

2010 IPMS Region VI Chapter of the Year  
 2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year  
 2009 IPMS Region VI Website of the Year



Vol. 18, No. 7

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

July 2010

# SPRUE EXAMINER



## My Dream T-Bird

by Eric Choy, IPMS #44323

The latest generation of Ford Motor Company's Thunderbird made its debut in the form of a concept car at the Detroit Auto Show in January 1999. Its retro 1950s styling and the classic look of an American sports car won over both public and critics alike. Ford was so convinced of the success of the new design that they revived the Thunderbird line they had discontinued two years earlier.

Unfortunately, due to poor planning and numerous delays, the production model did not reach Ford's dealerships until late 2001. By that time the hype had already fizzled. To make matters worse, the vehicle Ford delivered was very different from the concept car seen at the show 30 months earlier. Despite then CEO Jacques Nasser's promise of minimal modification when bringing concepts to production, the 2002 Thunderbird was an overpriced two-door sports car with mediocre performance and gaudy interior borrowed heavily from the Lincoln LS sedan. Sales

plummeted after the first model year, and Ford finally threw in the towel *again* when less than 12,000 were sold in 2004.

The first time I saw the new Thunderbird was in downtown Bastrop back in 2003. I was mesmerized by both the car and the sexy blonde who drove it. That was before I knew how much the car costs and how little it delivers. That being said, I still like the styling of the car (and the blonde of course). I suppose if I can't have the real thing, I can always build the model instead.

### The Kit

As far as I know, the only kit available is this Revell Snap-tite. It's really a "kiddy kit," and I'm not sure if it is worth the asking price of \$12. Just like the real car, my desire to build the model fizzled. Then fellow member Jack Johnston had one for sale on his table at one of the local shows. I couldn't resist Jack's persuasion and handed him a large sum of money (\$5) for it.

Not in a million years do I consider myself a car modeler, but I'm always in dire need of articles

*(continued on page 4)*

ASMS is on the Internet

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**Upcoming Events****Model Shows**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>IPMS/USA National Convention, Phoenix, AZ</b>               | <b>August 4-7</b> |
| IPMS/El Paso, Bassett Place Model Display, El Paso, TX         | August 14         |
| IPMS/HAMS, 4th Annual Model Car Show and Contest, Spring, TX   | August 21         |
| IPMS/Fort Worth, SuperCon 2010, Arlington, TX                  | Sept 11           |
| IPMS/Emerald City Modelers, OzCon 2010, Wichita, KS            | Sept 18           |
| IPMS/Houma-Thibodaux Scale Modelers, AutumnCon 2010, Houma, LA | Sept 18           |

**Local Club Meetings**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin Public Library Yarborough Branch | August 4 |
| Central Texas Scale Modelers Society, Harker Heights Activities Center | July 15  |
| Lone Star Military Miniature Society, San Marcos Public Library        | July 17  |

**Other Events**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Central Texas Scale Modelers Society Annual Model Auction                  | July 15  |
| New Braunfels Summer Model Train Show, New Braunfels                       | July 17  |
| Living History Program, National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum) | Sept 4-5 |

**Support Our Troops!**

**The Iraq Model Network** is an initiative for providing model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in the combat zones of Iraq. Any individual, chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please visit the IPMS/USA website ([www.ipmsusas.org](http://www.ipmsusas.org)) and click on the Support The Troops page link.

**ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2009-10**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Mike Kachoris</b><br>president, mjk005@excite.com           | 262-3404 |
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| <b>Milton Bell</b><br>IPMS/USA coordinator, rmbell36@gmail.com | 454-2395 |

Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month except for December. Annual dues for full membership are \$20 (individual) or \$25 (family).

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

## Mike's Montage...

Well, I don't believe in leprechauns or fairy god-mothers, but our fine club, ASMS, must have a guardian angel. Just last week I got a call from our regional coordinator **Shawn Glaspell**. He stated that ASMS has won this year's **Region VI Chapter of the Year Award**, and we are also in the running for the IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year.

This award is a true testament to all our hard working members of this club. It just shows that we have something to offer and are willing to go out and do what is necessary to promote the hobby of scale modeling. We have a core of very dedicated and passionate members that have a love for history, building models and seeing our club grow. So congratulations to all of you and all of your hard work.

So now after the kudos, it's time to get back to work. Our annual show is just around the corner, and our executive and contest staff need all your help in making this a great show. It's time to step up to the plate and start volunteering. There is still a lot of manpower that needs to be addressed. Think about what you can offer and sign up. Please work on promoting our club and sell trophy packages. These additional funds help offset the cost of putting on our show.

Time is running. Let's step it up. See you all at the meeting. ✍️

Mike



## Small Changes, Big Results

by Gilbert Moreno

The purpose of this article is to illustrate how making small changes can add interest and character to any basic figure. The figure I'm using is a new WWII Australian tanker from New World Miniatures. I do not usually paint or sculpt WWII subjects since my historical interests lie elsewhere, but what struck me interesting was the Thompson submachine gun he was carrying over his shoulder.

The figure was sculpted by well known sculptor Brian Stewart. Although the face is nicely done, in my opinion it lacks emotion. I opted to substitute the kit supplied head with one from the Hornet range by John Saunders. The one I chose was from the HH-11 smiling set.

I decided to keep the hat that came with the kit, so I needed to find a way to attach it to the Hornet head. Because hats are designed to lie flat across the top of the head, their placement is somewhat limited. I shaved down the head and hollowed out the inside of the hat to allow more options in positioning (photo 1). I finally settled on having it slightly tilted to one side and tipped back on the head.

(continued on page 5)



## 2010 Monthly Meeting Program Schedule



|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| July      | <b>Ken La Ronde</b><br><i>"Modeling 27BP-P"</i> |
| August*   | <b>Phil Brandt</b>                              |
| September | <b>Mike Broussard</b>                           |
| October   | <b>Karl Leidy</b>                               |
| November* | <b>Angie Forster</b>                            |

\* denotes Quarterly Contest Nights

If your name is on the list and you know your program topic already, please notify your editor (**Eric Choy**) or webmaster (**Mike Gilsbach**) so it can be published in this newsletter and on our website. ✍️

Editor

(Building Monogram's P-47D Razorback continued)

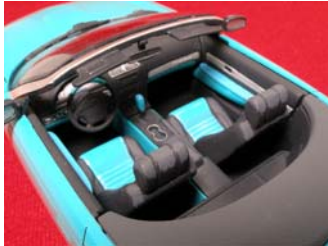
on car models. So here I am bantering away on my first Snap-tite kit.

### Research

Before I started, I thought I ought to do some research. Mainly I needed to know the colors of the inside of the car. As not too many photos of the interior are posted on the Internet, I turned to my next most reliable source: original Ford Thunderbird sales brochure. You just can't get any more accurate than that! It turns out there are tons of them available on eBay at bargain prices. So I obtained mine for a mere \$6. That was easy!

### Construction

I started with the interior according to the instruction sheet. The kit's rendition of the interior is fairly accurate, minus some of the details like seatbelts, turn signal lever, rearview mirror, etc. The instrument panel is a sticker instead of a decal. It's not great but is workable. The seats are made up of two parts joined vertically, and they need heavy filling and sanding to get rid of the gaps.



After I glued everything down, I painted all the black items with Faded Black—a very Dark Panzer Gray like color by Reaper Miniatures. The advantage of this color is that you can still shadow with pure black and be able to tell the difference. A trick I learned from figure painting: never paint anything pure white or black. They are absolute colors that leave no room for shadow or highlight.

While waiting for the paint to dry, I attached the side mirrors to the body and proceeded to paint the car body. Of the three factory colors available for the 2002 model year, I like "Thunderbird Blue" the best (Ford later replaced it with "Desert Sky Blue" which was more blue than turquoise). This is the color I want to replicate, and Tamiya makes a rattlecan Coral Blue (TS-41) that is a very close match.



While cleaning the seam lines, I noticed the plastic used for the car body is brittle than that used for the interior. Also it has a shine that suggests a clear coat has been applied by Revell. I had a feeling if I don't prime it with a matte undercoat, my glossy paint will slide all

over the place. So I sprayed a coat of Tamiya Gray primer and let it dry overnight first. The Coral Blue went on nice and smooth without any trouble.

Next I installed all the light fixtures. The kit's headlights are awful. You either use what is given or start scratchbuilding. I

took the easy way out, but I painted the inside of the headlights Polished Silver before attaching the lenses. This made them marginally better. On the other hand, the taillights were okay, even though I thought they were a bit too red.



Then I tackled the installation of the windshield. This was the area that I found most troublesome with in this kit. Molded on to the edge of the windshield frame are the wipers. They are absolute rubbish, and I quickly

discarded them. When dry fitting the windshield to the frame, I noticed there was no way to "snap" the clear part in place and make it stay. I had to attach it with glue. So I carefully scraped away the chrome on the inside of the frame to create glueable surfaces. Before I attached the clear part with Gator Glue, I painted the band around the perimeter of the windshield with Faded Black.

Notice there are two sunken notches on the top of the clear part intended for "snapping" it in place. I pondered with the idea of filling them with putty, but at the end I decided to leave them be as I would have a hard time sanding them smooth without damaging the clear part.

Once the windshield was done, I used a 0.05 Staedtler Pigment Liner to shadow the panel lines of the doors, hood, and the trunk. I also used the pen to fill in the holes in the bumper and the grill. I then painted the rubber casing around the side mirrors with Faded Black. Allowing the ink to dry overnight, I sprayed the entire exterior with Future.



I finished the rest of the model without fanfare. After I mated the interior with the car body, I outlined the Thunderbird logo with





my Pigment Liner and painted the bird with Polished Silver. Using the same process, I painted the turn signal reflectors with Tamiya Clear Orange. The "Cyclops" brake light was an old decal from my spare parts box.

Instead of going through the trouble of scratchbuilding the windshield wipers, I kitbashed them from a Revell Saleen Mustang kit I picked up in the clearance section at Hobby Lobby. The rearview mirror also came from the same kit. I painted it Faded Black before attaching it to the windshield frame.

**Personal Touch**

I have a set of collegiate license plates (University of North Texas, my *alma mater*) that used to be on my old bimmer. When I sold the car, I kept the plates as they were not transferrable. I thought they would look good on my Thunderbird. So I scanned and shrank the front plate and printed it in different sizes. After I picked the one that fit in the license plate well (is that the correct name for it?), I cut it out and attached with double-sided tape.



**Conclusion**

Despite being a Snap-tite designed for kids, Revell's '03 Thunderbird is a decent kit. It can be built up to a nice model that doesn't look that bad from afar. Of course once you look closer, you'll notice objects are fuzzier than they appear!



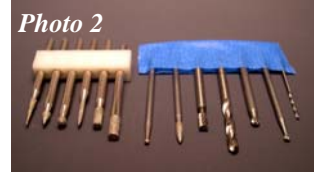
If only I had more time, I would find a blonde figure to go with my T-Bird. As I said earlier, if I can't have the real thing, I can always build the model instead. 🐦

Eric

*(Small Changes, Big Results continued)*

Once the final position was set, the hat was super glued in place, and I sculpted some hair in with Duro epoxy putty.

The main body of the figure had a "V" shaped opening for the head that came with the kit. I needed a bored out hole instead to accommodate the neck of the replacement head. So a smaller hole at the bottom of this hole was drilled to insert a paper clip wire support for the new Hornet head. BTW, when reshaping resin figures, I prefer using diamond coated grinders. For metal figures, I like to use high speed cutters (photo 2).



After trying out different positions, I finally decided the head should be looking straight ahead in the direction he was walking (photo 3). I superglued the paper clip wire in place, and the neck was blended into the torso with Magic Sculpt.

The only other modification made to the figure was to reposition the carrying of the

submachine gun. The kit shows the gun being carried with the barrel magazine facing down. After talking to Bob Bethea, we both agreed it would look better being carried with the magazine facing up. This required repositioning of the fingers on the hand. The fingers and thumb were cut off from the palm and resculpted back in place with tiny strings of Magic Sculpt (photo 4 and 5).




These small changes I have described here can make a very

Photo 4



Photo 5



big difference in the final result. Not only can they allow you to develop your skills in anatomy, construction and sculpting, they can be stepping stones to more elaborate conversions and even original sculptures. I urge you to give it a try on your next "stock" figure. 

*Gilbert*



## SoonerCon 2010 Report

by Tim Robb, IPMS #34705

Having grown up in OKC and graduated from OU (Boomer Sooner!), I was pleased to head up to my old home town area for a model show. We left the house in San Marcos at 8:10 Friday morning. After a leisurely drive with three stops including about an hour for lunch, we arrived at our hotel in Norman just before 5:00 PM. It's not a bad drive at all if you break it up a little.

The show on Saturday was at the Moore OK Civic Center, a block off of I-35 and just about four miles north from our hotel on the north end of Norman. We went right to the venue just like we knew where we were going. The Civic Center is a fairly small place, but it worked out well for the size of the show. Utilizing the entire basketball court, a big curtain was placed in the middle to separate the contest and the vendor tables. By my count there were 166 models entered and ten vendors in attendance—a small show by Austin/San Antonio standards.

The category listings were also shorter. For instance, aircraft had just four categories: 1/72<sup>nd</sup> and smaller, 1/48<sup>th</sup>, 1/32<sup>nd</sup> and larger, and rotary ASAE. I took five various 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale model planes figuring to land in several categories, but they all went into the same one! Since there were 27 entries there, the OKC guys made it a three way split, props with British and American markings, other props, and jets. It seemed odd to me to split apart the 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale B-17, C-47, and FW-200 into the Axis and Allied categories instead of making a multi-engine category, but OK. It also seemed odd to me for my Republic Seabee to compete against said FW-200, Stukas, Zeros, and a Fokker D.VII, but OK. Odder still, no 109s, 190s, or Mustangs were entered at all!


The turnout for aircraft, armor, and ships was good and the models were well done, especially the ships. Turnout in ships was better than at any of our ASMS contests that I can remember. The turnout for cars was light and the models looked poor to me—lots of orange peel paint jobs and crooked wheels. There was only one historical figure entered and only a handful of fantasy and sci-fi subjects.

The most interesting thing done was in the judging. In an experiment and a break from their previous shows, the armor

categories were judged using the AMPS system, and all others categories judged by the IPMS system. I only entered planes so there was no hair off from my chest. My OS2U Kingfisher was judged first place, and my Me.262 third place. My Seabee, Lockheed F-5B, and Ki-44 were losers, but the Seabee drew lots of comments.

At the end of the awards ceremony, the club president asked for feedback on the experiment and I couldn't tell that many people said much about it. It seemed like the armor guys all knew how the judging would be done before hand and so were all OK with it.

All in all the show was fine and well run; it was over by 4:00 PM. It was a fun trip for me, in large part because I got to visit my old home town and university campus, and the stores had a nice selection of beautiful crimson OU T-shirts instead of being filled up with those wretched pumpkin orange TU shirts which are all you see around here. I will go again someday but probably not make it an annual stop because there was so little to see in the vendor area. It's the first time I've ever gone to a model show and come back with more T-shirts than model kits!

Go build a model (or buy a T-shirt). 

Tim

*(Editor: A picture is worth a thousand words. Since Tim did not send us any photo of the show, I took the liberty of posting this picture to accompany his text. As you can see, crimson does go well with orange, especially on blondes.*



*Hey, watch where that hand is touching, girlfriend!*



### Volunteer Modelers Needed for USS Lexington Museum Display

**Randy Barnes**, an IPMS/USA member out of the Corpus Christi area, is working with the **Lady Lex Museum On The Bay Association** to redo the museum on *USS Lexington*. He is asking for volunteers to build and donate models for the museum's new display. If you are interested in participating, please contact me (**Mike Kachoris**, [mjk05@excite.com](mailto:mjk05@excite.com)) or Mr. Barnes ([shspr@shsrockport.org](mailto:shspr@shsrockport.org)) directly. 

Mike

## Hasegawa 1/32<sup>th</sup> Bf.109G-14

by Floyd S. Werner, Jr.

**H**ello everyone! Just to show that I have not been doing **H**nothing, here is my latest, Hasegawa 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Bf.109G-14/AS. I used all the Master Detail parts, some Eagle Editions stuff, and Loon Model parts. Lots of resin. A full review will be out shortly after IPMS/USA uses it. I might even knock out the Master Details Schwarzmann (Mechanic) to go with it and take some of my "period" shots.

I'm very happy with the results. I think it may be my best yet.

Floyd



## Old Rumors & New Kits

I suppose it's a symptom of getting older, but I have to admit I was somewhat surprised to discover on the Saturday following our last meeting that I had missed the meeting. Even with helping Eric prepare the newsletter and discussing the meeting, I was a total blank. All I can figure is that Martha and I changed our schedule for the day and that probably threw me off. Sorry, 'bout that; I'll try to be there on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

I also missed some new kits that were announced earlier and that some you may find interesting. The new Kinetic 1/48<sup>th</sup> kit of the Grumman EA-6B Prowler has been greeted with fairly positive reviews. Since its surface detail is engraved, it's likely a better deal than the old Revell kit. Of course it's more money than the older kit, but then I remember when even that one was a lot less money! I'm not sure that the local hobby shop (LHS) has it in stock yet but they are out there.

Tamiya's latest 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Spitfire, the Mk. VIII, is out and being met with the usual enthusiasm for a large scale Spitfire. No doubt it's an excellent kit and will prove as popular as the early Mk. IX.

Not to be out done, Trumpeter has entered the Spitfire club with its own 1/32<sup>nd</sup> kit. This time it's a Mk. V and it has lots of bells and whistles but misses the mark on that ever popular cockpit detail. Somehow, a lot of manufacturers seem to feel that all WW2 aircraft had floors! Many did and it was just the top of the wing but the Spit had only a couple of runners that led to the rudder pedals and also had bulkheads that followed the contours of the fuselage.

I have the older Trumpeter 1/24<sup>th</sup> Spitfire that was also released by HobbyCraft, and I can't bring myself to start it. Same is true with their Corsair but I know it can be made into a nice model...if you are willing to spend the time. I heard someone say that Trumpy seems to blow both hot and cold. Perhaps they have two separate teams designing their kits!

If you want a truly first time ever injected big scale kit, just wait a little while for the new Wingscale B-25J. This mini-monster will be offered in two versions; the 75mm cannon firing and the strafers! In case you are wondering, that will give you a model with about 20 inches of wing! No shelf space you say? May have to hang this baby from the ceiling. In addition to the B-25s, the company, a part of Dutch Decal, is also planning a Meteor Mk.4 also in the "big scale." Both kits are expected to be ready in December. Judging from the photos released from Wingscale, all three kits look first rate. I expect a price tag of about \$120.

Trumpeter has also shown a new 1/32<sup>nd</sup> BAC Jaguar and what appears to be an early car-door Typhoon with a well detailed Napier Sabre engine. Happy days for the big scale set!

Hobby Boss is showing some promising new kits in their on-line catalog. First off is the F-111 D/E, a Tornado ADV, a

Bearcat F8F-1, an AU-1 Corsair, a couple of Hellcats, a Yak-38 Forger A, an F3H-2 Demon, and a couple of Me.262s, one of which sports the big nose gun and the other I believe is the two-seater with radar array. No word on their due date but I'm interested to see what they do with the Bearcat and the Demon.

And not to be outdone in the large scale, Hobby Boss is showing an all new 1/32<sup>nd</sup> II-2 Stormovik, and a Mk. VB Spitfire. And I'm sure there will be some kits I've just overlooked. But, it's good to see Hobby Boss is still busy!

For you car modelers, this is the time for some great re-releases and some new kits as well. If you were ever interested in Midget Car racing (back in the '50s I sure was), Tower Models announced a couple of Kurtis Kraft Midgets; one with an Offie engine and the other with an Edelbrock.

And for a jolt of nostalgia, how about a 1953 Hudson Hornet? Man oh man, that brings back a flood of memories! My dad had a 1949 Hudson that was a great running car and a real trend setter. Notice how most modern sedans have the floor boards lowered into the frame? Well, that began with Hudson's "step-down" design that lowered the center of gravity of the car and made it a real road-hugging machine. And the Hudson Hornet was one of the fastest off-the-showroom-floor cars on the market.


In addition, Revell is doing a 1/24<sup>th</sup> '56 Chrysler 300 and reissuing their Austin-Healy 100-6, another car I used to lust after.

Dragon Models is showing some interesting new kits for the armor builders. First off, Cyber Hobby has an unusual mixture of an 88mm flak gun mounted on a Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.H. Not really sure of the nomenclature but this appears to be a bare bones 88 on a track with no armor for the crew. Guess it was just a way to get the gun into action quickly. Also shown is a Nashorn Command Version.

Dragon shows several "newly announced" kits which include a Brumbar (early production version), a Stug III Ausf. FD/8 (late production with winter track), and a Flakpanzer V Coelian.

Great War Hobby has just released a 1/35<sup>th</sup> German sWS Gepanzerte Ausfuehrung. This odd looking vehicle is in fact a very long bed halftrack.

Trumpeter has released a kit of the M35 155mm towed howitzer, late version. This kit features vinyl tires, pre-curved brass equilibrators covers, PE parts, and decals for two weapons. The assembled gun is adjustable in elevation and azimuth and can be built in towed or firing position. Of course it's 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale. Probably has Russ Holm's name on one.

That looks like about all the space I have for July. Don't forget, the IPMS Nationals are next month. In the meantime, go build a model! 





In the latest issue of...

### IPMS Journal

May/June 2010

Volume 22, Issue 3

- **Hungarian Howitzer** — 40/43M Zrínyi II SP Assault Howitzer, by Stephen J. Bathy;

- **The Big 'Bag Theory** — Working Through Trumpeter's 1:32 Fairey Swordfish, by Brian D. Casteel;

- **Rufe in the Aleutians** — Dressing up Hasegawa's 1:48 A6M2-N float fighter, by Marty Sanford;

- **Super-Sized Schnellboot** — A slow build of Italeri's fast boat, by Chris Durden;

- **Wire Service** — Adding rigging to your 1:72 biplanes, by Brian R. Baker;

And much, much more!

## Join IPMS/USA!

IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1963, there are now branches of IPMS all over the world.

As part of your IPMS/USA membership, you will receive *The IPMS Journal* six times a year. In it you will find stories of interest on subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, and figures. You will also find listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned Regional Contests, as well as our world-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online **Member's Forum** where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the county offer **discounts** to IPMS/USA members.

To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or go to [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org) and click **Join IPMS/USA!** Payment may be made via personal check, money order, or credit card. Applications using Check or Money Order should be printed upon completion of the registration process and mailed to:

**IPMS/USA**  
**Dept. H, P.O. Box 2475**  
**North Canton, OH 44720-0475**

For any questions or problems with your membership application/renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Officer Manager, Ms. M.J. Kinney, at [manager@ipmsusa.org](mailto:manager@ipmsusa.org)

By Modelers  
 — For Modelers®



## IPMS/USA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

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Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult: **\$25**       Junior (17 years old or younger): **\$12** **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 *Canada & Mexico:* **\$30**     Other Foreign: **\$32**     Foreign Air Mail: **\$55**  
 Family (Adult dues + \$5, one set magazines, # of membership cards required: \_\_ )  
 If recommended by an IPMS member,  
 list his/her name and member number \_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ (IPMS#)

IPMS/USA

P.O. Box: 2475  
 North Canton, OH 44720-0475

Check out our web page: [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org)

**Next Meeting:  
July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
at  
Austin Yarborough Library  
(2200 Hancock Drive)**



Austin Scale Modelers Society  
Eric Choy  
13213 Marero Drive  
Austin, TX 78729

