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Preflight
Submitted by Bob Niemiec

Our annual pizza party is coming up. As Ed mentioned in the meeting notes, the party is May 6 which is a Wednesday. Anybody who goes on Thursday (our usual night) will have missed the festivities.

I won't be able to make it as I have a previous engagement so whoever wants my slices of pizza and salad are welcome to them.

This is a rather short newsletter. I'm going to try to incorporate the pictures with the On The Table column. Interesting Links will not appear but will be next month depending on the space I have.

Everybody have a great time at the party and see you in June.

Meeting Notes
Submitted by Ed Potkai

Seventeen members attended our April meeting. We were introduced to new member George Young. George has a past in naval aircraft models but is presently more interested in ships. He hopes his membership will help him learn more about airbrushing.

Perhaps the most important announcement was that the annual spring Pizza Party will be held on WEDNESDAY May 6. The change from Thursday will assist some members who would not be able to attend on Thursday.

Another important announcement was that ValleyCon 26 will be held after Easter on April 3. Unhappy news was that MassCar has announced their 2015 event was their last. <http://www.masscar.com/>

The remainder of the business meeting was a discussion of ValleyCon 25.

Al summarized that the event went "quite well". Most vendors expressed satisfaction and many reserved their space for next year.

Club treasurer/head judge Don Johnson then reviewed the metrics. 106 modelers entered the competition. There were eleven juniors and 95 adults. They covered the tables with 335 models including fifteen in the Junior classes. Eleven of the contestants were WW members. Two thirds of the modelers entered three or fewer models at the \$5.00 fee. Two modelers paid \$20 or more for their entries. About 40% prefilled their entry form using the template available on our website.

277 walk-ins were counted but the actual number might be slightly higher. The club table did well and raffle ticket sales rebounded greatly from last year's low. All vendor tables were sold and the number of sponsorships was satisfying. Once again, Pioneer

Valley Hobbies of West Springfield made a substantial donation for which we are most grateful.

There were some surprises in the number of entries. For example, Large Scale Axis Aircraft, usually a strong class, had only two entries. Other classes were unexpectedly strong. Don's impression of the work was that there was a general gap in the mid range skill level. For the most part, the work was either very good or reflected that the builder had more to learn.

A couple of criticisms were made from the membership. Wayne Weatherwax noted that there was no repair station. (He will gather a basic tool set for next year.) It was also noted that the Junior awards were not announced until 4 PM instead of the targeted 2:00.

The event earned a surplus over costs. Rather than simply add to the treasury, Don asked for ideas on how the money could be used to good purpose. Two ideas were proposed and will be considered further. One is to purchase simple model kits and give them (free of charge) to kids of a certain age who attend the NEAM show or ValleyCon. The other proposal was to make monetary donations to non-profits which align with our interests. Suggested organizations included the Collier Foundation, NEAM, Commemorative Air Force, and North East Motor Sports Museum.

The suggestion that met with immediate approval was that the club will forego club dues for 2015. Additionally, the club will pay for 2015 IPMS membership for those who would like it.

The meeting ended after a brief Show-and-Tell.

On The Table
Show-and-Tell from the Last Meeting

- **Dave Calhoun:** 1/48 scale Eduard Nieuport 16; scratchbuilt interior; camouflage scheme is based on actual aircraft.

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Dave Calhoun - Nieuport 16

- **Walt Damon:** 200mm David Grieve Wellington bust; work in progress.



Walt Damon - Duke of Wellington

- **Walt Damon:** 1/10 scale Life Miniatures Marilyn Monroe; work in progress.



Walt Damon - Marilyn Monroe

- **Pete Dawson:** 1/48 (on30) scale Boulder Valley "shorty" caboose; lots of detail.



Pete Dawson - "Shorty" Caboose

- Ron Harrison: 75mm Castle Miniatures Cult of Ulric Scheneschal; painted with acrylics, printers inks, oils and Games Workshop washes.



- Ed Potkai: 1/24 scale Tamiya Porsche 956 (6th place LeMans 1983); lacquer paints; Cartograf decals; Eduard seat belts; work in progress.



- Bob Rys: 1/48 scale Hasegawa A-4C Skyhawk; IPMS decals; "Tonkin Gulf MiG Killers"



- And last but certainly not least, our own Bruce "Big Daddy" Cohen busily customizing another car.

