

INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODELERS' SOCIETY
BALTIMORE CHAPTER

FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY APRIL 13, 1976

7:30 P.M.

HAMILTON BRANCH #20

ENOCH PRATT LIBRARY

5910 Harford Road

at intersection of OLD HARFORD

COME AND SEE or WRITE

IPMS 6108 Fair Oaks Ave. Balto., Md. 21214

IPMS Baltimore Origins

Like most seasoned modelers I started modeling in the mid-1950s building many of the domestic plastic kits that are now prized as modeling collectables. After a hiatus through high school and later getting summer jobs while in local colleges in the late 60s my interest was renewed-read cash in my pocket to spend on what I wanted. Through Scale Modeler magazine I became aware of IPMS and the Squadron Shop in Silver Spring. Soon working full time in the electrical field starting in 1971 afforded me the opportunity to get one of the first Datsun 240Z imports. Now with wheels and some money to spend I began regular road trips to Squadron which brought me in contact with other adult modelers and the idea of starting a local modeling club began to develop. I joined IPMS around 1973 and in the summer of 1975, two weeks after my marriage and honeymoon, I attended my first IPMS National held in Crystal City by the DC club. My eyes were then opened to the level that modeling had evolved to since my childhood days. I was hooked! After spending my first "married" paycheck on vintage models and making some wonderful lifelong acquaintances I was now strongly motivated to then get something organized in our area. Later that year I sent a request to the local chapter director looking for names and contact info for area members. A short list was returned but the name of John Borleis, who lived in Hamilton, became my first contact as I was living just a few miles away. A letter to John was returned with a phone call and regular visits began and the idea of starting a local club was decided on. John arranged to secure the basement meeting room of the Hamilton Pratt Library and a date of April 13, 1976 was decided on for a first meeting date. Using the member list we prepared typed post cards that were sent out. John at that time was a retired USAF Major and was then selling shoes at the Hess store in East Point Mall. He got permission to utilize an empty store front for use as a model display to attract new members that was up for several months and attracted several individuals. John assumed the position of contact person and the lead for the recruitment effort. Our first meeting attracted about 25

modelers including representatives of the Military Modelers club and two members of the DC club, Mike Lyons and Ken Robert. Unfortunately the collective names of those first club members is now lost from my memory. Regardless the club's formation was sealed by those attendees. We held meetings at the library until September when night closures of the meeting room forced us to search for another more reliable venue. After a short stint at a fire house and another library we soon found a long time home at Harford Hills Elementary School on Old Harford Road where our second-Tuesday meeting night became the standard for several decades. Over the years a few of us regularly attended the DC Club meetings and we participated in numerous local model displays and worked with their club at area airshows that brought in new members. Early on contests were held in limited categories and winners were announced in our regular newsletter that was published for about two years through the kind efforts of Dennis Bowman who ran a print shop for an engineering firm in Lancaster, PA. Formal membership was secured with the nationals and formal officers were elected on a yearly basis. John Borleis served as the first President. Early members include the following: Bob Bondi, Lawson Stewart, Jim Zolbe, Ted Paskowski, Roger Dreschler, Dave Leon, Clem Beil, Mike Sylvester, Mike DeMarco, Jack Sink, Bill Powell, Bill Miley, Rich Klug, Mike Clifton, Wes Stachnick, Gordon Bell, Pete Livolsi, Andy Chmyr, Al Simmons, Leroy Floray & Tom Hyer,