



# Northern Virginia Modelers



*International Plastic Modelers Society*  
[www.novaipms.org](http://www.novaipms.org)

## Member's Handbook – July 2020

### NoVA IPMS Membership

Welcome to Northern Virginia Modelers one of the premier modeling clubs in the country.

The information in this packet is meant to acquaint you with the workings of the club. However, any member of the E-Board can always address any questions or concerns that you have. We are one of the largest IPMS chapters in the country and we traditionally meet once a month in the cafeteria of Fairfax High School. With the school closed due to COVID-19, we have implemented an online meeting using Zoom. A typical meeting consists of the pre-business meeting, business meeting, monthly model contest, presentation, and monthly raffle. Club and meeting information comes through the website and our private Google Group.

### Dues

Membership in our club does not require payment of dues or membership in the national IPMS organization (although that is encouraged) and we hold informative monthly meetings with monthly contests. At the December meeting we have an Annual Holiday Party for members in lieu of the usual program.

### Information

The club website is your primary source for all the information you might need about the club. There you will find our history, updates to the meeting and program schedules, photo galleries, links to other modeling groups, tips and techniques, additional club contact information, and an archive of club newsletters.

- Website - [www.novaipms.org](http://www.novaipms.org). We are fortunate to have a multiple award-winning website that includes meeting information, England Sister Club links, meeting and event pictures and of course links to our terrific newsletter.
- Newsletter – Another award-winning aspect of the club, our monthly newsletter recaps our monthly meeting updates, club business and activities, monthly contest results as well as tips, hints and review articles submitted by our members. To submit an article, please email the Editor at [tomhenderson51@verizon.net](mailto:tomhenderson51@verizon.net).
- Google Groups - <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/northernvirginiamodelers>  
Once registered, you will receive meeting reminders and important information from the E-Board. You will also be able to communicate with fellow Group members and perhaps find answers to your modeling questions or check if another member might have that elusive kit you've been searching for.
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Virginia-IPMS>

(Contact the Webmaster at [modlrflck@yahoo.com](mailto:modlrflck@yahoo.com) if you have any question about these web sites)

### Club Management

The club is run by three Officers, elected by the membership to two year terms, who comprise the Executive Board (E-Board). Elections are held at the November meeting. Anyone can run for office and positions are unpaid. In addition to the E-Board, there are several additional positions appointed by the E-Board based on ability.

## **Monthly meetings**

### *Club Meeting*

Normally we meet monthly at Fairfax High School in the cafeteria. Please check the website ([www.novaipms.org](http://www.novaipms.org)) for the specific day which changes with the school's schedule. We typically have between 60 and 85 members for our meetings and between 25-35 models on the tables for our monthly competition which includes ten categories. Although the meeting officially kicks off at 8:00 PM, some members arrive as early as 7:00 PM to catch up with other members, show off work in progress, and see what members are trying to clear out of their stash.

With COVID-19 and the schools being closed, we have implemented an online meeting and contest using Zoom. We have been averaging about 40 people per monthly meeting and approximately 30 models in the contest. Zoom meeting details are distributed via Google Groups. For the online meeting, Zoom is opened up at 6:30pm for members to join and have an open discussion, catch-up etc. The normal meeting starts at 7pm.

### *Pre-Business Meeting*

The pre-business meeting activities consist of unstructured time for everyone to catch up with friends, share fish stories, and watch as the monthly contest model table fills up. This is a relaxing time to visit and talk about models and modelling with like-minded people.

As a large club it may be a little intimidating to dip your toes in the water at first. If you look around the meeting, you will see many conversations going on, people hovering over a kit on the contest table, or just members milling around. Remember that these people do not know you yet and although we strive to make new members feel welcome, part of the burden is on you! Please introduce yourself to people and let them know that you are new, join in the conversations, and ask questions. Being an active participant will truly enrich your NoVA experience. A hallmark of our membership is a wonderful willingness to share tips and secrets from their builds. Ask questions!

If you still feel a little out of place, come on up to the front table and talk to someone from the E-Board, we love to get to know our new members. We have a great membership and we are certain that in very short order, you will find a home at NoVA, like we all have.

### *Business Meeting*

The Business Meeting commences at 8PM and lasts about twenty to thirty minutes. The club officers or E-Board make announcements, talk about future events, and give out information to the membership. The E-Board portion of the meeting is followed by comments from the floor, where membership is given the opportunity to ask questions, talk about events, or make other announcements they feel may be of interest to the club. To round out the business meeting, there is a call for new members to come up, introduce themselves, and let us know what you like to model (this is probably how you got this handbook).

## **Monthly Contest**

Every month we have a model competition – there are no entry fees – across 10 categories for our members. Anyone can enter any category, except the Master category (see below), only Master Modelers may enter this category.

Everyone who attends a meeting may submit a contest ballot – popular choice wins first or second place recognitions in each category. Every month there is a special theme category picked by the contest director and listed on the club web site. There are also awards for Best of Show and Best Out of the Box models.

The monthly model contest is divided up into 10 categories by subject and scale:

- Science Fiction
- Figures
- Civilian Vehicles
- Ships
- Monthly Special
- Armor 1/72 (and smaller)
- Armor 1/48 (and larger)
- Aircraft 1/72 (and smaller)
- Aircraft 1/48 (and larger)
- Masters

The 'Monthly Special' contest for the next month is announced at the beginning of the meeting and in the newsletter. These specials vary every month and examples include 'The Heat is on – Any vehicle used in desert conflicts' and 'X-craft – Any vehicle considered experimental'.

In order to enter a kit in the monthly contest, bring your kit in, place it on the table in the proper category, fill out the entry form and place it face down in front of your kit along with an entry number chip. Entry forms and entry number chips may be found on the end of the contest table by the ballot box.

Between the end of the business meeting and the start of the presentation, time is allowed for voting on the monthly contest kits. Ballots and pencils are located next to the ballot box. You are encouraged to talk to other modelers about your models who often are happy to hear about your experience building your model.

#### *Master Modeler recognition*

The Masters category is a category for members who have obtained a "Master of" certificate for any particular category (other than the Monthly Special). In order to receive the "Master of" certificate, a member must have won first place in that category five times, with the caveat that you are not the only entry in the category. If you are the only entry in a category, you will still be awarded first place for that category for that month but will not accumulate points towards a "Master of" certificate for that category. Once a member receives a "Master of" certificate in any particular category, they cannot continue to enter kits in that category unless 'For Display Only', and must enter their kits in the Master category to participate in the competition. However, Master Modelers may still enter kits in any other categories where they have not achieved "Master of" status.

***Presentations/Program*** Each month, we have a presentation that will last no more than an hour. The membership is allowed, and encouraged, to ask questions after the presentation (Time permitting). Each presentation is unique, and will consist of a slide show, talk, or demonstration. The presentations may be from well-known authors and historians, subject matter experts, or club members demonstrating a particular technique or commentary from a related museum visit. Come show off a skill or a technique or expand our related knowledge! If you have an idea for a program or presentation – please see John.

We have a presentation or program every month except December and the presentation schedule can be found at: [www.novaijms.org/program-contest](http://www.novaijms.org/program-contest).

#### ***Build the Same Subject (BTSS) contest***

Another traditional event at the NoVA Holiday Party is the BTSS contest. Early each year (January or February), the E-Board announces the subjects for the BTSS contest to the membership.

The BTSS contest consists of several subjects that change each year. For 2020 the subjects are the A-4 Skyhawk, Tiger 1/Tiger 2 (King Tiger) tanks, and the Star Wars X-Wing fighter. The club purchases several kits (in varying popular scales) for each subject at a significant discount over MSRP and passes that discount on to the member. If a member purchases a kit from the club, completes the kit, and enters it in the December BTSS contest, the club will refund the member's cost for the kit. Any member can also choose to compete in the BTSS contest with any kit they already have or wish to purchase outside of the club, but the club will not reimburse the cost of those kits.

If there are kits on the table that do not conform to the BTSS subject categories are not part of the judging and are considered 'for display only'. Although it is a pleasure to view any kits placed on the table, it may be more appropriate to save those kits for the annual January contest. The annual January special contest is the "Best of 20XX (XX being the previous year)". Here the "Best of" models would be any model that took first place in a category, best of show, or models the member considers it to be their best work of the previous year.

### **Raffle**

Every meeting also has a raffle held at the end of the meeting and contributions provided by membership and outside donations and are raffled off every month. If you have an un-built and complete kit for the raffle – please give it to Curtis or Shirley at the beginning of the meeting and each donation earns you free tickets!

### **Selling your own kits**

If you have a kit(s) you want to remove from your stash you are welcome to come to a monthly meeting, take up some table space in the back, and put up a for-sale sign.

*Per Virginia State regulations, for-profit commercial vendors are not permitted to sell at monthly club meetings.*

### **Tips and Share Meeting**

We have implemented a second monthly online Zoom meeting to facilitate additional interaction and sharing between club members. This meeting has an open format, with no set agenda, and is intended to help members get answers to modeling questions they have, show off works in progress or share other modeling information they think would be of interest. Topics run the gamut from airbrush and weathering questions, to specific subject configuration discussions, to 'How do you have your workbench organized'. This meeting is typically held the second or third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7PM and ending approximately at 8:30PM. All are welcome to join.

### **Newsletter**

Our award-winning monthly newsletter provides a handy recap of the previous monthly meeting, contains articles, reviews, a calendar of upcoming events and flyers for other model shows. The newsletter covers the contest and results in a pictorial format and Tom welcomes article submissions and reviews from the membership. It is time well spent to browse our newsletter archives at: <https://www.novaipms.org/newsletters>.

## **Model Classic**

Model Classic is our annual contest held in April at Fairfax High School with support of our sponsors, the Fairfax HS Choral Patrons Association. This show is the primary fundraising vehicle for the club and its success is what supports our programs throughout the year and is the reason we do not have to charge dues to club members.

The Model Classic consists of over 90 model competition categories including Aircraft, Military Vehicles, Automotive, Spacecraft, Science Fiction, Figures, Gundams, Ships, Dioramas, and Special Themes and attracts competitors (and vendors) from across the eastern US.

Around January of each year, the E-Board solicits commitments from members for the myriad of activities necessary to pull off Model Classic. It is managed by club volunteers so please consider signing up to help. Sign-up sheets are up on the front of the table at the monthly meetings starting in January. Even if you have a couple hours to spare, we can use the help and we do OTJ training! Model Classic is also a great place to dip your toe into model judging.

The event attracts nearly 1,000 attendees, dozens of vendors and several hundred models for the competition. Our one-day event is highly regarded and nationally recognized.

## **IPMS/USA**

Membership in the national IPMS organization is optional but the club does subsidize membership applications. If you join IPMS USA through the club, for every year that you renew, submit your application and a check for \$10 per year to the club treasurer and the club pays the remainder directly to IPMS. For example, if you renew for 3 years, you pay \$30 towards your membership and the club picks up the rest. You support IPMS, get a snazzy quarterly magazine, and your membership is often recognized at other contests and events.

## **Holiday Party**

Every December, the club holds a Holiday Party in lieu of our regular meeting to all NoVA members and immediate families. There is no presentation or raffle at the Holiday and the program varies from the usual monthly activities:

- Abbreviated business meeting
- Presentation of the NoVA Member of the Year award
- Build The Same Subject (BTSS) contest
- Annual Club Photo
- Dinner
- Gift Exchange

### *Abbreviated Business Meeting*

The main thrust of the Abbreviated Business Meeting is the announcement of the NoVA Member of the Year. NoVA presents a Member of the Year award to the club member who the E-Board has determined exemplifies the spirit of our club and promotes the hobby in general. Any NoVA member can nominate someone for Member of the Year. Nominations are Due to the E-Board, in writing, no later than 31 October of each year. The E-Board will consider each nominee and select the Member of the Year.

### *Dinner*

The past two years the club has been in suitable financial situation to be able to provide the main course and beverages for our holiday party. The club provides salads, fried chicken, BBQ and pizza as well as soft drinks and water. Members are encouraged to bring in the dessert or sweet of their choice.

### *Gift Exchange*

One of the highlights of the NoVA Holiday Party is the Gift Exchange. Everyone who wishes to participate must bring a wrapped, modelling related gift that you would want to receive yourself, place it on the table and receive a ticket from the Raffle Coordinator. When your ticket is called you come to the table and choose a gift but you DO NOT unwrap it.

After all the tickets are called you un-wrap your gift upon the Raffle Coordinator's command. It is yours to keep but if the gift is not your cup of tea you can roam the room to trade with others. It is a fun end to the holiday party.

### **Other Events**

Throughout the year, NoVA participates in events held around the area including at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, George Mason University, The National Museum of the United States Marine Corps, and other venues. If you are interested in participating at any of our outside event let someone on the E-Board know and please listen closely at the monthly business meetings. Information will also be found in the monthly NoVA newsletter and website for details.

*Udvar Hazy – Air and Scare.* The club for several years has been fortunate to be asked to participate in the family-oriented Air and Scare Halloween event at Udvar-Hazy center. We put up a display of usually approximately 100 models across all subject matters.

*Scale Model World (Telford, England).* Each year several club members make the trek to England to participate in the world's largest scale modeling show: Scale Model World. Hosted by IPMS-UK (of which several NoVA club members have also joined), the event is a primarily Pan-European showcase of IPMS clubs from a large number of countries, as well as vendors not usually seen here in the US. The larger vendors tend to bring their latest and most significant new releases to this show as well. The event is free to any IPMS member.