



THE PATRIOT

IPMS Patriot Chapter Newsletter
Pip Moss, Editor

Billerica, MA
www.ipmspatriot.org



August 2026

Meeting Info

The next Patriot Chapter meeting will take place on Friday, August 7, 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 August meeting will be a build session with a business meeting, Show-and-Tell, and a raffle.



Leon Wlodyka, one of our newest members, brought this neat little 1/76 vignette of a Vietnam era M551 Sheridan that he built from the Airfix kit. Leon made a bunch of modifications to the kit: muzzle break enlarged per period photo, field modified bolt on frontal armor, tow rings added fore and aft, fire extinguisher handle added to side, water vane window glossed, inflatable side bladders painted black, tracks sagged with wire as per period photo, light guards made from brass rods, engine screens per period photo using 1/72 scale train photo etch set, pioneer tools from an unknown kit, ACAV gun shields made from styrene and brass sheets, M2 detailed, bustle rack made from a 1/72 scale train PE set and styrene, miscellaneous crew gear, styrene and resin odds and ends. The tank crew are modified 1/87 Preisler Luftwaffe figures. Leon painted the tank with Testors rattle can enamels and weathered with red oxide pastels to simulate Vietnam soil color. The model depicts a vehicle nicknamed "VC go home," which was written on the gun shield with white colored pencil. The base is a hobby shop plaque with papier-maché pulp for ground.

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More than a few someones have said recently that “we live in a Golden Age of Scale Modeling.” I couldn’t agree more. The quality of model kits being produced today has exploded, as have the number of quality manufacturers. There’s a huge array of specialty tools available to simplify tasks or improve a model’s final look, including 3D printers which are now ubiquitous. But for me, what best exemplifies this as a Golden Age is the internet.

Put down the pitchforks and hear me out. The internet and those places that reside on it have expanded our access to knowledge and resources by magnitudes. A digital Library of Alexandria with instant access and targeted learning, if you will. One can quickly gather large numbers of photos via Google search of a specific WW2 Italian fighter one wants to replicate, read multiple airbrush review blogs, watch a YouTube video on how to scribe panel lines, ask those in a Discord community to recommend a very particular paint color for one’s Gundam, check out or discover the latest world-class work of internationally competitive modelers on Instagram, download an STL file for a needed printable part to upgrade a car mode, and easily purchase what cool or hard-to-find thing one needs from Amazon or Aliexpress. Just a few examples of how the lightspeed “information highway” has benefited us modelers.

This is not to discount books, magazines, group meets, local shops, or other traditional forms of learning and accessing. Far from it: those remain vital to our hobby. But look at how many more avenues are now available to us, ones not there pre-internet, and look at how they’ve helped to improve our skills, expedite our learning, and expand our understanding of our subjects. Here’s an example, one I briefly touched on off-mic with the hosts of the Built Sideways podcast last weekend. I first returned to scale modeling in the mid 1980s after discovering these crazy Japanese giant robot and sci-fi ship models at a comic book store. I didn’t know what most were, and couldn’t Google to learn their story or ask an online forum. Print was the primary source for information, and there wasn’t much of it. What there was was in Japanese, a language I did not know; no translation app existed to assist. My earliest scratchbuilding was something I just bashed my way through—no YouTube tutorial to watch and learn from or Facebook group to post questions to.

I’m no internet zealot. The internet is a tool and, like any tool, can be used for good or ill, as social media has clearly proven over the last decade and change. But for us scale modelers, I’d say there’s been way more positive than negative. Since returning again to the hobby in 2018, my growth and what I’ve been able to accomplish with a model is helped largely in part to what I’ve seen, read, watched, learned, and accessed on the net. So grateful for its existence.

Happy modeling,
George

P.S. Shameless plug: As mentioned above, Mason Fitch and I were guests on the upcoming Built Sideways podcast, discussing Patcon and progress in the hobby. Check it out! And while you’re at it, check out Mason and Spencer Talmage on the current On The Bench podcast, also promoting Patcon!

Patcon Update and Sponsorships/Raffle Appeals

Planning for Patcon 2026 is moving right along. A lot of the prep work is done, the results of which are now posted on the club website. A couple of places where we could use some help:

1. Awards Sponsorships:

We are looking for help in selling these —everyone can help! Anyone may sponsor one (or more) awards — family, friends, local businesses, people who owe you a favor, etc.

Category and special award sponsorships are available for \$30. Each category/award sponsorship includes public acknowledgement in three ways:

1. Printed display of the sponsor name on the category placard with models on the display table,
2. Announcement during the awards presentation ceremony, and
3. Sponsor information on the club website on the list of categories and winners.

You may request to sponsor a specific category, a general type (i.e. “aircraft”), or any available category. See the [Patcon Website](#) for the list of available categories and more information.

2. Raffle Prizes:

Chris Kizik is collecting the kits to stock the show’s “standard” raffle. We currently have only 50% or so of the number of kits we need to fill out the table. We are looking for donations of kits primarily, though tools and supplies are OK too. Kits don’t need to be new — they just need to be in good shape, complete and unstarted. We are especially short on armor and auto kits!

Please bring donations to the meetings and pass them to Chris.

Let’s all make Patcon 2026 our best one yet!!

—Bill Michaels, Patcon Committee Chairman

Patcon Reception/Build Night

**Saturday September 26th, 5:30–9:30 p.m.
at the American Heritage Museum main building**

Come hang out on the museum floor for a build night and social gathering. This is for people who have traveled for our show, as well as locals, to have a chance to spend time together without the workload of the following day.

Limited to 50 spots so please RSVP to Mason Fitch (baconygood@gmail.com) with your email address. He will send an email to all confirmed attendees.

Minutes from the July Meeting

The meeting was chaired by 1st VP Bill Michaels

1. Patcon

- See Chris Kizik to donate models for the Patcon Raffle. We are in need of all genres. Kits must be complete and not started in any way. It is fine if the kits are unsealed.
- 2026 Patcon info will be updated on the webpage this coming week.
- Mason and Spencer will be on the “On the Bench” podcast to promote Patcon.
- Mason will be on the “Built Sideways” podcast to promote Patcon.

2. **Kirk Collection:** Continue to bring in any Kirk kits you don't think you will build so that others can take advantage.

The meeting then adjourned and was followed by Show-and-Tell and the monthly raffle.

—Austin Clark, Secretary

Show-and-Tell

Eric Xu 1/72 F-15J “Umegumi” (Platz)
Amelia Wolfe 1/72 Yak-9D (Airfix)
Leon Wlodyka 1/76 M551 Sheridan (Airfix)
John Walker 1/72 Spitfire Mk. Ia (Airfix)
 1/72 Spitfire Mk. Vb (Airfix)
Richard Price 1/35 Hawk M.M-23 (AFV Club)
 1/72 M1001 & Pershing Launcher (Model Collect)
 1/20 Tyrell Yahaha 023 (Tamiya)
Pip Moss 1/48 Spitfire HF Mk. VIII
Daniel Lovering 1/20 Lotus Honda 99T (Tamiya)
Mike Lents 1/48 Polikarpov I-16 Type 5 (Hobbycraft)
 1/48 I-16 Type 17 (Hobbycraft)
Kurt Kunze 1/72 B5N2 (Hasegawa)
Chris Kizik 1/48 Bf 109E (Monogram)
Doug Hamm 1/72 PVY-5A (Academy)
 1/48 SBD-5 (Revell/AM)
Peter Foti 1/35 Hover Barge (Scratchbuilt)
Ken Fields 28mm Pegasus diorama
 Two 28mm female monks
Linda Crummett..... 1/540 Statue of Liberty (Italeri)

Raffle Report

July winners:

Chris Kizik, Tamiya 1/35 Type 10
Leon Wlodyka, Takom 1/35 1/4 Ton
Andy Kitt, Tamiya 1/35 Panzer III
Ken Fields, Hasegawa 1/48 OH-6D Shark Teeth
Eric Xu, Tamiya 1/48 F-15C Eagle
Alan Beeber, Vallejo paints and painting turntable
Doug Hamm, Revell 1/48 Mirage 2000C
Mike Hirsch, Airfix 1/72 Lancaster B3
Spencer Talmage, Third Party 1/144 Assorted Gunpla
Linda Crummett, Dragon 1/35 M4A4



Eric Xu: 1/72 F-15J "Umegumi" (Platz)

Eric built the model OOB and painted it with Vallejo acrylics: White, metallic colors and generic grays. Decals are from the kit. The markings depict a plane in the celebratory livery of the 40th anniversary (1978-2018) of the JASDF's 305th Tactical Fighter Squadron. Eric writes, "The decals were very large: one per wing, two per tail, one per horizontal stabilator, etc."

"Umegumi" translates to "Plum Blossom Group" (referring to the ume flower). The distinct digital camouflage covering the aircraft features shades of pink, orange, red, and white, designed to mimic the plum blossoms that grow around the squadron's former base. A large plum blossom is prominently displayed on the dorsal spine and the vertical tails.



Amelia Wolfe: 1/72 Yak-9D (Airfix)

Amelia built the model mostly OOB, but added a Soviet pilot figure from the spares box and a wind screen from an Amodel I-16 kit. She used Tamiya spray cans for the base colors and brush painted Vallejo for detailing. Decals are from the AML sheet "Stalin's Eagles in Yaks II." Markings are for a plane piloted by notable World War II Soviet ace Captain Nikolai Fedorovitch Denchik, commander of the 64th GIAP (Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment), Baltic and Belorussian fronts, Winter 1943. Amelia adds, "The kit was from a blister pack dating from 1973."



John Walker

1/72 Spitfire Mk. Ia (Airfix)

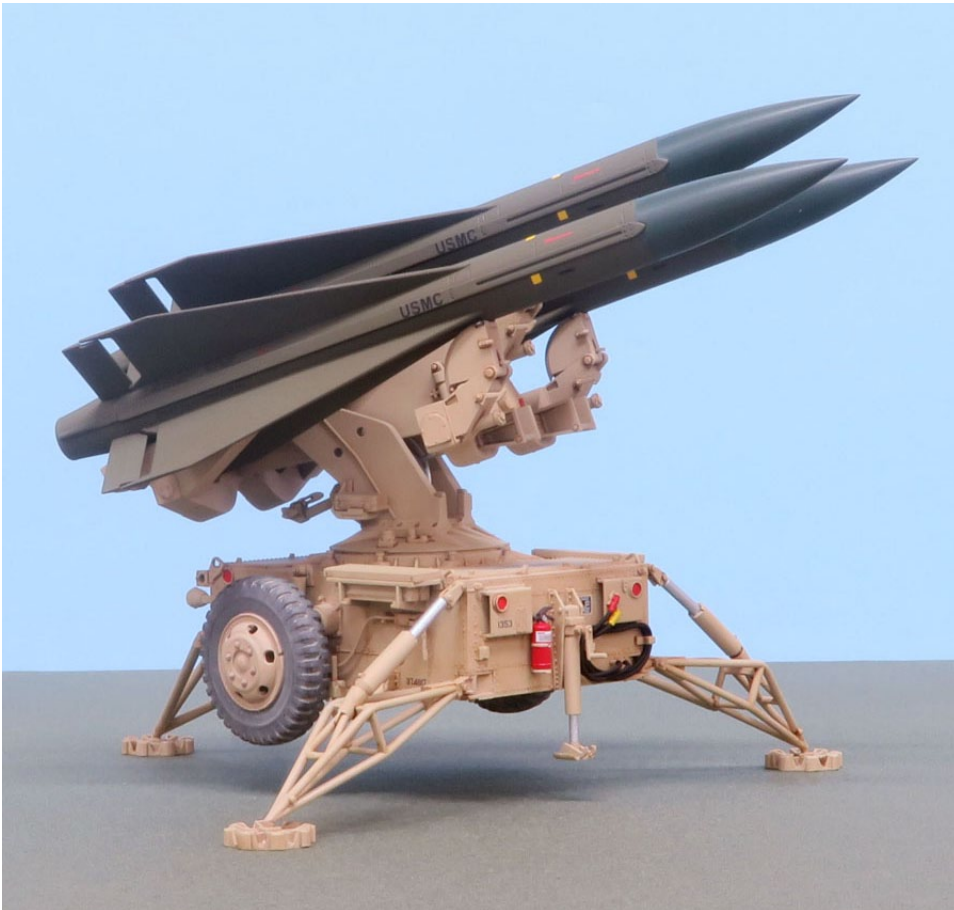
John built the model OOB and painted it with Vallejo Model Air acrylics. He used tube water color, powders and pencil lead for weathering. Decals are from the kit; markings are for No. 92 (East India) Squadron, RAF Hornchurch, June 1940.



John Walker
1/72 Spitfire Mk. Vb
(Airfix, 1974 issue)

John built the model OOB and painted it with Vallejo Model Air acrylics. For weathering he used tube water color, powders and pencil lead. Decals are from a Revell Mk. Vb kit; markings are for No. 303 Squadron (Polish), RAF Northolt, September 1942.

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



Richard Price
1/35 MIM-23 HAWK
(AFV Club)

Richard built the model OOB and painted it with Vallejo acrylics. Decals are from the kit; markings are for the USMC during the 1st Gulf War. Richard writes, "Legs were tricky, but still a very satisfying build."

The Raytheon MIM-23 HAWK ("Homing All the Way Killer") medium-range surface-to-air missile was designed as a much more mobile counterpart to the MIM-14 Nike Hercules, trading off range and altitude capability for a much smaller size and weight. Its low-level performance was greatly improved over Nike through the adoption of new radars and a continuous wave semi-active radar homing guidance system. It entered service with the US Army in 1959.





Richard Price

**1/72 M1001 MAN Tractor & Pershing II Launcher
(Modelcollect)**

Richard added a Tetra PE set. The models were painted with Vallejo acrylics (NATO Green). No decals were used: "The kit decals are for a US Army unit with a HEMTT tractor. This is a German Bundeswehr about which the kit says nothing – no instructions even for the included decal sheet. Complicated kit; complicated PE."

The NATO M1001 MAN Tractor is produced by the German company MAN Truck & Bus AG. It was designed to be a versatile and robust military vehicle used for towing and transporting heavy equipment, trailers, and other military payloads. It serves as a prime mover for a variety of military logistics tasks.

The Pershing II was a mobile, two-stage solid-fueled intermediate-range ballistic missile deployed by the U.S. Army in West Germany from 1983 to 1991. Designed to carry a variable-yield thermonuclear warhead up to 1,770 km, it was completely eliminated under the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.



Richard Price: 1/20 Tyrrell Yamaha 023 (Tamiya)

Richard built the model OOB. Paints are Alclad Primer White, custom-mixed blues, and Tamiya Satin Black. Kit decals were used for the sponsors, but the decals provided for the blue body work were terrible and ended up being used as masking guides. Richard went with the second markings option: the car driven by the "Flying Finn," Mika Makinen. Richard writes, "The rear body is supposed to be removable, but was so badly warped it couldn't be a loose fit. There is an engine in there as well."



Pip Moss: 1/48 Spitfire HF Mk. VIII (Eduard Profipack)

The kit was built mostly OOB with the exception of scratchbuilt landing gear indicators on the wings and an Eduard Brassin resin one-piece engine top cowling. The latter item, surprisingly, was molded much too thick to fit the kit for which it was designed, so it had to be ground out from the inside using a sanding wheel on a Dremel tool. The Profipack boxing provided PE seat belts and other details as well as cockpit and wheel paint masks. The relatively unusual RAF Day Fighter (High Altitude) paint scheme introduced in 1942 consisted of Medium Sea Grey top and side surfaces over PRU Blue underneath. I used MRP for the MSG and Model Master enamel for the PRU Blue. Cockpit base color is Model Master enamel Interior Grey-Green. The model was weathered with black post-shading for panel lines, a burnt umber/black oil wash for panel lines and general grime, and pastel dust for exhaust staining. Decals are from the kit (not the new type): they worked very well. Markings are for RAF No. 32 Squadron, Foggia, Italy, early 1944.

The model depicts an early incarnation of the Mk. VIII, which started as an unpressurized version of the high altitude Mk. VII. While it exhibits the Mk. VIII characteristics of shortened ailerons and retractable tail wheel, it retains the smaller, rounded rudder of earlier marks. The bizarre extended wing tips were only retained for a short while since they were found not to improve high altitude performance significantly while degrading maneuverability. Mk. VIIIs after this first batch reverted to normal span wings with the larger, pointed rudder; and high- and low-altitude versions were distinguished only by the model of the Merlin engine installed.



Daniel Lovering: 1/20 Lotus Honda 99T (Tamiya)

Daniel added a Studio27 detail-up set, Tamiya seat belts, and a Stone Models 3D printed seat to replace the kit part, which has molded seat belts. Paints are Tamiya7a lacquers and acrylics, Vallejo acrylics, Spaz Stix Ultimate Mirror Chrome, and Winsor & Newton Galeria Satin Varnish. Decals are from the kit. Daniel writes, "A few parts were slight malformed and needed to be modified to fit together properly, but overall the kit, dating from the late '80s, was very nicely engineered. A good part of the effort was applying decals and achieving a high gloss finish. The decals were predictably thick; and after three or four coats of Tamiya LP-9 clear gloss, I decided not to try to bury them completely. Curiously, the Lotus decal for the monocoque was not included on the decal sheet, although it appeared on the actual car based on online reference photos. The model depicts the no. 12 Lotus driven by legendary Brazilian Grand Prix driver Ayrton Senn. In 1987 he won two GP races in this car, at Monaco and Detroit, although with a slightly different livery that included the Camel wordmark. This version, with the Lotus wordmark, was used at GP races in Britain and Germany, where tobacco advertising was prohibited."



Mike Lents

1/48 Polikarpov I-16, Type 5 (Hobbycraft)

Both this model and the one on Page 14 were built from Hobbycraft Type 10 kits, which provide parts (clear pieces, guns, etc.) for other versions. Mike added a Barracuda seat with cast seat belts. He did scratchbuilding in the cockpit including framework and controls, and he opened the hinged door and added padding and latches. He used E-Z line painted steel for the landing gear retraction cables and antenna wires. Paints are various shades of Model Master enamels: Flat Black with a drop of white added, Drab Green FS 34127 and Russian Underside Blue for the airframe. Rudder colors are Insignia Red, Chrome Yellow and Testors small bottle Violet. NMF areas are Testors Metalizer Non-buffing Aluminum. The red stripes were masked and painted. Final clear coat is a mix of 2/3 Testors Dullcoat to 1/3 Testors Glosscoat, which gives a muted, slight sheen. Decals are from a 1994 SuperScale sheet; markings are for the Spanish Republican Air Force, Grupo 21, 1st Escuadrilla, early Summer 1938.

Mike writes, "Although originally engineered by Hobbycraft, this kit is still produced by Academy. I know accuracy is certainly questionable for the entire HC I-16 series, but then there are reports that the newer Eduard kits are also less than accurate in places. Frankly, if a simple weekend build where you can just have fun, put it together and slap some paint and decals on is something that interests you, this would be one of the kits to use."



Mike Lents

1/48 Polikarpov I-16, Type 17 (Hobbycraft)

Mike did the same extra work on this model that he did on his Type 5 on Page 13 including the cockpit detailing and the opened access door. Paints again are various shades of Model Master enamels: Medium Green FS 34102 and Russian Underside Blue for the airframe, Chrome yellow for the rudder flash, and Non-buffing Aluminum for NMF areas. Final clear coat is a mix of 2/3 Testors Dullcoat to 1/3 Testors Glosscoat, which gives a muted, slight sheen. Decals are the "decal dungeon," applied using Micro Set and Sol; markings are for the VVS (Soviet Air Force) 4th GIAP (Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment), Baltic Fleet AF, Leningrad Front, Autumn 1942.

Mike writes, "I actually built this second I-16 in conjunction with the Type 5 above. The Type 17 sports 20mm cannons in place of the Type 5's two machine guns. It was used effectively against German ground targets during the Barbarossa invasion. Most VVS aircraft after November 1941 had no upper wing stars."





Kurt Kunze
1/72 Mitsubishi B5N2
(Hasegawa)

Kurt built the model mostly OOB, but added an Aeroclub machine gun. Paints are AMMO by Mig, AK and Tamiya. The Hinomarus are home made; other markings are from Aero-master. Markings are for the lead plane of the Pearl Harbor first wave attack, off the IJN carrier Akagi.

This model came from the
Kirk Collection.



Chris Kizik: 1/48 Bf 109E (Monogram)

Chris built the model OOB and painted it with Mig AMMO Atom Cold Gray (bottom) and Pacific Green (top). He also used Mig Satin Black and Vallejo Flat Yellow. Decals are from the kit; markings are for an unknown unit. Chris writes, "This was from the **Kirk Collection**. Many pieces were missing including the cockpit and some extras with instructions."

Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Doug Hamm: 1/72 PBX-5A Catalina (Revell)

Doug built the model, the cockpit and interior fuselage of which had already been started by John Kirk, OOB, but added E-Z Line rigging. Paints are Tamiya acrylics mixed using an FS chart with some light exhaust staining and scrape marks on the bottom of the hull. Decals, from the spares box, are for a generic plane from an unknown unit sometime between 1941 and 1943.

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



Doug Hamm: 1/48 SBD-5 Dauntless (Academy, ex-Accurate Miniatures)

Doug built the model OOB and painted it with Tamiya Acrylics which were mixed using an FS chart. For weathering he used a pin wash and chipping. Decals are from the kit; markings are for VB-5 aboard USS Yorktown (CV-10), October 1943.



Peter Foti :1/35 Hover Barge (scratchbuilt)

Peter fabricated the model using styrene sheet and detailed it with various model parts and a few 3D printed items. The crane was built from Evergreen tubing and detailed with model parts. Peter adds, "There's a bit more to do: I'd like to add some markings if I can find suitable decals, and I'm unhappy with the paint jobs on the figures."



Ken Fields: D & D Pegasus and Two Female Monks



Linda Crummett
1/540 Statue of Liberty
(Italeri)

Linda built the kit OOB, but added the patriotic banner, benches and N-scale people. Paints are Vallejo acrylics: Green Sky for the statue and US Desert Armor for the base. Linda writes, "I have had this kit for several years and decided what better time to build it than America's 250th birthday."



Upcoming Events

- 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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