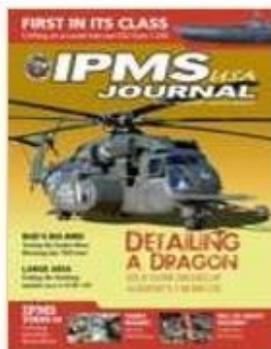




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# **NEWSFLASH JULY 2014**



By Modelers  
— For Modelers



In the latest issue of...

**IPMS/USA Journal**  
January + February 2014  
Volume 26, Number 01

- **IPMS/UK 50th Anniversary Tour** - Celebrating half a century by seeing the sights, By Ron Bell
- **The IPMS/UK 50th Anniversary National Convention** - Putting the "International" in IPMS, By Randy Ray
- **Taking Her Deep** - Riich Models' 1:200 scale Late War Gato Class Submarine, By Mike Fleckenstein
- **Heavy Helo Hauler** - Building a Winning 1:48 MH-53E Sea Dragon from the Academy kit, By Kelly Quirk
- **New Kit, Old Crow** - Examining the details of Zoukei Mura's new 1:32 P-51D Mustang, By Tim Schubert
- **Boeing, Boeing, Done!** - Putting the Finishing Touches on AMT's ARIA RC-135 kit, By Richard C. Engar

## Join IPMS/USA!

IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage of Dallas, Texas in 1964, there are now IPMS branches 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!**

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

## IPMS/USA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

IPMS No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(leave blank) FIRST M. LAST

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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)

Hello Swamp Foxes,

Welcome to the July Newsletter, The last meeting took place 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014, 15 members in attendance.

Hub got the meeting underway and went through General Business and Up coming shows.

Plenty of new books and magazines were passed around along with the new model related items, and some really great builds and work in progress,

Well the 4<sup>th</sup> of July saw the customary Celebrations here in the US, but most importantly was the happening back in the United Kingdom.

The naming ceremony took place for the Royal Navy's largest ever ship HMS Queen Elizabeth, I would have liked to have added and with it the rebirth of the Royal Navy, but alas this is not to be.



# SUPPORT THE LOCAL HOBBY STORES



## Hobby Town USA

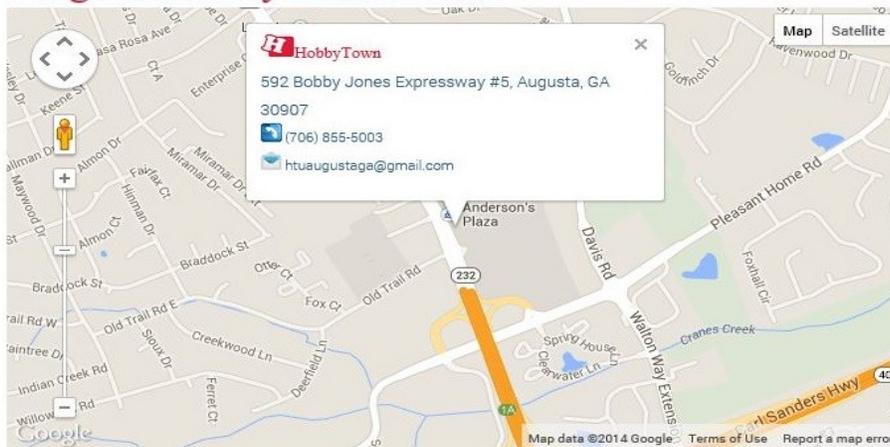
Hobby Shops

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Friday, Saturday: 10am - Midnight  
Sunday: 1pm - 9pm

# SUPPORT THE LOCAL HOBBY ST

## THE BATTLE FOR MALTA

The Siege of Malta was a military campaign in the Mediterranean Theatre of the Second World War. From 1940-1942, the fight for the control of the strategically important island of Malta pitted the air forces and navies of Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany against the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

The opening of a new front in North Africa in mid-1940 increased Malta's already considerable value. British air and sea forces based on the island could attack Axis ships transporting vital supplies and reinforcements from Europe. Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, in command of Axis forces in North Africa, recognised its importance quickly. In May 1941, he warned that "Without Malta the Axis will end by losing control of North Africa".

The Axis resolved to bomb or starve Malta into submission, by attacking its ports, towns, cities, and Allied shipping supplying the island. Malta was one of the most intensively bombed areas during the war. Between 1940 and 1942 more bombs fell on Malta than fell on Britain during the entire Blitz. As Axis forces threw all they had at the island, those on Malta were forced to endure a sustained attack from the air and a rapidly deteriorating condition on the ground. Beyond any form of austerity that we might understand, little Malta was close to starving. The struggle of the Maltese people against oppression was recognised personally by King George VI, who awarded the George Cross to the entire island. By 1942 Malta had become the most bombed place on Earth.

The Luftwaffe (German Air Force) and the Regia Aeronautica (Italian Royal Air Force) flew a total of 3,000 bombing raids over a period of two years in an effort to destroy RAF defences and the ports. Success would have made possible a combined German—Italian amphibious landing (Operation Herkules) supported by German airborne forces (Fallschirmjäger). It was never carried out. In the event, Allied convoys were able to supply and reinforce Malta, while the RAF defended its airspace, though at great cost in material and lives.

By November 1942, the Axis had lost the Second Battle of El Alamein and the Allies had landed forces in Vichy French Morocco and Algeria under Operation Torch. The Axis diverted their forces to the Battle of Tunisia, and attacks on Malta were rapidly reduced. The siege effectively ended in November 1942.

In December 1942, air and sea forces operating from Malta went over to the offensive. By May 1943, they had sunk 230 Axis ships in 164 days, the highest Allied sinking rate of the war. The Allied victory in Malta played a major role in the eventual Allied success in North Africa.

Convoys with codenames such as Op Substance 65,000 tonnes, Op Halberd 85,000 tonnes, Op Pedestal 85,000 tonnes and after Op Stoneage the siege was finally lifted. Many convoys reached Malta with as little as 5,000 tonnes after being decimated enroute, some even turned back in the face of such fierce attacks.

USS Wasp took part in two convoys to Malta Op Calendar most of the 48 Spitfires delivered were destroyed shortly after arrival, and Op Bowery 47 Spitfires.



The damaged tanker *Ohio*, supported by Royal Navy destroyers, approaches Malta, 15 August 1942. The fate of the oil tanker *Ohio* has been seen as symbolic of the Pedestal convoy. Her cargo of 11,000 tons of petrol was vital to the aircraft flying from Malta. On 12 August 1942 she was torpedoed, and on the following day she was further damaged by German bombs. Crippled, the tanker had to leave the convoy. Supported on both sides by RN destroyers *HMS Penn* and *HMS Ledbury* and protected by Spitfires, she was brought into Grand Harbour.



HMS Eagle launching Malta bound Spitfires



USS Wasp taking on Spitfires for a convoy to Malta, Blue or Not?



Malta's defence in the early days consisted of the Gloster Gladiator and later backed up by the Hawker Hurricane.

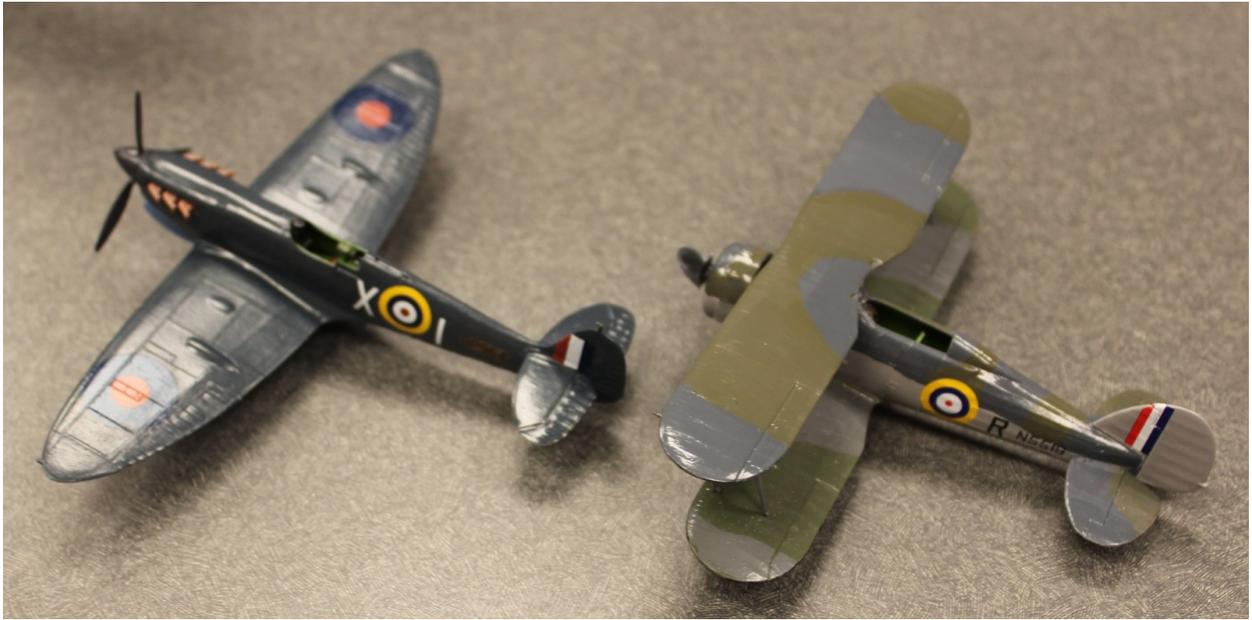
Last Meetings Builds and In Progress

















**SCMA Show Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

A great turn out from the Swampfoxes, was great to see so many of you guys attend and many great entries, a big well done to all that took home awards and yes Darby you should have took home something.

A few pictures, hopefully DC will provide more for the next newsletter







Tom Wingate took Best of Show Non Auto with his 1/32 FW-190, Beautiful build Tom







Hope you all enjoy the newsletter, Do not forget next meeting Thursday July 17<sup>th</sup> 2014 6pm