

IPMS Livonia

The Bullsheet



July
2015

The Biggest Little Club in IPMS

CLUB INFORMATION



IPMS Livonia is a non-profit educational organization created to promote and share the art of plastic modeling. The group meets at 8:00 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the Month.

Meeting Place: The Pierson Center, Suite 5, 32625 West Seven Mile Rd., Livonia, Michigan.

Club Officers:

President

Tim Howell
(517) 861-7775
howelltm@hotmail.com

VP

Bob Blevins
(734) 664-3198
blevins5@prodigy.net

Treasure

John Kesner
(248) 880-6135
johnkesner@frontier.com

Secretary

Mike Kendel
Mkendel@sbcglobal.net

Bull Sheet Staff:

Editor in Chief Ian P. Dow

Associate Editor Jeff Edge

Club Dues

IPMS US members:

\$12 Non-IPMS US members: \$15
Juniors: \$5

Web Site : www.ipmslivonia.org

In This Issue

by: Ian P. Dow

The 1st Amendment on The 4th.....Page 2

1/25 AMT General Lee.....Page 3

Special Report.....Page 8

Contest Corner.....Page 11

Upcoming Shows.....Page 12

8 Interesting Facts about the Founding Fathers.....Page 13

Mess Hall.....Page 18

Meeting time is at 8:00pm on Tuesday the 14th of July at the Pierson Center. It is contest month so bring out the biggest and best that you have been working on.



The 1st Amendment on the 4th

Gentleman,

As I write this I sincerely hope that everyone had a safe, healthy, happy fourth of July and that all fingers and toes are accounted for. I myself spent an enjoyable weekend with family canoeing, bar-bee-queing, and swimmy pooling. Could not have had a better time. After saying all that I will now mount my soap box and begin my monthly rant. Sorry if this gets a little off topic or ruffles a few feathers but bear with me and I might bring it around by the end. Have not written it all the way so not sure if that will happen. It all begins with the 1st Amendment and being free to say what we want. All of us and not just me.

Our country is based on a bunch of folks wanting to be free from the tyranny of someone telling them they cant do something. Cant speak out against government or cant worship how they want, or cant live how they feel they should. Now everyone knows that nothing is black and white other than death and taxes, but we based our core country values on a very live and let live principal. I can work hard, make money, be a productive member of society, defend my country and allow those around me to say and do as they please. If I close the doors to my house, rub myself in peanut butter and worship the great spaghetti monster in the sky then that is nobody's business but my own. Lately it seems as if we have forgotten what all of us use to know as basic rights. Could this be because we don't say the Pledge of Allegiance in school, we don't sing the Star Spangled Banner except at sporting events or we are not allowed to mention Religion of any sort for fear of offending someone. People always are offended by something, but it should be our right to voice our opinions and listen to why people like or dislike that opinion without taking it as a personal attack.

Gay marriage, confederate flags, police brutality, cyber bullying, flag burning, immigration, on and on and on. Two hundred years ago it was Dandys riding side saddle, women speaking their mind, upstart slaves, rabble rousing southerners, carpet bagging northerners, the Indian Nation and on and on and on. The thing is we are Americans one and all and most of us think far deeper and know much more than what our elected officials hope we do. So whatever is bugging you this month will be gone next month and a new group will be put before us to hate and ridicule. So with that in mind I am devoting this months model review to the 1/25 AMT General Lee. Not because I give a shit about the Confederate Flag, the only flag I fly is an American Flag, but because I loved the show and the car. In fact I think it was probably one of the most unracist, non objectionable shows on at that time. It is my right to write about it, talk about it and reminisce about a positive aspect of my childhood. It reminds me of my little brother and me sitting two feet from the TV wishing we were driving a crazy orange Charger with a funky car horn.

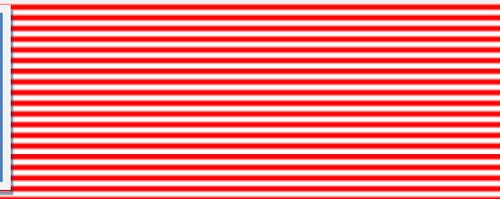
So in conclusion, this 4th of July as I fly my Freak Flag high and salute the Stars and Bars, I encourage all to listen more, rant less and know that this is the greatest country in the world. Politicians, gay marriage, rebel flags, Kim Kardashians ass, red dye number 5 and fracking will never stop that or diminish who we are. Now I shall dismount the soap box. Go build a model.

Ian



AMT 1/25 General Lee

Reviewed by Wyll Jones on the Modeling Madness Website.



HISTORY

My wife and I went to see the movie 'The Village'. Of course this was going to be the last movie I was going to pay good money to see before 'Star Wars Revenge of the Sith'. That was until while watching the previews I saw the worlds most beautiful orange car fly through the air, ON THE BIG SCREEN. Star Wars could wait, I would never get another chance to see the General Lee on the big screen again. I must see this, I must build this.

The Bullsheet



THE KIT

I went to Wal-Mart and found it, oh my lucky day. Right there on the side of the box was a picture of the model with the proper rear window. Yes it was my lucky day. This one would not disappoint me.

Until I got home and opened it. There sat the same old wrong rear window chunk of orange plastic. I was devastated, I was sad, I was mad. I called AMT and just had to ask them if anyone there even built models. Or if they had seen the car. Or if they cared. If nothing else the girl at AMT I talked to was very nice. She assured me that they do listen and care and that she would take my complaint straight to the folks who could make a difference.

It still had to be built.

CONSTRUCTION

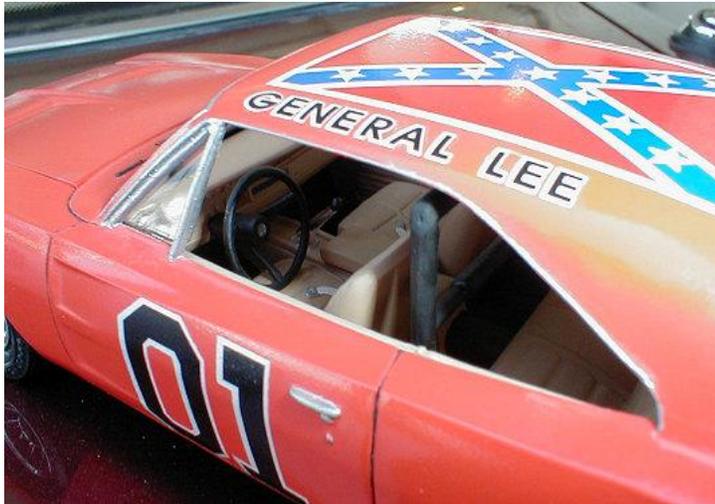
Now first things had to be first. Cut out the rear window area. Some of you may think that pre-planning this sort of thing would be a good idea, especially if one has never done this sort of thing. But that is just crazy thinking.

Not to say that there wasn't some little piece of pre-work thought. I figured that I did all of the interior and all of the engine and the whole chassis and then tried to do the window conversion, well bad words could be spoken. So being the genius that I have convinced my kids that I am I did foresee this possible disaster. So if I do the window thing first and screw it up, who cares, I would have a bunch of parts for my extras bin.

I first typed in the words General Lee into the search engine of my choice and wait for the results. I got lots of good pictures of the General Lee. I also realized that there are, shall we say inconsistencies from one car to another. Different is good. It makes it so that I don't get in trouble with the car rivet counters, I hope. At no fault of my own I ended up with many many photos of Jessica Simpson as Daisy Duke. Oh the things we are willing to go through to support our art.

Using Squadron Sheet Styrene for the first time came next along with cutting out the rear window. Then I started the measure eight times and cut wrong once method of doing things. That soon turned into eyeball it once, cut it, glue it and place it.

Getting the new flat area and the new triangle side wall thingies to go together nice was somewhat of a chore but they finally did look ok. But the more I worked on this project the worse the window frame looked at the top edge. I fixed it by cutting a thin piece of styrene and gluing it around the inside edge of the window. A little bit of sanding and filler fixed the unsightly joints and imperfections in no time at all. Heck if I could do it then those professionals over at AMT could have too.



For the clear part I cut a piece of plastic from one of my kids toy packages. I finally got it to where it looked pretty good too. But in the end I did realize I forgot to dip it Future. Dang-num-it anyways.

In a moment of time wasting I decided to test fit the bumpers and the grill. The fit was awful. What was supposed to be nothing more than a time filler but it turned into so much more. Like hours and hours of sanding and fitting. When I finally got done they looked fine but I'm still expecting the rear bumper to fall off at anytime for no reason.

Not wanting to be outdone by the rear window or the bumpers it was the engine's turn to hate me. The two engine halves went together about as well as me and ties, or my daughters and clean bedrooms. It was so bad I almost glued the hood on. It would have been my first non-planned curbside. But I carried on and sanded like, insert your own analogy because I can't think of good one. After I got the two halves together the rest of the engine parts went on pretty good. A little thinning here and there but it turned out looking like an engine. So I was more than happy.

Of course the next thing to do was the chassis. Mostly because with the engine done it would make a good place to store it. The chassis went together well enough to make up for some of the other headaches this model brings. And bonus, all four wheels touch the ground.

The interior was one of the few not so low points of this kit. And I had options. Well actually inconsistencies. About half of the pictures I found showed a black interior and the other half had a tan interior. I ended up going tan because I thought it would look better in scale. Now if I were to ever get the chance to have the real thing I would have a black interior cause I think it would look right.

The steering wheel sat down too low, unless a person has no legs. Not being smart enough to test fit this part first I didn't notice this issue until it was already in place. I was able to adjust it a little but not nearly enough to make it look quite right.

The roll bar was nearly a complete waste of time and plastic, won't fit. Maybe someone else could fit it in there but not me, wasn't going to happen. This turned out to be another case of inconsistency being my friend. Cause some of the General Lee's had full roll cages. Some had back half only. One had just a single roll bar right behind the front seat. It was all needed to see, now I would be justified in going the easy way. So I did.

Next was to put the subassemblies together. This is where I got really lucky. In all of the work I did on the back window I never though about the fact that I would at some point use the interior. It didn't fit perfectly but with only a little sanding, and at this point any sanding that took less than three hours was just a little sanding, it fit almost perfectly. Oh happy day.

The push bar on the front brought me back to reality. It was as well designed as a Yugo and as fragile as a butterfly wing. But it never did look right anyways. Because of that I wasn't overly upset when one of the cats wiped out the push bar, I won't put it back on.



COLORS & MARKINGS

PAINT

I already told you about the interior being tan so I'll tell you about the engine and chassis. The engine got painted orange, I think it just looks right. The chassis got to be flat black because I paint all of my chassis' flat black. I'm not a historically based modeler so I paint whatever looks fine or even just ok and that stayed the standard with this one as well.

Inconsistency reared it's ugly head once again, this time regarding the body paint. Through all of the things I saw there were at least three people out there who claim to be the final authority on the subject. The one that sticks out in my head was Tangerine Orange. It sounded kind of exotic to me and I just couldn't see the Duke boys agreeing to use Tangerine Orange. If they did it would be pretty disturbing.

DECALS

Now for the high point of the kit, the decals. Although the Lettering looks a bit on the large size they still look good and went down great. But once again inconsistency was present. Some of the photos online had the bottom edge of the flag on the driver side and some had it on the passenger side. Being a moon shiners car, that would make it a cousin to NASCAR, and this show is all about cousins, I had to go with the NASCAR thing. So I put the bottom edge on the driver's side. Double bonus, the white part of the decals are very opaque. My only question about the decals is why are all of the stars facing one way and the one in the middle facing the other way? Why didn't I notice until it was already on the car? Would I have done anything about it anyways?

I painted the wheels flat black but I didn't take off the chrome first. This way when the flat black dried I could use toothpicks and fingernails to scrape the paint off of the chrome on the high spots.

The antenna is of course a piece of guitar wire. I don't know what string it is but it looks good to me.

CONCLUSIONS

Would I build it again? Well that depends. If I can keep my cats from destroying this one I won't have too. If the cats do take it out then it may be easier on my ego to build a full size one and then invent the first shrink ray in history.

Any one or two issue and this would be ok but this kit has just too many problems to make it worth doing again. Can only recommend it to modelers with a lot of experience and patients with sanding and reconstruction. Not a good first model for anyone.

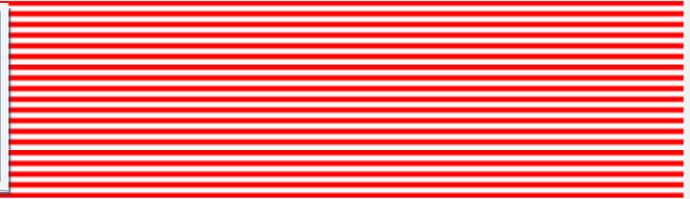
It's a shame really. Kits like this are often the first kit a young modeler will get. But it's such a mess it's got to be frustrating for newer builders. I wonder how many young people were completely turned off of the hobby by kits like this.



I mean seriously, what 10 year old boy has not wanted to do that with a car? What 50 year old boy has not wanted to do that with a car?

The Bullsheet

Additional General Lee Photos and Models





Special Report

By: Jeff Edge

Around the Sprue

Hi everyone, recently I have once again tried to start a blog about scale modeling with the hopes of sharing wisdom, industry news, tips and unsolicited advice to the masses. To help push me in posting more I have looked into joining a blogging ring about scale modeling called the Sprue Cutters Union, <http://thecombatworkshop.blogspot.com/2013/07/introducing-sprue-cutters-union.html>. The idea behind the Union is that everyone blogs each month on the posted topic and posts it to their blog. Of course more posts are encouraged on your own blog but the monthly topic is usually the starting point for the month. The topic for July is a very timely topic as I keep looking at my growing stash of kits - Why do modelers maintain and even grow a stash that may never be completed in their lifetime?

I have a few ideas on this issue. Some of it is financial, some is due to the vast number of kits and kit makers that exist now and some of it has to do with plain old addiction and how that makes us feel as well as how easy it is to find our drug. I will start with financial. We have all mused and pined away that the hobby is made up of males that are mostly in their late 30's and older and it is not getting younger. There have been several articles in modeling magazines and editorials in said periodicals that allude to the aging of the hobby and while some this may be true there is other evidence showing that the hobby does have some young blood coming in to keep it refreshed. But that is another topic for another time. Here we are talking about our stash. And while the hobby goes may seem to be getting older, there is one advantage to this – money. Most of us are currently employed or we were employed and now enjoy the lazy days of retirement gluing PE together. This current or past employment gives us something we probably didn't have years ago, disposable income. And while we can't go buy those \$100 plus kits all the time, when that one kit we have always wanted to build or a new subject that we have always been interested in comes on the market, odds are we can skip a few lattes and pick up some plastic to get the kit we want. Income also gives us the ability to purchase all the add-ons that go with the kit, the PE, the resin wheels, the upgrades and the aftermarket decals and figures. You start to add this all up and you can see why the stash grows – Because we have the means to make it grow. However, as I said money is not the only reason, the proliferation of kits and kit makers doesn't help much either with their shiny new plastic and ever increasing detail and add-on parts.



It has been said that we now live in the golden age of modeling with all the kits and kit makers and non stop line of various topics that stream out of the plants in HK, Japan, China, Europe and the US. Odds are if there was something or some topic you really liked, it is in kit form somewhere or will be soon. We now have kits of things people thought would never happen or in scales that are mind boggling, 1/32 bombers, 1/35 helicopters and 1/200 battleships. All this choice has led to larger stashes because there is just some much out there. You no longer have just one version of a kit that if you wanted to build would have involved hours of rework to make it look presentable. You now have two to three new version of said model that put the old one to shame. The new kits are in most cases easier to build, fit better, have better details and are not that expensive when you think about what you are getting. Sure there are some duds out there; I am looking at you Dragon and your Black Series kits. But overall, kits are better than they were ten to twenty years ago, except for Tamiya kits which seem to be the Dorian Gray of model kits, even the old ones go together great. This great amount of choices combined with the money I talked about above are two of the reasons for the growth of stashes. The third is Al Gore's invention and how we use it to get our fix and how we feel when we open that box.

The internet is a great and powerful tool that has made the world a smaller place and has opened options and markets to people that didn't exist ten years ago. You can now order direct from places overseas had have kits here as soon as a week. There is no need to wait until the kits come in to your LHS, another topic for later discussion, you can order direct from the stores in HK that don't have to literally wait for the slow boat from China to get your kit sent to you or to have it arrive here in the States. In addition to access to Asian sellers, we have eBay, message and forums where you can buy and sell to other like-minded souls and a relative new activity at least to me, buying and selling on Facebook. There are several groups where you can buy and trade kits and there is even support in Facebook to help post what you have for sale or trade. Of course products like PayPal and Facebook's new fund transfer system make paying for items safe and secure. All these options make it possible to find the kits you are looking for or to just get that new one that you have to have. And to go along with this ease of purchase is the psychological effects one has when you open that box to inspect your new kit. It makes us feel good, we enjoy it. Yes this is similar to how addicts feel when they get their fix but the same could be said for the person that enjoys a certain food, or good coffee or shopping for any other item. It all has to do with how purchasing and enjoying something makes us feel. The internet and other avenues allow us to experience this satisfaction quicker and whenever we want if we have the money and the kit makers have made the kits we want.



In closing, we have stashes because we can afford them, the kits we want are now being made or being redone to current standards and purchasing a kit has never been easier and it makes us feel good. All of these factors lead to the growth of our stashes. Is that a bad thing, maybe? But remember that large stash today will keep the vendor rooms at the shows buzzing years from now when we replace the new kits we purchased today with the kits we will want years from now. It will also allow us to ramble on with the next generation about how kits in our day didn't even come with metal barrels or photo etch. So I say stash on! – Just don't tell my wife.

Until next time,

Jeff

Jeffs actual stash. Its growing. Its more like a dirt stash.





Contest Corner

My apologies to one and all in my lack of having the Model Standings up to date before this month. I do believe I got all the points added correctly and will be more than happy to make any adjustments that need making if I did make a mistake. Just let me know and I can correct the error. Here are some from the last couple months that I really like.

Model of the Year Standings

<i>John Kesner</i>	<i>22 points</i>
<i>Ian Dow</i>	<i>20 points</i>
<i>Alex Mierzejewski</i>	<i>9 points</i>
<i>Jeff Edge</i>	<i>4 points</i>
<i>Albert Divida</i>	<i>4 points</i>
<i>Travis Blevins</i>	<i>4 points</i>
<i>Steve Freeman</i>	<i>4 points</i>
<i>Tim Howell</i>	<i>3 points</i>
<i>Steve Grigg</i>	<i>3 points</i>
<i>Jim Ashford</i>	<i>2 points</i>
<i>Kris Stroud</i>	<i>2 points</i>





Upcoming Shows

Start	End	Chapter	City/Area
07/22/2015	07/25/2015	Capt Eddie Rickenbacker - IPMS/USA 2015 National Convention	Columbus, OH
09/19/2015	09/19/2015	Dayton Area Plastic Modelers	Dayton, OH
09/19/2015	09/19/2015	Shenango Valley Area Scale Modelers	Sharon, PA
10/10/2015	10/10/2015	Cincinnati Scale Modelers	Cincinnati, OH
11/01/2015	11/01/2015	John H Glenn / Western Reserve	Kirtland, OH
04/06/2016	04/09/2016	*AMPS International Convention	Sumter, SC
04/08/2016	04/09/2016	Wright Field Scale Modelers (WrightCon - IPMS/USA Region IV Convention)	Dayton, OH
05/21/2016	05/21/2016	MMCL Invitational	Louisville, KY
Early Aug	Early Aug	IPMS/USA 2016 National Convention	Columbia , SC
09/17/2016	09/17/2016	Dayton Area Plastic Modelers	Dayton, OH
1 or 8 Oct 2016	Livonia	Livonia, MI	
		* Denotes non-IPMS event (shown for info only)	

8 Little Known Facts about the Founding Fathers



In the spirit of Fourth of July weekend, here are eight facts about the Founding Fathers we bet you haven't heard before.

Most people likely think of the Founding Fathers as heroic intellectuals and warriors, but they're a little more human than that. So, this Independence day, we'll start with a fun fact about the Declaration of Independence:

1. No one trusted Benjamin Franklin to write the Declaration of Independence.

Though he served on the committee that drafted the history-making document, Benjamin Franklin wasn't trusted to write it. Everyone thought that he'd try to conceal a joke in its contents.

Upon his signing of the finished document, Franklin would then jokingly say, "Gentlemen, we must now all hang together, or we shall most assuredly all hang separately."

2. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on the 50th anniversary of our nation's birth. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The two spent many years as adversaries with very different views on government.

They eventually reconciled as friends when Adams, 90, laid on his deathbed and spoke his last words. He said, "Thomas Jefferson still survives." He ended up being wrong as Jefferson, 82, had been dead for five hours in his estate, Monticello.

3. James Madison was the smallest president in history.

He was 5'4" and only weighed about 100 pounds. That is actually shorter than Napoleon Bonaparte. Napoleon is often comically depicted as being a short man with a compensatory aggressive demeanor, popularly deemed the "Napoleon Complex." In reality, Napoleon was 5'6".



4. George Washington was idolized by Napoleon.

Napoleon grew up hearing tales of the Revolutionary General. He was a student at the military academy in Brienne while Washington commanded the Continental Army. It's said that Washington was seen as a source of inspiration for the French Revolution.

When Washington died on December 14, 1799, Napoleon gave a public eulogy for him and ordered ten days of national mourning in France.

5. In the famous painting Washington Crossing the Delaware, the man holding the flag is James Monroe.

James Monroe was, in fact, a lieutenant in Washington's army at the time of the famous crossing of the Delaware River. He suffered a life-threatening injury in the battle that followed when he led the charge against enemy cannons.

So, while he was verifiably present, it is not likely that Monroe was ferried across on the same boat while holding the American flag.



This, along with other facets of the scene, were not historically accurate. Rather, it was artistic depiction of the heroic spirit of Washington and the Revolutionaries. Seeing as the painting is still such a poignant part of U.S. history, it's safe to call it a success.



6. Some Founding Fathers had very strange names for their beloved pets.

John Adams had a dog named Satan. Washington had dogs named Sweetlips, Scentwell, Vulcan, Drunkard, Taster, Tipler, and Tipsy.

7. Thomas Jefferson owned TWO grizzly bears that he kept in a cage on the lawn outside of the White House.

In 1807, a man by the name of Captain Zebulon Pike led an expedition along the Arkansas River and ended up getting arrested by the Spanish for invading their territory. While being escorted back to U.S. lands, Pike purchased the bears as cubs from a local.

They were unlike the bears early Americans had encountered on the east coast. Pike noted in a letter to Jefferson that the grizzlies were "considered by the natives of that country as the most ferocious animals of the continent."

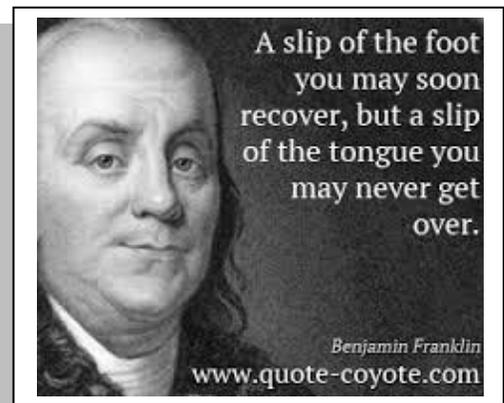
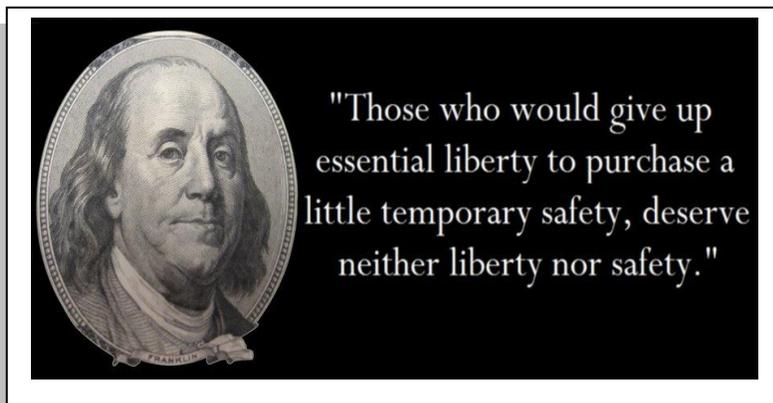


He was aware of the dangers of the grizzly from tales told by Lewis and Clark. So, instead of accepting them from his friend Pike, Jefferson attempted to give them to Charles Wilson Peale, a friend who owned Peale's Museum. Though Peale accepted them immediately, it took months for him to claim them. In the meantime, the bears were kept in an enclosure on the White House lawn. Can you imagine?

When Peale finally took the bears, he had expected that they would be tame since they had matured in the presence of humans. That proved not to be the case. One bear broke free from its cage and caused terror before being shot dead in Peale's basement. The other bear was quickly put down as well.



Now it is time to get your Franklin on. The original bad boy of the 13 colonies with some of his more famous quotes.



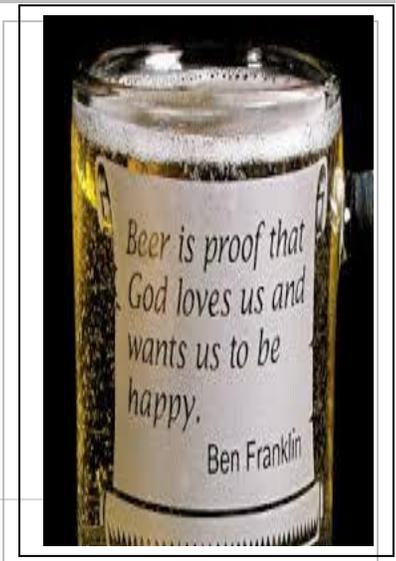
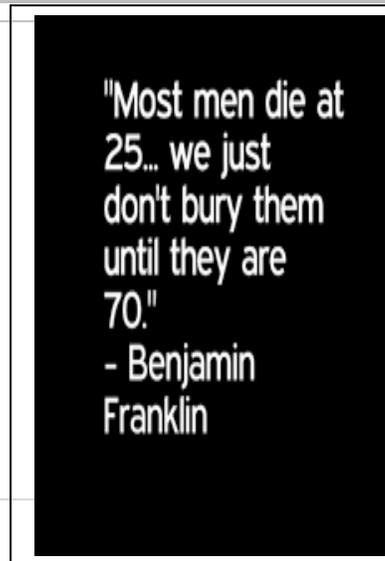
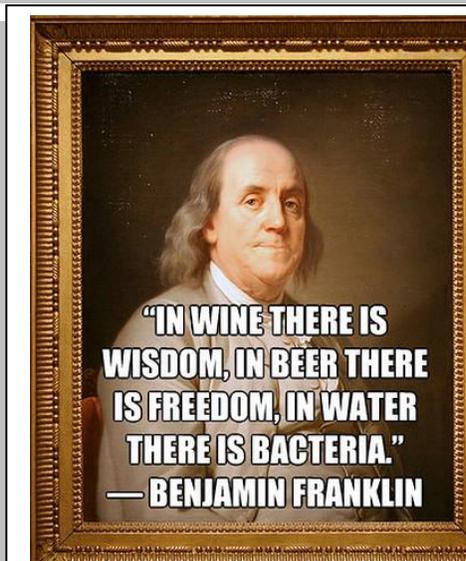
8. Benjamin Franklin had a very unusual - and downright scary - habit that he called "taking an air bath."

Benjamin Franklin was admired by many for his accomplishments in politics and science; however, along with his intelligence, Franklin had some quirks.

*One held the form of a daily ritual where he would stand **naked** before an open window and take what he called an "air bath." He described it to a friend, **saying**:*

"I have found it much more agreeable to my constitution to bathe in another element, I mean cold air. With this view I rise early almost every morning, and sit in my chamber without any clothes whatever, half an hour or an hour, according to the season, either reading or writing. This practice is not in the least painful, but on the contrary, agreeable."

Unfortunately for Franklin's neighbors, this window happened to be on the first floor of his home.





Mess Hall

By: Grunty the Magic Pig

Traditional Yankee Pot Roast

Ingredients:

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 (4-pound) boneless chuck roast, trimmed
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon cracked black pepper
- 2 cups coarsely chopped onion
- 2 cups low-salt beef broth
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup chopped plum tomato
- 1 1/4 pounds small red potatoes
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- Chopped fresh parsley (optional)



Preparation

Preheat oven to 300°.

Heat olive oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Sprinkle roast with salt and pepper. Add roast to pan, browning on all sides (about 8 minutes). Remove from pan. Add onion to pan; sauté 8 minutes or until browned. Return roast to pan. Combine broth, ketchup, and Worcestershire; pour over roast. Add tomato; bring to a simmer.

Cover and bake at 300° for 2 1/2 hours or until tender. Add potatoes and carrots; cover and bake an additional 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in lemon juice. Garnish with parsley, if desired.