



THE STYRENE SHEET

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A Publication of the Silicon Valley Scale Modelers, A chartered Chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society, USA branch.

Santa Rosa & Mt. Diablo GOT IT OUT OF THE BOX !

Reflecting how marvelously Hobby Expo 2010 turned out

By Mick Burton



Mike Meek stands proud with his very well deserved "Hugh Silvis Memorial Award" (Best Civil Aircraft) for "Mr Awesome"



Silicon Valley Scale Modelers even took two for the AI team at this year's Expo, in picture above. Bob Phillips (SJVSM) proves smarter, higher up.

Thanks first off to everyone who was responsible for the incredible event that launched our Region Nine contest year. The response to hosts Santa Rosa and Mt. Diablo IPMS chapters was a new record in several arenas, y'all. More models, many more modelers, many new exhibitors, great weather even managed to be had. Their theme : "Get It Out Of The Box" proved to do just that. As well, the bold move to try out (first I recall it happening in our Region) adding "Out Of The Box" award potential to every category. Being I was invited to be part of the Head Judging Staff this year, dearly know how this particular effort added some intriguing results to workload. Many SVSVM folk showed and glowed with awards at end of day too. Though I brought no entries, I was part of "Speed Build" contest and with Brian Sakai (SVSM) took home a trophy there too! GREAT JOB EVERYONE and I hope the host chapters plan on doing this Expo event same time next year! *(continued on page 3)*

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

Hello! Ahhh we're at that time of year again, no? That special weekend. The one where you're all tired out from what went on Saturday that makes Sunday seem too short for recovery to make Monday less onerous. Oh, I'm sorry, you thought this refers to THIS weekend when we SPRING FORWARD an hour for Pacific DST. No, I meant NEXT weekend, point when we launch 2010 Kickoff Classic on Saturday, so Sunday the Contest Director gets to relax again. Til next time, if we do it.

Invited to serve as Head Judge at Hobby Expo 2010 event put on by Santa Rosa & Mt Diablo IPMS chapters which starts our Region 9 contest year, I had an early start remembering why it's so hard to find Contest Directors and keep them ☺

In fact, after spending last three weeks using valuable minimal spare time on emails and conversations to find one to take my place found myself and another alumnus Contest Director resigning all our current posts at the Fremont Hornets. The Contest Director is a valuable, necessary post, albeit a thankless one, which is why you HAVE to WANT to DO IT. Why?

Because you're the one who hires, fires and inspires those who form your teams. The one you get together, like yourself, to worry the whole 14 months ahead if it's a local event and 36 months if it's a National event about the whole package in all details. Plus team that has to come together on day(s) of this august celebration. Not really one who gets to decide the fun stuff like themes, trophies, pretty logos etc. Although you do have final say on those areas. Plus many dull bits like who is doing what, now that someone else who said they would, isn't for any number of reasons including logical ones. He or She is the one who answers for, anticipates for, and manages all the flow for every point in the event universe that She or He did (I don't say this to be PC. I had honor of being one of the volunteer day staff at Dallas NATS on first day present when the 2000 Contest Chair Penny Thomas again showed me how cool under fire a NATS CD must be. Upon learning she'd just had a "volunteer" run off with hundreds in petty cash plus ALL the Dallas Transit passes intended for contestants coming to show: she swiftly assessed it was partly due to no one realizing the person actually wasn't known to anyone, not a modeler, just a clever scam artist. She took immediate action to prevent any similar recurrence. She swiftly got us all back on track, shut up the gossip about it for the time being so we'd all focus and welcomed us to Dallas. Days later at the dinner, Penny rescued some "mighty important folk" from their own dithering in front of the spectators among other of her "unlisted CD duties" in a manner that to this day impresses me. So She or He is a valid construct for the Contest Director pronoun)

Even when you want to do it, first time out especially you may not find it too rewarding or successful. I know first hand, a reason why I am not fond of discussions of employing "Chicago Rules" or "Gold Silver Bronze" or "Judges Checklists" or any fan of venues that aren't vetted with eyes open or costed sanely. Ask my fellow editor, he saved my bacon and took his own hits for our first "big ideas" meeting "BIG REALITY" on contest day years ago. I've since found the whole Project Manager aspect of being in event planning and Contest Director posts to be rewarding fun. A post educational and valuable in its own right. My last gig as 2009 TriCity CD provided me a high note to go out on, a real satisfying experience. Alas, no longer feeling the "need for speed, the gut urge to do it again" and sadly unable to inspire anyone to take baton this time. Still encourage others to consider trying it out for themselves and help their modeler community especially local level these days. Like being a judge at any level, it will be illuminating and insightful in manners I inadequately explain, to say least.

All of us who've been Contest Directors for awhile totally hope someone will be willing to wear themselves in at it. By the taking on responsibility for the months ahead of "that special day". Finding all the real minor headaches and major payoffs that being Contest Director offers, especially when you do it repeatedly and for more than one venue. I never have been a Team Player but it has taught me many valuable lessons that I employ today. Skills gained from it that have helped me and within teams at my paying jobs ending with great results. Better yet, I have learned from others who felt the same and know others who learnt the same. So don't be dismayed at my ham handed battering here. I enjoy being part of a team of pro folk who do it so "many hands make small work" every time we have. Try it, you too will like it. See you at the party!- *mick fini*

"The WAM Contest ** " SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME for MARCH 2010

" Wonders Ancient & Modern, of Our Model World "

It is a riff from our past two years "90 Day Wonders" theme-ology, with an eye to clearing some backlogs...

Thusly, this contest is not open to entry by any prior year winners, my sincerest apologies

MODERN WONDERS are entries qualified by being COMPLETED SUBJECTS FROM THOSE you took home from the December 2009 SVSM Gift Exchange. Essentially 90 day Wonders and clearly Modern builds

ANCIENT WONDERS are entries qualified by COMPLETED SUBJECTS from *any prior* year's SVSM Gift Exchange, and we do have fairly sufficient records for at least the last 5 years to check you, so play fair! Finally an excuse to try to complete that bloody project from past attempts to finish in 90 days and maybe win award(s)

** Nickname due to long winded original

Looking back at the Hobby Expo 2010 (continued from page 1)



Above, the 4 possible standard awards this year. To the right, one example (People's Choice) of the very Special Awards this event is now famous for. I didn't get who signed this one, but Mike Meek's Best Civil Air was autographed by Burt Rutan, for an idea how cool these are.



At left, the "Unfinished" category, one I have won in myself and judged (even split, once!). It's something you have to try, to understand. Above, the "Speed Build" before we began ...

One last pic of how it looked to me from the stage mid-day...

Plus how "Speed Build" category shaped up ~ all ten



"Presidential Ramblings" by Eric McClure

(originally titled "Semi-President Ramblings" by the author, but edited by the editor mick b)

First, Kent sends his thanks for the kind words you sent in the card. He is making progress in his therapy but it's going to be a long haul. For those who missed last month meeting, Kent had a stroke in the beginning of February. So for now I've been asked to fill in until the elections in May (no it was not some Sci-Fi coup attempt to become president), so I will try my hand at writing something that might be interesting to the club.

So as I sit here thinking about what to write, I realize it's 7:00 on Monday night and I should be at my modeling desk. That got me thinking about modeling habits. We all have them. How did they start and why do we continue in them? I guess my main habit is that I do my modeling on the weekday evenings. It probably started when I got into modeling. After I had done my homework and dinner was done I got to use the dining table to work on my models (or as my mom put it, "those toys"). My weekend during the school year was too full of playing outside, riding my bike to the hobby store to look at the new kits, and later, work. During the summer it was just too nice to stay inside. The same applied to after high school, just too much to do on the weekends. After I got married, we didn't have the room to leave up my work bench (a card table) during the day. That also applies after we had kids. But now the kids are out of the house, we've converted one of the bedrooms into hobby room where I can leave my work bench and kits out. Yet I still don't do very much modeling during my weekends. I know I should get in there and work on one of my projects but I just feel there's something else I should be doing. I guess after over 40 years of doing my modeling at a certain time it's hard to break the habit.

Another habit is that for the longest time I kept every magazine I bought or subscribe to. I guess this is because the lack of good references when I started modeling. Just last year I decided to get rid of a bunch of articles I had saved from Air Classics. All were articles on "things I will build one day". I suddenly realized that there were a lot better references available and I would never "build it one day".

Another habit (or more appropriately hang up) is my dislike for the heavily weathered armor builds I see in the magazines and at contests. I realize that these builds are trying to accurately portray a vehicle in use, but I miss seeing the clean paint jobs I saw growing up. I am attempting to break my dislike on the current armor kit I'm building but I don't think I will ever get over it totally.

So what's your habit or hang up? Maybe it's time to step back and see if you need to shake things up a bit.

Now onto a more serious note.

On Saturday, February 27th, Chile was hit with a major earthquake. This disaster, coming so soon after one that struck Haiti, is stretching the ability of the Red Cross and others for providing relief to the survivors.

What can we as IPMS members do to help?

Instead of buying that new kit that just came out (it's still going to be available in a couple of months), give that money to a relief organization. There are people who could really use it; beside we all have more kits than we really need.

That's it for now, TTFN

Eric

– Reminder Opportunity !

MAY is going to be our elections meeting. It's not too soon to consider whom you'd like to nominate (including yourself!) for the following offices for 2010/11 : (Candidates must be both **IPMS-SVSM** **and** **IPMS-USA** members in good standing)

President, Vice President (we have three, so don't be shy), Secretary, Treasurer, and of course, Newsletter Editor.

February 2010 SVSM MEETING as recorded by Mr Chris Bucholtz (with minor edits by yours truly)

At the February meeting we learned of the health issues that have sidelined our president, Kent McClure. The entire club extends its thoughts and good wishes to him and we excitedly await the time when he can return to the club meetings.

The Santa Clara Convention Center space has been signed for and the Kickoff Classic is a go. At the March meeting we'll have information for you volunteers about when to show up. This year, we have Hall A, right in front. Raffle coordinator Mark MacDonald asks all our members to donate good kits for the raffle; the success of the raffle often tips the books for the event into the black, so your donations may make all the difference.

MODEL TALK

In model talk... Chris Bucholtz used 47 parts to build the dime-sized Sakae 12 for his FineMolds Zero, which is almost ready for paint. His Tamiya/Obscureco P-51D suffered a direct hit from some errant drops of CA glue, so he had to sand the glue off and rescribe the panel lines on this perpetual project. He's addressed many of the sink marks on the landing gear of Hasegawa's 1:72 KA-3B Skywarrior and plans to detail the nose wheel well. He also has the face painted on a Dragon 1:35 BAR gunner and is getting ready to paint the figure's clothes and gear. Ron Wergin was quite impressed by Italeri's re-worked M13/40, which has several new parts, including a metal gun barrel and a nice figure. Chris Hughes has his YPR-265 in progress; he describes it as "coming along well" and he may have it done for the Kickoff Classic. Gabriel Lee finished his replacement 1:72 Academy P-40N in Brazilian markings; he swapped the kit's sliding canopy for one from the HobbyBoss kit. His Fujimi F-86F-30 will eventually be an Argentine jet, and his Columbian Kfir is painted now, almost ready for decals. He completed Roden's 1:72 Fokker D.VIII in markings of Karl Meyer, the Venezuelan flyer who scored four victories while flying as "Ernst Udet's Guard Dog" during World War I. Gabriel's last model is not related to South America - it's FineMolds's 1:72 Star Wars X-Wing. Laramie Wright is building DML's Firefly Vc as a tank at Normandy; he added waterproofing on the mantlet and scratch-built the wading trunks, and he re-did the weld beads on the hull. Laramie's AFV Tiger has been worked on off and on since he purchased it at San Antonio Hobbies. He added Zimmerit with Tamiya putty and the Tamiya Zimmerit rake, and made his own fuel tanks to add business to the engine compartments. Shervin Shembayati built Fujimi's F-4 as an IRIAF Phantom II, using an aftermarket seat and AIM-9J missiles from Hasegawa's weapons set, then finishing it with HiDecal markings. His next jet is a Mystere in 1:72 built from the Matchbox kit, which had a very odd fit and required a lot of fiddling. He built it as an Israeli machine, with Gunze Sangyo and Tamiya paints for the finish. Shervin's also working on Italeri's SdKfz. 222/4, but he says it's missing some details and is a little frustrating. John Heck said some of the detail on Trumpeter's 1:35 Strv.103 "S-tank" is kind of mushy, and the tracks aren't so great. His model is nearly ready for paint and, he says, a lot of mud. Mike Burton brought four 1:72 Canberras, starting with a finished Frog B(I).8 finished as a South African plane in overall PRU blue. His next model was a B(I).8 made by grafting a Frog nose onto an Airfix fuselage, and next was a model with an Airmodel B-57 nose on the rear end of the Frog kit. Finally, there was an Italeri B-57 which he's building stock from the box. Ken Miller cut down Airfix's 1:144 737-200 to make a 737-100, and he plans to finish it as a liner flown by People Express. It'll go with the Revell DC-8 he started in 2005; it's getting close to decals and Ken says it'll be done shortly. Ken also took 90 minutes to build Matchbox's 1:72 P-51D straight from the box, in its natural colors; the brown and baby-blue Mustang is not particularly accurate, he says. Jim Lund brought a selection of World War I subjects from both sides in 1:72 scale, starting with a Revell Fokker D.VII, a D.F.W. Mars from a vacuformed kit by Vle, a Sierra Scale Models vacuformed Gotha WD.VII, an Airframes Siemens-Shuckert D.III, a Lloyd C.V from Special Hobby and an Airframe Halberstadt D.II, all representing the Central Powers. On the Allied side, he had a Bleriot Artillerie from Blue Rider, an Airfix Sopwith Pup finished as a trainer, a Formaplane Ansaldo S.V.A, a Frog Anatra D.5, and a Merlin Models Breguet 14. Cliff Kranz is on his fourth Monogram 1:48 Mosquito, which will give him all four of the options originally provided in the kit. He's also battling Tauro's A7V tank and says the tracks are a real pain. Eric McClure finished his FineMolds Y-Wing fighter and notes that the instructions failed to tell you to add nose weight - otherwise, it's a propulsion pod-sitter. He's a little more down to earth with his Esci 1:72 M1 Abrams, although he's finding the fit to be poor and the plastic to be difficult to work with. Ken Lee did a great job on Polar Lights's re-pop of the B-9 Robot and Dr. Smith from "Lost in Space." He used the Mecha Labs light kit for the robot's front chest and the Trylon top bubble, to avoid any seams, and wiped some fur from a beanie baby toy for Dr. Smith's jacket collar! Ken also had a couple of 1:24 Polar Lights B-9 Robots on hand. In a similar scale was his Moebius "Lost in Space" Space Pod, which was outfitted with aftermarket photoetched parts and decals and the Voodoo Effects light kit. Ben Pada has two Tamiya 1:48 P-47Ds in the works; their fuselages are assembled, and Ben has painted the unique scalloped nose markings on them already, using paper templates. Ben's also nearly done with his Tamiya P-51D, which boasts long-range tanks from an Academy P-47N.

And the model of the month goes to... Steve Margola's 1:72 Italeri A-26. He built the model for a friend, who has a real Invader propeller as part of the décor of his home; the model, finished in Korean War black with red markings, is mounted to a nice base, partly because Steve forgot to put enough weight in the nose!

In our “F-is-for-February” contest (also known as the “F-ed Up Contest”), there were many entries. Jack Clark had a good time building Monogram’s 1:48 MiG-15 “Fagot,” including painting the pilot. Mike Burton also built a Monogram MiG-15, putting his in a vibrant orange & black tiger-striped scheme. He says the model requires a lot of weight to sit on its nose wheel. Mike also brought Smer’s 1:48 MiG-17 “Fresco” in Nigerian markings, KP’s 1:72 Yak-23 “Flora” marked as a civilian Polish aircraft, Trumpeter’s 1:72 F-107 Ultra Sabre, painted in the prototype’s scheme, a French Arsenal VG-33 (which was unfinished), Polar Lights’ 1:6 Robby the Robot finished in anthracite gray metallic, and an Airfix Bf 109F, which Mike finished in 1983. Steve Margola built Hasegawa’s 1:72 F-104 Starfighter in a set of special markings applied to an Italian aircraft; he said the every tiny star on the model was a separate decal, which deterred him from being absolutely precise in their placement. Cliff Kranz built a Monogram release of the F-86D without the parabrake housing, SuperScale decals. He says the model had lots of data decals to apply. Mark Hernandez had a few futuristic fighters from Focke Wulf: a Ta-183, built from the PM kit, a Ta 283 from the Huma kit, and a Flitzer from the Special Hobby kit. Gabriel Lee brought several Venezuelan fighters – an F-86F from Heller, an F-86K from Special Hobby, and an F-5 from Testors. And the winners were... in the aircraft category, in third place, with his 1:48 F-86D Sabre Dog: “Big Viv,” was Cliff Kranz. Cliff built version with the parabrake housing from the Revell of Germany issue. In second place, with his Tamiya 1:72 F-84G Thunderjet, was Mike Burton. Mike built his plane straight from the box. Taking first place, with a Focke Wulf Triebflugel, was Mark Hernandez. Mark used the Huma kit to create his hypothetical whirligig of death. In the non-aircraft category, third place went to the Ford C.100 by Eric McClure. Eric’s model in 1:43 also qualified for the contest because the real racer was a failure! In second place, with his figures Captain America vs. the Red Skull, was Mike Burton. Mike used the Horizon styrene kit and finished the figures with acrylics. And in first place, with his Sherman Firefly Vc, was Laramie Wright. Laramie used a Chesapeake Models hull, the running gear and turret from Tamiya’s M4A3, and decals from an Fw 190 in 1:48 to build the tank that took out Michael Wittmann

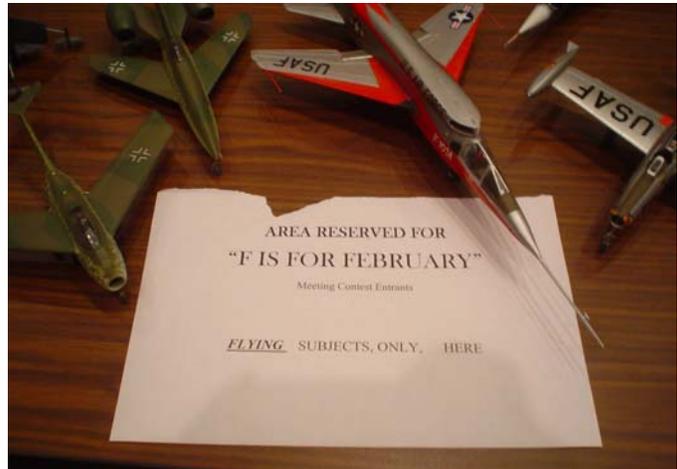
CONGRATULATIONS TO

Steve Margola



FOR WINNING FEBRUARY MODEL OF THE MONTH

"F-ed Up Fun": Look back at our February 2010 Club Contest



The Field of Battle and the Fielded Winning Entrants. Thanks, Y'all...



Read left to right or from up-down, they're real First, Second and Third placers. -mick fini

SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME MAY 2010 “ Language, Dude, Watch the... ”

Originally announced as, now just sub titled “Like, Silicon Valley Speak, Dude”. Also known as “What the Hell...?” theme
Basis of categories is Computer related Languages likely spoken at one time or another here in Silicon Valley

BASIC = Out of the Box entrants, any kind, MUST BRING INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPETE

C or C++ = Any "C" designated aircraft (such as C-47, C-97, CF-100, CF-101, etc)

OR

"C plus plus" Named subjects such as Chieftain, Challenger, Cougar, Cheyenne, etc.

XML = Any X designated vehicles, including XF-, XB-,XP-, examples.

HTML = Any rotorcraft subject

JAVA = Any subjects connected with Indonesia, including WW2 Pacific subjects of course as well as Malaysian, Sumatran, etc military service material

PERL = Any subject finished in Pearl or credibly considered connected to "Pearl of the Orient" or "Mother of Pearl" as a basis. Also consider items such as “Ace of Pearls” P-40 Tuskegee Aircraft as eligible, for thought provoking example. Or even (gasp!) subjects relating to a particular location in Hawaii, especially in December.

Sorry to say to those who were planning on entering “Assembly” category, but it would be too damned easy to complete something for this (as opposed to using the language in its original context) so not offered this time.

SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME JUNE 2010 “ BATTLE OF FRANCE, 1940 ”

Suggested thank you very much by a member and reader of last month’s editorial on “themes” Although inspired by and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the aforesaid event, not limited to subjects entirely from The Battle for France, 1940. ANY subject tied into the year of 1940 somehow will be also eligible.

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?

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 03-19-10

Saturday, March 20 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers host their SVSM 2010 Kickoff Classic at Hall "A" of the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara CA. Theme is "News at Eleven..." - any subject from the last 10 years. Vendor contact: gregplummer@gregplummer.com, see also club website www.svsm.org

Sunday, April 11 2010

IPMS/San Joaquin Valley Scale Modelers host their SJVSM 2010 REGIONAL Convention & Contest at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, In Building #2. 1658 Airport Way, Stockton CA. Theme is "Learning to Fly" and features a special raffle to win a flight in a vintage Vultee BT-13 trainer among other fun events. There will be several other shows on the grounds that day, including a Model Car Show and Contest, Antique Toy Show, a real Car Show and Swap meet. Information available in detail at website <http://sjvscalemodelers.org>

Friday, April 16 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme "Ready for Tomorrow?"

Saturday, April 17 2010

IPMS/Seattle host their Spring Show at the Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway, Renton WA. For information go to their website at www.ipms-seattle.org or Terry Moore @ 425-774-6343

Friday, May 21 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme "Silicon Valley Speak, Dude"

Saturday, May 22 2010

IPMS Las Vegas Chapter will hold it's Best of the West XIV show at 2800 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, NV. For more information go to their website at ipmslasvegas.org or contact [Johnny Galza](mailto:JohnnyGalza).

Saturday, June 5 2010

IPMS San Diego will hold it's San Diego Model Expo 2010 at San Diego Air & Space Museum Gillespie Field located at 335 Kenney St in El Cajon. For more information go to their website at www.ipmssd.org or contact [Gary Williams](mailto:GaryWilliams).

Friday, June 18 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme "Battle for France, 1940"

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.

Friday, July 16 2010

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

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](mailto:NatRichards).

NEXT MEETING:

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

MARCH 19

COMMUNITY ROOM

Milpitas Police Administration Building

1275 N. Milpitas Blvd

Milpitas, CA

