

JUNE 2015

NEWSLETTER



IPMS Fort Worth Scale Modelers

4625 Brandingshire Pl., Fort Worth, TX 76133

View the online version of our newsletter at <http://www.fortworthscalemodelers.org/>



Countdown for Supercon 2015, Saturday, Sept. 12

Club President Dave Hibscher headed up our monthly meeting on Monday, May 18.

Our first order of business was Supercon 2015, which will be coming up Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Bob Duncan Community Center in Vandergriff Park, Arlington. This venue has served us well

for several years now. Doors open at 9 a.m. and registration continues until 11 a.m. General admission is \$5, with children 6 years of age and younger admitted free.

The theme for Supercon 2015 will be "1945: The Way to the Future." Any model - aircraft, armor, ship, figure, auto, etc. - relating to the year 1945 will be eligible for the Supercon 2015 Theme Award.

In addition to the Theme Award we will also offer several other special awards

in Supercon 2015, including Best of Show, Most Popular, President's Award, Greatest Generation Award for best World War II subject (sponsored by Skip Rogers and Mike McIlraith), Best Armor Subject (sponsored by Glenn Whitmire), and a special memorial award: the Charlie Jay Award for best in-country Vietnam War subject, in honor of the late Charlie Jay. In addition, regular awards will be presented to first-, second-, and third-place finishers in each category.

1945: Innovations in World War II did indeed point the way to the future

Back in January, club member Robert Belden suggested the theme of our upcoming Supercon 2015, "1945: The Way to the Future."

There's an old axiom in science that wars dramatically accelerate the pace of technology, allowing combatants to gain an advantage over their opponents by incorporating new inventions, weapons, technologies and processes.



In keeping with the theme of Supercon 2015, 1945 ushered in a new age, which served the military, science and the entire world well for the decades ahead. 1945 did indeed pave the way to the future.

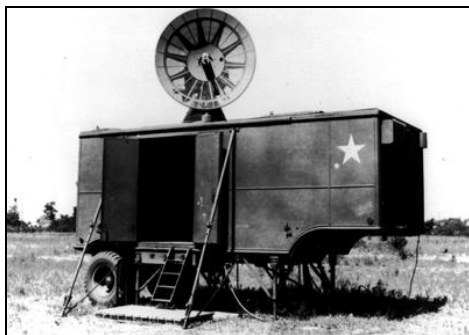
Several technological innovations which became operational during World War II immediately come to mind: Radar, the atomic bomb, jet engines, rocketry. Fertile scale modeling ground, for sure. Other advancements which were responsible for saving many, many thousands of lives included the mass production of penicillin, the development of dried blood plasma as a substitute for whole blood, the institution of large-scale industrial manufacturing processes, the (then) top secret invention of proximity fuses for artillery shells, and the widespread development of synthetic polymers. From indispensable applications such as nylon and other synthetic fibers, to the more mundane Saran Wrap, plastics have become an integral part of modern society.

Admittedly, some of these innovations might be difficult to translate into the realm of scale modeling. On the lighter side, where would our hobby be today without the invention of polystyrene?



1945 ushered in a new age, an era in which the United States became a pre-eminent world power, undoubtedly aided by the fact that America was the only major industrial power in the world whose economy emerged intact after the war. In 1939, however, the United States armed forces ranked 18th in the world. In 1940, the combined armed forces of the U.S. military totaled 458,365. By 1945, our Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard numbered 12,209,238.

Soon after entering World War II, American industry geared up to meet the demands of our armed forces and our allies. In 1940 President Roosevelt shocked Congress when he proposed building 50,000 aircraft a year. In 1944 the nation produced almost double that number.



Private Roy W. Humphrey of Toledo, Ohio, is being given blood plasma after he was wounded by shrapnel in Sicily on Aug. 9, 1943

The National WW II Museum website, <http://www.nationalww2museum.org>, also lists a compelling review of innovations which dramatically influenced the post-war world. Among them was the proliferation of math and science. Average American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines rapidly adapted to the wartime requirements of computing accurate artillery fire, of navigating aircraft over long distances, of determining precise torpedo trajectories, of determining optimum anti-submarine search patterns over vast oceans with a limited number of aircraft and ships, even down to cooks who were required to prepare meals for thousands of troops.

As stated on the National WW II Museum website, "At the end of the war, one frustrated Nazi general remarked that he and his fellow officers were not surprised that American industry could mobilize for war as quickly as it did. What was surprising and ultimately a major element of Germany's undoing was how quickly American industry and the American war machine could train its people."

Robert Belden said it well. 1945 was "The Way to the Future."



Wernher von Braun and a scale model of the V-2 rocket. After the war, von Braun headed up America's space program and was instrumental in the development of rockets which carried Americans into space.

*"For 2,600 years since it was founded, our Empire has never known a defeat. This record alone is enough to produce a conviction in our ability to crush any enemy no matter how strong."
-- Japanese Prime Minister Tojo Hideki,
Dec. 8, 1941*



"In the first six to twelve months of a war with the United States and Great Britain I will run wild and win victory upon victory. But then, if the war continues after that, I have no expectation of success."

– attributed to Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto



A General's view...

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower once offered his opinion on which items of military hardware were most critical to the Allies' success in World War II. Ike listed as "most vital" to success in North Africa and Europe, the jeep, 2 ½-ton truck, bulldozer, and C-47 Skytrain. Interestingly, none of these pieces of equipment were originally designed or outfitted with weapons.



Squadron EagleQuest XXIV coming up Thursday-Saturday, June 18-20



Squadron EagleQuest XXIV will be coming up Thursday through Saturday, June 18-20, 2015, at the Embassy Suites in Grapevine, Texas. The theme will be "Heavy Metal." For more information, see the special promotion on the EagleQuest website at

<http://www.squadroneaglequest.com/>

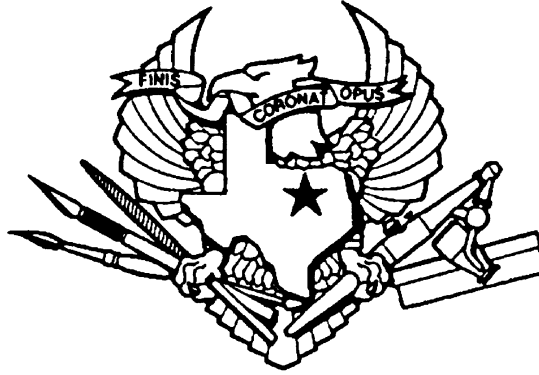
The website also includes information on ordering Event Passes and information on the agenda, hotel information and Squadron Mail Order specials.

With the general Event Pass, you get the following:

- *40% Discount shopping at the Squadron Warehouse
- *Full access to seminars
- *Complimentary \$5 raffle ticket
- *Complimentary food at Squadron scheduled events (excluding Awards Ceremony)
- *Complimentary Squadron Signal book signed by artist Don Greer
- *Member at round-table feedback session
- *Access to the Squadron Common Room where there will be movies playing, places to repair your models, "Make and Take" for the kids and much more. You can also order a ticket which includes admission to the Awards Ceremony banquet.

The Embassy Suites Dallas – DFW Airport North Outdoor World at 2401 Bass Pro Drive in Grapevine will be the setting for this year's event. A special room rate will be in effect. To order Event Passes and Awards Ceremony tickets by phone, call Richard Poulsen at 1-800-527-7427, ext. 1060.





SUPERCON 2015

Sponsored by the IPMS Fort Worth Scale Modelers
Saturday, September 12, 2015
Bob Duncan Community Center
2800 S. Center St.
Vandergriff Park, Arlington
817-465-6661

Door Prizes!
Vendors Galore!
Doors open at 9 a.m.
Registration: 9 to 11 a.m.
General Admission: \$5, with children 6 years of age and younger free

*Theme of Supercon 2015: "1945: The Way to the Future."
Any model - aircraft, armor, ship, figure, auto, etc. – pertaining to 1945 will be eligible
for the Supercon 2015 Theme Award.*

Additional Special Awards for:
Best World War II Subject
Best Armor Subject
Best Vietnam War Subject
Most Popular
President's Award
And BEST OF SHOW!

Vendor tables are \$20 each (one 8-foot or two 4-foot tables)
To reserve vendor tables, please contact Robert Ferrera, 817-447-7670,
4 to 8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays