

# SPRUE



Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley IPMS Chapter

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2012

## TITANIC Presentation April, 26

by Josh Beasley

Deli Sandwich Tray with chips and Potato Salad will be provided our own Terry Eastman.



## From the Prez...

Well, the sky is bright blue and it's spitting snow and sleet, so it must be April. If ever a month needed a Fools Day, it's April. You need a program to tell what's going to happen each day. But April means we're well into the show season and with NOVA, D-Day, D&J in Galax and the Shoot-Out and Nationals coming up, the weather should not play too much into travel plans. Just might have to add snow tires!

It's time also to step up and sell those trophy sponsorships, clear out the closets for raffle donations and clean and iron(?) those VA Shoot-Out t-shirts for the upcoming shows. I want to thank those who have already stepped up to the plate and offered sponsorships and raffle donations. Bob and Sharon Rohrback are always very generous and it is greatly appreciated.

Speaking of April and the weather, remember to attend the next meeting as we will have a "first class" catered repast courtesy of Terry Eastman and the "White Star Line." And then the sinking of the Titanic as entertainment. No, we aren't really going to sink the Titanic again, but we will have a guest speaker. Joshua Beasley will give a very well-informed presentation on the ill-fated voyage of the unsinkable Titanic. We look forward to his speech and hope everyone can attend Thursday, the 26th.

Life preservers are optional.

Tim Ward



Visit [www.rvipms.com](http://www.rvipms.com) for the latest info on shows, pictures, contacts and more.



## From the Crow's Nest

– Tim Ward

The SS RVIPMS took a trip up into Ohio country this past weekend to attend the Region 4 Convention held by the newly created IPMS Wright Club in Dayton. While a new club in age, there is definitely a "grown-up" feel to the club as they hosted a very professional

and well-organized show. Saw a bunch of old friends; Mark Tutton from Starship Modeler, Alan Horner from Horner Hobbies and Bill Brierton from Firehouse Hobbies as well as a few others from Region 2. Made a few new friends as well and invited them to our Region for our Shoot-Out and Regional next year. Hopefully they will reciprocate and join us in beautiful VA. The

show was a success with over 700 models entered, a nice raffle and great accommodations for the attendees. I unfortunately was late getting my reservation in so I had to stay across town at the Airport Hampton Inn. Nice new hotel but about 40 miles added to the odometer each day. I keep telling myself, "It's only gas!" GOOD GRIEF!!! Visited the USAF Museum early Sunday morning before heading back to Roanoke. Will have a full report at the next meeting. "Kudos" to the IPMS Wright club for an enjoyable weekend.



## • R&D Dept.

### French Attack and Dive Bombers – Terry Eastman

Like the Messerschmitt 110, "Zerstorer", the Armee de l'Air expected great things from the Breguet 693.

Although aware of developments with dive bombers in the early 30's, the French Air Force did not decide to acquire modern ground-attack aircraft before 1937.

For this role, the 693 included a 20 mm cannon, two 7.5 mm machine guns, and an internal bomb load of 880 pounds that could be used in a shallow dive attack. Armour plate protected the crew of two, and the fuel tanks had rudimentary self-sealing capability, but this protection proved insufficient in combat.

The chosen tactic was a nap-of-the-earth approach at high speed, followed by a strafing run or the delivery of time-delayed bombs directly on the target.

Because of late delivery, crews were still working up their new equipment and developing tactics when the Germans attacked on 10 May 1940. On 12 May, GBA's I/54 and II/54 performed the 693's first operations against German motorized columns in the Maastricht-Tongeren-Bilsen area of Belgium. Flak was so devastating that only 8 of the 18 aircraft returned most of the former with damage.

Some will be surprised to learn that the French Navy did have a dive bomber. In some respects it was superior to the infamous "Stuka".

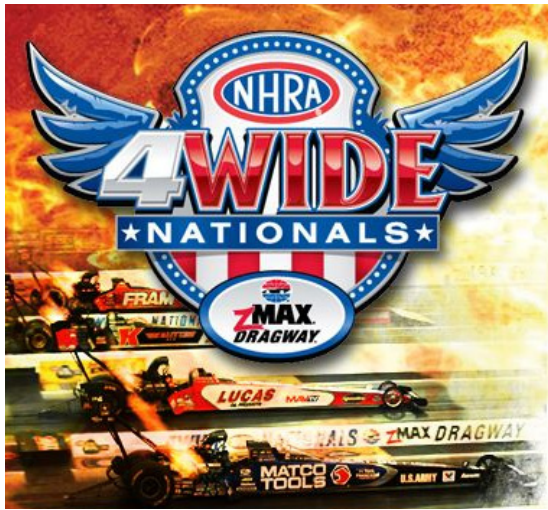
On 19 May, Loire-Nieuport 411's attacked a German motorized column at the Berlaimont Crossroads in France. Here, both flak and Me 109's caused a number of aircraft to be lost. Several of the crashed aircraft have been documented in color photos.



Breguet 693 Groupe d'Assaut  
GBA I/51, June 1940



Loire-Nieuport 411 AB4, Bombe d'Pique  
Cherbourg, May 1940



# The Breath of DRAGONS – Tim Mullins



The day was overcast. No danger of exposure to the sun. Exposure to thunder however — that was an extreme possibility. I had seen drag racing before. The roar of the snarling beasts resonating through my chest. Felt the adrenaline surge of excitement jolt my system wide awake.

I was unprepared for the power of the monsters unleashed that fine spring Sunday.

In the pits the mechanics worked like machines themselves. Tuning assembling and adjusting the powerhouse engines. Everything in it's place they danced with precision as each member of the team performed their tasks. The engines are huge. The approximate average of today's cars is 110-150

horsepower. This can be greater depending on engine size. A 1969 hemi was rated at 426 hp. The top fuel dragster racing at the 4-wide nationals are rated at 8,000 hp. The closest man may ever come to riding thunder.

The thunder started rolling a couple hours before race time. Bursts of foul dragon's breath began rising and flowing through the valleys of the pits as the drivers test fired their respective beasts. An accelerator blast would occasionally rip holes in the air. The ground shook. The peasants revelled in the controlled chaos.

The racing starts. The first four top fuelers lined up. Engines started. Burn-outs to warm the tires. Just a few seconds later and My ears were assaulted by a sound so loud that standing by speakers at a heavy metal concert seemed tame. The vibration in my head was joined by those from my feet as the stands shook. My chest was grabbed by an unseen force as the head to foot tremors collided. In 3-4 seconds it was over. The dragons had flown.

A few seconds later their foul breath reached my perch in the stands. The distinct odor of spent nitro-methane filling my nostrils and stinging my eyes. — I could hardly wait for the next four monsters to launch.



## Dues Are Due!

Our Treasurer Greg Clower is now collecting dues and you have 3 months to pay them. We accept cash and checks.

Please see Greg's email from March 4 for details on the Distance/Associate membership. This is a new type of full membership for people who live a considerable distance away and are unable to make regular meetings.

Regular full Membership to RVIPMS is still only \$24 for one year. April 1 to March 31.

New Associate (Distance) membership is \$12 for one year. April 1 to March 31.



**— Reason's to Build Stuff —**

NOVA Model Classic  
May 12, 2012  
Fairfax, VA

Wonderfest  
May 26 - 27, 2012  
Louisville, KY

D&J Hobby Center Hobby Show  
June 2, 2012  
Galax, VA

The Virginia Shootout  
July 14, 2012  
Roanoke Civic Center  
Roanoke, VA



IPMS/USA National Convention  
Aug. 8 - 11, 2012  
Walt Disney World Convention Center  
Lake Buena Vista, FL

IPMS Region 2 Convection  
Oct. 4 & 5, 2013  
Theme: Nose Art  
Roanoke Civic Center  
Roanoke, VA



*Always check websites for up to date info on shows and contests*

**— Club Officers —**

**President:** Tim Ward  
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**Secretary:** Bob Rohrback  
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**Vice-President:** Terry Eastman  
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**Treasurer:** Greg Clower  
GClower@aol.com

If you have any questions about the club, meetings, or need directions, contact us at; [www.rvipms.com](http://www.rvipms.com) or mail written correspondence to: Roanoke Valley IPMS P.O. Box 20841 Roanoke, VA. 24018



RVIPMS meetings are held at the Virginia Museum of Transportation.

**How to get there;**

From Salem Ave. turn onto 1 1/2 St. Drive the very short distance to Norfolk Ave. SW and turn left. Follow under the 2nd st. over-pass to the back of the museum. The fenced parking lot is behind the building as indicated in the picture. Enter through the rear door, (the main entrance will be locked) walk down the hallway and turn right. Meeting room is in right corner.

**When to get there;**

The club has two meetings per month, with a couple exceptions. Build meetings are the second Thursday each month. Business meetings are the fourth Thursday each month. All meetings start at 7 p.m. For further details visit our website. [www.rvipms.com](http://www.rvipms.com)

Sprue is the official publication of the Roanoke Valley Chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society. The content of Sprue does not necessarily represent the official views of, nor is it endorsed by IPMS/USA or IPMS/Roanoke Valley. Opinions expressed are those of the authors.