



THE STYRENE SHEET

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Swiftly Making Honor for an Old Bird



Trimming the last of the Thunderbirds

By Greg Plummer

Retro styling in automobiles is a popular concept these days. Dodge's new Challengers are hard to tell apart from the 1970 original at a distance, and the new Camaro is a metal origami version of the 1969 hit. The current VW Beetle is a quite popular example of retro styling from the Germans. Perhaps the best example is Ford's latest Mustang series. Introduced in 2005, the current Mustangs derive their styling from the fondly remembered 1968 year models. Ford's first attempt at nostalgic styling was not a smashing success though... If you know your Ford cars, you'll be familiar with the Thunderbird. Introduced in 1955 as the very first personal luxury car, the Tbird crushed its closest competitor the Corvette in terms of sales. The first generation cars were all 2 seat convertibles equipped with V-8s. Tbirds became 4 seaters in 1958, and in the 60s the model grew into a heavyweight luxury barge, while the Corvette kept to its sport car heritage with *(continued on page 3)*

Editor's Ravings — this month's editor, Mick Burton

With this being the last issue of the Sheet before the IPMS USA National Convention and Contest for 2010 is held, chance for promoting our neck of the woods again presents itself. I am ever so pleased that Greg Plummer and his Retro Bird tale will be the Public Face of Silicon Valley Scale Modelers for the event. Yes, a number of us are going to the big show out in Phoenix, and promotional copies of this issue will be sponsored so that we can shamelessly advertise ourselves. While the 'Net is indeed a very lively force, having print copy to hand out that has no advertising or puffery disguised as news for folks to read still is a powerful force for good. Or at least a more unique scratch note pad... If the West Coast bid for the 2012 Nationals is awarded our direction, it's an instant collector's item, right? Okay, yes, my editorial ship ran aground at point somewhere South of Gilligan's Island, but hey, got me to where I can catch up on important, neglected old business

FIRST item: Because when it comes to recognizing those who put forth more than their share to make sure every guest has an added chance to have fun and mayhaps take something home from the party they weren't expecting to, it's never too late

On behalf of Mark McDonald and all the SVSM KOC 2010 raffle crew,

Club would like to recognize and THANK the GENEROUS donors who helped make it all possible!

Yanni's Hobbies	Frank Beltran	Paul Bishop	Jon "The Tank Rat" Michle
Richard Linder	Chris "Toadman" Hughes	Laramie Wright	IPMS-SJVSM "Tomcats"
Eric McClure	Chris Bucholtz	Kit Lam	Jerry Sperger
Mark Schynert	Postoria Aguirre	Steven Travis	Bert McDowell
A. Nonymoose	The Balderamma Family	Braulio Escoto	

Please accept my apologies for not getting this notice published sooner, and for totally random order above.

SECOND item: This was for inclusion on time in last issue, again my bad. Still, got in ahead of the event tho...

Silicon Valley Scale Modelers E-Board and membership would like to recognize and gratefully thank for his generous contributions to our upcoming auction, long time member and vigorous supporter, **Mr Stan Muniz**.

Included among his donations are over 50 vacuform kits and 1/72 scale subjects sure to interest our bidders!

How Stan manages to find the time to do all he does, I'm still puzzling over. Until next month - *mick fini*

SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME JULY 2010 "From the Earth to the Moon"

REAL SPACE AND RELATED SUBJECTS COMPETITION

EARTH: Eligible : Any scale, finished: Early rockets such as V-2/A4 (including wartime versions as well as obvious postwar research uses by USA, USSR, etc). Other ballistic missiles that served as launch vehicles for real space, like the Redstone, Thor, Jupiter, Atlas, Titan, SS-6, need not be in peacetime configurations. Current launch vehicles such as Ariane, Pegasus, Spaceship One are definitely encouraged. North American X-15 series considered to be in this category as well, along with X-20 Dyna-Soar and SPACE SHUTTLE (including Buran). Don't forget, the entire series of "lifting bodies" also qualify under this statute! Earth orbiting satellites will fall in here as well. (Explorer, TIROS, Keyhole Series, Sputnik, etc). Research rockets like Aerobee are also OK.

TO THE MOON: Any scale, finished: Project Mercury, Gemini or Apollo, Soyuz, Lunokhod, Mariner, Venera, Pioneer etc subject matter. Basically any subject matter that was directly related part of a lunar research project or for real space exploration beyond the lunar orbit.

Remember! REAL SPACE as a definition here, DOESN'T EXCLUDE projects that weren't built or flown ever in real time. Which is how the X-20 Dyna Soar for one, becomes eligible for "Earth" category. Over the years there have been many kits of serious proposals that never saw the light of day, but would legitimately qualify for either category in this contest. Sanger's "orbital bomber", Convair Space Shuttlecraft, Von Braun's "Ring Orbiter Space Station" among them. Several cool Willy Ley designs come to mind also, put out by Glencoe.

So don't be shy, look to the stars this summer and bring something to compete outside your normal orbit hey?

SummerTime Fun with Greg's T-Bird Tale! (continued from page 1)

continuous improvements in performance. Tbirds would shrink down in size again in the 1980s making for a successful NASCAR racer, but by the mid 90's the market for American personal luxury coupes, the very niche Ford had created with the Thunderbird, was in decline and the Tbird was discontinued in 1997.

Ford attempted to revive that market with the new Thunderbird. Originally a concept car from 1999, the New Thunderbird was put into production for the 2002 model year. Based on the Lincoln LS/Jaguar S Type platform, this 11th generation Tbird was once again a 2 seat convertible powered by a Jaguar designed Ford based V-8. Body styling took its cues from the very clean first generation cars of 1955-56, though the new car had no hint of the restrained tail fins that were on the original. Sales were initially good but dropped off rapidly; Ford stopped production of the Tbird again in 2005. It is unlikely we'll see the name appear again any time soon...

There was only one scale model kit produced of the new Thunderbird, released in a couple of different boxings. That would be Revell's snapdite kit from the beginning of the new millennium (makes it sound ancient, doesn't it?) Despite its simple snap assembly, lack of an engine, it's a decent kit with accurate lines and good interior detail.

I always thought the new Thunderbird was a great concept, but there are things on both the real vehicle and Revell's model that could use some improvement. With that in mind, and the Kickoff Classic coming up in one month, let's get started on our street cruising slammer New Thunderbird...

Most car kit instructions have you build the engine, chassis, and interior first, then get onto the body. I always start with the body first though. Cleaning up and customizing the body to your liking can be difficult and laying down a nice gloss paint job can be full of pitfalls. The body and paint is mostly what a car model is about, so having a paint job go south on you or having body mods not look like what you were expecting is bad enough, but when you have already made a great chassis and interior it can be outright painful. On the positive side, a clean body with a great color layed down well and polished out can be great motivation to do the rest of kit well.

On the T-bird one of the first things I did was drill out the grill area. On the kit a chrome basket weave grill piece inserted into a shallow recess in front, and I thought the grill looked ugly both on the model and the real thing. Other than that, I left the body as it was. It's not a bad looking body after all, though it tapers to the rear a bit much looking somewhat like a stretched computer mouse. I briefly thought of grafting fins from a '55 AMT T-bird kit onto the modern body and perhaps widening the rear overhead profile, but then I came to my senses and realized life is too short for that sort of pain. Interestingly, the "Wheels of Fire" kit I had lacked the side marker lamps or the stickers for them - that's fine, the body is cleaner without them. I did make a rear spoiler with long sides to serve as fins in a sense, and even painted the unit with the body, but then decided it was a bit too kid racer looking to install.

With the mold lines cleaned up it was now time to paint the one piece body. The kit was molded in red; I tend to be swayed by molded colors, so red paint it was. I sprayed a couple of coats of Flame red from the new line of Testors lacquers first. Flame was right - this color is a true red and quite bright, almost like a modern Ferrari racer red. I was hoping for something a little more subtle, so I airbrushed a few coats of Testors metallic red from the little square bottles line. This was more of the color I was looking for, but the metal flecks in the paint were a bit big for my taste. Talk about Corvette Summer... Anyway, I sprayed on a few coats of clear enamel tinted with clear red in hopes to tone down the flakes in the metallic coat. It worked somewhat, with the paint job looking great in both subdued light and sunlight, though the flakes are still somewhat evident examined under a regular fluorescent lamp. See, I told you paint jobs are tricky...

After a bit of polishing and waxing I was satisfied with the body. One of the benefits of modern retro styling is a lack of chrome trim and separate bumpers, so after a bit of darkening of the front fender vents with a permanent marker the body was nearly done. A fine photo etch sheet filled up grill hole I had created, while a scratchbuilt intercooler was mounted behind it. The lights were not finished at this point, nor was the windshield, but more on that later.

While painting the body I thought I'd have body colored accents in the interior much like the original T-bird. I had forgotten to spray these areas with the candy red so they were still bright, but since *(concluded on page 5)*

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 07-16-10

Friday, July 16 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme “From the Earth to the Moon”

Saturday, July 24 2010

IPMS/Dragon Lady hosts their 2010 model contest, theme is “Wet and Wild”. 9Am to 4Pm at the First United Methodist Church, 3101 Colusa Highway, Yuba City CA. Make ‘N Take, movies all day in a theatre on site, and fine number of special awards all featured. Contact Don Terbush @ Hillcrest Hobbies, 530-674-8194, email him via donaldterbush@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.myspace.com/ipmsdragonlady> for more info.

Wednesday thru Saturday, August 4 to 7 2010

IPMS/Phoenix and associate chapters host the 2010 IPMS-USA National Convention and Competition at the Phoenix Convention Center, West Building. 100 North 3rd Street, Phoenix AZ. Info at www.ipms-phoenix.org.

Friday, August 20 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme “ Second Chance Soiree ”

Saturday, September 11 2010

IPMS/Reno High Rollers host their show at Desert Heights Elementary School, 13498 Mt Bismark, Reno NV Their 11th year’s contest theme is “The New Millennium”, stated to cover subjects designed & built since 2001. More information can be found at their website www.renohighrollers.com

Friday, September 17 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme “ Let’s Raise Some Doh! ”

Saturday, October 9 2010

IPMS Orange County will host the annual OrangeCon 2010 at Titan Conference Center - California State Fullerton located at 800 North State College Blvd in Fullerton. For more information go to their website at www.ipmsoc.org or contact [Nat Richards](#).

Friday, October 15 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme “Hunt for Red October”

Saturday, November 6 2010

IPMS/Antelope Valley Group host their Desert Classic XV, contest theme “TBA”, usual locale in Lancaster.

Friday, November 19 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme “ Just NAG, NAG, NAG ”

Saturday, December 4 2010

IPMS/Silver Wings host their SilverCon 2010 at the Kerr Middle School, 8865 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove CA. Check www.ipmssw.com for additional information and updates

Friday, December 17 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme “Eat Pizza, Dude”

SummerTime Fun with Greg's T-Bird Tale! (concluded, from page 3)

they were small areas of the door armrest and center console I didn't worry about it. The convertible boot cover was sprayed black; Revell does provide a hard top option with portholes if one desires it - a nice touch in a snap kit. The rest of the interior was airbrushed in a medium tan and highlighted with Desert Storm army sand, which made for a nice leather appearance. The carpet was flocked with black fuzz, and the dash was painted with all three colors - red, tan, and black on top. A custom shifter was made from turned aluminum - I like the irony of metal being used on a \$5 kit from a swap meet.



The chassis couldn't be simpler - the one piece unit was sprayed flat black while new axle holes were drilled for lowering. Kit wheels are tacky looking chrome spin art jobs - it's not Revell's fault they look bad, they merely copied the Ford originals. A new set of Aoshima racing wheels was used with disc brakes behind them. I had sprayed the centers a dark copper color thinking it would go with the red body well. It doesn't quite, but I kept the color anyway. Always stick with silver tones was the lesson there.

One other bit that didn't look right was the windshield. On the real Tbird the windshield frame is one of the few pieces of chrome along with the grille and wheels. Being raked back, the frame becomes a large shiny piece that looks a bit like a large grab handle used to

pick up the car. Kit representation is made worse with visible snap tabs in the glass and frame. The solution is simple - throw out the frame and cut down the glass. This would be a rollover safety nightmare in real life, but this is a model after all. Plastic people are tough. The unimpressive side mirrors were also sent to the round file along with their mounts. The dash had to have a front mounted plastic card extension added to fill up the space that would have been occupied by the frame.

Now the T-bird was starting to look nice and slick. And hazardous...

Final assembly of chassis to the body was made easy with the kit provided screws. Actually it wasn't that easy, as the screws went in really tight. I feared I would actually twist off the body mounts -if I had the proper tap I would have used it before assembly. I'm not sure how they expect kids to build this thing - with dad's Makita power drill perhaps? The final touch was the lights. The tail lamps moulded in clear(ish) red were fine - they were simply snapped in. The headlamps were not so good. A clear lens with a thin peg, inserted into a plain drum shaped hole in the body, and they looked very snaptite-esque. I built up a shelf in the headlamp holes, painted the buckets with chrome silver, and added MV lenses for a projector beam headlamp setup. The peg on the clear kit lens was then snapped off (it should have been polished down also) and the lenses were carefully installed with clear paint. This was tricky, as there was now no locating devices of any sort and the lenses had to be lined up with each other and the body. Nothing like nice jewelry for your car...



A final waxing didn't get rid of all the fine scratches I had managed to make in the soft enamel paint and kit glass, but it looked decent enough. Finished in time for the Kickoff Classic, I entered it and won absolutely nothing for it, which is what I expected since this was really a Quickie McSlammer kind of project.

I am certainly happy with the simple styling mods and the overall look of the finished model, which was the whole point of this project - making a good looking car model is always fun no matter how much work you do or do not put in it. A pic of the model did make it however into Model Cars magazine in their NNL West coverage, so it got a bit of an honorable mention there. Not bad for a one month wonder... --Greg fini

June 2010 SVSM MEETING Minutes WEREN'T AVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME, sorry!

Instead, we'll have to get by with a summary recollection from my review of photos I shot (of those that came out) from our June meeting, for a taste of what Model Talk subjects were. As our usual minutes taker was fortunate to get surprise chance to vacate out of state, I have no set of his usual marvelous recountings for this month's issue.

June's meeting included a number of business items, sadly none stand out for reiteration in my struggle to recall it all. Models are listed in order of how I shot pictures, not how President conducted the meeting model talk, for your reference.

Model Talk included Cliff Kranz's 1/35 Tauro kit of WW1 A7V Tank, finished now in overall grey as "Wotan". He also completed his 1/72 Special Hobby FW-190 "turbo charged" prototype. Cliff said he's glad to be finished as particularly displeased with fit of kit. He also had an original issue 1/40 Revell "Lacrosse Missile and Launch Truck" which he wanted to display in sympathy with Mick Burton's re-issue edition. Cliff's was the one in authentic "dust" finish. Gabriel Lee had another wicked Work In Process, a Sukhoi hypothetical, also a fine WIP model of Lockheed Constellation which he plans to finish in "F-decals". Jack Clark was pleased as all get out to be at our meeting with his completed Peerless W35 Utility vehicle with Water Tank. He is a big fan of US Army WW2 vehicles, not so much a fan of the older kits which provide him path to have them in 1/35. He deals well with this model adversity, though. Nick Moran's back from wilds of Afghanistan, and resting not. One piece of evidence, his fine modern PRC MBT of type I can't recall here, but it's a lovely camouflaged finished work in 1/35. Steve Margola had fun finishing his 1/48 Czech Model ME-309. Like the real products of the Black Forest, it was left to him to finalize the fitting of the nose gear of this three legged One O Nine. Kit instructions, all/any of the references he could find, left it still ambiguous as to how real thing was fitted to machine. His seemed to be just right sit on table to the eye, so must have been correct! Bill Bauer has finished a lovely Mustang racer, the four wheeled kind. More about this at end of summary. Steve Travis had an incredibly sweet Hot Rod Pickup in yellow, with an array of badges to give clues to the aftermarket fun Steve had built into her. Paul Bishop's 1/48 Accurate Miniatures Grumman Avenger is a Work in Splendid Progress that keeps him engaged. Paul also had some nice black/white shots from WW2 training days, of personal meaning to him, to go with his display of a BT-13 by Planet Models. A resin kit which he plans to undertake soon in honor of his dad (who was in the B-29 picture) Paul also had a 4 page writeup of which he was advised by some readers submit for review and possible inclusion in upcoming Styrene Sheets. It's on Mister Bishop (his dad)'s training days.

Mick Burton had his finally finished Martin Lacrosse artillery missile and launcher truck on the table, a 1/40 Revell kit reissue from the 1958 edition. He knows well now why he didn't see a lot of them in the past, and another reason why perhaps many folk didn't stick with building scale models as hobby from their youth. Especially now that he'd had to rebuild this model a day after he'd finished it. This due to he'd managed to "air launch it" while on his way to the Fremont Hornets meeting, along with the Tamiya M21 Half Track he'd brought, both neatly doubled as "Destruct Derby" entrants. Burton also cluttered up table with his 1/48 Airfix B.(I)8 Canberra which has made some work in progress. He finished off crowd with his two hours in it so far build of the recent reissue of Monogram F-82 Twin Mustang in 1/72. David Newman (our fine wandering Professor from Antelope Valley) had a 1/144 and a 1/48 Vought F-8 Crusader underway. These both will become NASA-fied when Dave's done with them. Which means any one who dares, may join him in that effort, since he's also CEO of Muroc Models and will eventually offer the conversions in his products line card. My apologies to those who brung'em, but I can't recall who graced us with these very grand works noted (my photos outlasted my memory). We had a lovely early P-51 in 1/48, a fine 1/35 US Tank Destroyer (M36? M18?) that looks finished and sweet, in 1/35 a work in progress Jagdpanther, 1/72 WIP of a Kawasaki Nate I believe. Not to forget, there was also a finished USA Half Track with quad 50s in 1/35, very nice, along side was a 1/72 M1 in green, well done too. Before we finished our model talk, our club in house theme contest judges were shanghai'd and put to work...

Our model contest theme was "Battle of France, 1940" titled specific, but guiding editorial allowed for anything reasonably tied to the year 1940 as subjects to compete. Three modelers managed to complete so to compete, and they were:

Richard Linder, who got a Third for his group in Panzer Grey on way to do battle. These 1/72 scale items were a German 8 wheeled recon car, a 6 wheeled recon car, and a motorcycle with side car. His 4 wheel softskin vehicle didn't appear to be finished, but was looking very nice nonetheless. Steve Margola had a fine tale of woe be gone to go with his Bf-109E-1 in 1/48 from the Hasegawa kit. Second Place was his, and a fine effort to be appreciated, especially his wry perseverance. First Place by some miracle went to the 1/48 Azur kit of the French Arsenal VG-33 in its captured (in the Battle of France!) German markings. This was a finally finished work launched as a 90 day wonder contender by Mick Burton, back in 2008. He tried to spare the words speaking this time, by referring to his article in that month's Styrene Sheet which explained something of this model's travels to the table here. Many thanks to all who participated, worth sponsoring the awards.

Lastly, we announced the Model Of The Month which deservedly went to Bill Bauer for his sweet rendition of another racing Ford Mustang, this one done in the Marlboro scheme. Until next month...bee seeing you -mick fini

CONGRATULATIONS TO



Bill Bauer



FOR WINNING JUNE MODEL OF THE MONTH

SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME AUGUST 2010 “ Second Chance Soiree”

REAL TIME AND SINGULAR COMPETITION !

Eligible : Any Subject, Any scale, finished: That is a 2010 IPMS Nationals Entry that DID NOT PLACE . You will be asked as part of your entry in this club event to provide evidence that in fact you did enter the item(s). It is a chance to win ten bucks, which is not a losing proposition in most rational thinking circles. Premiere Award recipients are among EXCLUDED from competition here, which is sad, really. You lose twice, no fault of yours.

SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME SEPTEMBER 2010 “ Let’s Raise Some Doh! ”

Suggested by our depleted treasury, thank you very much. We’ll make it as sporting as possible, with your help. While showing up and bidding on that which you certainly can’t do without is a valued participation, why not be extra competitive? Yes, donate something that you just know some one else will become frenzied over in their bidding to take home? We already have a small stock of interesting items set aside, however more are needed .

Trust we know, we have more fun if everyone donates, at least one item sure to “incite madness in the calmest of souls”. Please don’t consider this chance to unload modeler’s version of white elephants or equivalent plastic boat anchors. It’s hard enough losing a valuable monthly meeting night to hold an auction as it is.

SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME OCTOBER 2010 “ Hunt for Red October ”

Suggested by an enthused and clever club member. Eligible: FINISHED entries in these ranges; Any Soviet, Warsaw Pact, People’s Republic of China, North Korean subject. OR any primarily RED subject, which makes for a wide range of possible models. OR any submarine, from U-boats to Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle, regardless of period or operator, INCLUDING fictional ones. We are seeking those hidden treasures you know you want to build anyways, be they Crimson, Communist or avoiding Crush depth. Just finish them by October.

SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME NOVEMBER 2010 “ Just NAG, NAG, NAG ”

Since this will be the last meeting of the year with chance for model abundance on display tables, Editor was harassing innocent bystanders for theme ideas. Somehow, this unholy alliance was the result. Eligible subjects include: ANY Finished North American Aircraft or NA-Rockwell Corp subject, such as P-51 Mustang, F-86 Sabre, T-6/SNJ, A-5 Vigilante for the more obscure, rarely built suggestions. Of course FJ Fury, AJ Savage, F-82 Twin Mustang, OV-10 Bronco, AGM-77A Hound Dog among other commonly seen NA items also can be entered. Grumman products such as the S-2, F4F, F-111B, Gulfhawk are eligible for the “G” portion of first NAG. Second NAG contest is any finished “real” Air Racer, honoring National AirRacing Group competitions. Third NAG is simply that, an annoying but well meaning reminder to at least consider making an entry.



Another look back at Greg’s hot T Bird, as an eye catching close to our club contest page, thanks again Greg for well timed article

OH! While on subject of SVSM club contests (just fits somehow)

Our President, Eric McClure, has wisely pointed out that we needing to add an overlooked Special Award to our planned package for SVSM KOC 2011.

Namely, for Centennial of US Naval Aviation Best Subject, 1911 to 2011. So THERE...!

"Vive La France": Look back at our June 2010 Club Contest



Mighty FOB (Field Of Battle) had three entries, and they finished out such as this:

First Place, VG-33 in 1/48 by Mick Burton

Second Place, Bf-109E-1 in 1/48 by Steve Margola

Third Place, German Softskin Gruppe In 1/72 by Richard Linder

Yes, you're seeing correctly, apparently someone Vought into the premise that Crusaders were in the Battle of France. They may have Vought so, but the Judges weren't having any of it. (I'm teasing David)



Steve Margola may have placed Third with his Bf-109E-1, but his Model Talk on it was First Class Entertaining Below, Three flown by France (in a manner...) My VG-33 which managed to garner a First Place (lucky draw!)



Finally, the sweet 1/72 Gruppe of Germans on way to wreak havoc in Gaul, Summer 1940, by Rich Linder.



NEXT MEETING:

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

JULY 16

COMMUNITY ROOM

Milpitas Police Administration Building

1275 N. Milpitas Blvd

Milpitas, CA

