in the final stages of restoration and of the desire to open the main hanger, currently used for restoration and storage, up for tours. What was on display was interesting and the guide had some great stories to tell. The B-24J Liberator there was a RAF combat veteran from the CBI theater and was given to the fledgling Indian Air Force at the end of the war. They used about 45 of them until the mid-1960s and then parked them. Kermit acquired his a few years later, complete with ammo, and flew it to Florida. It's probably the most complete and accurate B-24 in existence. He also had a B-26 Marauder, Polikarpov Po-2 and Paul Mantz's Bendix trophy winning P-51C Mustang on display, along with three Gee Bee racers, two Brown racers from the 1930s, a Laird Super Solution racer and three original WWI aircraft – a Nieuport 17, Thomas Morse Scout and a Morane A-1.

It's an easy trip from Orlando and worth the 30-minute drive, but if you are hoping to see some of the more unusual aircraft in his collection, like the Short Sunderland, Bachem Natter or Focke Wulf Fw 44 you may want to call ahead.

Kirk Ballash



## Western Reserve Officers

### President

Joe Barteld  
(216) 261-1574  
[mjoebarteld@gmail.com](mailto:mjoebarteld@gmail.com)

### Vice President

John Camper  
(440) 375-0007  
[ruffneckjc@gmail.com](mailto:ruffneckjc@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Jon Hudak  
(216) 351-6086  
[F4U2636@sbcglobal.net](mailto:F4U2636@sbcglobal.net)

### Treasurer

Ted Bamber  
(440) 946-5881  
[Belfast1947@yahoo.com](mailto:Belfast1947@yahoo.com)

### Chapter Contact Newsletter Editor

Kirk Ballash  
(440) 946-8074  
[Kapitan219@aol.com](mailto:Kapitan219@aol.com)

*Region IV Newsletter Editor of  
the Year 2015, 2016 and 2017*

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The *International Plastic Modelers Society* is dedicated to promoting the hobby of plastic modeling through meetings, demos, seminars, conventions, contests and most importantly through friendship and enjoyment of the hobby.

Visit us on the web at or join, either online or with the form at right and enjoy the full color magazine, discussion forums and vast knowledge and experience to help you enjoy the hobby to the fullest.

## Upcoming Events

### Western Reserve Meetings and Events

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Dec 16, 2018 | General meeting at Euclid Library Lake room – Officer Elections, and Annual Christmas Party  |
| Jan 20, 2019 | General meeting at Euclid Library Lake room – Build & BS Meeting (bring something to work on) and Quarterly contest: theme of “ <i>Novel Novelties</i> ” |
| Feb 17, 2019 | General meeting at Euclid Library Lake room – Seminar or Demo TBD  |
| Mar 17, 2019 | General meeting at Euclid Library Lake room – Quarterly contest: theme of “ <i>Sea Animals</i> ”   |

### IPMS and Regional Events

*For any show listed go to the IPMS/USA Upcoming Events page for more information, or if you don't have web access contact Kirk Ballash*

#### 2019

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Jan 18, 2019          | WrightTreat 2019 – Dayton, OH                         |
| Jan 19, 2019          | Winter Swap Meet – Sharon, PA                         |
| Feb 2, 2019           | “4M Mayhem” 2019 – Essexville, MI                     |
| Feb 16, 2019          | Blizzcon 2019 Annual Show – Columbus, OH              |
| Mar 9, 2019           | SEMEX 2019 Annual Show – Warren, MI                   |
| Mar 30, 2019          | TRIcon Annual Show – Pittsburgh, PA                   |
| <b>Apr 5, 2019</b>    | <b>Region IV Convention -- Dayton, OH</b>             |
| Apr 7, 2019           | BuffCon 34 – Cheektowaga, NY                          |
| May 9-11, 2019        | AMPS International Convention – Buffalo, NY           |
| May 18, 2019          | MMCL Invitational – Louisville, KY                    |
| <b>Aug 7-10, 2019</b> | <b>IPMS/USA National Convention – Chattanooga, TN</b> |

## IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM

IPMS No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ If Renewing \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required by P.O.) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership  Adult, 1 Year: \$30  Adult, 2 Years: \$58  Adult, 3 Years: \$86

Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17  Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals) How Many Cards? \_\_\_\_\_

Canada & Mexico: \$35  Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order

Payment Method:  Check  Money Order

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PO Box 56023  
St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023