



THE DISPATCH

January 2023, Vol. 62, Issue 1

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COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings to the entire NCMSS team!

We hope you enjoy this January 2023 issue of *The Dispatch*. I encourage everyone to send Dave more of your project articles, how-to pieces, photos, historical topics, etc.. Your contributions help make our newsletter a quality product!

Thank you to everyone who attended our NCMSS Christmas party in December. The food was great! Special thanks to Jack Muldoon of [The Little Tin Soldier](#) for donating flats to party-goers. We're always happy to promote the art of the flat tin figure! Also, attendees were able to share in Rodger

Spahr's gift of books to the club. Thank you to Rodger, may he rest in peace. Our thoughts are with his friends and family.

Show News!

I feel that 2023 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the hobby and the club, and I am looking forward to our 62nd annual NCMSS show on September 30. We'll be returning to the Springfield Hilton and we anticipate a high turnout!

This year we'll be offering a special show figure for sale. Club member Mike Stelzel (Michael Roberts LTD., Artist Preservation Group) has graciously volunteered to sculpt

and cast a limited edition figure of a Revolutionary War Militiaman based in part on the photograph below. It will be 75mm in resin and the tree will be included. Mike has started sculpting and hopes to have it completed soon!

Club Meetings

This year Dave is hoping to schedule more special presentations for our in-person and virtual meetings. Talk to Dave if you would like to present on any hobby or historical topic you're interested in. Dave can help with tech for presentations. We have so many talented historical artists. Sharing your knowledge is what makes our meetings fun. We're always interested in learning something new!

Membership

Welcome to all new members, great having you on the team! For our long timers, if you have not paid your dues please do so, Darci takes check, cash, and PayPal. Feel free to reach out to her. Your continuing support helps us keep the NCMSS ship afloat.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the monthly meeting on Wednesday 22 February. Until then stay healthy, happy, safe, and of course...

...Paint On!



Burt



MEETING NOTICE

IN PERSON

FOURTH Wednesday of the month

Feb. 22, 2023

7:30-10:00 PM

Thomas Edison High School
5801 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA
Room E-112



JANUARY MOTM

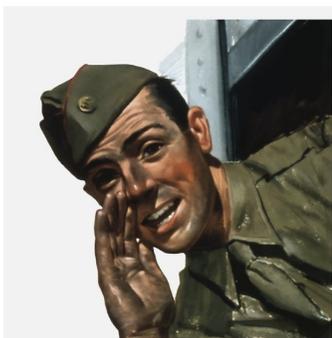
"Mug-of-the-Month"



"Don't startle 'im, Joe. It's almost full."

"Don't startle 'im Joe. It's almost full."

Jack Thompson



the meeting's over here!
NCMSS is the club for modelers
 since **1961**

National Capital Model Soldier Society
 Virginia/Maryland/DC NCMSSClub.org

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IN PERSON
FOURTH Wednesday
 of the month

Feb. 22, 2023

7:30-10:00 PM

Thomas Edison High School
5801 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA
Room E-112

CLUB NEWS

NCMSS Monthly Meeting — January 25, 2023

Pre-meeting "chit-chat" [19:30-19:56]

Talked about parking issues as the school had warned us that there was two other events that night. A few attendees had to walk a ways.

Call to Order & New Business [19:45-20:16]

1. Dave officially started the meeting.
2. Dave mentioned that, sadly, former NCMSS member Rodger Spahr had passed away in Richmond. Rodger was a good friend to a number of members in the NCMSS. Recently Rodger had donated many books and model/figure kits to the club.
3. Dave talked about the NCMSS Washington Show figure currently being sculpted by Mike Stelzel (see Commander's Call).
4. Discussed was the upcoming Atlanta Show and Richmond Old Dominion Open in Richmond. Dave will need

figure judging teams for the latter as he will be head figure judge.

5. The APG Gettysburg show will be in August 17-20. APG currently has a membership drive going on through Scale75. Pay your dues through Scale75 and get a 10% discount for the life of your membership!
6. Membership Drive has been very successful, with some new members signing up since the show. Keep those dues coming!
7. Darci is updating the club's Wells Fargo Account. Due to old information in our file and changes in reporting requirements over the years, our business and officer info needed to be updated.
8. Confirmed the Washington Show date at the Springfield Hilton for Sept. 30. Like last year, vendors will have access for early setup on Friday evening.

Parade Ground [20:16-20:42]

Another great Parade Ground (see below).

Meeting Presentation [20:42-21:40]

Dave showed some highlights from the Long Island Show in November, including work from some of our members: Michael Pierce, Zacharia Becker, Bob Prokop, and Dave Hoffman. The slideshow also showed some great content from *Figure Mentors Magazine*, available on-line [HERE](#).

Meeting Adjourned [21:50]

Attendees

Jim Richey, Jim Pratt, Luis Andres, Darci Hoffman, David Hoffman, Burt Thompson, Bob Prokop, Jack Thompson, Greg Paspatis



TIP OF THE MONTH... Verdaccio

by Italian Muralists from the early Renaissance



Verdaccio is an Italian underpainting technique using a mixture of black, white, and yellow pigments resulting in a grayish or yellowish (depending on the proportion) soft greenish brown.

Verdaccio became an integral part of Renaissance painting, in which it is used for defining tonal values, forming a complete monochromatic underpainting. The technique was also later used by Flemish painters, to refine the values. The resulting "white to olive green to black" underpainting is "like being illuminated by moonlight."

By applying shades of green as an undercoat, topcoat glazes will appear much more realistic due to the greens muting out and toning down the reds and pinks. Combine varying amounts of Yellow Ochre, black, white and a touch of Olive Green in order to create the green undercoat. The undercoat does not need to be perfect. It is a quick sketch identifying shadow and highlight.

(Painting and photos by Jim Rice)





National Capital Model Soldier Society

Member benefits include:

- * Friendly monthly meetings where we share our knowledge of history, painting, and modeling techniques
- * Monthly guest speakers
- * Monthly *Dispatch* newsletter
- * The NCMSS Washington Show
- * Affordable dues

What are you waiting for?
Welcome to the club!



EVENTS AND PLACES



BACK TO GETTYSBURG! 17-20 AUGUST 2023.

PAINTING CLASS!

Painting Course presented by Scale 75 USA, instruction provided by Julio Cabos

17-18 AUGUST at the Visitors Center.

Course registration at WWW.SCALE75USA.COM



NEW MINIATURE!

Donated by Scale 75 USA for the Artist Preservation Group

Kit based on the Bill Horan figure of a Berdan's Sharpshooter.

The Artist Preservation Group will be conducting a American Civil War themed miniature art exhibition in conjunction with with the National Parks Service and the Gettysburg Foundation. Preregistration will be required. More information can be found at:

ARTISTPRESERVATIONGROUP.COM

HISTORICAL MINIATURE EXHIBITION!

To Be Held at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitors Center.



Protecting The Past For The Future

Special Offer!
Renew Your Membership with the
ARTIST PRESERVATION GROUP
through **SCALE75®** and get **10% OFF** @ SCALE75 for the LIFE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

EVENTS AND PLACES (Continued...)

Listening to Paint Dry with Mike & Dan Podcast



We are excited to announce that our Patreon is Live! You can click the Patreon symbol below to find out more information.



You'll hear from amazing and talented artists from around the world, industry insiders or anyone who we think might be interesting or

have a great story to tell. We want our listeners to be inspired while they paint with some of the best miniature hobbyists the world has to offer.



Follow us on: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), and [Twitter](#)

Drop us an email at: listeningtopaintdry@gmail.com

HOBBY CALENDAR 2023

- FEB** • Feb 25 — [Old Dominion Open](#), Richmond IPMS, Richmond VA
- MAR** • Mar 10-12 — [Cold Wars 2023](#), HMGS, Valley Forge Casino Resort, King of Prussia, PA
 • Mar 22-26 — [Adepticon 2023](#), Schaumburg, IL
 • Mar 25 — [BeachCon2023](#), Grand Strand Scale Modelers IPMS, Myrtle Beach, SC
- APR** • Apr 1 — [MosquitoCon 31](#), IPMS New Jersey, Wayne, NJ
 • Apr 8 — [Scrum Con](#), Silver Spring, MD
 • Apr 15 — [NoVA IPMS Model Classic 2023](#), Northern Virginia Modelers IPMS, Fairfax, VA
 • Apr 29 — [NorEastCon 2023](#), IPMS NorthEast New York, Albany, NY
- MAY** • May 4-6 — [AMPS 2023 International Convention](#), AMPS, Camp Hill, PA
 • May 5-6 — [MFCAs 80th Annual Show & Mart](#), MFCAs, Treose, PA
- JUN** • Jun 10 — [Maryland Toy Expo](#), Timonium, MD
 • Jun 10-11 — [WonderFest 2023](#), Louisville, KY
- JUL** • Jul 15 (tentative) — [ScottCon 2023](#), Gen. R.L. Scott IPMS, Warner Robins, GA
 • Jul 19-23 — [Historicon 2023](#), Historical Miniatures Gaming Society, Lancaster, PA
 • Jul 24-28 — [HobbyTown Convention](#), Kissimmee, FL
- AUG** • Aug 2-5 — [IPMS National Convention 2023](#), San Marcos, TX
 • Aug 17-20 — [Back to Gettysburg - American Civil War Exhibit](#), Artist Preservation Group
 • Aug 30-Sep 3 — [NOVA Open](#), Crystal City, VA
- SEP** • Sep 22-24 — [JerseyFest Model Kit & Statue Fair](#), Newark, NJ
 • Sep 30 — [NCMSS 62nd Annual Washington Show](#), NCMSS, Springfield, VA
- OCT** • Oct 7 — [PaxCon 2023](#), Southern Maryland Scale Modelers, Hollywood, MD
 • Oct 13-14 — [ArmorCon 2023](#), AMPS Northeast Military Modelers Assoc., Southbury, CT
 • Oct 20-21 — [MMSI Chicago Show 2023](#), Military Miniature Society of IL, Schaumburg, IL
 • Oct 23 — [HMGS Historicon National War Gaming Show](#), Lancaster, PA
- NOV** • Nov 17-18 — [Long Island Miniature Model Show](#), LIMMS, Freeport, NY

If you know of any upcoming events that you would like people to know about, please contact Adjutant David Hoffman at bpchasseur@comcast.net and we'll add the date to our calendar.



GRAND STRAND SCALE MODELERS and COASTAL CAROLINA SCALE MODELERS Present

BeachCon 2023

Saturday, March 25, 2023 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 General Robert H. Reed Recreation Center
 800 Gabreski Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC

Contestants \$10.00 Unlimited number of models	Model Contest Over 50 Categories	Award Sponsorships \$40.00
Non-Contestants \$5.00 Single Adult (18 and older) \$8.00 Family	Special Theme Award <i>Best of the Beach</i>	Vendor Tables 6' Table - \$35.00 8' Table - \$45.00
Juniors (17 & under)	On Site Food Concession!	Raffle

FREE! Please refer to Contest Rules on Website for details

P&G Counter: 180 South Highway 8A, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29579
 For Information: 843.286.0279
www.grandstrandmodelers.org/

Rick Robert: 180 Highway 8A, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29579
 For Information: 843.286.0279
www.grandstrandmodelers.org/



Northern Virginia Modelers Model Classic 2023

Between the Wars 1920 to 1940

Saturday, April 15, 2023
 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Fairfax High School
 3501 Lion Run, Fairfax, VA 22030

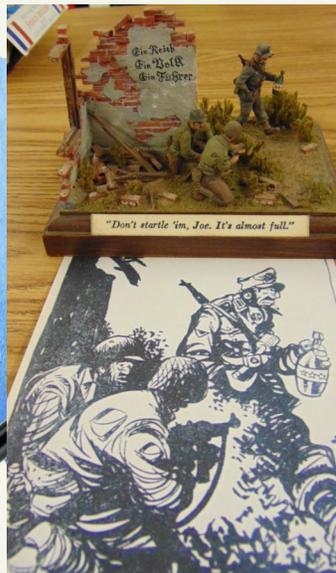
Show Sponsored by
 Fairfax High School
 PTSA All Night Grad Committee

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆



January “Mug-of-the-Month”

WINNER



January 25, 2023
Parade Ground Participants

*Greg Paspatis, Jim Richey,
Luis Fernando Andres,
Jack Thompson, Bob Prokop*

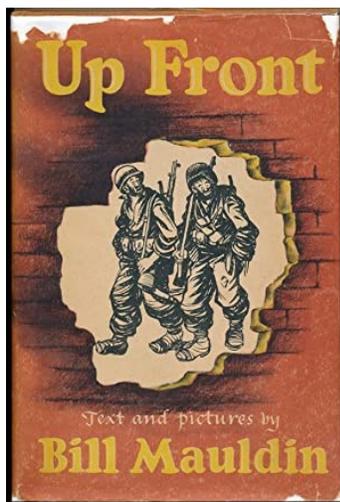
“Don’t startle ‘im Joe. It’s almost full.”

Jack Thompson

JACK THOMPSON

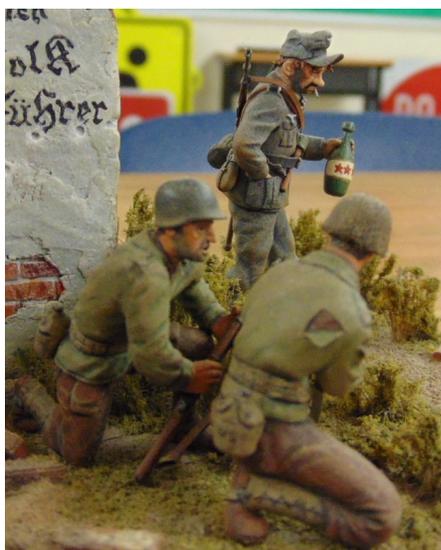
Jack brought in a very special vignette based on a Bill Mauldin cartoon “Don’t startle ‘im, Joe. It’s almost full”. He told us how his mother was a “Donut Dolly” for the Red Cross during World War II and rolled with the 3rd Army in the European Theatre with two other ladies in a truck called a “Club Mobile.” She even shared breakfasts with old “Blood and Guts” Patton and was at the relief of Bastogne.

She sent Jack a first edition of Mauldin’s *Up Front*, a collection of his cartoons featuring the iconic Willie and Joe. Patton reportedly hated these cartoons and Mauldin did not miss an opportunity to poke him in the eye. It was a favorite read of Jack growing up and he decided to do a vignette based on this particular cartoon, two G.I.s waiting to ambush a German with a bottle of Cognac to snag his booze.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

JACK THOMPSON (CONTINUED)



Jack said that he carefully converted some stock figures to match the cartoon, and with a close look at the right angle you can see how good the match is. Notice the 3 stars on the bottle, which may have been a dig by Mauldin at a 3-star Patton.

Jack completed this vignette about 30 years ago and sent pictures to Bill Mauldin while he was still alive. Mauldin responded in appreciation and said he didn't realize people did this kind of thing. The piece also made the cover of *Military Modeling Magazine*.

Great work! We appreciated seeing it in person.

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

ROBERT PROKOP

Bob brought in a 1/9 scale figure of a SEAL from the early Afghanistan War from Airborne Miniatures, which he says is still a work in progress. The figure is available in multiple scales and the manufacturer also makes a later SEAL in a more standardized uniform with updated helmet and equipment which Bob is considering doing as well.

In this case the figure is wearing Levi Jeans. Photos from the war show them wearing all types and colors. Members commented the excellent weathering job Bob did on the jeans. The mic boom was from some copper wire Bob had on hand. He said he has a few details and highlights to complete. A few people suggested he add tattoos on the arms. Stay tuned to see the final product.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

LUIS FERNANDO ANDRES



Luis, being consistent with his smaller scale figures, did a 1/72 French Artillery gun and crew from 1815. An injection molded kit, Luis removed the bases and used wire to mount the figures on cork for painting and then added on his base. The cannon was pretty basic so he modified it with handles and reinforcing bands on the breech. The stacked muskets in the corner was a nice addition, too!



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

JIM RICHEY

Jim brought in a flat that he got at our Christmas meeting donated to the club by Jack Muldoon of the Little Tin Soldier. It is a work in progress with the Tartan still to complete. It is fair to say Jim was working from the bottom up!



GREG PASPATIS

Greg did this figure of a Hessian back in the 1970s and brought it in to commemorate the battle of Trenton.

After crossing the Delaware River in a treacherous storm the night of December 25, 1776, General George Washington's army defeated a garrison of Hessian mercenaries at Trenton on the morning of December 26.

Unknown maker and a solid casting in 1/35 scale.

DISPATCHES FROM ACROSS THE POND

Courtesy of Robin J. Howard

Painted Figures from the Desk of *Robin Howard*



John Paul Jones (1747-1792)



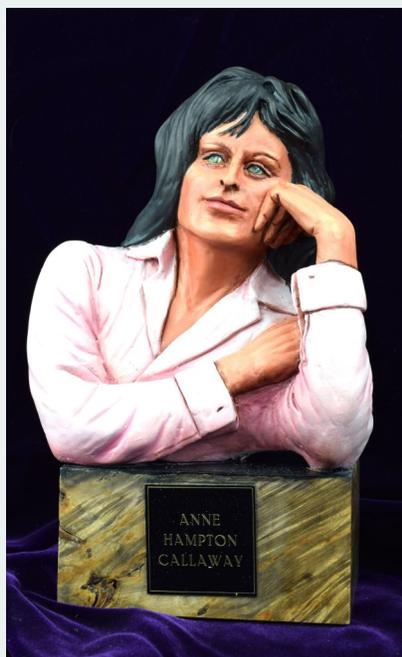
Lancier Rouge 1810

Long-time NCMSS member Norb Lustine shared with us his collection of busts by Robin Howard. The pieces were well packed, all with the note "For Display in Granddad's Hobby Shop" on the boxes.

Who is Granddad and where is his hobby shop? Stay tuned for more on this story!



Vice Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson 1798



Anne Hampton Callaway



The Jazz Man

WORTHY READS

Book Review by Dr. Mike Thomas

**Iron for the Eagles:
The Iron Industry of
Roman Britain**
by David Sim & Isabel Ridge,
159pp, Tempus Publishing
Ltd., UK, 2002

ISBN: 0 7524 1900 5

This is a most unusual book. Dr. Sim is not only an archaeologist but is also an accomplished blacksmith while Dr. Ridge is a mechanical engineer with an interest in ancient technology. What the two authors have set out to do here is to describe how the Romans extracted iron, how they worked it and how they made it into all the various bits and pieces of Roman military equipment. I have seen much of the information contained herein in various papers. These are generally to be found in academic journals not always easy of access for the public at large. It is particularly welcome, then, that these have been gathered here in an easily accessible

format.

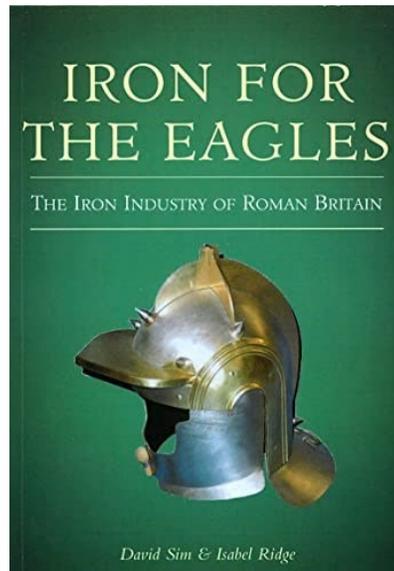
For each item (e.g., a sword blade, an arrow-head, or a shield boss), there is a detailed step-by-step guide to the stages involved in the manufacture. This includes the various times for each stage – which is important in assessing how well the piece may have been finished or produced on a mass scale.

Throughout Sim does not use ‘modern’ equipment but relies on Roman tools that exist within the archaeological record or which are illustrated on Roman paintings (e.g., in Pompeii) or sculpture.

What emerges is a fascinating picture of just how the Roman armourers created the weapons used by the legions and auxilia. We learn, for example, that a mail shirt might contain as many as 35,000 individual rings and take more than a year to make. A spear

point would take about three minutes to make while a gladius would require more than ten times this time.

This book will not let you make better Roman figures, but it will deepen your appreciation of the skills of these men and perhaps look on them in a different light.—MT



Preserving the Past for the Future



"The Artist Preservation Group is a gathering of like-minded historical artists whose mission is to...aid in the preservation and restoration of threatened historical sites and/or artifacts."

For more information visit

ARTIST PRESERVATION GROUP

ABOUT THE AVTHORS

David Sim

"I started my working life as a marine engineer. Then as a designer of machines, before becoming a teacher. Finally, at the age of 40 I took my PhD. This of course changed my life and I can say with all the ups and downs it has never been dull.

I enjoy lecturing but on a personal note the best part is the session at the end when people come up to me to talk and handle the objects I use in my lectures. The informality of the occasion is often the best time for the formulation of new ideas and thinking, and also when new alliances are created. I have had several people to whom I have taught forge work and metal work and the transmission of skills and knowledge that I have acquired to others is always a pleasure.

Working as an experimental archaeologist has taken me down paths and to places I never knew existed. — D. Sim

Isabel Ridge

Ridge is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Director of TTI Testing Ltd. She is a mechanical engineer and author with a special interest in ancient technology.

David Sim with a reconstruction of a 2 libra ballista

Isabel M.L. Ridge, PhD — Director-TTI Testing Ltd

KIT INSPECTION

by Dr. Mike Thomas



Roman Aquilifer (Bust) Legio XXV, Britannia, AD 61

Manufacturer: FeR (via El Greco),
Fernando Ruiz Miniatures
Order code: SKU - MHB00018
Scale/Size: 1/12th
Material: resin
Pieces: 13
Designer: Ramón Martínez
Box Art: Fernando Ruiz

Each Roman legion had an eagle standard. This was much more than a simple device – it represented the ‘soul’ of the legion and to lose an eagle was the ultimate disgrace. If a legion lost its eagle, such as happened with the three legions destroyed under Quintilius Varus in AD 9 in the Teutobergerwald, it was unlikely that the legion (or legions) would ever be reformed. The soldier here is identified as belonging to legio XX Valeria Victrix. This legion was one of the four that took part in the AD 43 invasion of Britain, and which formed the permanent garrison of these islands until the early 4th century AD.

The titles of “Valeria Victrix” (Valorous and Victorious) were bestowed on this legion because of its conduct in the suppression of the Boudiccan Revolt or AD 60-61. The equipment shown here



is an armour of lorica squamata (scale armour) and the helmet is one of the Imperial Gallic iron helmets. It should be noted that the inside of the lion skin and the rear of the head will have to be painted before assembly otherwise it would present the modeler with an impossible painting task.

Having said that, there is a great deal of detail in this model with plenty of work for the paintbrush! There are around a dozen parts to the kit. Detail, in general, is excellent. Some of the parts are exceedingly small, such as the ties beneath the chin for the cheek guards, the teeth/fangs of the lion and a part of the design on the rear of the shield.

As with many of these resin cast kits, some care must be taken with the assembly sequence. The right arm/hand,

for example, must be positioned very carefully. Eventually, the hand here must hold the shaft of the eagle standard and there needs to be a clear path for this to happen. I also found that the body of the soldier should be raised up slightly so that the lug on the rear of the shield engages with the slot in the rear of the body. This will happen naturally as there is a cast base as a part of the body. Unfortunately, I didn’t realise this at the time, and I carved this pedestal away, thinking that it was a casting lug. Silly me! The only problem with the kit that I found was with the staff of the eagle standard. It was impossibly bent, and I could not straighten it. I ended up using a length of brass tube. This was too thin and at some stage I am going to have to find a suitable replacement.

Note that the mane of the lion should be a dark brown colour (as shown on the box art). The tawny-mane colour comes from much further south in central Africa. You won’t find few if any of the dark brown manes these days as this species was hunted virtually to extinction by the Romans – probably for the amphitheaters. The model can be identified as any one of the 40 or so legions that formed the backbone of the Roman Army of this period.

So, in all a lovely piece of work that will repay some careful work with the brush.



—MT



Your den is full of history books.

You've got boxes of modeling magazines that have been with you through every one of your moves. You've been collecting kits (a lot of them) since you were a kid. You find it hard to leave a hobby shop or a figure/model show empty-handed. Your collection of modelling supplies is pretty impressive. Just how many display cases full of finished pieces do you have now? On top of all that, you've most likely acquired a few pieces of militaria...and who hasn't picked up a signed print or two?

You've collected a lot of "stuff" over the years and no doubt you enjoy what you have. But, for whatever reason, there may come a time when you consider downsizing. This article will share some of the common questions people have about the process of downsizing with answers geared specifically towards the modeler.

Downsize...or Declutter?

The friendly people at **Glad** (yes, the trash bag brand) posted a simple and helpful guide titled "[How to Declutter Your Home Without the Hassle](#)". The guide gives you tips on how to organize each room in your house, but all of it can

be applied to your modeling den & kit storage areas. Before you start getting rid of your collection, make sure the cramped feeling you get in your den can't be remedied with a little cleanup and organization!

Start With a Plan

Once you've decided that you need to do more than just tidy up your den, consider making a gameplan. Most websites that offer advice on downsizing suggest starting to plan as early as possible. Having a plan can help ease some of the pressures you may feel and allows you to determine your own pace. A plan helps you set your own priorities concerning your collection and can help guide family or friends if you involve them in the process.

[Williamsburg Landing](#) (they describe themselves as "the premiere Life Plan Community") suggests first making a list of things you need to do. If you're under time constraints, plot out what you need to accomplish and when. Perhaps the best advice they gave was for the person who has trouble letting go of things. Try adopting the motto "keep what you love" rather than focusing on what to get rid of.

Take stock and organize

Unless you have a relative or friend who has offered to take your entire collection off your hands, it's helpful to separate your collection into manageable sections.

On their *Family History Fanatics* website, genealogists Devon Noel Lee and Andrew Lee posted some [excellent suggestions](#) on planning to downsize while keeping family, sentimental, monetary, and historical value in mind.

- ◆ **Give to Family and Friends** — Determine pieces of your collection that you would like to pass on
- ◆ **Keep Favorites** — If you're looking to downsize your finished models, think about keeping your favorites if you have the space! Lee also suggests photographing individual pieces. This allows you to keep a record of your work, even if you no longer have the original pieces.
- ◆ **Sell to Collectors** — Depending on the value of your various collections, determine if you want to sell rather than give away or donate.
- ◆ **Donate to Museums** — While large museums in the DC area are probably not willing to take on model col-

Downsizing Q & A (CONTINUED)

lections, you can contact smaller organizations such as your hometown's historical society or local library.

Once you have taken stock of your collection and have a general feel for what you want to do with it (at least on paper) you can start the process of organizing what you have.

How do I sell?

Depending on how much time and effort you wish to spend, there are several different ways you can slim down your collection and make a little cash back.

- ◆ **Talk to your favorite vendor** — If you're a regular on the show circuit, you're probably familiar with a number of vendors. They may be interested in reselling some of your collection. If not, they can at least give you information on what it takes to sell at shows.
- ◆ **Sell on ebay** — Over the years this online marketplace has helped people sell for a fee. Note that **ebay** charges several types of fees and those fees have increase recently. If you're willing to spend the time and effort it takes to monitor your items and ship them to to buyers, you might be able to make a little cash.
- ◆ Check out **scalemates** — The [scalemates website](http://scalemates.com) is relatively easy to use. You can input your collection of kits in their database and tag them to sell. The site supports figures, but is mainly focused on plas-



Joe Bles figures were all given to good homes at the NCMSS 61st Annual Washington Show, October 1, 2022

tic kits. The service is free.

- ◆ **Facebook marketplaces** — There are several groups on Facebook where you can sell your kits. Facebook groups don't provide a handy database like **scalemates** (above), but they can still reach a wide audience. Check out [The Scale Model Graveyard](#), [Military Model Figures Buy ..Sell and Trade Group..](#), and [Buy and Sell Plastic Model Kits](#).
- ◆ **Talk to a local antique store/collectibles dealer** — There may be a local shop in your area that handles militaria, etc. They may be interested in buying your finished pieces or selling them on commission.

Should I donate to a club or charity?

Recently the NCMSS has been the beneficiary of several collections from current and former members. Here are some things to consider before you decide to donate your collection to the NCMSS or another group.

- ◆ **Do you need cash?** — The NCMSS does not purchase collections or sell on commission, but we are happy to advertise your collections in the **Swap Meet** pages of our

newsletter and even help with networking if we can.

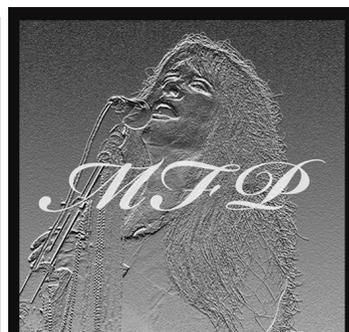
- ◆ **Do you need help with moving and packing?** — While the NCMSS is not in the business of moving and/or cleaning, we are fortunate to have members who have generously volunteered their time to help several people pack and move out their collections.



What happens to the donated items?

In the case of recent donations received by our club, we prioritized the wishes of the donors. For instance, thanks to the efforts of several volunteers, we helped a member gift his unbuilt plastic kits and collection of planes to a local IPMS chapter.

- ◆ **Finished figures** — With some effort the NCMSS was able give most of the donor's finished figures away to good homes. Before donating, check with friends and relatives who may want some of your finished work. The NCMSS does not track individual pieces or with whom they end up!
- ◆ **Books and unbuilt kits** — We sell items to benefit



Mike Fleckenstein Photography

346 Dunbarton Lane
Conway, SC 29526

Facebook
[facebook.com/MikeFleckensteinPhotography](https://www.facebook.com/MikeFleckensteinPhotography)
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DOWNSIZING Q & A (CONTINUED)

the NCMSS at shows and meetings. Most of our inventory is priced to sell as opposed to asking for top dollar. With the donor's permission, some kits & books have gone to NCMSS members, many of whom have donated cash to the club with the donor in mind.

- ◆ **Toys** — We're in the process of helping to pass on some non-hobby related items to **Marine Toys for Tots** and **Young Marines**.
- ◆ **Artwork and Militaria** — The NCMSS currently has two signed limited edition prints by Frank McCarthy that we are researching for sale. As of yet we have not determined the value of either print.



Are donations to the NCMSS tax deductible?

We're a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, **not** a charity. Check with a tax professional before filing a deduction for gifts to the club.

Donating to a veterans charity

Talk to a representative from a local chapter of your favorite veterans charity. Charities such as **AMVETS** and **Vietnam Veterans of America** offer pickup services of your items. Donations to charities are tax deductible!

What about my books?

The NCMSS has accepted donations of books, but we have limited space for storage and model/figure shows are



My Dead Aunt's Books located at: 5132 Baltimore Blvd. Hyattsville, MD 20781

not necessarily the best place to sell non-hobby-related books.

- ◆ **Second Story Books** in the DC area can appraise and purchase your library. Depending on the collectability of your books, you might be disappointed in the amount they offer, but they will come and haul away your books.
- ◆ **My Dead Aunt's Books** — We met the owner of MDAB recently at an IPMS meeting and he graciously accepted some books we had at the time. Very helpful! Talk to him about options.
- ◆ **Talk to your local library or school** — Oftentimes libraries sell used books as a fundraiser. Depending on their catalogue, your local library might welcome additions to their history sections. Likewise, school libraries might appreciate hearing from you.

Are model collection buyers fair?

If you Google "model kit collection buyers" you will find literally dozens of sites that state they buy entire collections. In researching this short article we did not have the time to create a list of collection buyers that we could recommend or, for that matter, warn you against. Our advice would be to use your best judgement when dealing with a buyer you find online. *Caveat subscriptor!*

Keep in mind that with some exceptions (old & rare kits), you probably won't be able to recoup the amount of

money you spent obtaining your collection.

Don't worry, just be happy...

In researching this story, we found a thread in the **Fin-eScale Modeler forums** called "The dilemma in selling old kits" where people discussed collectability and resale value. One poster lamented that "Most wives don't know what to do with old kit collections or how to maximize their value after their husbands pass away."

Perhaps the best response to the above "wives" comment came from **Tank-boy51** who wrote: *"I don't buy my kits to ever sell them. So when I go, my wife and daughter can do what they want with them. They are the basement, the entire basement, stacked neatly on shelves, [sic] very orderly, and the same for the hundreds of built tanks. They are on book shelves, the aircraft are mostly hanging on the ceiling. I have never sold my collection, never will. It is who I am. We all have stuff that those we leave behind have to deal with, clothes, furniture, houses, etc. That's what other sales are for. Have fun. I did!"* Words to live by.

We hope you enjoy your gray army for as long as you possibly can. But, if you do have to downsize, know you have plenty of options!

— Darci H.



OPERATION CRUSADER: ROMMEL'S RIPOSTE

([Buk's Historical Ad Hockery](#), Jan 21, 2017)

A special thanks to **Bob Huettner** for suggesting we feature his friend Kevin Bukowski, who has graciously allowed us to reprint his writings.

Please note: The following text is reprinted here in full with no additions or corrections. Any questions or comments should be directed to Mr. Bukowski on his blog [Buk's Historical Ad Hockery](#).

Italian mines and Luftwaffe air superiority had isolated Malta and allowed two entire Italian convoys to arrive intact at Tripoli in January of 1942. Also, Auchinleck was forced to send the 7th Armoured Brigade to Burma to stem the tide of Japanese crossing from Thailand. Auchinleck had chased Erwin Rommel back across Cyrenaica, but this allowed Rommel to fall back on his supply lines, and drew the British further away from theirs. This situation at the point of Auchinleck's most victorious hour gave Rommel a local superiority in the only two logistics numbers that he cared about: number of tanks and liters of petrol.

Against the orders of his Italian superiors, Rommel struck back. On 21 January 1942, the Afrika Korps attacked out of El Agheila into



General Erwin Rommel and officers at El Agheila, Libya, 12 Jan 1942
(German Federal Archive: Bild 183-1982-0927-503)

very surprised and overextended Commonwealth troops. On 23 January they carved up and defeated the newly formed 2 Armoured Brigade and destroyed or captured just about every working British tank in Libya. Moreover, both of Auchinleck's headquarters staffs (MidEast and Eighth Army, he was still dual hatting for the overwhelmed Cunningham) had assumed they would have time to prepare for Rommel's inevitable counterattack and were thrown into chaos when they didn't.

Rommel brushed aside British resistance, and only quick thinking by the Indian commander who had just captured Benghazi prevented Rommel from seizing the all-important port facilities intact. By the 25th, the Eighth Army was in full retreat and only stopped at Gazala, about fifty miles west of Tobruk at

the eastern end of the Cyrenaican hump, when Rommel had to refuel. On the 30th the exhausted Germans and Italians reached Gazala and dug in. The defeated British seemed content to allow them to do so.

The quick ten day attack had shortened the distance that Rommel's spring offensive would have to travel by a third. Furthermore, it denied the British the use of Cyrenaican airfields for Malta's defense, and left the beleaguered island terribly vulnerable in the first half of 1942. Operation Crusader was at an end.

For six months in 1941, Auchinleck had painfully and frustratingly stockpiled supplies, trained formations, spent enormous political capital to do so, and was the priority of the British Empire for men and material. And the only tangible thing he had to show for it was the relief of Tobruk. But more importantly, he now knew how to defeat Rommel. The new question was whether he'd be permitted, by Rommel and Churchill, to put his hard earned knowledge to use.

—KB



General Sir Claude Auchinleck



THE NCMSS DISPATCH SWAP MEET

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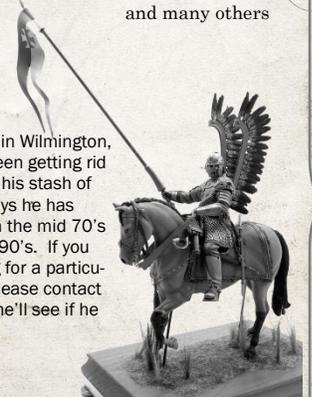
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Brian Ford in Wilmington, N.C. has been getting rid of some of his stash of kits. He says he has plenty from the mid 70's to the late 90's. If you are looking for a particular kit(s), please contact Brian and he'll see if he has it.



Brian has Bartons, Almonds, Poste Militaire, Series 77, Ceremonial, and many others. Contact him at: aford1@ec.rr.com



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James L. Pratt



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Email jameslpratt@aol.com



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Advertising Policy

The Dispatch does not accept paid advertising; but will accept, without obligation and on a "first come-first served" + space available contingency, business cards or ads for miniature, toy soldier, plastic model and similar shows submitted by **NCMSS** members of other clubs, associations, or businesses that the **NCMSS** has an association with.

Ads for shows must be submitted by the 15th of the month for a show scheduled for the following month. Business cards may be submitted for continuous running, subject to space availability. Members may also submit sale/want ads as desired. Ads or business cards in compliance with this policy and printed in *The Dispatch* do not represent an official endorsement by the **NCMSS**; nor does **NCMSS** endorse specific shows or vendors.

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National Capital Model Soldier Society (NCMSS)

2023 Membership Application / Renewal

Please PRINT Information Legibly & Clearly

If **renewing** membership and there is **NO CHANGE** in information from the previous year, simply print your "**NAME**" on the **Name** line and print "**SAME**" on the **Address** line of this form.

Date: _____ New Member: _____ -or- Renewal: _____

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NOTE: Newsletter will be provided **ONLY** in electronic digital format as an attachment via email

Figure Modeling Interests: (tell us what historical era -or- special genre you particularly enjoy modeling or collecting)

Annual dues of \$20 are payable to **NCMSS**. Send check or money order and this form to:
Darci Dickens-Hoffman (Paymaster), 17720 Mill Creek Dr. Derwood, MD 20855

NOTE: information on this form will be included in the **2023 NCMSS Membership Roster**

For internal paymaster's use only:
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