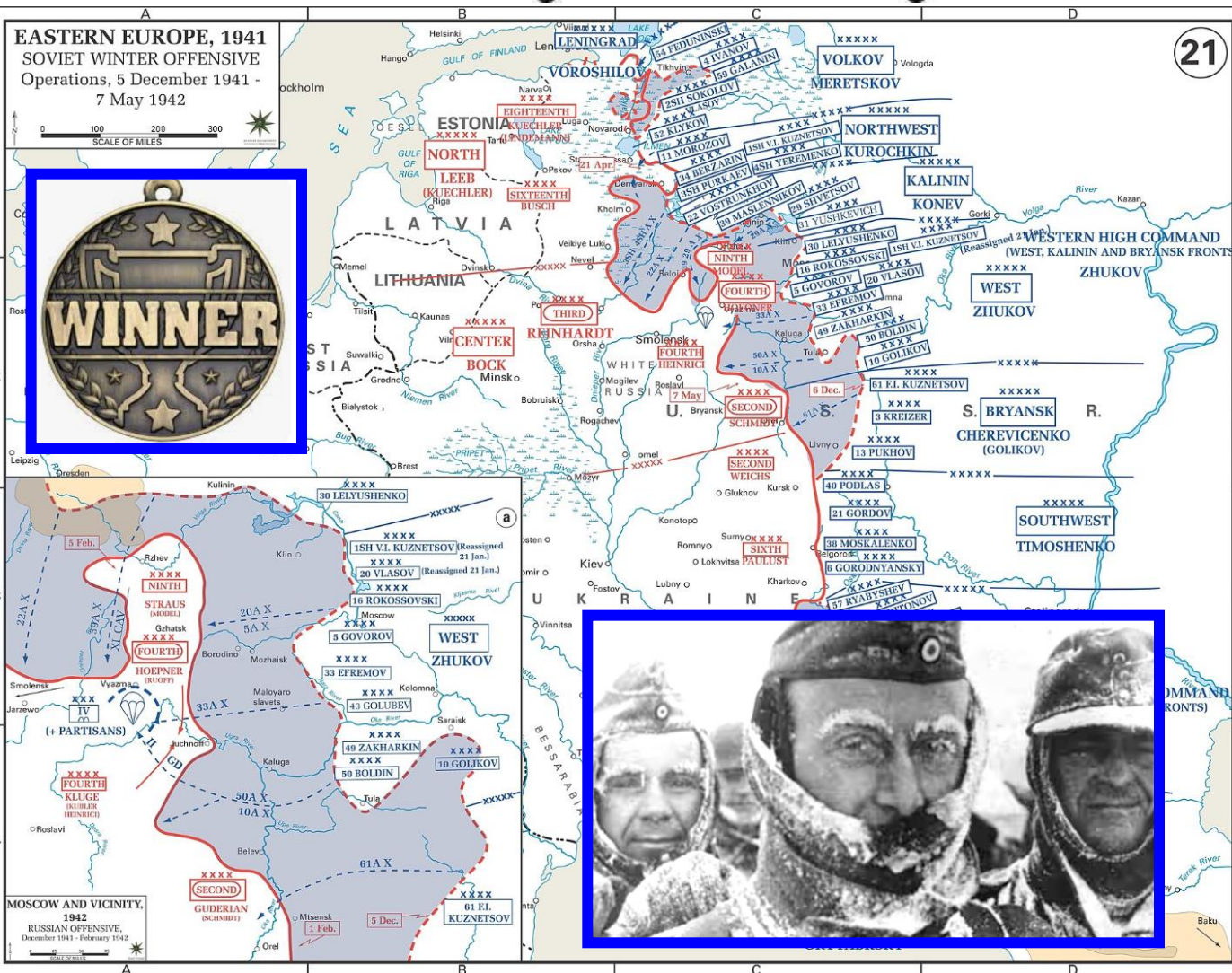




www.gatormodelers.org



General "Winter" won as our January 21 meeting was canceled because of cold weather and possible hazardous driving conditions. Inside is a story about General Winter and His Victories.



Club officers
Doug Spinney
President

Chuck Lassiter
Vice President

Frank Ahern
Secretary

Bruce Doyle
Historian

Doug Spinney
Webmaster

Bill Winter
Treasurer &
Newsletter
Editor

www.gatormodelers.org

Prez Sez.....

Today, February 8th, I attended JAXCON in Jacksonville. I'll have to say if you missed it, then you missed a great event. The venue, North Jacksonville Baptist Church is a fantastic location. A few years ago I thought that they would never outgrow this place, and 3 years later I'm thinking they are coming close to it. At this writing I don't know how many models were entered, it sure looked like much



more than last year. I'm hoping that Gator Modelers are going to bring home several medals, there were certainly a lot of our club members present. I'm also hoping that those that entered models bring their medals to our February meeting so that all of us can enjoy them. Our next meeting on February 18th will have three tables for models. One for the January theme, "Your Oldest Model", the second for this month's theme, "Things that were Re-purposed", and a third table for non-theme models. I hope to see many of you at the meeting.

- Doug

July – IPMS Gators

We will meet
Tuesday, February
18, 2025, at 6:30
PM at
Oak Hall Library

Jaxcon

By Frank Ahern

Those who believe the hobby of scale modeling is in decline would have had their assumption challenged by the turnout at this year's Jaxcon model show. There were a record numbers of entrants and entries (over 650) in the contest categories. There were also higher than usual numbers of visitors and vendors selling their wares.



All of this confirms a trend we have seen on the local level of increasing interest in GatorModeler club membership, which has increased 20% in the past year.



Why this is happening is open for debate. It's still an older man's hobby, as the crowd at the show clearly revealed, but there is a growing junior contingent.



Don's Christmas Mail Truck



Bob's Korean Sherman



Bob's Hetzer diorama



Jaxcon



Don's Sci-Fi Tank



Don's WW2 Tanker Figure



Joel's Panzer IV with white wash



Joel's M4A3 tank



I believe the trend shows that, in an age when most entertainment options are digital, many still find the most satisfaction in doing and building things that are tangible and real.

For myself, it is the connection to historical objects that actually existed. Some find a creative outlet in imagining then building things that could have been or could be. The possibilities are endless.

Joining a club also reveals our need for community. Jaxcon, over the years, has been a place where we gather and connect with the larger world of modeling and see the work of others as well as compete against the best. Our club has been known to literally stand out with our trademark yellow shirts, thanks to the leadership of former president Jack Mugan.

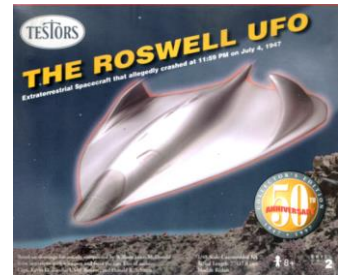
So, I think modeling will survive and thrive as long as people still want to build things and display their creations to the world. This year's Jaxcon was a testimony to that need and desire.



Club Model Kits – Please read this (since Jan’s meeting was canceled) by Bill W.

IPMS Gator’s has a “stash” of kits that we use as door prizes. This “give away” activity is a popular part of our meetings. Since 2015 we have given away over 150 kits as door prizes. In part, your yearly dues of \$20 supports this activity. The kits are purchased periodically to ensure a variety of kits are available as door prizes. Some kits have been donated to the club for use as door prizes.

For at least 10 years, I have had 2 boxes of other unbuilt kits in my barn given to IPMS Gators by a former Regional Coordinator. Because of their complexity, these kits are not suitable for “make-and-takes.” Over the years, the mud daubers have gotten into these boxes and left “their mark” [.. mud ☺]. Therefore, it’s time to distribute these kits to the paid club members.

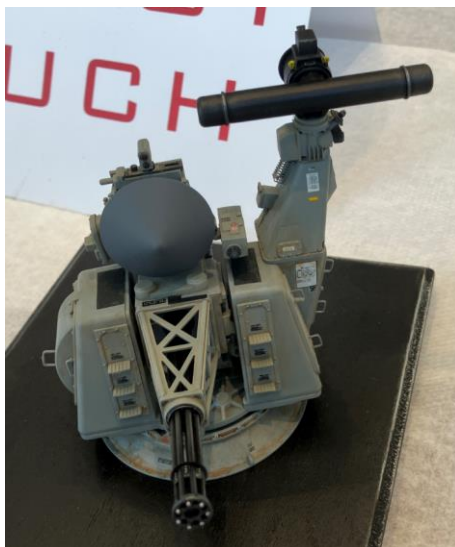


The most common kit that we have is the *Roswell UFO* kit (see above) of which we have at least 20. The officers have decided to offer each paid club member one of these kits with the intent that the kit will be built for a “*special*” club contest to be held in April or May of this year (in addition to the usual monthly theme). *If you want to participate and come to the February meeting, we will distribute a UFO kit to you at that time. If a member can’t attend the meeting, we can hold a kit for them if they contact me (winter@pathology.ufl.edu) and request that a kit be held. The requests for kits are on a first come-first-serve basis until all of the kits have been distributed.*

For the *non-Roswell UFO* kits (e.g., a *Batcycle* kit, a *Batboat* kit, the *Independence Douglas C-118 Truman’s Presidential Transport*, *F-117*, *F-14* and *SR-71*), these kits will be used as door prizes in *addition to* our regular 2 door prizes per month. There are approximately 12 such non-UFO kits. We will offer 3 per month so that these kits will be distributed over an approximate 4-month period of time. For these kits, an additional 3 tickets will be drawn each month, and the winner can choose which of the non-Roswell kits they want (until the type of kit is exhausted).

Contact me if you have questions. In February, we will also be selling books donated to the club at considerable discounts.

More
IPMS
Gators at
Jaxcon
2025



Don Martin's Thales Nederland Goalkeeper



The Thales-developed Goalkeeper is an extremely effective system, that incorporates a 30 mm, 7-barrel Gatling gun with special missile-piercing ammunition. The combination of MPDS (Missile Piercing Discarding Sabot) ammunition and a firing rate of 4200 rounds/minute gives the system the power necessary to destroy missile warheads.



Bob Lundeen's M4A3



Don Martin's Russian Tiger



Don's Christmas truck



Bill's Cosmonaut



< --- Bill's U.S. Marine Corp M4A3 flame tank at Iwo Jima.

V ---- IDF M51



< --- Panther A

V ---- Jagdtiger



Russian KET-T Wrecker based upon MAZ 537 heavy truck ----- >

V - IDF Puma engineering vehicle



Bob Lundeen's medals



^ ---- Corvette C7-R

Iron Man ->

(both by Bill)



Who is "General Winter"* By Bill W.

Cover Caption: USSR offensive December 1941 to February 1942.

Napoleon's invasion of Russia in 1812 and Hitler's invasion of Russia (as part of the Soviet Union) in 1941 were both defeated, in part, by winter's cold, snow and ice. This has been referred to as "General Winter."

Napoleon's invasion of Russia began on June 24, 1812. As Napoleon's army initially moved successfully into Russia, Moscow was abandoned by the Russians and Napoleon entered a destroyed city. Ultimately the invasion was a disaster that resulted in the deaths of nearly a million soldiers and civilians. On December 14, 1812, the "Grande Armée" of Napoleon left Russian territory.

On June 22, 1941 (nearly 129 years after Napoleon's invasion) Germany invaded the Soviet Union. This invasion was titled "*Operation Barbarossa*." Initial German victories were rapid with the capture or killing of millions of Soviet soldiers and non-combatants. However, Soviet resistance became persistent and then overwhelming.



This photo shows German tanks trying to operate in terrible conditions during late 1941

Nazi Germany's drive on Moscow began on October 2, 1941. Facing logistical problems with supply, slowed by muddy terrain, not fully outfitted for Russia's brutal winter, and coping with determined Soviet resistance, Army Group Center's offensive stalled at the city's outskirts. By December 5, the Soviets began a major counteroffensive pushing the Germans back towards Germany.

Despite episodic German victories, the Soviet Union persisted in defeating Germany. The Soviet's invasion of Berlin began on April 16, 1945. On April 30, Hitler committed suicide. The Berlin's garrison surrendered on May 2 but fighting continued until the end of the European war on May 8 (May 9 in the Soviet Union).

(*continued from the cover)





From the desk of Jack Mugan -- >

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DfZq7GHWsAEjOz1.jpg>

1/25 SCALE HYDROPLANE MODEL - MISS MERCURY'S COFFEE U-11



Price: **\$50.00**

Shipping: \$10.00 (Fixed shipping cost)

Current Stock: 4

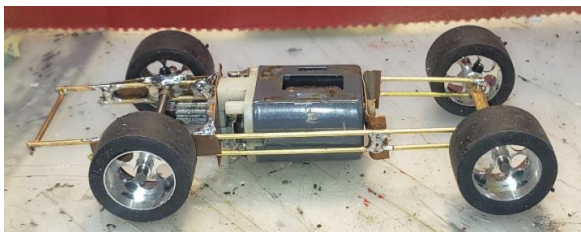
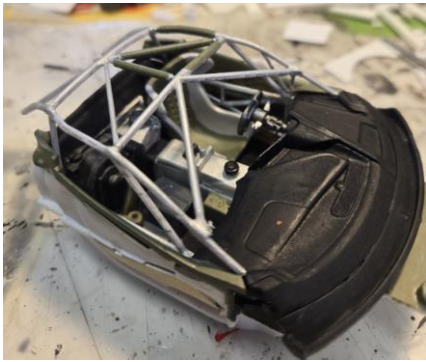
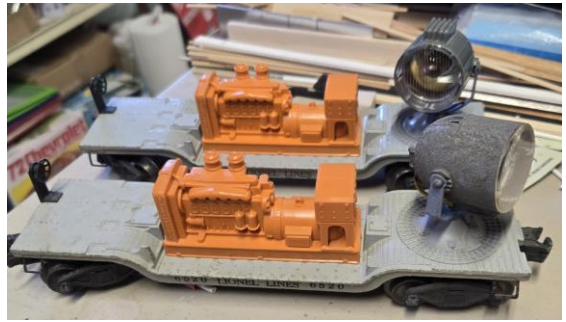
Quantity:

Add to Cart

From the desk of Clarence Snyder -- >



From the desk of Clarence Snyder -- >



From the desk of Clarence Snyder -- >





From the desk of Bill Winter -- > Hey! I built 2 cars!



Dodge Viper GTS kit by Revell converted to a GT3 model. I added an airfoil with the help of John Anspach. Mark Box provided coaching.



Mark also provided coaching in building this C7-R GT3 racer by Revell.





Challenge question: What type of defensive armament (e.g., guns) did B-24s have on their bellies (ventral surfaces)?



Let me know your thoughts. Next month I'll publish the answer. – Bill

UPDATE: Ed Ingersoll answered this month's challenge. THANKS ED!



Consolidated B-24 Liberator

Armament

The defensive armament of the B-24 varied from transport variants, which were usually unarmed, to bombers armed with up to ten .50 caliber (12.7 mm) M2 Browning machine guns located in turrets and waist gun positions.

Early model Liberators were fitted with a top-mounted turret, a tail turret and single machine guns located in the waist and in the glazed nose. The B-24D initially featured upper, belly and tail turrets, plus swiveling single guns in the waist and on either side of the nose. The belly turret was a periscopically sighted Bendix model. The turret proved unsatisfactory and was soon replaced by a tunnel gun, which was itself omitted. Later D models were fitted with the retractable Sperry ball turret.

The B-24H saw the replacement of the glazed 'green house' nose with a nose turret, which reduced the B-24s vulnerability to head-on attacks. The bombsight was located below the turret.

Long-range naval patrol versions often carried a light defensive armament. Being on long-distance patrols, they generally flew outside the range of enemy fighters. Also, the necessity of range increased the importance of weight and aerodynamic efficiency. Thus naval patrol often omitted top, belly and nose turrets. Some were fitted with a belly pack containing fixed, forward-facing cannon.

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – ahernf@gmail.com
Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785



If you have a modeling tip you would like to share with your fellow modelers, please send us a copy so we can put it in the newsletter. We need articles for the Newsletter and the Web Site!

If you just opened up that new kit and want to give a box or build review, write it up and we'll put it in the newsletter and put it on the Web Site. Just read a good book, tell us about it! Got a great tip, share it with your fellow club members. This is your Newsletter and your Web Site and they're only going to be as good as YOU make them so contribute something to the cause. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance if you have something you want to share, we'll be happy to assist you in making it happen!

Don't forget to support your local hobby shop: Rob's Hobby World (Rob Stevely: Proprietor 8585 SW Hwy 200 unit 14) Ocala, FL 34474 www.robshobbyworld@MSN.com; Mon.-Fri.: 10 AM to 5:30PM; Sat.: 9AM to 4PM; Sun: Closed.

Please check out WWW.IPMSUSA.ORG for the latest information from IPMS National Headquarters and for information about joining IPMS.

Frank Ahern, – Secretary – Newsletter Editor ahernf@gmail.com
Home: (352) 375-3723; Cell: (352) 226-6785

UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete list of IPMS events visit: <https://calendar.ipmsusa3.org/>



*It is of great importance, both at the local level (IPMS Gators) and at the national level, that all IPMS Gators members **join IPMS USA.***

This membership includes six bimonthly issues of the IPMS Journal (now: "IUJ"; which is better than ever) and the opportunity to participate in the IPMS National Convention .

Joining IPMSUSA or renewing your membership are done on-line.

<https://myipmsusa.org/join-us>



INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODELERS' SOCIETY

By Modelers, for Modelers



MEMBERSHIP HOME ▶ 60TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL! CHAPTER DIRECTORY JOIN US IPMS/USA ONLINE STORE

Go to IPMS/USA

Renew My Membership



IPMS/USA

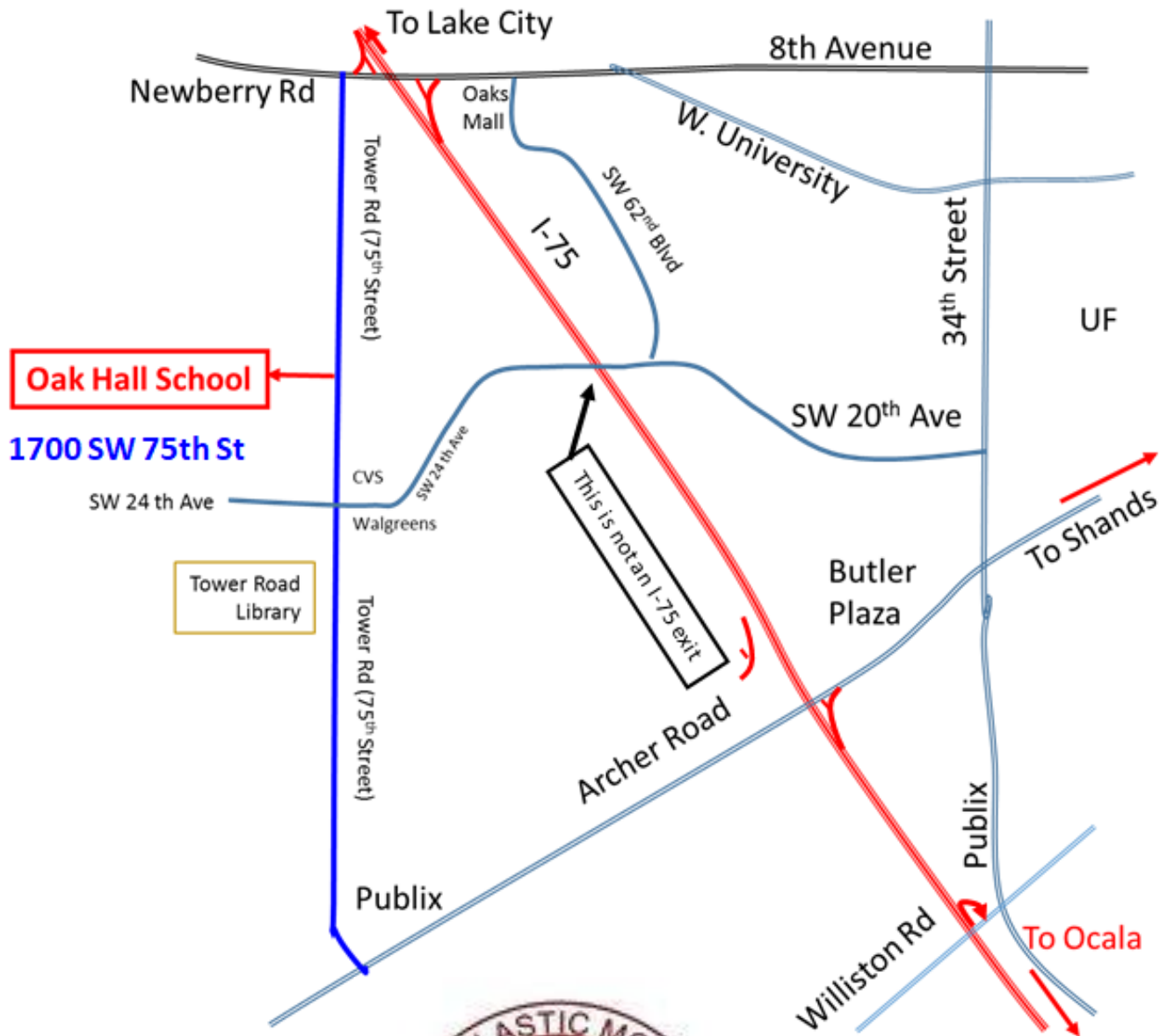
P. O. Box 1411

Riverview, FL 33568-1411

Phone: 727-537-6886

Email: manager@ipmsusa.org

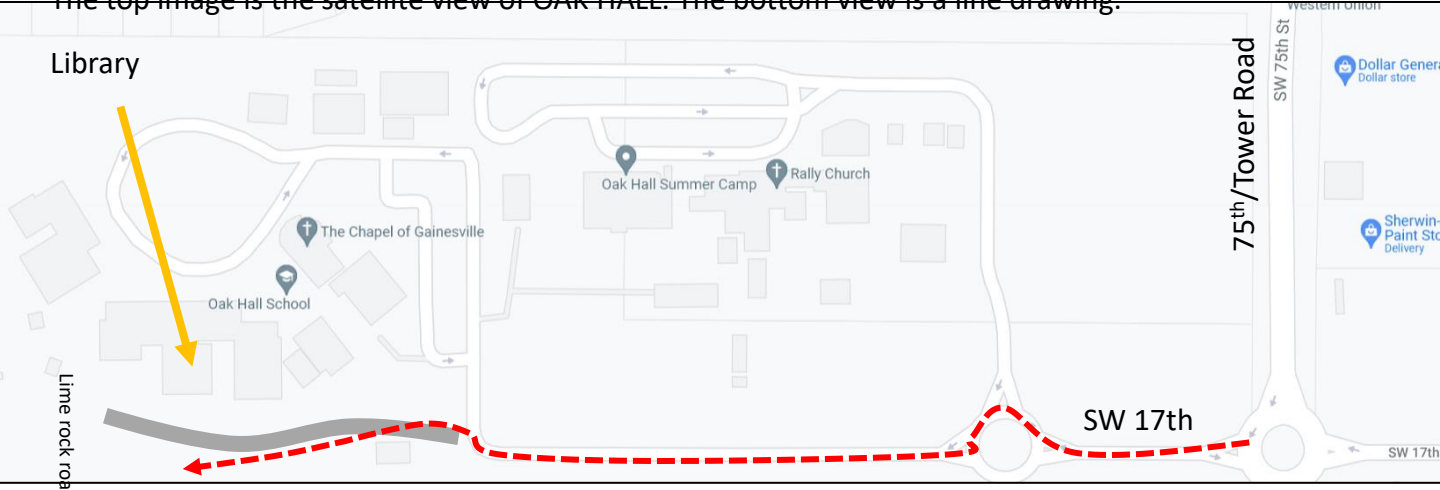
Directions to OAK HALL (1700 SW 75th St, Gainesville, FL)



IPMS GATORS' MEMBERS: We will meet at Oak Hall on Tuesday February 18 at 6:30 PM in the LIBRARY.



The top image is the satellite view of OAK HALL. The bottom view is a line drawing.



A note about monthly themes for 2025

Feb. Your oldest model & Things that were re-purposed

- Mar. Vietnam war
- Apr. Russia WW2
- May Ships
- Jun Snow vehicles
- Jul Movie/TV
- Aug. Humor
- Sep WW1
- Oct Korean war
- Nov. 3 color camouflage
- Dec. Sci-Fi

Fancy Paint ... inspired by Jack Mugan



THE END

Dear Readers – If you sent me something for the IPMS Gators' newsletter and I missed it, or if I misidentified any photos, please let me know. I'll fix it in the March 2025 newsletter. - Bill