



## Volunteering to Judge? Why bother?

By Bill Engar

At a recent modeling contest, I overheard a number of comments by some modelers regarding judging. A number of them had apparently never judged before, and wondered if they were capable of doing it or even worthy of trying it. Some even commented that they wondered if it would be worth their while to learn how to do it.

I wanted to get up on a soap box and start preaching that nothing helps your modeling improve more than the opportunity to look over and “grade” several models built by others. How does this help you? Let me count the ways:

1. As we gain more experience building models, we often get into ruts and start to accept our own mediocrity! We don't pay attention to certain details, such as engine alignment, glue blobs and so forth that will detract from the appearance of our models; these will ding you in competition. Also, you learn by noting how other modelers handle similar problems.
2. We learn about new painting styles and finishes. For example, look hard at the finish of both flat and gloss-finished models when you go to a contest or club display. Pay particular attention to the sheen of automotive models that are supposed to be glossy. Many look good from a distance, but when you get up close and look at an angle you will see an irregular finish which in its extreme is known as “orange peel.” You can start to compare your own finishes to the truly great ones and perfect your techniques. Likewise, you will look at rusted-out rat rods or models of old, “tired” aircraft and learn methods of making your wrecks look even better.
3. We learn about decal application and clear overcoats. How does



one modeler totally blend in decals while others leave edges or silvering? Texture is important here as well. Flat decals on a glossy finish usually don't cut it.

4. In competition, all the added detail in the world does not compensate for poorly attached windshields with glue visible here and there, or poorly aligned parts, or gaps where there should not be gaps, or mold marks not removed, etc. The best scratch-built model will not cut it if the builder overlooks basic construction.

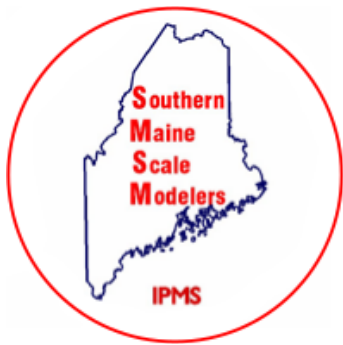
5. If you really want to improve your modeling, have another modeler look over your project before it is finished and “judge it” for you. Another pair of eyes will often find deficiencies that you miss simply because you have looked at the model for too long and are getting tired of it! In any event, if you want to compete at a higher level you must pay the price.

Now, another aspect of judging is being gracious, win or lose, after the contest is over. Brudder Bill and I have seen the gamut of reactions as we have both

served as chief judges and have heard it all. For example, at a show held in Ogden, Utah a few years ago, Bill and I were head judges and were happy to observe that there was minimal whining after the results were announced, so we did not have to procure much cheese to go with it.

Competition brings out some interesting comments, though. You have all seen those modelers who apparently need to feed their egos by hovering around their entries trying to fish for compliments. Boorish behavior is not limited to concerts or political campaigns, as we observed at both this recent Ogden contest and a Regional held a few months later in Colorado. One of these hoverers brought a large

(Continued on page 2)



Southernscalemodelers.com

PRESIDENT  
Grace Leavitt  
graceeel222@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT  
Paul Paradis  
paradispaul58@gmail.com

SECRETARY  
Norm Jordan  
spudbub@aol.com

CHAPTER CONTACT  
Grace Leavitt  
graceeel222@aol.com

TREASURER  
Dave Osborne  
stgelft@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
Kent Waterson  
smsmnewsletter@gmail.com

E-BOARD MEMBERS  
Bill Cornish  
Dana Lawrence  
Denis Beaulieu  
Bob Pierce  
Norm Jordan  
(past president)



## Madame Prez Says

By Grace Leavitt

Happy March everyone!! Spring is finally here (it sure felt like it this past weekend) and I know for sure I'm ready for the snow to be completely outta here! With that, we all know that our contest is just around the corner - less than two weeks now. We will need all hands on deck April 5th (for table set up) and 6th for the contest! Many hands make less work, or something like that.



Check out the article Kent has included encouraging people to get involved in the judging process. I personally feel I am a better builder because I joined in the judging process shortly after joining and attending contests!

Well, short and sweet does it today...see you all next week at the April meeting!!

*(Continued from page 1)*

scale resin MiG-15 that was assembled well and had what started out as a well-executed metalized finish, but for some reason the modeler sprayed an overcoat which did nothing but detract from the natural sheen and enable adhesion of unsightly dust particles, which eliminated the model as a contender. It was defeated in its category by a small but clean resin X-47A UAV which had no flaws. The modeler was obviously miffed that his masterpiece did not win gold in Ogden and, interestingly, both models appeared again at the regional in Loveland, Colorado the next week.

The disgruntled modeler was overheard whining to Contest Chair Mark Bradley, "There's the piece of crap that beat my MiG in Ogden!" as they walked passed the UAV. Mark Bradley, who did an absolutely fantastic job of running an excellent regional, had the sense to respond by saying something to the effect of, "What are you saying? What good does it do to make a comment like that?" To Mr. Sore Loser. And, the "piece of crap" went on to win gold again, and also win an award at the IPMS Nationals later on. The lesson is, keep your criticisms and sour grapes to yourself, and if you really are concerned about losing, ask the judges what problems they found with your model to you can correct those problems at future events and with future models.

Another aspect of judging has to do with teaching. In an ideal situation, the judge should be willing and able to help a modeler to improve his/her

skills by pointing out problems with the model that kept it from competing better. I had an experience several years ago when a modeler asked me to judge his model after the show and show him what was wrong with it. The model was a 1:72 scale jet and there were things like seams left on the wheels, uneven stabilizers, silvered decals and finish issues, which I pointed out. The modeler had not noticed and was amazed to see them. He was very grateful that I was willing to take the time to help him and, lo and behold, at the next local contest a year later, he kicked my butt in a couple categories. I singled him out and congratulated him on taking what he had learned with a positive attitude and applying it to improving his models.

Finally, I encourage you to volunteer to judge at regionals or other contests where you have to travel. The chief judge will appreciate your willingness to help, and outside judges help diminish allegations of "home cooking" or favoritism by the local club. Plus, you pick up different things and learn things about presentation, scratch-building technique and other things that will help you improve your own skills.

I recently earned my 10-year pin as a judge at IPMS Nationals and have been grateful for the opportunity to help as well as learn. I am a better modeler thanks to this experience and enjoy the hobby even more based on what I have learned.

*This article first appeared in the January/February 2016 issue of the IPMS/USA Journal. Article reproduced with permission.*

# Hear Ye! Here Ye!

By Norm Jordan

## SMSM Meeting Minutes

SMSM Meeting----4 March, 2025

Location: Maine Military Museum, 50 Peary Terr, So. Portland, ME

Meeting Opens at 7:01pm

Prez Leavitt welcomes and addresses membership

### OLD BUSINESS

Downeastcon 2025

Thus far, everything is all set for contest; We have 41 Vendor tables sold w/ 20 Vendors and more on waiting list and 33 Trophy Packs are sold. We need to sell the rest of trophy packs and also need more models for the club raffle.

There will be no Northshorecon this year due to location issues and no Noreastcon due to hosting issues.

### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought up at the meeting this

month

BREAK-----7:35-7:50pm

SHOW N TELL----This month there were 8 models by 6 modelers. This month's showcase winner was Paul Paradis for his custom Plymouth

The 50/50 Raffle winner for this month was Grace Leavitt, who gave entire proceeds back to the club.

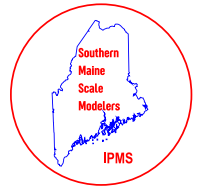
Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm

Members Present: R. Allen, G. Bangs, T. Bonti, E. Bittner, S. Broughall, R. Garland, L. Gaudet, N. Jordan, R. Jordan, K. Keniston, E. Kruger, S. Laing, G. Leavitt, J. Medolo, D. Osborne, P. Paradis, R. Pierce, W. Schaffer, K. Waterson

Guest: Jamie St. Louis

Respectfully Submitted,

Norm Jordan, Secretary



## Inspiration for next months Civilian First Responder theme



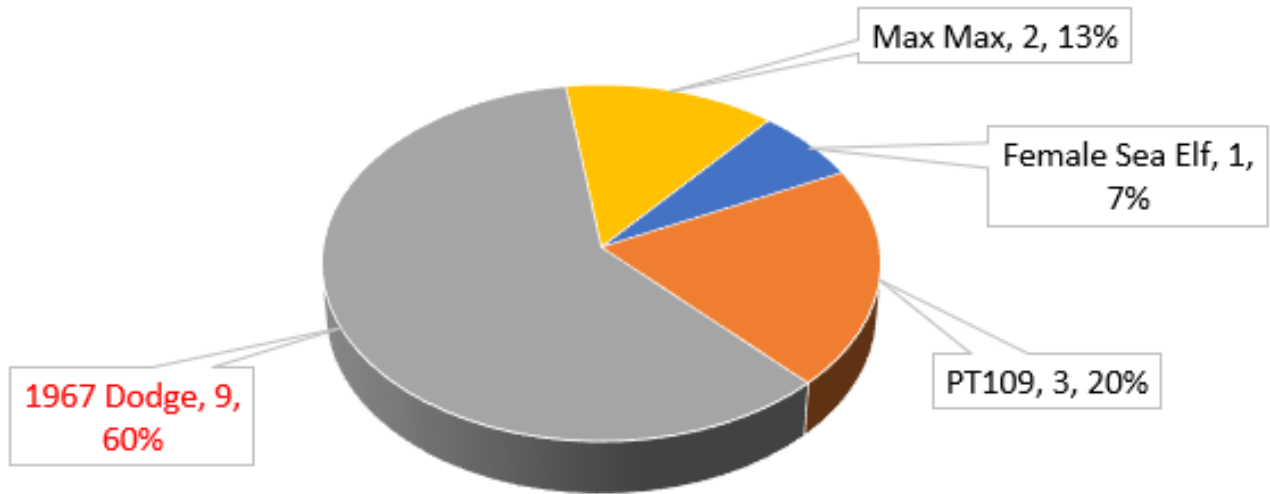
## When judging ... don't be this guy!





# Modeler of the Month

## March Model-of-the-Month Voting



Modeler of the  
Month

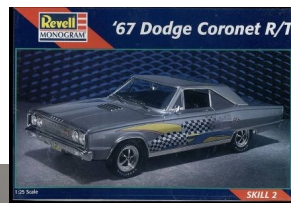
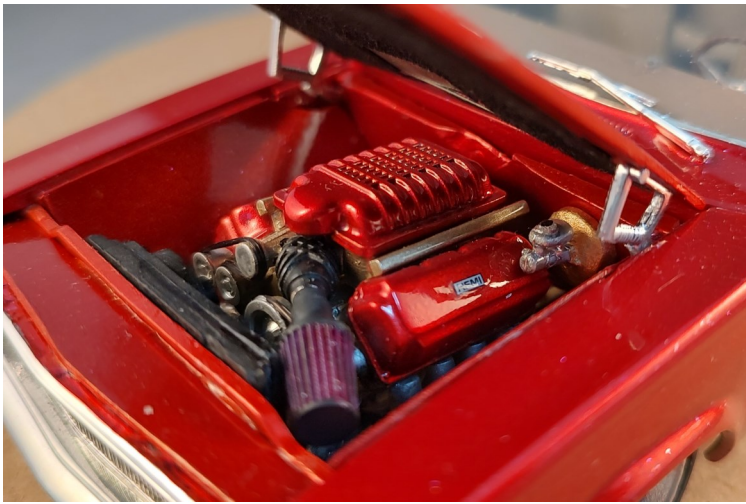
March 2025

## *1967 Dodge Coronet*

By Paul Paradis







## 1/25 1967 Dodge Coronet (Revell)

*By Paul Paradis*

Finished with Dupli-color  
Silver, Barcelona Red, Dupli-  
color 1K Pearl Clear

Pros: First time chopping &  
channeling a car. A lot of  
scratch building

Cons: Difficult build but was  
fun.

Comments: As I got cutting  
this up, it became less of a  
challenge. I learned a lot.





## 25mm Male/Female Sea Elf

*By Tony Bonti*

Finished with Army Painter Merfolk Blue, various shades of green, blue & brown.

Pros: Excellent figures, well detailed

Cons: Trident (on the male figure) fragile - broke three times!





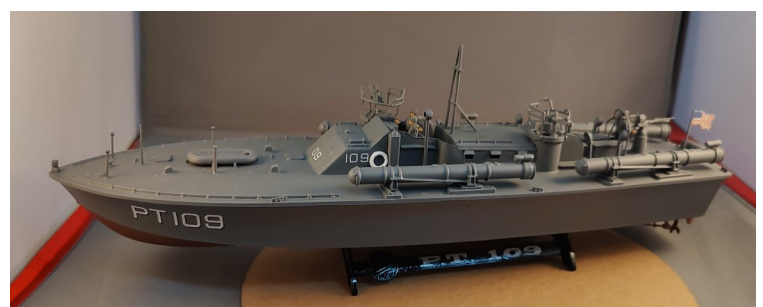


### 1/72 PT 109 (Revell)

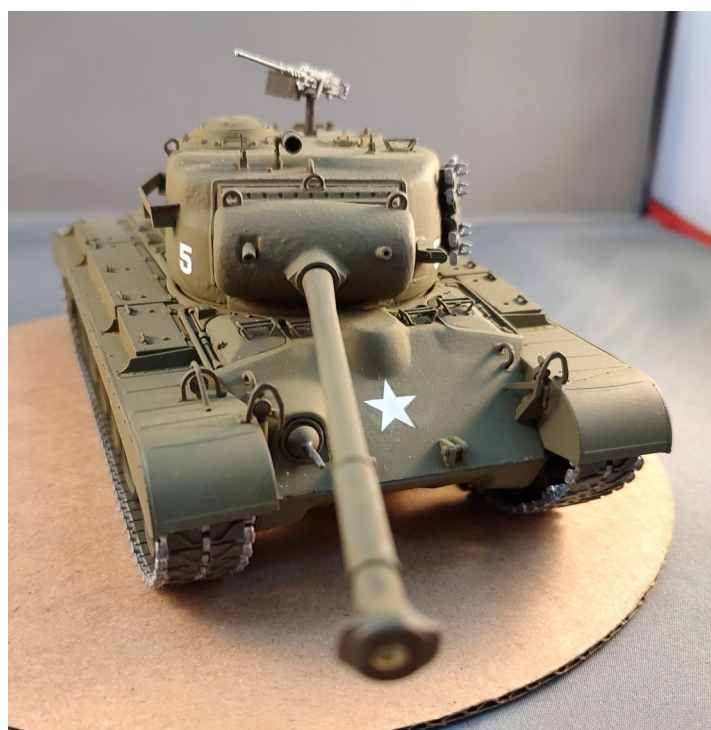
*By Ron Garland*

Finished with Humbrols #70 Matt Brick Red, Rust-Oleum Flat Gray primer, Humbrols #53 Gun Metal

Comments: Good kit, the deck to hull fit need some work







### 1/35 M26A1 (Cyber Hobby)

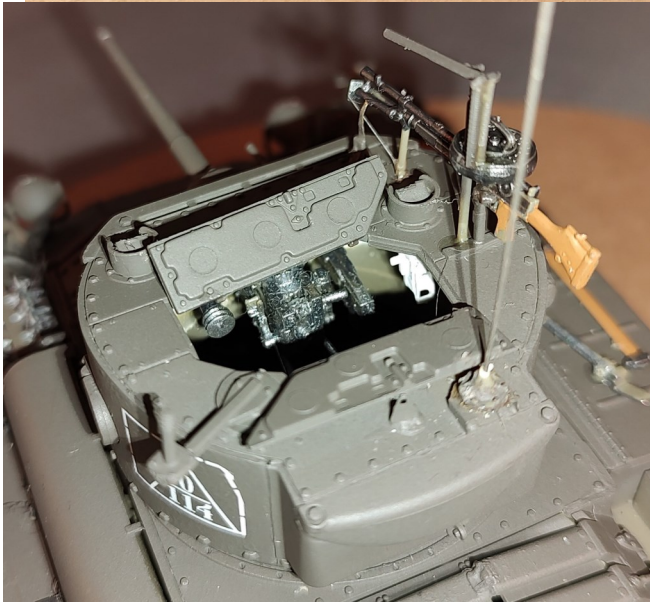
*By Larry Gaudet*

Finished with Tamiya paints

Pros: Good fit on parts

Comments: Reverse building on some parts for painting inside.





### 1/35 Valentine MK IV (AFV Club)

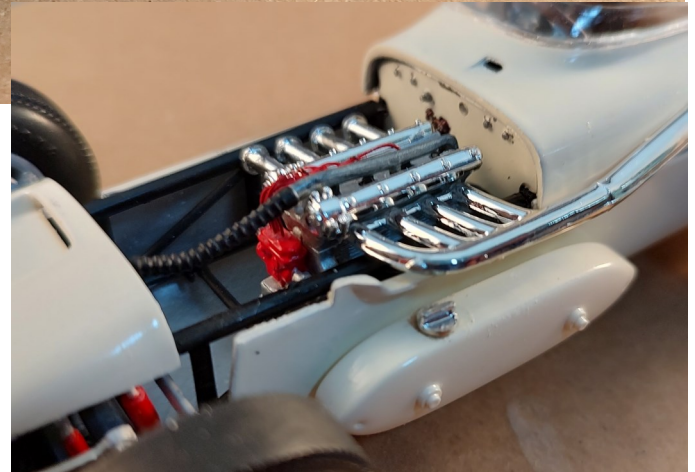
*By Larry Gaudet*

Finished with Tamiya paints

Pros: Nice fit on all parts. No sanding at all.

Comments: Good instructions, had not problem with the kit. A lot of small parts





### 1/24 1963 Watson Roadster (AMT/Ertl)

*By Bill Schaffner*

Finished with Tamiya Racing White

Cons: Too many tiny parts holding major parts together

Comments: "Absolutely horrible kit!"





### 1/24 Mad Max Interceptor (The Parts Box)

*By Bob Pierce*

Finished with Dupont automotive primer & paint

Pros: Favorite MaxdMax car

Cons: Thick resin, hard to glue together

Comments: Curbside model





Jimmy meets Mr. Ed.

OUR NEXT MEETING  
WILL BE ON TUES-  
DAY, APRIL 1, 2025  
AT THE MAINE MILI-  
TARY MUSEUM,  
SOUTH PORTLAND,  
ME AND WILL START  
AT 7:00 PM

## Calendar

April 6—DowntownCon

May 6—SMSM Meeting (Theme: Civilian First Re-  
sponders)

June 3—SMSM Meeting

July 1—SMSM Meeting

August 2, 3 — Owl's Head Wings & Wheels

August 5—SMSM Meeting