

Art Loder is IPMS Northeastern New York (IPMS NENY.) His and this chapter's contributions to IPMS/USA and plastic modeling are woven inextricably together.

In the mid 1960's, when plastic modelers were striving to be seen as legitimate craftsmen, IPMS was born. Art Loder brought this crusade to the Albany, New York area. He began by gathering in his home the core founding members of what would be IPMS NENY. These were local high school and college students who shared a passion for plastic models. They included modelers who are now nationally and internationally recognized members of IPMS/USA, including Dana Bell and Steve Zaloga. Art stationed himself for hours in the local hobby store where he functioned as a recruiting officer for IPMS and serious plastic modeling. By the early 1970's, he had this group of model builders and amateur military historians chartered as one of the earliest chapters of IPMS/ USA. Even now, there is scarcely a single member of this chapter who cannot trace his IPMS roots back to Art.

More than bringing IPMS to upstate New York, he brought an expanded vision of plastic modeling as well. He acquainted the owners of our hobby store with the then innovative notions of after-market decals, accurate camouflage paints and cutting edge reference material. He persuaded the store to order never before heard of kits from Japan, the U.K. and elsewhere. This transformation of what was formerly a child's pastime into a serious avocation was precisely the mission statement of the nascent IPMS. No one dedicated or continues to dedicate himself to this mission more than Art Loder.

At the core of all this, of course, is building models. It was once said that " Art builds for all of us." He has been IPMS NENY's most prolific modeler, consulting references, incorporating new accessories and inspiring and daring other members to do the same and thus growing the hobby and IPMS.

To help other members achieve what he had, he instructed them in how to do it. He generously shared new kit sources, tools, products and techniques in building and painting. As an early National Judge, he schooled IPMS NENY members in " what judges look for." He not only made more modelers into IPMS members, he made IPMS members into better modelers! Simultaneously, he taught the chapter members to be IPMS Contest Judges of patience, care, tact and integrity.

However, he and the other chapter members were not satisfied to share this modeling revolution just amongst themselves. In the early 1970's, they created one of the first, high quality, amateur enthusiast publications in IPMS/USA. "Flight Plan" utilized primary research and innovative graphics to bring previously unknown camouflage and markings information to subscribers eager for such help in improving their skills and advancing their own knowledge base.

Perhaps the crowning achievement of Art Loder and IPMS NENY is what we celebrate this year: the creation of the IPMS Regional Convention. Born out of the idea of a "mini-National" for members who could not attend the National, the first IPMS/USA Regional was hosted by IPMS NENY 50 years ago under the supervision of Art and his fellow founding members, Jim Maas and Bill Ellis. It was the inspiration for other IPMS Regionals and is the longest continuously held Regional in IPMS/ USA. This chapter has hosted at least 25% of these Regionals over the past 50 years.

The model displays at air shows and libraries, support for local and distant modeling enthusiast undertakings and charitable contributions over the 50 plus years are yet other examples of Art's and his chapter's achievements.

Art has been the creator and leader of IPMS NENY for over 50 years. He has continuously motivated and nurtured and inspired it's members to build, to research and learn, to teach, to organize conventions to meet and share knowledge and skills with other modelers and to judge contests with skill and integrity. These were precisely the goals of the founders of IPMS/USA. He was a pioneer and prophet and proselytizer for IPMS at the frontier of this hobby and this organization. There may be members of IPMS/USA who are better known, but no one, with the help of his IPMS NENY disciples, has done more to bring the "good news" of IPMS and plastic modeling to their community than has Art Loder.

Respectfully submitted,

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