

# Tactical Notes

June 2024

**So many kits... So little time...**



**Next Meeting: 7 PM Thursday June 20th, 2024**

## To Contact MMCL:

President:  
Rich Guetig  
Email: [wolfandgang@twc.com](mailto:wolfandgang@twc.com)  
Phone: 502-931-0302

Vice President:  
Alex Restrepo  
Email: [alexrest@aol.com](mailto:alexrest@aol.com)

Treasurer:  
Bill Wise  
Email: [williamd.wise@aol.com](mailto:williamd.wise@aol.com)

Secretary/ Tactical Notes  
Editor:  
Jason Sizemore  
Email: [sizemj@gmail.com](mailto:sizemj@gmail.com)  
Phone: 502-377-4330

Show Chairman:  
Joe Betz  
Email: [jbetz2970@gmail.com](mailto:jbetz2970@gmail.com)

Member At Large:  
Julia Evelsizer  
Email: [juliaevelsizer@yahoo.com](mailto:juliaevelsizer@yahoo.com)

Member At Large:  
Randy Fuller  
Email: [srandfuller@gmail.com](mailto:srandfuller@gmail.com)

## Editor's Notes

MMCL Members,  
I hope your summer has started out well and you are getting some bench time in the wonderful AC. In this month's Tactical Notes I have written a build review of the Dragon 1/72 scale M1A2 SEP Abrams kit. This is my first ever 1/72 AFV I have completed, and it has gotten me wanting to build more 1/72 AFV kits. So being a good modeler I have purchased some new 1/72 kits to add to the stash. I purchased another Abrams kit this time a Meng kit of a TUSK Abrams, and a Vespid Leopard 2A7. So I will keep my tweezers and Optivisor handy.

Take care and happy modeling.  
Jason

\* Also I have added the last 6 months of Tactical Notes to the MMCL web page here.

## Cover image

An M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank from Bravo Company, 185th Armor, 81st Armor Brigade, conducts an area reconnaissance around Balad, Iraq on Sept. 6, 2004. The area recon is to deny anti-Iraqi forces the freedom to operate and move throughout the countryside. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

Don't Forget to join us on our Saturday Morning Workshops. The Workshop is open most Saturdays from 6 AM to Noon.



**Membership Renewal:** Please renew as soon as you can. You can renew online (PayPal), in person at the Saturday Workshop or at a Monthly Meeting, or at Scale Reproductions (Please, NO debit or credit cards).

## President's Page

Hello MMCL Members,

Hopefully you all had a wonderful Father's Day weekend. We will be having our regular MMCL meeting this Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Our monthly meetings have been well attended with members bringing in their completed models and sharing techniques. The "WWII Italian Armed Forces" Smackdown is scheduled for August. Our meeting in August will be a Friday Night Fights on August 16, 2024. We will vote on the smackdown that night. Below is the Agenda for Thursday's meeting;

### I. Administrative Meeting

#### a. New Business

- Financials (Bill Wise)
- 2024 MMCL Invitational Update: Joe, Alex and Dave.
- 2026 IPMS Nationals Update: Alex
- MMCL Business Cards
- MMCL Challenge Coins and Recognition Medallion's: Update on pricing
- MMCL T-shirt and Hat order: Short discussion on pricing and ordering

#### b. Demonstration: Anti-skid applique on Armor and Aircraft – Jim and Andre

### II. Show-N-Tell

Please plan to bring your completed (or in-progress) models and give a BRIEF synopsis of your build or project. Display table is in the center of the room.

### III. Raffle

Search your stash and bring a kit or two for our monthly raffle. For each item you donate, you will receive a free raffle ticket (i.e. 3 items = 3 tickets). Raffle tickets can be purchased for a \$1.00 each.

Reminder: 2024 Membership renewal. Renew your membership if you haven't done so. I will be sending out an email to those individuals that are delinquent. Thanks to ALL members for your continued participation and support of the MMCL. I believe that we have the best club in the Nation! Remember, this is a hobby, so have FUN!

See ya Thursday!  
Rich



## M1A2 SEP

1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT "Black Jack Brigade" 1st Cavalry Division  
Iraq 2004



### The M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank

The M1 Abrams is a third-generation American main battle tank designed by Chrysler Defense (Now General Dynamics Land Systems) The M1 Abrams entered service in 1980 replacing the M60. The M1 has gone through several enhancements over the years. The M1A1 produced from 1986 to 1992 featured an up gunned M256 120MM smoothbore cannon and improved armor. The M1A2 was further improved with a commander's independent thermal viewer, improved weapons station, GPS and, full digital data bus. The M1A2 System Enhancement Package (SEP) added digital maps, Linux Communication systems, and an improved cooling system to help for the heat added by the additional computer systems.

### The Kit

This kit is the Dragon 1/72 scale version of the M1A2 SEP Kit number 7495 which I had won from one of MMCL's meeting raffles. The box art on this kit is a photograph of our very own Bill Wise's Abrams tank. Unfortunately, the kit decals included are not of Bill's tank. I built up this kit using one of the three options included in the kit, a tank from the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq 2004. The kit included "rubber band" style tracks that took paint well, fit, and glued up fine with CA glue.

### Construction

The kit builds up straight forward (for a Dragon kit). The detail for a kit of this scale I thought was pretty good. I did have part of the bustle rack break when snipping it off the sprue with a pair of Xuron cutters, after that I used a pair of Micro-Mark single edge cutters which I think work much better in this smaller scale.

I primed the kit with Mr. Surfacer 1500 black and weighted it down with fishing weights glued in place with 5 minute epoxy. I painted the kit in a base color mixture of Tamiya XF-2 (3 parts) X-59 (1 part) and X-57 (1 part). I weathered the kit in a lightened mixture of the base color and oil paints. I added antennas made from music wire and a bead of CA glue. The kit included decals worked well and went down easy with micro set/sol.



Primed the kit with Mr. Surfacer 1500 black, and weighted the kit with fishing sinkers and 5 minute epoxy.





Thanks for the autograph Bill!



# WonderFest 2024

I was not able to attend, but I know several MMCL members went. Below are some great pictures from Dave Knights.





# Military Modelers Club of Louisville

## “WWII Italian Armed Forces”

### SMACKDOWN



#### Guidelines;

1. Any model representing a WWII Italian vehicle, aircraft, artillery, ship, figure etc – Basically, anything **manufactured** and **used** by the Italian Armed Forces..
2. The entry can be a “stand alone” model, vignette, or diorama.
3. Any scale!
4. Italian markings only! **No** Italian vehicles with another country’s markings.

\*\* Must be a **NEW** build and finished by **August 15, 2024**

\*\* Members can have more than one entry.

\*\*\*Questions regarding an entry, check with Richard Guetig at [wolfandgang@twc.com](mailto:wolfandgang@twc.com) or call 502-931-0302.

# 2024 Military Modelers Club of Louisville IPMS Invitational Contest

**New location**

**Paroquet Springs Convention Center  
395 Paroquet Springs Drive,  
Shepherdsville, KY, 40165**

**Saturday Sept. 28th 9:00 AM - 3:30PM**

**SHOW THEME:**

**Models of subjects from the 80's**



**BACK  
TO  
THE 80'S**



**FOOD  
CONCESSIONS  
ON SITE**

**Show Contact :**

**Joe Betz**

**[jbetz2970@gmail.com](mailto:jbetz2970@gmail.com)**

**Vendor Contact:**

**Dave Crouch**

**[dcrou@bellsouth.net](mailto:dcrou@bellsouth.net)**

**Website: [MMCL.org](http://MMCL.org)**

**Largest  
Raffle  
In Region 4**

**General Admission: \$5.00**

**Contest Entry Fee: \$10 (\$8 for IPMS Members)**

**Includes First two Models, \$1 per additional model,**

**Juniors (Under 18) \$5 unlimited entries**

**See [MMCL.org](http://MMCL.org) for**

**Contest Entry Forms and Categories**

**IPMS Guideline:**

**"In light of the current pandemic situation, please be aware that neither IPMS/USA nor its Chapters (Military Modelers Club Of Louisville) are liable for any potential transmission of illnesses.**

**Those planning to attend events do so at your own risk and should**

**(A) follow existing safe social distancing and mask use recommendations and**

**(B) abide by any local or state regulations regarding gatherings."**

