



## Mike's Memo

Mike Miodonski

Hi guys. This month's editorial is on a subject we all have encountered but paid little attention to: modeling on vacation. I know what you're thinking. "Has he lost his mind? Does he expect me to whip out the plastic and building tools in the one and a half Holiday Inn room with the wife and kids when we are supposed to be on family time? Is he going to be there when I get slapped upside the head with the complimentary motel iron for trying to justify it? Have the doctors have screwed his meds up again?"

No, thankfully this is not what I'm talking about. My topic is experiencing modeling displays and exhibitions that you and your family can experience while on vacation that can help them understand you're (choose one): hobby/ interest/ diversion/ problem/obsession.

I started to experience this approximately 6 years ago when my wife and I began taking small regional vacations that we could drive to so the costs could be kept down. This is especially significant now with gas prices the way they are. We were in Pittsburg and we decided to visit the Carnegie Science Center when I stumbled on the largest model railroad exhibit I have ever seen. I would estimate the size of this exhibit to be approximately 20,000 square feet with room lighting that simulates sunrise, daytime, sunset and night, as well as other integrated animatronics. There are too many wonderful things to describe so you'll just have to see it for your self. The train exhibit alone is worth the price of admission but if that doesn't do it for you there is a WWII submarine moored about 50 yards from the Science Center that you can walk through. Here is the link for further attention [www.carnegiesciencecenter.org](http://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org) - I highly recommend reviewing it.

If you're going to the IPMS Nationals in Columbus next year you may want to take some time to visit the Air Force Museum in Dayton. In addition to being one of if not the best military aircraft museums in the world, they have a very large and well done model exhibit. Some of these models were made by Lee Reopolos, one of our former club members. If your going to do this, bring lots of film/memory cards, batteries and wear some sneakers. You'll be sorry if you don't.

During my vacation this year while I was in Sarasota FL, I got to visit the Ringling Museum of Art. This is part of the tour of the Ringling Estate which was owned by the founder of the Ringling circus. The highlight is a model exhibit of a Ringling circus at the turn of the 20th century, at the height of prosperity for that industry. The model is a 1/48 scale version of a 20 acre circus with all the aspects of the event displayed. Can you imagine someone building a scale model of a 20 acre event? Frankly I couldn't until I saw this thing, Amazingly about 75% of this display is scratch built. This exhibit has by far has the greatest scope of model building effort I have ever seen in my life. I was so impressed with this that I felt compelled to find the museum curator and explain who I was and get some additional information for my report. The creator of the display, (who's name I failed to write down, sorry) has spent over 70 years creating this and to my amazement and frustration I learned that he was still alive, still working on the exhibit and I HAD JUST MISSED HIM BY 5 MINUTES!!!! After I got past the disappointment I discovered the rest of the estate which is also worth seeing.

The final cherry on my vacation is when I happened to stumble on a rather large G-gauge model train display in Orlando called Train Land. continued...

**The  
"BuffCon"  
Boys**

Mike's Memo

Notes From The  
April Meeting

2008 Summer  
Picnic

TorCan 2008

NoreastCon  
2009

IPMS Niagara  
Frontier  
Member's Page

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For those of you who are not train guy's (like me) G-scale is a really large scale which made the sheer size of this display appear smaller in terms of square footage than it really is. That being said Train Land is a 5,000 square foot facility with an impressive lay out of 2200 ft of track and 32 tunnels. It's a couple miles from Disney and definitely worth the visit.

OK, time for the club business. It's been a busy month and I definitely logged some serious miles on the Hyundai. In addition to the IPMS Region 4 show in Cleveland which I talked about at the last meeting, I went to the Region 1 NOREASTCON in Schoharie, near Albany which turned out to be a very successful show. The model turn out was good and there was a substantial presence by other clubs including our own. Thanks to those of you who went and contributed because we will need that support from other clubs when we do our shows next year. I spoke with Dave and Bob from 3 Guyz and they had a very good show. Every time I popped into the vendor room it seemed very busy and I saw A LOT of plastic being brought to rooms and packed on bellhop carts the next morning, so despite the high gas prices, people are spending their money. (The reasons why is for another article.).

The other significant event to come from this show was creation of another interclub contest that will come due in August, but I'll let Bob C explain that.

The next show that we really need to support is TORCAN in Toronto on May 24th. Our Canadian counter parts have always been strong supporters of our shows and I think it's really important we do the same the same for them. There will be flyers at the meeting again this month if you didn't get one already. It's an easy road trip.

This month's club question, courtesy of Paul Hines, is "What was your biggest modeling screw up and what did you do to correct it?" This is a great question which I'm sure will produce some great stories. Please remember we have 40+ members to move through so please keep your thoughts concise and on subject, it makes it easier for everybody because people come to our meetings to participate in other activities as well as the club question.

Speaking of other activities the E-Board had a discussion that we need to inject some more actual modeling into the meeting as opposed to talking about modeling. In light of the fact that we have 2 big shows next year and we are going to need a heavy contingent of new judges from our club, we're going to be doing round table modeling groups as well as judging seminars. I know we've done the judging clinics in the past with moderate success but it's really important that we have a large influx of judges from our club for our upcoming shows.

One last thing, just a reminder that this month is flea market month so bring in your stuff that you know you won't build. Some one will make you an offer.

Well, I've rambled on much longer than I normally do, so that's it. I'll see you at the next meeting.....

Mike

## The "BuffCon" Boys

[Mike's Memo](#)

[Notes From The April Meeting](#)

[2008 Summer Picnic](#)

[TorCan 2008](#)

[NoreastCon 2009](#)

[IPMS Niagara Frontier Member's Page](#)

[Please consider joining IPMS/USA](#)



### Notes From The April Meeting

Dick Schulenberg

Well, another BuffCon has come and gone. The time between shows just seems to be getting shorter and shorter. This year's show came off well with 385 model entries, but we suffered a little on attendance and entries for a couple of reasons. Our armor categories were somewhat sparse because many of the regulars were at the AMPS show in Indiana. It's a great show that's not that far away and a must for armor modelers.

Our friends from the Cleveland area were tied up in preparations for the Region 4 convention the following weekend. Their efforts paid off in a great show as described later. Regardless, BuffCon 2008, our 25th show, came off great!

You can see an excellent variety of BuffCon 2008 photos at: [www.ipmsniagarafrontier.com](http://www.ipmsniagarafrontier.com) under the Model Gallery courtesy of John Doerr (John's Small Aircraft, Ltd.) and our own photo team of Larry Osolkowski and Mike Miodonski. As mentioned above, the IPMS Region 4 show was well done and very interesting to attend. Photos are up at several places on the internet so you can check it out. There were 400+ entries and lots of interesting vendors. There was a lot of traffic and sales seemed to be good. The judging effort, always a chore, seemed to be well handled and the awards dinner went off very well with good announcing, the right balance of humor and a nicely done slide show of first place winners. Good show, guys.

Visitor Bob Dzimian dropped in too. He's a car modeler who has been entering BuffCon for some time. Good to see you Bob and hope you can come back again.

Besides our annual post-BuffCon pizza and wings party, the first meeting after BuffCon is election night. There were no contests for the offices of President, 1st & 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, so a single vote was cast to elect the ballot. Note that Bill Sauer has stepped down as 2nd VP due to a new second shift job, and Tony Gliszczynski posted for the position. Jim Hanna dropped off the E-Board to devote a little more time to his family. The new and returning offices for 2008-2009 are:

**President:** Mike Miodonski

**1st Vice President:** Andre Thierault

**2nd Vice President:** Tony Gliszczynski

**Treasurer:** Dave Schwab

**Secretary:** Dick Schulenberg

**E-Board Members:**

Paul Hines

Larry Osolkowski

Tony Bartoszek

Dan Marafino

Chuck Nichter

Bob Collignon (also Chapter Contact)

Thanks to Bill and Jim for their several years of service to this club.

Let's get to the display tables.

Dave Armitage brought in several neat items for us to see. He started us off with his excellent "Wolfman" shadow box that took Best Diorama at BuffCon this year. The central figure is the Polar Lights repop of the classic 1970's vintage Aurora werewolf figure. Dave put it in a old time laboratory scene in one of his nicely done display cabinets. Virtually everything inside is from scratch or adapted from low cost or found stuff.

continued...

### The "BuffCon" Boys

[Mike's Memo](#)

[Notes From The April Meeting](#)

[2008 Summer Picnic](#)

[TorCan 2008](#)

[NoreastCon 2009](#)

[IPMS Niagara Frontier Member's Page](#)

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### April Meeting...



There is something interesting to see everywhere you look with the overall impression that everything "fit". A well earned award.

Dave's second item was just as interesting. Dave's an amateur historian, among other interests, and researched and wrote an article for the 100th anniversary of "The Great Race" for local publication. The Great Race was a contest to drive

a vehicle all the way around the world and served to demonstrate that the automobile was a viable invention. The race was won by a Thomas Flyer built in Buffalo. It's a great story of perseverance. Dave's display is based on another 1970's vintage model, AMT's kit of the Flyer. Dave refurbished the kit he built some time ago and mounted it on an appropriate scenic base with a placard and flags for a display that looked very "1908"ish. Hope this one goes on permanent display somewhere.



Finally, Dave showed two 1/35 scale early WWII Russian tanks (another of his interests), a T-28 medium tank in overall green from ICM and a T-26 light tank with a BT-2 turret in winter camouflage from the Zvezda kit. Both models took some effort to build.

Ernie Yuhnke displayed several more of his colorful 54mm figures from various manufacturers: an English Civil War foot soldier, a Prussian dragoon from 1756 featuring the pink colors typical of the period, a Spanish conquistador and a French carabineer. Ernie does a lot of research on these figures.

I brought in several 1/72 airplane models I started forever ago and finally finished: an Airfix F2H-2 Banshee, an MPM FH-1 Phantom, a Monogram F7F-3 Tigercat converted to a -3P version in Korea and another

Monogram

Tigercat converted to the 2 seat -4N night fighter. They've been sitting around nearly done for years. I have a number of partly finished kits and am either finishing them up or dumping them. I think it's more fun to start than finish. I am in a 12 step program to help myself.



Tim Delventhal showed us a nicely finished Wolf 54mm figure from the Scots Brigade on the Niagara Frontier ca 1814. It's mounted on a David Armitage base for an appealing presentation.

Chuck Nichter brought in several models he's successfully schlepped around the recent show circuit. First is a neat little US Army WWII M-5 high speed tractor from the 1/72 Hasegawa kit. Chuck did a lot of cleaning up on this kit.

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Mike's Memo

Notes From The April Meeting

2008 Summer Picnic

TorCan 2008

NoreastCon 2009

IPMS Niagara Frontier Member's Page

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## April Meeting...



There are no trademark working bits, but the tiny thing has scratch built headlight guards. It's on a simple but neat base. On the other hand, Chuck's 1/24 Tamiya Toyota Land Cruiser has all kinds of bells and whistles. Chuck did lots of Internet research to get details of the vehicle and its diesel engine. Here's a list of stuff he did: changed over from right hand drive to left hand,

plumbed and wired the engine, added windshield washer hoses, added operating hood hinges so the hood stays up by itself, opened the windows, pivoted the spare tire carrier, and finally, painted the car with genuine Toyota silver with a rubbed out clear coat. Woof!

Tim Kastner really enjoys NASCAR and found an inspiration for more of his custom vehicles in the "design your own car" option in a NASCAR video game. He came up with 4 new ones this month: #136 is a 2007 Monte Carlo with painted accents and decals for the 1990 Sunoco racer; #43 is a light blue Superbird with a 426 hemi, black & blue interior and



Petty's logos; #48 is a 1986 Monte Carlo with wire wheels and Lowes colors and, finally: #42 is a blue 2005 Impala with red flames, blue interior, competition car package and DuPont house colors.

Bringing up the rear, Brian McFee showed his 1/48 Trumpeter P-40B mounted on a nice trophy base with ground cover. Brian decided to live with the shallow cockpit but had a real battle with fit problems. His efforts paid off with a good looking model, especially in the 1941 semi-gloss olive drab/neutral gray finish and 94th Squadron Army Air Corps markings.

The next meeting is on May 19 at the Youth Center. It's a Flea Market night, so bring your excess stuff to pass on to the next guy. As always, bring in your completed projects, works in progress, new kits, or a model you'd like to show off.



## A REMINDER ABOUT THE 2008 SUMMER PICNIC

Dan Marafino

Don't forget to mark Saturday August 16 on your calendars for the 2008 Club Picnic at the Lancaster House Shelter in Como Park.

The Club will provide the dogs, burgers and pop. We ask you to bring salads and desserts. We're asking \$5.00 per family to help cover our expenses

Any games or low or non-contact events are encouraged (bring your own medical kit): rubber horseshoes, darts, checkers, chess, cards, volleyball, etc.

The picnic is on rain or shine. The shelter is fully enclosed with electricity, a stove and refrigerator, and bathrooms.

See Dan Marafino if you have any questions.

This is a great, non-contest, fun event for all. Let's make it a good one. For \$5.00 you can't go wrong.

## The "BuffCon" Boys

[Mike's Memo](#)

[Notes From The April Meeting](#)

[2008 Summer Picnic](#)

[TorCan 2008](#)

[NoreastCon 2009](#)

[IPMS Niagara Frontier Member's Page](#)

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# MEMBER INFORMATION PAGE



## 2008 - 2009 Officers and E-Board Members

President	Mike Miodonski	651-0496	mio1@aol.com
First Vice President	Andre Thierault	668-2669	CopDre928@aol.com
Second Vice President	Tony Gliszczynski		
Secretary	Dick Schulenberg	934-2161	dick.schulenberg@excelco.net
Treasurer	Dave Schwab	896-8720	davidsp51stang@aol.com
e-Dizpatch Editor	Bill Sauer	873-5857	ipmsediz@aol.com
Internet Coordinator	Larry Osolkowski	695-1224	osolkowski@roadrunner.com
Chief Judge	Jim Hanna	433-6084	hanna1510@earthlink.net
E-Board Members	Tony Bartoszek		
	Paul Hines	681-3760	ggandpoppop@gmail.com
	Larry Osolkowski	695-1224	osolkowski@roadrunner.com
	Chuck Nichter	681-2114	oldmodelman@verizon.net
	Dan Marafino	684-0733	digbee45@aol.com
	Bob Collignon	837-2204	cjltd@adelphia.net
Chapter Contact	Bob Collignon	837-2204	cjltd@adelphia.net

### The Next Club Meeting:

The next meeting of the Niagara Frontier Chapter IPMS will be on Monday, May 19, 2008 at the Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road (near Main Street), Amherst, New York. We meet in the basement youth room from 7:00 P.M. to about 10:00 P.M. Please do not arrive before 6:45 P.M.

### Important: All submissions to e-DIZPATCH

must be received by the Monday one week after our scheduled meeting night.

Printed articles and pictures can be mailed to:

JuJuLizard  
25 Huetter Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14207  
Attn: e-DIZPATCH

Digital files can be e-mailed to:

ipmsediz@aol.com