



# BATTLEWAGON

## Bay Colony Historical Modelers

Volume 27 Issue 1  
August 2008

IPMS Region 1 Chapter of the Year 2004

### Recon:

IPMS Nationals – August 6-9, 2008 – Virginia Beach, VA

AMPS EAST 2008 – September 27, 2008 – Danbury, CT  
Contact John Gazzola (860) 617-1413 or [jgazzola12@aol.com](mailto:jgazzola12@aol.com)

Granitecon XVI – October 19, 2008 – Nashua, NH Contact

Baycon 2008 – November 2, 2008 – South Attleboro, MA  
Contact Robert Magina at [treadhead@comcast.net](mailto:treadhead@comcast.net) or 508-695-7754

### The Make-N-Take Program

By John Gisetto Sr.

The Make-N-Take program was started in the fall of 2005 and has now become a well established program of the Bay Colony Historical Modelers Association. To date we have brought this program to 8 different Cub Scout Packs in 7 different communities from Middleboro, MA to North Attleboro, MA. There has been 1 Cub Scout Pack that has run this program three years in a row and two that have run it two years in a row. But one thing all 8 Cub Scout Packs have commented on is:

*"This is a great fun event for the boys and their families-lets do it again"*

This Make-N-Take program has seen a total of 420 models being constructed from the fall of 2005 to date.

Although we have run this program so far within Cub Scout Packs, is not solely a Scout program but rather a broader program open to any and all groups of youngsters. The Cub Scout Packs seem to have embraced this program and utilize because it is a fantastic family activity and it works extremely well for them.

The following club members have taken part in exhibiting models or related material at the past years events and also have taken part in helping the young modelers during these events.

John Gisetto Sr.	5 events
John Nickerson	4 events
John Gisetto Jr.	5 events
Bob Magina	1 event

All upcoming Make-N-Take program dates are listed within the club website in the "Forum" and updated periodically. Remember-this is a club program so, please help us in making this program succeed by taking part at these events. For further information: call or e-mail John Gisetto, better still stop by the Gisetto Villa as the door is always open to acquaintances, friends and club members.

John J. Gisetto Sr.

508-947-1546

[jgisetto@comcast.net](mailto:jgisetto@comcast.net)



## The Flying Greek

*By Hal Marshman, Sr.*

I saw this book in a small squib on one of the modeling webzines I visit regularly. It is an autobiography of Steve (Spiro) Pisanos, an American Ace I became familiar with about 1970. His P-47 was featured in Kookaburra's book, "Aces of the Eight Air Force". Col. Pisanos is one of the lesser known of the 4th Fighter Group's aces, but his story is absolutely fascinating.

Col. Pisanos starts out as a young boy living just outside Athens, Greece, in the years before World War II. He becomes fascinated with airplanes, and vows to be a flyer some day. He recognizes that he stands a better chance of realizing his dreams in America, than as a poor young man in Greece. At the age of 18, he signs on as a boiler room crewman aboard a Greek freighter, jumping ship when the ship drops anchor in Baltimore, Md. Pisanos makes his way to New York, where through contacts he makes in a Greek Orthodox Church, he

becomes employed in a Greek restaurant. With his meager pay, he joins a flying school, and begins his career in aviation. He later moves to Plainfield, N. J. and procures work in the kitchen of a hotel in that city, all the time furthering his flying career. After the war begins, he joins the R.A.F., training in Canada, and later in England, where he eventually becomes a member of the famed eagle Squadron of American fliers. When the U. S. joins the war, and the Eagles are absorbed into the 4th Fighter Group of the Eighth Air Force, Steve is there. Through this period of time, he rubs shoulders with such noted aces as Chesley Peterson, Ralph Hofer, Don Blakeslee, and Don Gentile. He relates with great detail most of his combat flights, to the point where he's downed in occupied France by flak. He gets involved with the Resistance, to the point of actually participating with them on operations.

After the War's end, Pisanos eventually re-enlists in the Air Force, becoming a test pilot with Gentile at Wright Paterson, a training officer, a military attaché to the Greek government, flies Caribous in Viet Nam, etc., until his eventual retirement as full bird Colonel.

Col. Pisanos is a marvelous story teller, and in love with his adopted country, The United States. His patriotism shines through on every page of his book, as does his love of flying. There is a photo section in the book, with pictures of Steve from boyhood to retirement, none of which I've seen before. I was fortunate to receive my book with a hand written dedication to me. Interestingly, the label on the shipping envelope revealed the same hand writing, so I must suppose he actually packed and

labeled the book himself. As an aside, let me mention that I am currently working on a Tamiya 1/48th rendition of Col. Pisanos' P-47, "Miss Plainfield". In any case, buy or borrow this book, you'll not be sorry. Have fun, Hal

I did mention he flew Jugs, didn't I?

### National Convention Update

By Charles Landrum

The 2008 National Convention is just around the corner and we are excited about how it has shaped up. We have enjoyed a surge of registration and award sponsorships and I want to thank you for your efforts in improving these numbers. While it is clear that the economy has had an impact, the number of cancellations by vendors and registrants has been low and made up by last minute reservations. We attribute this to vendors and modelers being more deliberate in planning their attendance. I have attached a "pulse check" table in MS word that reflects recent numbers.

- 10 days left to register. People who want to take a tour or attend the banquet or barbecue must pre-register. We will check-in pre-registrants two hours early so that they can be out of that line and in line for the opening of the vendor room.

- 119 vendors and 350 tables.

- We will have to cut off the Oceana tour at 95 people, the max capacity of two buses plus one tour guide. VFA-31 is ramping up for the tour at Oceana. We are awaiting word from the Navy as to which ships we will tour. For the Navy tours it is important for people to bring a valid/official picture ID.

- We still have categories for award sponsorship primarily in Automotive, Dioramas and Miscellaneous. Any interested groups/individuals/businesses should contact me directly as soon as possible.

- We have a lot of re-enactors signed up to participate. Do to work and travel schedules, most will be there Saturday only with some on Friday.

- As you have undoubtedly seen or heard, a lot of convention exclusives or debuts have been announced including the Classic Airframes 1/48 USCG Widgeon. We have added to this list a large limited edition decal sheet -Tidewater Skyhawks - produced with the help of Rare Plane Detective and Afterburner Decals. Show cost is \$10 and we are offering limited edition resin electronic pods to complement the aircraft on the sheet.

- Of course every registrant will receive a free exclusive convention decal sheet (not the same as above)

With our proximity to the military bases, historical sites, family attractions, good food and the ocean, we think that the 2008 convention is worth a visit even if for a day. We look forward to being your hosts.

All the best,

Charles Landrum

### Region 1 Update 07-17-08

By Doug Hamilton RC-1



Hello everyone,

A few things to pass along this time. First off, we received this from MSGT Brian Allen, who's been running the Baghdad Hobby Shop. Brian is rotating back to the "World", and will be leaving things in the capable hands of Steve DeLong. Steve's address is below.

All,

It's semi-official, folks, I will be leaving theater to return stateside this Saturday. I have been diagnosed with moderate to severe degenerative joint disease (arthritis), avulsion fractures and will possibly need surgery to repair injuries to my hip and pelvis. It is not clear if I will return once rehabilitation is complete but I most certainly will try. Oh, whoa is the life of a Paratrooper.

SFC DeLong has been with me since taking over the hobby club here in Baghdad and will continue to serve as POC. You can address any correspondence or donations to him at: [steven.delong@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:steven.delong@iraq.centcom.mil) or mail at:

SFC Steven DeLong  
HQ, MNC-I (FSC)

18th Airborne Corps  
APO, AE 09342

If you have already sent donations under my name they will continue to arrive safely and the mail room has been briefed to forward any packages to SFC DeLong.

We have been fortunate here in B-dad as new, highly motivated members have come onboard and will also be available to help SFC DeLong with club donations and shipping to our numerous contacts. I personally want to thank all of our contributors for your kind support and donations that you have sent during my short tenure. This is the first time I have seen such support from back home in my 20 year career and makes me truly proud to serve the American people. Thank you ever so much!

MSG Brian Allen

The IPMS Nationals are rapidly approaching in a little over two weeks. To tie the Nationals and the previous Baghdad Hobby Shop item together, our hosts, IPMS Tidewater will have a collection point at the show so attendees can purchase something in the vendor room and donate it to our troops. What a cool idea, and I for one will be adding something to the stash pile. Show details are being added on almost a daily basis to the event web site. The latest being a floor plan, and updated info on the BBQ scheduled for Thursday night at the Fighter Factory. This will be a really cool event, as the menu contains all my Southern favorites, and we'll be gazing on all sorts of antique aircraft. How cool is that?

Right after the Nationals, I'll send around an updated Event List for the fall show season. There will be some notable changes to the schedule this fall, as a few long time events won't be on it, and a few returning events have new dates. With the fall schedule opening up a

little, it may be time to look at our crammed spring schedule and see if one or two events could move into the fall season. As you all know, I've been trying to get some separation into the spring season, and while it's worked a little, it seems those chapters that have moved to avoid conflict have moved to the same weekends as the chapters they're trying to avoid. I'll continue to work with all our chapters to try and work out a schedule where everyone is free of conflict with another chapter. It's an ongoing process, to be sure!!

I don't think I'll be hosting the popular Mini-Meetings this fall. My fall is shaping up to be busy with a ton of things, and I'm not sure which shows I'll be at this fall. So rather than schedule them, then maybe have to cancel them later, we'll wait till next year.

And that brings us to another end. I hope all your summers are going well, and I'll be looking forward to seeing everyone in Virginia Beach in a few weeks!! And as always, please share this with the officers and members of your chapter. Model on!!

Semper Fi  
Doug Hamilton  
RC-1

## **Del's Corner**

**Del Stator at large.....**

**Book Report – “Modelling the IS Heavy Tank”;**  
Osprey Modelling Series No. 9, by Nicola Cortese

Heads up on this one guys! Some of youze know that overall I give the thumbs up on this Osprey Modelling Series although I have been at odds with a couple volumes. I just got this “IS Heavy Tank” one and it's a two thumbs upper! (Ok, I can hear the

yucks now, I wrote IS Heavy Tank, and youze guys is saying, ‘sure is’ or ‘most are’. Very funny.)

My first run in with the JS, (how I know it), series tank was way back as my second armor project; my first being the Aurora Panther, painted black to match the comic book art; the Aurora kit. It's been so long I don't even remember which version it was supposed to be, I think the box just said “Stalin” Tank. I remember green plastic which I made greener yet with my brushed on Testors green paint. It was quite a few more years before I learned the Ruskies had any other type of tank than the JS. Like T-34's maybe. With the somewhat recent releases of a bunch of 1/35 scale, and even 1/72 scale versions, my interest had been re-peaked in the IS tank.

This is the first Osprey book that Nicola has written. Based on this effort I'd check out any others he chooses to pen. Worth a look. All of his builds are based around the 1/35 DML JSU-152, JS-2, Tamiya JS-3, Trumpeter JS-3M, or Fujimi JS-2 and 2M in 1/76. Nicola takes youze step by step through the construction of 7 vehicles in six chapters, and none of them are out of the box. The detail photos are very sharp and provide some good insight into some advanced modeling techniques. For some of youze armor guys that don't read this is a big help. Some of the stuff he uses comes from Railroad Shops! I knows some of youze purist wouldn't be caught dead in a Railroad Shop askin' for stuff. So to youze guys I say tough monkeys! (Ok, go to AA for that stuff, and you can always claim that you never went to that side of the room.) At \$19 list price it's a little steep but if you can get a discount or order from Amazon you can save a few, it's well worth the bucks. I've never been a Russian armor builder, building Aurora's original offering and the 1/76 version from Airfix many years ago, being the only exceptions. Because of this book I've got my eye out for some of the variants. I'll be checkin' out your stashes. Wanna' trade?

Del out.

**IPMS/USA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MasterCard Account # - - - - -

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

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

## *In Range:*

### June Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> - Bob Magina

- 1/35<sup>th</sup> M3A1 (WIP) – Bob Magina
- 1/72<sup>nd</sup> Avia 534 – Joe McDonald Sr.
- 1/72<sup>nd</sup> P-47 Razorback – Joe McDonald Sr.
- 1/35<sup>th</sup> Skatspielers – Joe McDonald Sr.
- 1/35<sup>th</sup> “Rosie” O’Grady – Joe McDonald Sr.
- 1/35<sup>th</sup> BR-52 & Bridge (WIP) – Kevin Conlon
- 1/35<sup>th</sup> Flat Cars 25 Ton (WIP) – Kevin Conlon
- 1/35<sup>th</sup> Federation Tank (WIP) – Kevin Conlon
- 1/35<sup>th</sup> ATST – Mike Kenney
- 1/10<sup>th</sup> Joachim Piper – Mike Kenney
- 1/48<sup>th</sup> Tiger – Bill Collins
- 1/48<sup>th</sup> Stug III – Bill Collins
- 1/48<sup>th</sup> Panzer IV – Bill Collins
- 1/48<sup>th</sup> Gannet – Bill Collins
- 1/48<sup>th</sup> Saab Draken – Bill Collins
- 1/350<sup>th</sup> Yukikaze 1940 (WIP) – Paul Champigny
- 1/48<sup>th</sup> F3F-2 – Bob Don

*Raffle: 1/35<sup>th</sup> 2cm Flak 38 Panzer IA – Kevin Conlon, 1/48<sup>th</sup> Luftwaffe Ground Crew – Chris Libucha, Mystery Ship Book – John Gisetto Jr.*

#### In Attendance:

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Bob Magina       | Mike Kenney      |
| John Nickerson   | Paul Champigny   |
| Bob Don          | Gian Montecalvo  |
| John Gisetto Sr. | John Gisetto Jr. |
| Kevin Conlon     | Bill Collins     |
| Kevin Colburn    | Joe McDonald Sr. |
| Ray Rosario      | Chris Libucha    |



# BATTLEWAGON

*Bay Colony Historical Modelers*



## July 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting – John Gazzola

1/12<sup>th</sup> The Worm Has Turned – Joe McDonald Sr.

1/35<sup>th</sup> Gaz 88 w Guns – Joe McDonald Sr.

1/35<sup>th</sup> Pacific Hell – Joe McDonald Sr.

1/25<sup>th</sup> 41 Willys – Terry Sumner

1/32<sup>nd</sup> V1 Buzz Bomb (WIP) – Kevin Conlon

*Raffle: 1/48<sup>th</sup> F-84G – Kevin Conlon*

*Painting WWII Figures Book – Ray Rosario*

### In Attendance:

Kevin Conlon

John Gazzola

Chris Libucha

Gian Montecalvo

Terry Sumner

Bob Don

Robert Magina

John Nickerson

Joe McDonald Sr.

Kevin Colburn

Ray Rosario

Mike Kenney



## *Up Scope:*

### *September 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 Meeting*

- **Host – Del Stator –**  
18 Stone Street  
Middleboro, MA 020346  
508-947-7939

From the west: Rte. 495 South to the Rte. 44 East & West (Plymouth / Taunton) exit. Go right at the top of the ramp, East, toward Plymouth. Go half way around the rotary and continue east on Rte. 44. Take the Rte. 58 exit and go right, South towards Carver, through two sets of lights, at the top of the rise, in front of Quickeez, take a right on to Forest, then first right onto Fuller. Thru the cranberry bogs, at the town line Fuller becomes Stone, and in about ½ mile you will see the intermediate blue raised ranch on your right.

From the east/Rte. 3: Take Rte 44 East to the third exit, Rte 58, Carver / Plympton; at the bottom of the ramp go left, South. (Follow the directions above.)

From downtown Middleboro: Follow Rte. 105 north, right on Plymouth St., bear right onto Wall St., 4<sup>th</sup> left onto Stone, 6<sup>th</sup> house on the left.

### *October 11<sup>th</sup> 2008 Meeting*

- **Host – Battleship Cove –**  
BB-59  
Battleship Cove  
Fall River, MA

From Boston and points north

- Take Interstate 93 South (Southeast Expressway) to 128 South.
- Take Route 24 South to Fall River, MA.
- Take Exit 7 (State Route 79).
- Take Davol Street Exit (2nd Exit) and follow the signs (Waterfront, Heritage State Park, or Battleship Cove) along the waterfront to Battleship Cove.

From the Newport (RI) area and points south

- Take State Route 114 North or 138 North to Route 24 North.
- Take Interstate 195 West to Fall River, MA.  
take Exit 5 before the Braga Bridge, bear right at the first two forks in the road and take first left under the overpass onto Davol Street.
- Follow Davol Street to Battleship Cove. (Note: If you miss the first left onto Davol Street, just proceed to your first traffic light and take another left onto Davol Street).
- Follow Davol Street to Battleship Cove.

### **The President's Column FROM THE BRIDGE**



We are into our 2008 – 2009 membership year, making it time to renew your membership. The membership fee is still only \$10 per year. A bargain like that is harder to find in this day and age. The discount you receive with your membership card at some of our favorite hobby shops, such as Harry's Hobbies, or Spare Time, can help your membership pay for itself. Also, remember that our new family membership plan is still available. If you would like to pay a couple years in advance we can handle that. Mail your payments to me or see me at a meeting, checks to be made payable to Bay Colony Historic Modelers.

As I write this the IPMS Nationals at Virginia Beach are just days away. I know that there were some members planning to attend. I wish them all luck and a safe journey. Please regale us with the stories of the wonders that befall your eyes at Virginia Beach. I hope you will also share stories of what you find on the model tables and vendor tables. We look forward to your report.

Before I get on to other news I must report my errors in this column in the last issue. I wrote of the Arris and Bill show, Arris Pappas and Bill Devins. Now, I know Bill's last name is Devins, why I wrote Elliot I haven't a clue. My apologies, Bill. I also wrote of a discussion I had with Arris and others, and as I wrote about it, because it was a judging issue I mentioned that Arris is the IPMS/USA Chief Aircraft Judge. I received an email from Doug Hamilton correcting

me. Arris Pappas is in fact IPMS/USA Head Judge. Again I new that! I guess this is a good argument against haste in writing. Bill Devins is IPMS/USA Chief Aircraft Judge. My apologies to them both.

I received a letter from Joe McDonald. He made a good point, several, really. He pointed out the lack of IPMS members within the club, this being an IPMS Region 1 chapter. Out of all the members we have listed, which includes our lost sheep, out of 80 plus names, (not all active), we only have about 15 people listed as IPMS members. Now admittedly a few of those 15 have let their memberships lapse. The IPMS membership fee is \$25 a year and if you wish you can register online at [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org) and use a credit card. Otherwise, you will find a membership form in this newsletter. Membership includes 6 issues of The Journal which is now a slick model mag. Think of it this way. You will probably spend \$25 a year on hobby mags, right? So here's six issues of a mag mailed to you, you don't even have to go to the news stand or hobby shop and waste gas. For that fact you won't find it on their racks. That's \$4.17 per issue, another fine bargain I've shown you today, and you get your membership for free! Just to put it into perspective, my IPMS number is 6042. Joe and Don Oakly talked me into joining shortly after I became a Bay Colony member. I'll let you in on a little secret, Joe's number is 504!

Just a little reminder that there is a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme award for BayCon called '1968'. You just have to tie the model to the year 1968 somehow. Along with a second theme award because this is our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first BayCon, this will be '1983' and will be done on the same manner as the '1968' award. Don't forget to get those theme award models finished.

I've received responses from most of our regular vendors. There are only a couple I haven't heard from. Now that we are talking about BayCon, I will be contacting the regular trophy sponsors, very shortly. Trophy packs are still \$30. There are still a number of packs that need sponsoring. If you are considering sponsoring a category please let me know soon. I like to send out the trophy order about Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. That gives us a couple months to get it produced and checked, and prevents a lot of last minute running around. We put the sponsors name on the trophies as well as announce the business and

corporate sponsors as we hand out the awards. Think of it as advertising. If you attempt to sell a trophy pack to a business let them know just what we do. You can also tell them that if they supply us with their business cards we will place them on the front table for people to pick up and take with them. You can also tell them that we have close to 100 modelers and over 200 walk-ins every year.

Just as a reminder, we will have a club table again this year at BayCon. The same rules apply. Each model that is not intact, or complete, or has been started must be so marked. Models, books, parts, etc., must be marked with removable tags in two locations, (in case one falls off). The tags must have your code number and asking price. Tags must be post-it type notes or masking tape or similar. Removability is key. Your code should be simple but distinctive followed by an index number. For instance, Ray Laskorski could use LAS-001, LAS-002. Please take a moment to think this one thru, John Gisetto and John Gazzola shouldn't use JG- for obvious reasons. You also need to provide a list on 8 1/2" x 11" paper punched for a three hole binder. That list should have your name on top so we can identify you then list by code and index each model and price. Del's list might look like this:

Del-001 Revell 1/72 Fokker Triplane	\$3.00
Del-002 US Navy Destroyers of WWII	\$5.00

This list may be hand written. Please try to keep it legible. And as we said last year, we will try to settle up that evening but if things are too hectic you may have to wait for your money. And of course, the Club gets 10% of the spoils.

Bob recently forwarded a message to us from one of the model clubs in Iraq. They were requesting more armor kits especially modern US armor like they see 'in country'. We have had some feed back from members wanting to help out. Our 'Hobbies for Hereos' program is still in effect. If you get the kits, supplies, etc. to us we will get them overseas. We will also accept cash donations, we can use that to purchase Squadron gift certificates. Squadron has (or did have) a program where you can deposit into an account for the 'Overseas Clubs' and they can order direct.

I'm starting to get sticker shock when I go to the

hobby shop to purchase kits for the meeting raffle. Each month the kit prices seem to be higher, now reaching the \$60 range. That's a bit beyond the raffle budget. So, beyond all of that, if you can think of something you would like to see in the raffle, drop me an email or see me at a meeting.

To finish up, I'm getting real mixed emotions about Revell of Germany. You don't know what to expect. Many of their latest releases are reasonably priced compared to other kits and of good quality. Their new 1/72 Avro Lancaster is a nice kit and sells for about \$30 while Tamiya asks almost \$25 for their nice F4U Corsair in 1/72. This is defiantly a positive but they still list the Avro Lancaster 'Dam Buster' in their catalog which is their 40 year old kit. I'd be disappointed to receive that, (although a nice kit for its time), instead of the new one. They have most of the old Matchbox molds, so how do you know if when they list a kit as new that it's not the Matchbox kit, such as the Supermarine Walrus, or old Heller such as the T-6G they released as new a couple years back. There's got to be a better way. I've read a review of their new MiG-21 that claims it's all new and a nice kit. I don't know, I'm thinking Matchbox? What do you think?

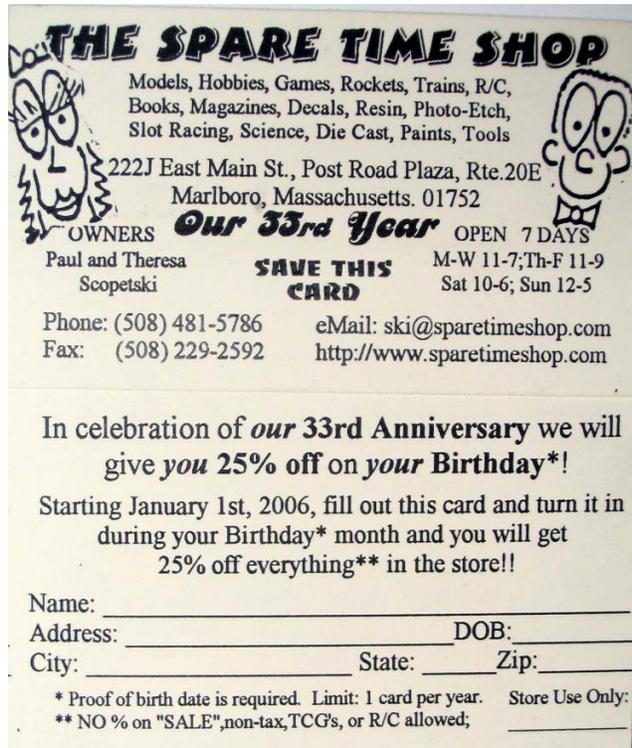
God bless America! Pray for our servicemen overseas.

Happy modeling and give kits to kids!

John J. Nickerson

[bchmaprez@verizon.net](mailto:bchmaprez@verizon.net)

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### Diverse Musing and Other Stuff

By Joe McDonald Sr.

Write reviews. I believe our members can produce more truthful reviews of "new" kits than the names who appear regularly in Fine Scale, Military In Scale, I.P.M.S. Journal, et al. Come on guys, take a look at a Hal Marshman kit review,

Regardless of what some may think, I don't build for competitions. I build for meetings and look forward to other members output at

said meetings. We have had a lot more meetings than there have been contests. My squawk is "Where are the models that come from this group of talented folks?". Over the last few years only one in four who attend meetings have anything to show and that includes WIPs. How about it fellow builders?

The last few years we have had to pony up money to buy trophy packs for Baycon. I' am from the years of having all trophies bought and paid for by September and you could pay for two trophy units and have the trill of hearing John announce your name at the annual bash as a sponsor and that could kill the sadness at not hearing your name as a winner of someone else's trophy pack.

Join I.P.M.S.. It doesn't come as part of your membership in B.C.H.M.A.. For your money you get a dandy membership card and publications that in some years are better than others (Done by volunteers) but right now are as good as some professional pubs. Compare that with newsstand prices on foreign magazines (in English and a host of other languages). This is our national and international voice.

Come on. Write something. Replace the regional coordinator's use of our space. Squeeze out John's reminder that we are 1/4<sup>th</sup>, 1/2 or 3/4 of the way through the year and he'll take your \$10.00 even in multiple years -----Cowabunga!

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## Harry's Hobbies & Collectables

250 East Main Street (Rte. 495 Marketplace)

Norton, MA. 02766

Behind the Dunkin' Donuts

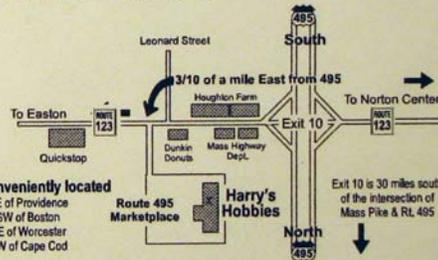
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### ***An Open Letter to Bay Colony***

Dear Fellow Members.....

I've mentioned it in a couple of my more recent columns and I just wanted to clear the air, so to speak, about Bylaws. We are in our fortieth year of operation and have done so without Bylaws. Personally, I think this is a marvelous achievement! I am quite amazed that we've gone this long without them. To tell the truth, part of me says why change that, but deep down I now know that they are overdue. Over my long span as president the challenges to my authority and the authority of the board probably don't add up to ten. Without going into any of the incidents, for I don't intend to discuss them, many of these problems quietly went away when given a little time. My concern is that they have become more frequent. And on top of that each one is different, we can't even cite precedent.

John Gisetto and I have been working at producing a set of bylaws for the club for just over two years and we think we see the light at the end of the tunnel. We have worked very hard at these and have taken the job very seriously. The challenge here is tremendous! On one hand we have a living, breathing, fully functional organization that continues to roll along in its own way, with its own traditions and approach to things. On the other hand is us, trying to analyze and understand those traditions that give Bay Colony it's own flavor and produce a document that does not confine the organization, protects the traditions,

provides the source of authority the leadership of the organization requires, and yet maintains the rights of the membership. Oh, yes, and minimize the legalese.

Once John and I have a document that we think is viable we will submit it to the board for review. When we can get three of the five board members to agree that it is a viable document the board will submit it to the membership. There will be a review period, for we think the membership will have some good ideas that we haven't thought of, some question and answers sessions, where you can ask us, the authors and the board the whys and wherefores, and finally a vote by the membership to accept or reject the bylaws. Being an item of great importance a 3/5 positive vote will be required for acceptance.

Although we believe that this vote is not in the immediate future we do see it getting closer. I didn't want this to come as a surprise to anyone a few months from now when we start talking about it.

I just wanted to give everyone a heads up and explain what we were doing.

Sincerely,  
John Nickerson - President

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