



THE PATRIOT

IPMS Patriot Chapter Newsletter
Pip Moss, Editor

Billerica, MA
www.ipmspatriot.org



March 2026

Meeting Info

The next Patriot Chapter meeting will take place on Friday, March 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 March meeting will be a build session with a business meeting, Show-and-Tell, and a raffle.



Patriot Scale Modelers welcomes its newest member, **Pedro Estrada**, who joined us at the February meeting. Pedro brought this 1/72 "Macross Zero" VF-0S (Hasegawa) which he built OOB and painted with Tamiya acrylics plus Tamiya Panel Line Accent for some light weathering. Decals are from the kit – "lots of them, very long and fragile."

"Macross Zero" is an anime prequel OVA to the "Super Dimension Fortress Macross" released for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Macross franchise during 2002 in Japan. It was created and directed by Shoji Kawamori and produced by Satelight. The starting point for Kawamori's design was the Grumman F-14 Tomcat.

More photos of Pedro's model can be found on page

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During February's meeting, the club agreed to have all those who built models from the Kirk collection bring them in later this year, either May or June, so we can take a group photo of model and modeler to send to Mr. Kirk's daughter, the donor of the collection. Well, it was time to start and finish one of those models because I very much wanted to honor the person and the donation. I chose the MPM 1/72 Mitsubishi J8M1 "Suisei" Japanese WW2 jet. I say "finish" because I had started one of the collection kits earlier, a Special Hobby 1/72 Airacomet jet but 90% into construction, I stopped, not enjoying any of the build process, with its awful parts alignment, horrendously soft details, and vague as hell instructions. I ended up "gifting" the nearly-completed Airacomet to a friend who actually wanted to work on it further. Thankfully, the J8M1, with similar though not nearly as egregious issues, has been quite a fun project so far.

Part of what's made it fun is not only repairing a poor mold (I actually love older models with their challenges, just not ones like the Airacomet that felt like it was all pain with little if any gain) but also embellishing with added details. Specifically, the J8M1 cockpit was missing most of the internal knobs, dials and doodads—I'm not a "plane guy" so couldn't tell you what any of those things do—which gave the cockpit a very bare appearance. It needed something. So I used a clipped article Mr. Kirk included with the kit, some online photos, and the excellent instructions for the 1/48 Fine Molds version as references and fabricated some of those details into the 1/72 cockpit. Bits of styrene here, a brass rod and PE piece there, and two sizes of lead wire throughout. Plus I'll be adding a pilot figure as the plane will be posed in flight.

Most of you have heard me say it before, this is my happy place. Sometimes it's about creating a representation of something that actually existed, as in the case of the J8M1's cockpit, or came from an animated series as with my Tactical Pod Glaug, or artwork like the GM Cannon. Other times it's about creating something from within me, like the Batman 1935 vignette or the extensive adds to the Destroid Spartan. The drive to synthesize what I've seen in the real or imagined world onto a scale model, particularly the construction phase, feeds my artistic side. I can't imagine not doing this type and level of work.

I'm looking forward to wrapping up the J8M1. Not because I want to be done with the model but because I'm excited to show my vision laid down onto a very generous gift, to both the club and to Mr. Kirk's daughter. It's been a very rewarding ride.

Happy modeling,
George

Minutes from the February Meeting

The meeting was chaired by club president George Lellios.

1. Reminder to renew membership. Dues are \$15 until the March meeting, then will increase to \$20.
2. Ryan at the American Heritage Museum has offered the use of the museum facilities for a build night. Date TBD.
3. Bring any Kirk Collection builds to the June Meeting. We will be taking group photos of all of the models.
4. There are still 13 more boxes of Kirk Collection models.
5. Polo shirts are still available. \$20 per shirt. Contact George.
6. A collection of F1 auto kits was purchased by the club. Members can purchase for \$20.
7. Initial discussion of group build themes for the December meeting. The following were proposed:
 - 1/144 Scale
 - Speed: Build something that goes or looks fast
 - Try something new!
 - Collection of two or more
 - Cats
 - Redo an old kit
 - Skulls/Skeleton
 - Weathered
 - Something BIG!
 - Buddy Build: Pair up, pick a kit, and see you each can do
 - Everyone builds the same kit

More nominations will be accepted at the April meeting, after which votes will be taken to choose the winning theme.

—Austin Clark, Secretary

Show-and-Tell

Pedro Estrada..... 1/72 “Macross Zero” VF-0S (Hasegawa)
Mason Fitch “Metal Slug X” SV-001 (Xinshi)
Chris Kizik..... 1/24 1986 Monte Carlo (Revell)
1/35 M3A2 Halftrack (Tamiya)
1/35 German Assault Armor (?)
Kurt Kunze 1/144 Handley Page Victor K.2 (GWH)
Bill Michaels 1/72 Airco DH-2 (Revell)
Jamie Michaels 28mm Ashlynn, the Queen’s Blade (P.P.)
Pip Moss 1/72 Bristol Blenheim Mk. IV (Airfix)
1/72 Bristol Blenheim Mk. IVf (Airfix)
Richard Price 1/72 SS100 Gigant (Special Armor)
Tim Sistare..... 1/35 M3A1 Scout Car (Tamiya)
1/12 Death Trooper (Bandai)

Raffle Report

September winners:

Kurt Kunze, Tamiya 1/48 Bf 109 E-3
Tom Boisvert, Tamiya 1/35 M8 Greyhound
Richard Price, Miniart 1/35 Grunt Mk.1
Chris Kizik, Bandai 1/44 Kampfer Amazing
Spencer Talmage, Tamiya 1/24 Lotus Europa Special
Declan Petroski, Airfix 1/72 RAF bomber re-supply set
Austin Clark, Bandai 1/144 Gundam Aerial Rebuild

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!

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Pedro Estrada: 1/72 "Macross Zero" VF-0S (Hasegawa)

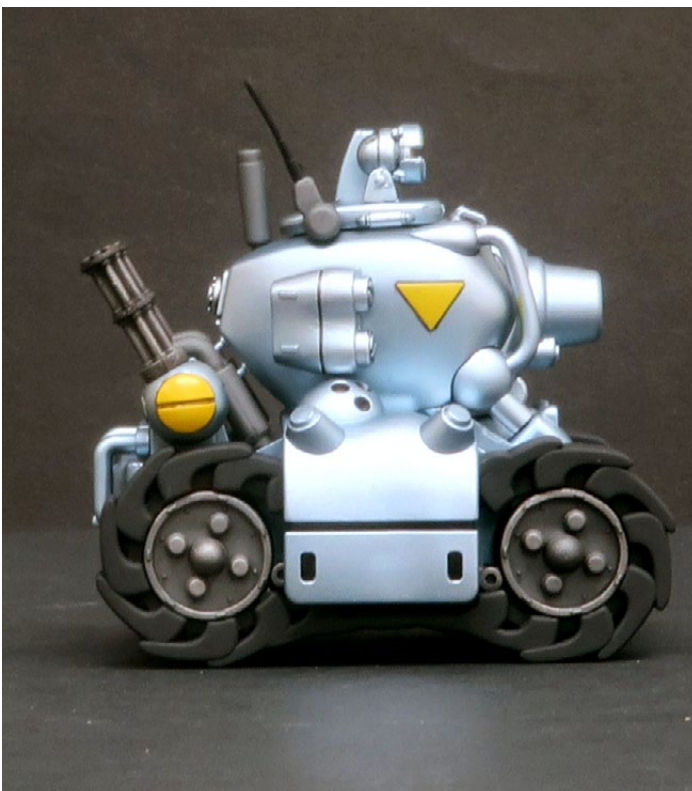


Mason Fitch

"Metal Slug X" SV-001 (Xinshi)

Mason built the model OOB using cement and Tamiya White Putty for seam removal. Paints are Mr. Color acrylic lacquers. Mason: "The body was done with black primer and Super Silver as a base coat. I lightly sprayed Clear Blue over that, then dusted on more Super Silver to knock the blue down a bit for that blue steel look." Other details were hand painted with Vallejo acrylics.

"Metal Slug X – SuperVehicle 001" is a run-and-gun video game in the "Metal Slug" franchise created by Nazca and now owned by SNK, who created the sequels to the original game.





Chris Kizik: 1/35 1986 Chevy Monte Carlo (Revell)

Chris writes, "I built this OOB probably twenty years ago. I've had it in a display case ever since; it has moved around with me. I've always loved the Monte Carlos of this era."

Chris Kizik
1/35 Future German
Assault Armor

Chris built the model mostly OOB, but added two saddle bags. Paints are Vallejo German Grey, German Black-Brown, Luftwaffe Uniform, and Panzer Dark Grey along with Rust, Silver to highlight rivets, and a dark wash. Decals are from the spares stash. Chris writes, "This is just a random resin kit I found online that looked cool and was German armor. Parts weren't too bad, but it lacked good detail in some areas."





Chris Kizik: 1/35 M3 Half-track (Tamiya)

Chris built the model mostly OOB, but added some random stowage from part boxes. Paints are Vallejo OD, Medium Olive, Camouflage Dark Green and Field Gray with dust pigments and splashes. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for the U.S. Army A Company, 6th Infantry Battalion, 1st Armored Division. The M3 began its WW2 combat operations with the Torch invasion of North Africa, continued for the duration of the Italian campaign, and ended as part of the occupying forces in Germany.

Chris writes, "I believe this kit is the 1975 Tamiya Half-track. Molding of sprues showed its age. This was the second half-track kit of this era I've built as practice, this time to try different paint methods, especially the figures."

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Kurt Kunze: 1/144 Handley Page Victor K.2 (Great Wall Hobby)

Kurt built the model OOB. Paints are Gunze Sangyo; decals are from the kit. Markings are for RAF 55 Sqn., Operation Granby (Desert Storm), Jubail Naval Airport, Saudi Arabia.

The Victor started its life as a Cold War strategic bomber, the last of the three RAF "V-Bombers" along with the Avro Vulcan and the Vickers Valiant. During the 1970s, with the Victor fleet exhibiting metal fatigue issues and the demand growing for in-flight refueling, 24 B.2s were converted to tanker configuration and redesignated K.2. Eight of these planes served in this role during the first Gulf War.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Bill Michaels: 1/72 Airco DH-2 (Revell, 1974 boxing)

Bill made a number of improvements to the old Revell kit: in the cockpit, he added a scratchbuilt instrument panel and other interior framing details, plus an older aftermarket generic British WW1 white metal seat. Bill: "I used the kit pilot because it is as good as or better than any potential replacements. Plus, he has more character with that jaunty mustache!" On the outside, Bill replaced the kit's oversize wheels with ones that were proper size/style. Bill: "I was going to replace the kit's rotary engine with an aftermarket metal cast one, but after cleaning up the molding seams on both options, the kit version was better looking!" Bill also replaced the "pointy blobby thing – the kit's worst looking part" – with a cast metal Lewis Gun. Paints are Beige Stynylrez primer, and Tamiya, AK & Vallejo acrylic colors. Markings, all painted, are generic for an RFC plane in 1916. Rigging is smoke colored nylon thread. Bill: "The kit is clunky compared to the more finely molded Eduard kit, but it is also a lot easier to build! I wanted to try to replicate the prominent aileron control cables on the top wing, so I made the pulleys out of small pins. It isn't perfect, but I think I'm on to something that can be refined in future builds."

This model is from the **Kirk Collection**.



Jamie Michaels: 28mm Ashlynn d'Elyse, the Queen's Blade (Privateer Press)

Jamie added a wooden block for the statue's pedestal. He painted the figure with P3 colors plus a dark wash. In the steampunk-fantasy Iron Kingdoms universe, Ashlynn d'Elyse is one of the last surviving Llaelese warcasters and the supreme military leader of the Llaelese Resistance. She is considered the Resistance's strongest military asset with her personal combat expertise and power as a warcaster.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Pip Moss: 1/72 Bristol Blenheim Mk. IV (Airfix)

The model was built mostly from the old Airfix kit, vintage 1967. It has been described by a Britmodeller poster as "that horror of a kit." Typical of Airfix moldings from that era, all the exterior surfaces were covered in scale baseball-size rivets. These were all sanded off, and the upper wing panel lines were scribed. The clear parts were very thick and fit very badly. I was able to make the gaps somewhat less stark using Micro Kristal Klear. I had to mask the clear panels with Scotch Tape and a sharp knife since there were no aftermarket mask sets to be found. I deemed the kit decal sheet useless due to its age and the poor color renditions, so I invested in an Xtradecal sheet with markings for around eight Mk. IVs and Mk. IVfs. Rather than have the rest of the sheet go to waste, I purchased online a copy of the recent Airfix Blenheim Mk. IVF (2016). When I opened it, I found that the rudder had been removed from its sprue, so I bought another copy. This allowed me to use some parts from the extra new kit to improve the detail in various areas of the old kit, notably the cockpit interior, the turret, the tail wheel, and the radio antenna mast. Camouflage paints are Mr. Color Sky and Extra Dark Sea Grey, and AK Real Colors Dark Slate Grey. The exhaust collector rings and pipes were base coated with Alclad Stainless Steel, after which light coats of Alclad Hot Metal Burnt Carbon were misted on to darken them as much as desired. Markings are for a coastal patrol plane from RAF 771 Sqn. based at RNAS Twatt, Orkney Islands, Scotland in 1943.

This model is from the **Kirk Collection**.

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Pip Moss: 1/72 Bristol Blenheim Mk. IVF (Airfix)

This model was built from the 2015 re-tooled Airfix kit. I added masking tape seat belts and drilled out the various engine intakes. Airfix molded the four wingtip clear nav light covers as part of the wings, so I cut out the segments, cut pieces of clear sprue to fit the angled edges, superglued them in place, shaped them with file and sandpaper, and buffed them out with automotive rubbing compound using a Dispaie motor tool and buffing sponges. Paints are Mr. Color Sky, AK Real Colors Dark Earth, and MRP Dark Green. I used the kit decals for the port wing walk area, the yellow gas detection patch, and the upper wing roundels. The rest of the markings came from the same Xtradecal sheet used for the model on page 12. The model depicts another coastal patrol Blenheim, this one from RAF 248 Sqn. based at RAF Dyce, 1940-41. Although the Mk. IVF was primarily a long-range fighter, a period photo of this plane clearly shows the two rows of bomb racks under the rear fuselage.

This recent Airfix offering is far more detailed and refined than the old 1967 kit. The clear parts fit much better and are clear enough to allow cockpit details to be seen through them. The landing gear and engines are much more complete, although the engine nacelles are not quite right for a Blenheim since Airfix used a Bollingbroke (Canadian version) for shapes and dimensions. At the same time, this new kit is far more complicated and fiddly to build, and some of the engineering leads to some fit issues, especially in the three-part engine cowlings and exhaust collector rings. Still, for anyone wanting a 1/72 Blenheim, there's really no reason to struggle with the old 1967 "horror."

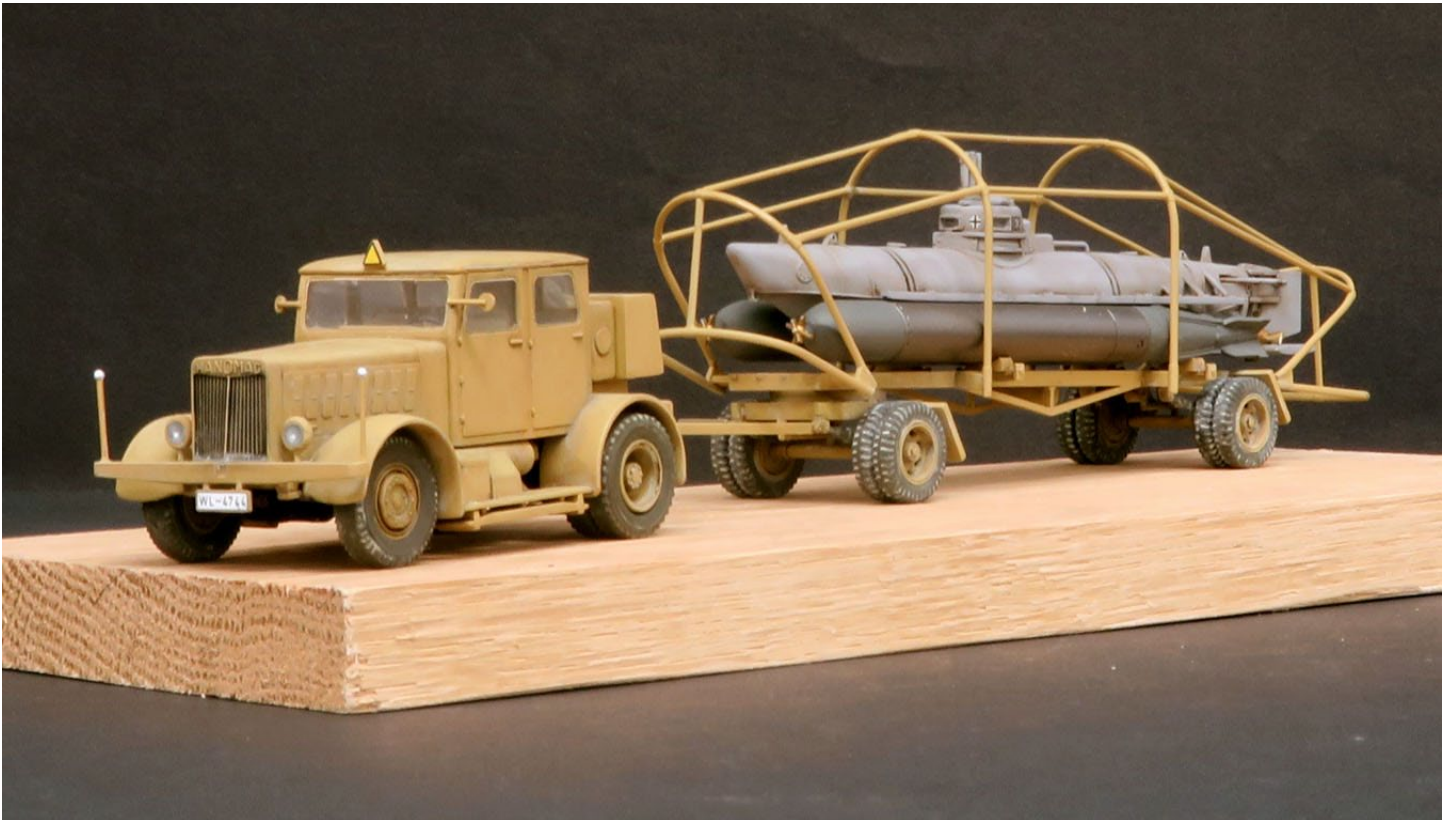
Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Bart Navarro: 1/25 1940 Ford Coupe (AMT)

Bart built the model OOB. He used Model Master enamel Gloss Black and three coats of automotive 2K clear lacquer. Bart writes, "One of Henry's classics. Completely box stock build. Added plug wires."

Show-and-Tell Gallery (concluded)



Richard Price: 1/72 Hanomag SS-100 Gigant tractor with Biber sub and trailer (Special Armor)

Richard built the models OOB and painted them with Humbrol enamels, lightly weathered with oils and pigments. Decals are from the kit. Richard writes, "The tractor and trailer are actually two separate kits (three with the sub), but I bought them to make this combination. The sub was in Show-and-Tell at the December 2025 meeting. The Gigant kit provided three markings options, but none of them were applicable to towing minisubs, so I just used a set without worrying."

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Tim Sistare: 1/35 M3A1 Scout Car with Russian Crew (Tamiya)

Tim built the model mostly OOB, but added Miniart weapons and stowage. Paints are Tamiya acrylics. His first attempt with a home-mixed flat coat left a frosty mist due to too much flat base. Tim was able to remove most of it with IPA and then re-applied more successfully. Decals are from the kit, some of which ripped and were replaced with spares. For weathering, Tim added chipping effects with sponge and brush, and enamel washes and streaks. He also melted some of the fenders with a candle to simulate dents and damage. Markings are for the 3rd Soviet Guards Unit, East Germany, 1945.

Tim writes, "Overall I tried to make the vehicle look as lived in as possible, crammed with stowage, weapons and ammo. Using the Soviet Automatic Weapons set from Miniart was an excellent way to improve on the Tamiya weapons and to include accurate stowage and extra equipment. Where possible I added details such as cables for the headlights, straps for weans and entrenching tools, and even an Order of Lenin for the officer. The figure set is newer, from Tamiya. The sculpts were excellent, which made the process of painting, highlighting and detailing a much better experience than the older kit figures."



Tim Sistare

**1/12 "Rogue One" Death Trooper
(Bandai)**

Tim built the kit totally OOB - no paint, no decals, no nothing. He writes, "Fun, quick build right out of the box that looks the part. Great example of excellent Bandai snap-together engineering, which impressed me a lot as this was my first proper Star Wars kit from them. Looking forward to getting my hands on a classic Storm Trooper next."



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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