

Published: Monday, December 20, 2010

Snohomish County shops for the sporting life



Three county businesses offer gifts for rocketeers, cyclists and golfers

By **Michelle Dunlop** and **Mike Benbow**, Herald Writers

Galaxy Hobby (<http://www.galaxyhobby.com>)

Collectors and builders are bound to find something of interest at Galaxy Hobby.

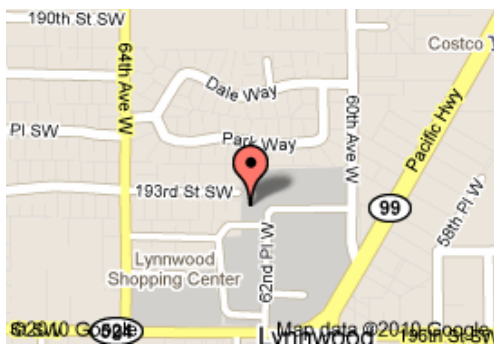
Model helicopters, boats and rockets hang from the ceiling near the front counter. Rows of model and remote-control cars line the shelves. Collectible figures — the Union calvary, U.S. Marines, German and Roman infantry — beg to re-enact battles of yesteryear.

At the front of one aisle stands a nearly 5-foot Gundam, which looks a bit like a Transformer or large Lego character. Owner Mike Shaw brought the Gundam back from Japan, where entire stores specialize in the science-fiction figures.

The shop, just off of Highway 99, has been in business for 15 years. Shaw's father and another partner started Galaxy Hobby, and Shaw runs it with the help of about 12 employees. Besides selling items, the shop also serves as headquarters for several clubs, including a sci-fi model club and airplane and model boat clubs. This summer, Shaw hopes to host model car races in the shop's parking lot.

For the holiday shopper, however, model airplanes have been a popular item at the shop, Shaw said. The newer models are electric, which enables users to operate their aircraft in their own back yards or in school playgrounds rather than on larger expanses of land, Shaw said. That's made them more attractive than in years past.

Galaxy Hobby carries most items, such as rockets, in a variety of sizes and prices. Rockets under 12 inches can be bought for as little as \$5.95, while larger models cost as much as \$115.



Galaxy Hobby, 19332 60th Ave. W., Lynnwood; 425-670-0454.