



THE PATRIOT

IPMS Patriot Chapter Newsletter
Pip Moss, Editor

Billerica, MA
www.ipmspatriot.org



February 2026

Meeting Info

The next Patriot Chapter meeting will take place on Friday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Church in Billerica, MA. The church is located on Concord Road, just as it meets Route 3A (Boston Road) at the Billerica Town Common. The February meeting will be a build session with a business meeting, Show-and-Tell, and a raffle.



One of the three models **Chris Kizik** brought for Show-and-Tell was this neat little diorama of a crashed M4A1 Sherman (Tamiya). Chris built the tank OOB and added U.S. figures also from Tamiya. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for an unknown unit, Thaw of 1945, Western Front. Chris used two-part epoxy for the water effects. He writes, "I had this kit which was missing some road wheels and suspensions parts. I figured I'd make a dio with the missing parts in a "situation." That's when I thought of a winter thaw into a pond or lake."

For more photos of the diorama see Page 7.

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Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable and healthy start to 2026, and your model bench has seen much activity! This is a great time of year to hibernate and build, right?

Most of my work colleagues know that I'm a scale modeler. I don't hide it—in fact, the cap I wear daily is emblazoned with my social media handle, Oldschoolgunpla—so I have been asked about it on occasion. Last month, a co-worker brought in his young son to hang out at the office. He watched Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and played with his LEGOs. I could relate to both having been a prolific comic book collector and “LEGO dad” so had a very nice time hanging out with him a bit.

The conversation with the young boy's father turned to Transformers, which morphed into Gundam. It was a brief discussion ending with a suggestion he have his son try an Entry Grade Gundam, and that I may have one in my stash. That night, I found an EG Gundam F00 that was gifted to me a while back, something I likely would not build any time soon.

For those unfamiliar with Bandai's Entry Grade of models, they are designed to be built with next to no effort, a perfect “entry” for someone trying out scale modeling. They require no tools: parts simply pop off the incredibly tiny gates of the sprue, leaving next to no nub, eliminating the need for nippers, knives, or even sandpaper. Also, no painting is required as the model's parts are molded in nearly every color for an accurate finish. And stickers are provided to complete the detailing. With their fabulous tight tolerances, I think it's safe to say these are some of the best engineered models on the market today (and why they're our Patcon kids Make-and-Take go-to kits).

The next day, I handed the EG to my colleague who took a look at the kit's contents and was surprised at how well it was designed (note: he is our senior engineer). He thanked me for the gift, then sent a photo to his wife who shared it with their son. He wanted Dad to come home now! Later that night, I received a video text from my co-worker: his son was holding the completed model, thanking me for it, saying he really enjoyed it and wanted me to get him another (Dad of course said that was not necessary!). Both father and son worked on it together and loved it!

Will this youngster continue to want to build models? Will he build and build and build, someday becoming an IPMS member and scale model competition champion? Maybe or maybe not. But for the moment, he's having fun, and for a kid (for anyone really), what more could you ask for?

Happy modeling,
George

Minutes from the January Meeting

The meeting was chaired by club president George Lellios.

1. Additional polo shirts are available @ \$20. Contact George Lellios regarding purchase.

2. Members need to pay dues. The fee is \$15 until the March meeting; \$20 after that.

3. No brewery meet-up this month. Will revisit in February.

4. Notification of the Railroad Hobby Show, January 24 and 25 at the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds.

5. A motion was made and seconded regarding this year's group build theme. The vote determined that during February's meeting we will conduct brainstorming for the theme and create the list of candidates to be voted on. We will vote to choose the theme at the March meeting.

5. We would like to designate a meeting for a Kirk collection Show-and-Tell. Members will bring in their Kirk collection builds to be photographed together. The meeting at which this will occur will be determined at a later date.

6. Treasure Spencer Talmage presented the financial report. The largest yearly expenses outside of Patcon are the meeting raffle, church space for meetings, and the email and website server.

—Austin Clark, Secretary

Show-and-Tell

Larry Berk Two 1/72 A6M5 Zeros (Academy)
Chris Kizik 1/48 Hawker Hurricane (Airfix)
1/72 Jagdpanther (DML)
1/48 S4A1 Sherman diorama (Tamiya)
Kurt Kunze 1/72 Ki-61-I Hien (Fine Molds)
1/48 OH-58A Kiowa (Italeri)
Bill Michaels 1/72 Albatros D.Va (Eduard)
Jamie Michaels 28mm Wayne di Brascio (Privateer Press)
Pip Moss 1/48 Spitfire FR Mk. XVIII (Airfix)
Bart Navarro 1/25 1965 Corvette (Monogram)
Rich Petrie 1/72 Sleggar Law GM Custom (Fongdajing)
Richard Price 1/24 Porsche 911 GT1 (Tamiya)
Spencer Talmage 1/144 MiG-21bis (Eduard)
John Walker 1/35 M2A4 (Vargas)
1/35 M3A1 CDL (Takom)
1/35 40mm Bofors (Italeri)
1/35 SAS Jeep (Tamiya)
1/35 Panzer II Ausf. c (Alan)

Raffle Report

January winners:

Dean Strom, Takom 1/35 Jagdpanzer 38(t)
Tim Sistare, Eduard 1/48 Bf 109E-3
George Caswell, Bandai 1/144 HG Galus-J
Dillon Searchwell, Hobby Boss 1/700 HMHS Britanic
Bill Michaels, Airfix 1/72 Swordfish
Austin Clark, Airfix 1/48 Supermarine Spitfire Mk. V
John Walker, I Heart Kit 1/35 X-Craft Submarine.
Daniel Lovering, Eduard 1/48 Fw 190 D-9

It's time to pay your 2026 dues

If you haven't already done so, please renew your Patriot Scale Modelers membership promptly. Although the annual fee is \$20, you can save \$5 and pay just \$15 if you do so before the end of the March club meeting in Billerica. The easiest way to pay the fee is to go to our website, <https://www.ipmspatriot.org/>, and click the JOIN US button at the top. You'll be able to use either Paypal or a credit card to complete the transaction.

THANKS!



Larry Berk
Two 1/72 A6M5 Zeros
"The Chameleon"
(Academy)

This double build features two depictions of the same plane, before and after it was captured and repainted by the Allies at the end of WW2. Larry used 3D printed resin Sakae 21 engines and replaced gun barrels, pitot tubes and exhaust pipes with syringe tubing. He also scatchbuilt cockpit and wheel well details, and rebuilt the tail wheel assemblies. Paints are Vallejo, Army Painter, Tamiya and Meeden acrylics with weathering using AK pencils, Tamiya powders, and a Winsor & Newton oil wash. The Hinomarus and wing walk markings are from the kit decal sheet (badly behaved). The U.S. national insignia, the Hinomaru surrounds and the Japanese tail numbers were masked/painted. The U.S. codes are individual Microscale numbers and letters. Markings are for Kokutai 261, Saipan, June, 1944, and Technical Air Intelligence Center (TAIC) aircraft no. 5, Patuxent River NAS, MD.

Larry writes, "The pair wasn't finished in time for the Animal Kingdom build. Captured on Saipan in June 1944, airframe no. 5357 was shipped back to the U.S. and the TAIC. It now resides at the Planes of Fame museum in Chino, CA. Restored to its Kokutai 261 appearance, it remains airworthy and is, in fact, the last Zero still powered by its original, 80+-year-old Sakae 21. The plane was once flown by Charles Lindbergh, at the time lead test pilot for Chance Vought. It was also flown in the 2001 movie "Pearl Harbor."

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Chris Kizik: 1/48 Hawker Hurricane Mk. I (Airfix old tooling)

Chris built the kit OOB. For paints he used Mig AMMO, Vallejo and AK acrylics with AK masks for the camouflage pattern and a black wash to show FLAK weathering. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for RAF No. 32 Sqn, RAF Biggin Hill/Hawkings, July 1940. Chris writes, "I'm not a plan builder, but found this kit open with missing pieces and figured I'd give it a try to practice some skills. The decals didn't fit correctly, but I went with them. [Ed.: the oversize codes are actually correct for the Battle of Britain.] It's not perfect, but it took me out of my comfort zone."



Chris Kizik: 1/72 Jagdpanther Late Version (DML)

Chris built the model OOB and painted it with German Dunkelgelb with black wash and AK pencils/markers for weathering. Decals are from the kit; markings are for an unknown unit, Germany, 1945. Chris writes, "I usually, well definitely don't do 1/72, but a friend gave me this kit from a throw-out; figured I'd amuse myself. The AK pencils/markers are perfect for this scale."

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Chris Kizik
M4A1 Sherman Diorama
(Tamiya)
See Page 1 for description.



Kurt Kunze: 1/72 Kawasaki Ki-61-I Hien (Fine Molds)

Kurt built the model OOB – his last completion of 2025 – and painted it with Atom and Gunze Sangyo acrylics. Decals are from Superscale; markings are for Major Teruhiko Kobayashi of the IJAAF 244th Sentai, Chofu AB, Japan, 1945.

Powered by a Kawasaki Ha-40 V-12 engine, a licensed version of the German Daimler-Benz DB601, the Hien (Swallow) was the only in-line engine-powered fighter in mass production by Japan during WW2. While an effective warplane in service from 1943 onward, its performance was marred by continuing reliability issues with the engine, especially when it was called upon to intercept high-flying B-29s over Japan. This led to a late-war lash-up of the airframe with a 14 cylinder Mitsubishi radial, resulting in a truly formidable interceptor. The Chofu-based 244th Sentai was far and away the most famous unit flying both Ki-61s and Ki-100s in defense of the homeland.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Kurt Kunze: 1/48 Bell OH-58A Kiowa (Italeri)

Kurt built the model OOB – his first completion for 2026 – and painted it with Vallejo acrylics. Decals are from the kit; markings are for the U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Regiment, Vinh Long, Vietnam, 1971.

The OH-58 Kiowa is a single-engine, light military helicopter used by the U.S. Army from 1969 to 2017 for reconnaissance, observation, and direct fire support. Known for its agility, it served as the “eyes” of Army aviation in Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Iraq/Afghanistan before being replaced. The two-bladed OH-58A that served in Vietnam was later succeeded by the definitive OH-58D (Warrior) with a more powerful engine driving a four-bladed rotor and mounting a distinctive Mast Mounted Sight (MMS).

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Bill Michaels: 1/72 Albatros D.Va (Eduard)

Bill built this, the 8th Albatros D.V in his collection, OOB, but will add a pilot figure later. The kit, an Eduard Profipack from 1999, came from the **Kirk collection**; the box contained no fewer than six kits. Paints are Tamiya, AK and Vallejo acrylics. Markings are for an unknown pilot from Jasta 18 in 1917. Bill writes, "This is one of the options on the decal sheet in the Kirk box. The decals were old and very thin/fragile. I used Microscale lozenge decals for the wing under surfaces, and masked/painted four of the eight German crosses needed.

"The Eduard 1/72 Albatros kits were released in 1999 and have been re-released many times since. They are typical Eduard of that era, with well molded, detailed parts. Their one drawback is that the attachment points for some of the struts are molded as very shallow dimples, making them hard to install and align. Tired of fussing with the fiddly process of mounting the top wing on these models, I made a jig to align and hold the wing in place while installing the struts. I used a previous build to be sure it fit properly. In hindsight, I should have done this long ago, when I built kit no. 2!"



Jamie Michaels

28mm

Warmachine Mercenaries

Vayne DiBrascio

(Privateer Press)

Jamie used a wooden block for the plinth. He painted the figure with P3 acrylic Bronze and also applied Vallejo rust effect.



In the Warmachine tabletop game universe, Vayne diBrascio is a skilled Llaeese gun mage, a character archetype that blends arcane magic with firearms, typically using a gun as a "magical focus" to channel spells or imbuing bullets with magical effects. She appears as a mercenary accompanying Ashlynn d'Elyse in the Stormbreak storyline. Vayne is featured in the Ashlynn d'Elyse Queen's Blade Warcaster Unit as a supporting character.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Pip Moss: 1/48 Spitfire FR Mk. XVIII (Airfix)

The starting point for the model was the Airfix FR Mk. XIV kit, which supplies most of the parts needed for the FR Mk. XVIII including full span wing tips and extra large rudder. Aftermarket items include Eduard PE seat belts, and Eduard Brassin resin main wheels and exhausts. The Mk. XVIII replaced the outboard machine gun locations with added fuel cells, so various panel lines had to be filled and scribed based on a diagram found at Britmodeller. Paints are Model Master for the cockpit green, MRP for the lower surface Medium Sea Grey and upper surface Dark Green, and AK Real Colors for the upper surface Ocean Grey. This was the first time I've used anything besides Model Master for Ocean Grey; it will be my go-to from now on. The camouflage pattern was applied using my usual raised mask technique with Tamiya masking tape and sewing thread along the edges. A black/burnt umber oil wash was applied to accent panel lines and dirty the airframe up, especially in walkway areas. Decals for insignia and individual plane markings are from an Xtradecal sheet, stencils are from the kit, and the small under-wing serials (not visible here) were computer generated and laser printed. Markings are for RAF 208 Sqn. in Palestine, 1948. A period photo of the plane clearly shows the factory paint scheme including the Sky fuselage band and type C/C1 roundels. It also shows the plane with the slipper tank, which the kit supplies. Mainly flown against Egypt during the Suez conflict, these big, beefy, Griffin-powered Spits also found themselves in combat against Spitfire Mk. IXs flown by the Israelis, who prevailed in a number of those encounters.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Bart Navarro: 1/25 1965 Corvette (Monogram)

Bart built this 1986 kit OOB and painted it with Kaleido acrylics.



Rich Petrie: 1/72 Sleggar Law GM Custom (FangdaJing)

Rich built the Gundam OOB and painted it with Mecha Color 8 Creos. Decals are from the manufacturer. The FangdaJing kit is an upscaled version of one originally produced by Bandai in 1/144 scale.

Sleggar Law is a prominent character in the original "Mobile Suit Gundam" (MSG) TV series, known for his piloting skills with the G-Fighter and his romance with Mirai Yashima, appearing heavily in the latter half of the series, especially during the Battle of Solomon. He also appears in related works like "Mobile Suit Gundam: The Origin" and "Mobile Suit Gundam: Cucuruz Doan's Island," where his backstory and specific mobile suits are explored.



Richard Price
1/24 Porsche 911 GT1
(Tamiya)

Richard built the model mostly OOB, but he opened the louvre vents and applied the seat belt decals to lead foil to give them some body. Paints are Alclad Primer and Tamiya acrylics for blacks and clears. Metallics are Alclad, Vallejo and Tamiya. Final finish is Alclad Aquagloss plus elbow grease. Decals are from the kit ("Awesome" says Richard). Markings are for one of two 911 GT1s entered in the 1998 24 Hours at Le Mans. No. 25, driven by Hans-Joachim Stuck, Bob Wollek and Thierry Boutsen, finished 2nd overall (one lap behind the winner) and 1st in the GT1 class.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Spencer Talmage: 1/144 MiG-21bis (Eduard)

Spencer built the model mostly OOB, but he replaced the nose boom pitot tube with piano wire. The camouflage was freehand airbrushed with Tamiya acrylics (XF-61 Cockpit Green, XF-5 Flat Green and XF-66 NATO Brown) with weathering using Tamiya black pearl liner and Winsor & Newton oils. Decals are from the kit; markings are for "White 114" of the Bulgarian Air Force. The model depicts the plane at the end of its service life in 2011.

This is one of two kits in an Eduard double combo from the **Kirk collection**.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



John Walker: 1/35 M2A4 (Vargas 3D printed)

John built the model OOB and painted it with Tamiya acrylics. For weathering he used an AK dark brown wash, pastels, powders and graphite. Decals were pieced together from the spares box. Markings are for Company A, 1st Marine Tank Battalion, Guadalcanal, September 1942. John writes, "This is my first attempt at a 3D printed kit. Although it has fewer parts than a regular kit, there were some printing flaws that needed correcting and a few broken pieces needing repair. However, since I wanted to build this version of U.S. light tank, it was the only game in town."

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



John Walker: 1/35 M3A1 CDL (Takom)

John converted the Takom Grant kit to a later version M3A1 by reversing the upper hull hatch, removing the side doors, and adding the later suspension. Paints are Tamiya acrylics with weathering using sponge-applied dark OD paint as well as pastels and graphite. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for the 738th Tank Battalion, Remagen, Germany, March 1945.

The Canal Defence Light (CDL) was a British invention of WW2 based on the use of a powerful carbon-arc searchlight mounted on a tank. It was intended to be used during night-time attacks, when the light would allow enemy positions to be targeted. A secondary use of the light would be to dazzle and disorient enemy troops, making it harder for them to return fire accurately. The name Canal Defence Light was used to conceal the device's true purpose. John writes, "This vehicle represents the only time such a tank version was used in combat by the U.S. Army. It was employed as part of the defense of the Ludendorf Railway Bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen after U.S. forces captured it in March 1945. Specifically it was used to illuminate the Rhine at night in order to prevent German frogmen from trying to float down the river and attempting to blow the bridge up."

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



John Walker: 1/35 U.S. 40mm Bofors Automatic Gun(Italeri)

John built the model mostly OOB. However, "for some unknown reason Italeri missed the cutouts for the recoil spring on the sides of the gun, a very prominent feature. I added these by drilling holes fore and aft in the gun sides and then filing them out to connect them, making an oblong cutout. The spring is made from soft wire formed around a threaded rod." Paints are Tamiya acrylics weathered with an AK dark brown wash, pastels, powders and graphite. The model depicts a U.S. Army unit in northwest Europe, Summer 1944.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



John Walker: 1/35 U.S. Willys MB Jeep (Tamiya)

John built the model almost OOB except that he replaced the incorrect Tamiya jerry cans with correct Italeri items (13 of them). He also added the condenser hose and rear jerry can racks as noted in the kit instructions. Tie-down straps were fabricated from painted paper. The model was painted with Tamiya acrylics and weathered with an AK dark brown wash, pastels, powders and graphite. The model depicts a vehicle serving in the Special Air Service (SAS), Libyan Desert, July 1942.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



John Walker: 1/35 Panzer II Ausf. c (Alan)

John built the model almost OOB: The kit represents a later, up-armored version of the Ausf. c. John backdated it by removing the molded-on supplemental turret armor and adding details back to make the earlier turret without the up-armor. Decals for unit insignia are from the kit; the rest are from the spares box. Markings are for the 3rd Kompanie, Panzer-Abteilung z.b.V. 40, Norway, Spring 1940.

Upcoming Events

- March 28 **RepLICon 33**, IPMS Long Island, Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Road, Freeport, NY.
Contact James Boulukos: jnboul19@yahoo.com or 516-316-4895
- March 29 **Valleycon 35**, IPMS Wings & Wheels, Knights of Columbus, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee, MA.
Contact Al LaFleche: alfredjlaflache@gmail.com or 413-306-1270.
- April 11 **Can/Am Con '26**, IPMS Champlain Valley, Williston Armory, 7846 Williston Rd., Williston, VT.
Contact Ron Hogue: badchek75@hotmail.com or 802-399-8866.
- April 12 **Downeastcon 2026**, IPMS Southern Maine, Sanford Memorial Gym, 863 Main St., Sanford, ME.
Contact Grace Leavitt: graceel222@aol.com or 207-252-8566
- April 12 **BuffCon 41**, IPMS Niagara Frontier, Justin & Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY.
Contact Mike Butry: falcon42177@yahoo.com or 716-940-5624
- June 13 **NoreastCon 53**, The Dome Arena, 2695 East Henrietta Rd, Henrietta, NY
Log on to <https://ipmsrochester.org/noreastcon-53>
- August 5–8 **IPMS National Convention**, Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Log on to <https://ipmsnationals.org/>
- September 27 **Patcon 2026**, IPMS Patriot Scale Modelers, American Heritage Museum, Hudson/Stow, MA
Go to ipmspatriot.org
- October 2 **Armorcon**, Northeast Military Modelers Asso., Wyndham Southbury Hotel, Southbury, CT.
Contact Matt Toms: ssgtoms@sbcglobal.net
- October 18 **GraniteCon 33**, Granite State Modelers, Weare Middle School, Weare, NH.
Contact Rodney Currier: nickmatt2@roadrunner.com or 603-726-3876

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