



THE STYRENE SHEET

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A TALE OF HARE-IFFIC THERAPY



Hareballs (who knew?) Are Medicinal!
By Kent McClure

As part of my recovery from a recent stroke, it was suggested that it would be a good idea if I tried my hand at doing something hobby-related that I did in the past. Since I am currently lacking fine motor skills in my left hand, building model kits is temporarily out of the question.

That left figure painting as my only viable alternative left open to me. Even that would not be easy. You see, along with a lack of fine motor skills in my left hand, I currently have a minor problem with proprioception with my left hand – the fingers feel “numb” and I have the problem of gauging the right amount of pressure that my fingers should exert. As a result I have what I can best describe as “photo-etch boing”.

You all know that feeling – trying to hold a piece of photo etch in a set of tweezers just to have it go “twoing” and go flying off to never never land. This makes holding anything in the left hand (*Continued on page 3*)

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

Again getting the Sheet out is an amazing journey. I repeat relinquish of space for my own rants so to allow some excellent editorializing by two long time members, Eric and Rodney. We will be having a fund raiser this month, so meeting without models on table sad to say. Let's have some good economic luck and maybe we won't have to do this again before March. My appreciation again to contributors as always, and great work by Kent (Can't Keep A Good Man Down) McClure.

mick fini

Presidential Ramblings" by Eric McClure

Computers: Modelers boon or bane?

This month's rambling was brought on by my wife getting fed up with the old computer we had and replacing it with a new one. Now I have to learn a new OS and rebuild my internet bookmarks and e-mails.

The computer has changed our hobby so much; it's hard to remember how we built anything back in the sixties. If you have a little talent and the right software, you can make your own decals. If not, there are now a lot of people who can do it for you. We have access to hobby stores around the world, allowing us to buy kits of things we only dreamed of. With digital cameras we can share photos of our latest project as we work on it and show it off when done. If we are looking for some information on a project, somewhere, someone has posted an answer.

As an example, I just started working on Tamiya's 1/48 P-51D kit. In the outlet area of the belly scoop there was something that looked like a large knock out pin. A little searching found a photo of the area, it is actually a pipe that sticks out behind the radiator, maybe something to do with heating. Years ago (alright maybe 10) you would have had to locate a P-51 somewhere and inspect the area yourself or hope a friend had done that already.

But with almost every plus there are always negatives. Those same digital photos you can share, now show off every flaw you missed or bad paint job when blown up on a 17 inch monitor. Not only that, if you post it on the internet, it allows every self-proclaimed expert to sound off on all the mistakes you made, from "you chose the wrong color" to "you are a horrible builder and should stay out of the hobby" (yes we have to deal with the live ones, but usually only once a month at our meeting).

Used to be if we wanted the kit we would buy it right when it came out and then did what we need to make it right. Now when a new kit comes out, we search the forums and websites to find out how good is the kit. After wading thru all the pros and cons, if we decide to buy the kit, we then start buying all the aftermarket items we feel we need to build it correctly.

The access to hobby stores around the world has allowed us to pick the best price of those kits. Because of that it has also caused the loss of the local hobby store in a lot of towns.

Then there is the whole "black hole" of the internet. The number of times I have gone on line just to check a question I've posted and have ended up chasing a rabbit trail of some other post. Next thing I know I've spent an half an hour or better looking at things rather than working on a kit.

So there you have it, is the computer a boon or bane? I am still not sure but I just wasted over an half an hour working on this instead of a kit and I still have to check on my websites and forums. - *Eric fini*

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.

Making Fun of Terror Hares! (continued from page 1)

a challenge. Add to that some slight numbness in the fingers of the right hand which makes holding a paint brush to do detail work an extra challenge – well, you can see the difficulty.

That meant that for this exercise, I wouldn't be doing any real fancy figures for a while. No Napoleonic in the foreseeable future. So what I chose to do as my testbed are a set of figures that are collectively known as "hareballs". Actually they could be more accurately described as "dust bunnies with attitude". A collection of 25mm resin and white metal castings that are now being produced by Mississinewa Miniatures and they look like a cross between the killer rabbits of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" and the dust bunnies that you might find under your bed. You know, all tooth and body.



Luckily, these figures were pretty clean castings and did not entail much in the realm of clean up. Just a few quick passes with the old file, a couple odd pieces of flash to cut off and you are done. Time to break out the old can of your favorite white primer and have at it.

Now is where the fun begins. After looking at some photos on the net of rabbits, I had an idea of how I was going to paint these things. I grabbed some various browns and greys out of paint cabinet – mainly Vallejo with a smattering of Ceramcoat or other similar bulk acrylic paint – and started on the bodies of the figures. Mouths and eyesockets were painted flat black, while teeth were picked out with ivory and to get that evil glare I used a bright orange. The noses and inside portions of the ears were light pink.

Claws were a mix of white with just a dollop of yellow added, then outlined in flat black. And, of course, since they are "bunnies", tails of flat white.



Now it might sound simple, but it wasn't. Teeth were first drybrushed (no pun intended) to identify where they were, then went back to fill them in. Because of my hands, a number of "oops!" occurred which necessitated going back and painting over detail pieces.

This would have been a good time to mention that you could have saved a lot of frustration if you kept notecards as to what paints you used. I didn't – this time.

Depth was added by coating the entire figure with MIN-WAX dark walnut stain and allowed to dry for a couple of days. Then I went back and drybrushed the various body colors over the fur parts and white on the tail.

And voila! I was done and my therapy was complete. (Some might argue that my therapy has yet to start, but that is another story all together!) Now for my next project, I will be doing figures for my sock puppet army. Yeh, therapy continues.- *Kent fini*



Editor's note: Kent's band of Wild Hares perhaps set other table subjects to adopt a bit more attitude than their size dictated. Witness Cliff's mini Gojira I shot here!

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 09-17-10

Friday, October 8 2010

IPMS/Fremont Hornets monthly meeting, night's club theme "Night of the Living Dead Project". Bring in something(s) that defy your every attempt to finish, but you consider still "work in process" in spite of dust!

Saturday, October 9 2010

IPMS Orange County host the annual OrangeCon 2010 at Titan Conference Center - CSU Fullerton located at 800 North State College Blvd in Fullerton. For information go to their website at www.ipmsoc.org

Saturday, November 6 2010

IPMS/Antelope Valley Group host their Desert Classic XV, contest theme "In The Still of the Night", also special awards including "Best Tomcat" for 40th Anniversary of F-14. Antelope Valley College, Lancaster CA.

Friday, November 12 2010

IPMS/Fremont Hornets monthly meeting, night's club theme "Ships, Out of the Box"

Saturday, December 4 2010

IPMS/Silver Wings host their SilverCon 2010 at the Kerr Middle School, 8865 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove CA.

Saturday, February 26 2011

NNL/West present their 2011 Show at the Santa Clara Convention Center, Event themes "Replica and Firsts" Held also in same hall at same time, West Coast Model Expo! Admission is 15 dollars and covers all events.

Saturday, March 5 2011

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers host their Kickoff Classic at the Santa Clara Convention Center, Hall "A", 5001 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara. Event theme "Best of the Bay".

Sunday, April 10 2011

IPMS/San Joaquin Valley Scale Modelers host "Catfight 2011" at San Joaquin Valley Fairgrounds, Bldg #2 Stockton, CA. Event theme "Grumman Fighters, Wildcat to Tomcat". Special Awards, Raffle, Lots of fun!

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.

MY SOJOURN TO THE 2010 IPMS NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOENIX, AZ AUGUST 4~7, 2010

By: *Rodney J. Williams* (A Life Member of Silicon Valley Scale Modelers)

My driving trip from my home near Cortez, Colorado to Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona takes a bit over 8 hours as it's 413 miles one way. I have driven this route several times since I moved over here in 2004 and know the road very well.

I booked my hotel room for the convention back in January of this year, then cancelled it about a week before the show started. I was offered chance to stay "free" at my high school friends home in Scottsdale, AZ, which beats the \$700.00 bill I would have been faced with at the hotel for 5 days plus 13.47% room tax.

I spent several weeks reviewing the models that I wanted to take to the contest and had to fix some minor items on several of them. Out of 140 models, I choose to take 75 to the contest. ((You may ask why that many?) At 79 years old, how much longer will I live and be able to get around without a wheel chair, let alone my forthcoming demise.)) I felt that this may be my last time around, so I was going for the "GOLD."

My dear wife decided not to come with me so she sent me down there with my 22 year old grandson Jon and my ten year old great grandson Kristian, (Kris). These two guys took up more space in our SUV than I planned on.

I sat in my garage and pondered about: "What models to take and what ones to leave home?" I made a final selection after a few days and took 43 models to the show.

I had bought a small fold up portable push cart for the event which helped a great deal transporting my models from the SUV to the show.

OPENING DAY

I had pre-registered for the show, so picked up my stuff at registration table and took all 43 models into contest room. It only took me about 3 hours to get them placed in the right categories. Once empty, each carrying box was placed under the tables. Now I could unwind, relax somewhat and started to look at the other models being brought into the show.

Alas, my friend from Puerto Rico came in with a motorized diorama jet. Wow! It was "impressive." And it won an award to boot. I meet other old friends. To my surprise most of them have gotten "fat" with lots of grey hair. Now I don't feel too bad being fat with grey hair.

I had showed great grandson Kris a few things about model building prior, so when we get to the show he will have some idea what the "MAKE & TAKE," (M & T) event is all about. I help him, other kids that morning and I took a few digital photos of the kids. Kris had a real good time building models on all four days of "M & T." I was glad to help out. He now wants to build his favorite model which is a B-17. Get this: I have built over 150 models since 1977, and not one of them is a B-17. So I will enjoy helping Kris on this project.

I take a break, go up the escalator where down came some guys from Stockton and some more from SVSM. Nice to see "U" guys again.

It's "**VENDOR~ROOM**" time: Place was chock full of models and model related items. I bought some more models and other items, including a "big" white dress shirt with a collar on it from the "Tuskegee Airmen's" booth for only 20 bucks. Of course you know that you can make real good buying deals late Friday night in the vendor's room. Jerry Crandell was there with his beautiful paintings and he brought some of the parts that he dug up in Europe of the German fighters. Roy Sutherland made the show rather late, with lots of his "SUPER~LOOKING" Barracuda decals.

My I.D. badge said "SPEAKER" on it, so I found out that I was to talk about something at one of the seminars. I did not volunteer for this event, but I did it any ways to help some other guys. I came into room finding we had three other speakers, and just 4 guys in the audience. It did not seem like there was much interest on behalf of other modelers to come to these seminars. Like the other 3 guys, I related a few things about how I learned how to "vac-u-form" parts including some data on painting and scratch-building. I mentioned about my most recent stories on LSP (*Large Scale Planes, an Internet site -editor*) about the 1:18 scale F6F that (*Concluded on page 8*)

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

At the August meeting, the Nationals was discussed – and all discussion was soundly positive. Many members expressed their enthusiasm for next year’s event in Omaha, and Vladimir Yakubov expressed his admiration for the guy who got the awards slide show to come off without a hitch.

In model talk, Vlad led off with his two winners from Phoenix. First off was a conversion of a Kombrig kit to represent the first Soviet submarine class, which was altered to show it as it originally appeared, with a gun atop the sail. After Vlad cut the wood base for the sub, he decided that the wood was too good to waste, so he built a 1:700 torpedo boat to go on it! The Torpedo Boat 106 kit was an extra in the battleship *Potemkin* kit, but its dimensions were so off, his model is essentially scratch-built. Chris Bucholtz’s Tamiya 1:72 P-51D is in a state of suspension; he spent the last month fixing paint problems and so has made little progress. Al Kuhn did a splendid job on Williams Brothers’ Wright J-5 engine, which he outfitted with a wooden propeller. He also took a 1:72 FF-1 and built it as it would have appeared in shipment on a flat car with a framework on its way to Canada – and then to Gibraltar and the Spanish Civil War as G-23. The load is held on Al’s rail car with magnets. Richard Linder says his Trident 916 wrecker is fictitious – and came that way in the box. He shot the 1:72 truck with rattle-can olive drab. Kent McClure’s busied himself painting up a set of “Hareballs” – 25mm killer bunnies in a variety of shapes and sizes. He painted them with Apple Barrel and Ceramcoat acrylics, then gave them a wash with Min-Wax stain. John Heck is continuing his attempt to build his father’s Galaxie 500, converting a two-door to a four-door model. He’s also working to modify the interior to make that correct, too. Mark Schynert had three Spitfires on the table: an Xtrakit Spitfire Mk. XII, which was a battle to get to fit but which is together and appears accurate; an Airfix Spitfire Mk. I, which has a rather rough fit, including a rudder that needed to be shimmed to fit right; and a second Spitfire Mk. I that’s getting an assist from the Aeroclub conversion set to depict the Spitfire prototype in late July, 1936. Richard Pollak showed off a real piece of history: a B-25 he made while serving in a Mitchell unit in India during World War II! The model’s basics came from a wooden kit, but all the details had to be fabricated in the field, including clear parts thermoformed from the clear plastic in goggles and machine gun barrels made from bomb fuse wire. Most interesting may be the fact that the nose art on Richard’s Mitchell was painted by the same artist who painted the real plane! Larry Lechowicz did some work to make Tamiya’s 1:16 M4A3E8 Sherman more accurate, but it’s really a remote control model and thus some simplifications were made to make it more suitable to crawling around in the dirt. Jack Clark says that Peerless Max’s old M6 Gun Motor Carriage had some poor-fitting areas, once he had it painted and finished the driver it was more to his liking. Cliff Kranz picked up Horizon’s “superdeformed” Godzilla a while ago, but he just got around to building it. It has just three parts and now wears a coat of Model Master paints. Cliff had to put lead weights in the nose of Bronco’s 1:48 MQ-1 Predator drone to keep it on its nose gear. He was extremely enthusiastic about Huma’s Ju 287 kit, although he’s still wrestling with the paint scheme, and he’s completed the anguish of RPM’s 1:35 Minenraumer. He took the turret from an Alyn kit, but had to battle through the wheels, which each had 102 parts! Paul Bishop’s first resin kit is the Planet Models 1:48 BT-13, which he says boasts very nice detail. Ron Wergin saw that Tamiya’s 1:48 Tiger by AFV Club instructs you to attach the wheels with small screws, but he used glue as well. Ron built the model because he liked the tank commander figure so well! Dave Margola used Italeri’s 1:48 kit to build his F-86F, and he finished it in camouflaged RAF markings. Dave’s also at work on an Italeri 1:72 A-6E, which will eventually wear the markings of the Tigers of VA-65. Hanchang Kuo took about five months to build his model of the U.S.S. *Taylor*, a *Fletcher*-class destroyer, in its much modified 1967 configuration. He started with the Tamiya kit, but almost everything above the deck was scratch-built! Steve Travis’ 1934 Ford used cheater slicks from Ron’s Resins, a Ford flathead engine borrowed from another kit, and he channeled the body down by about eight scale inches before adding a pickup bed and bang! A new rod for Steve’s shelf. He followed that up with another truck built with the Replicas in Miniatures conversion for the Revell 1932 Ford sedan, with new wheels and other details. Steve used decals to simulate the wood grain in the beds. Nick Moran took a stab at Trumpeter’s Osorio experimental tank, which he says is horrible, but since the tank is so little known he’s not too concerned about people pointing out the inaccuracies in his model. Kinley Calvert built Monogram’s Lincoln Futura, which he says is a terrible kit. Kinley overcame a host of badly-placed ejector pin marks before installing a lighting kit, then building a sweet base with Rustoleum granite-textured paint and a lighted billboard on which to display his concept car. Ben Pada’s Tamiya 1:48 Bf 109E took a first at the nationals, as did his converted DML 1:48 Horten 229 single-seat fighter. His Tamiya P-47D took a third, and he has a Mexican-marked P-47D nearly completed. And the model of the month goes to... Gabriel Lee, who’s finished his Vulture fantasy fighter, made by combining a Sukhoi Su-35 and an S-47 Berkut, which he armed with various missiles from several Soviet weapons sets and bombs from an F-16.

Our club contest this month was “Second Chances,” with all entries in the nationals that failed to win eligible. Ben Pada isn’t so sure the camouflage scheme on his Hasegawa Zero is accurate, but he likes it anyway. Greg Plummer turned Tamiya’s 1:48 P-47D into an Israeli hypothetical Thunderbolt, part of an order that Israel placed with Mexico but which was stopped by the U.N. arms embargo. Greg’s model has the “motorization” feature, which allows the prop to spin as if the engine was running. Jim Priete was chagrined to find out that MPM’s X-4 Bantam was merely a copy of the 12-Squared kit, complete with asymmetrical intakes. A lot of work yielded a beautiful model. Jim also did a great job on Eduard’s Roland D.2, although he had to overcome problems with the kit’s interior bulkheads. And the winners were... With an

honorable mention, the XP-46 by Mark Schynert! Mark used an Execuform kit to render his 1:72 of this failed fighter experiment. In third place, with his Bf 109E-4, was Ben Pada! Ben used his usual combination of Gunze Sangyo paints and AeroMaster decals to complete his Battle of Britain bird. In second, with a P-51A by Accurate Miniatures, was Greg Plummer! Greg added only photoetched seatbelts to this otherwise out-of-the-box build. And in first place, with a 1:72 Tamiya P-47D, was Jim Priete! Jim built his Thunderbolt straight from the box.



CONGRATULATIONS TO Gabriel Lee



FOR WINNING AUGUST MODEL OF THE MONTH

Rodney's Days At the NATS Concluded (from page 5)

I am re-building. A couple of modelers got up during our seminar and left the room which kinda makes you wonder why you take the time to volunteer to be a speaker.

“YOU B THE JUDGE”

It was judging time Friday night and I got with 2 judges that I have never seen before. A guy with the initials of “D~R” took over as our head team judge, who turned out to be extremely good as a national judge. We had a modeler down from Canada who was on our team as an “OJT,” (on-the-job training). We agreed that just one of us would pick up the models, (if necessary) and “D-R” took on that chore. Yes, we had the necessary tools for the job, (gloves, flash lights and I had the only dental mirror).

We judged a 1:32 scale prop category which had 23 models. Funny but all of the models were single engine except one, which was a 2 engine German WW-II fighter/bomber aircraft.

D-R had a note pad where he started writing down how many flaws we found on each model. When we were finished with judging, we selected the 3 models which had the least amount of flaws on them. (eg: Model one had 3 flaws, while model 2 had 5 flaws and the 3rd model had 6 flaws on it). Now we just had to pick up these three models to see if model one stayed in first place or it went to “who knows where” due to having more flaws on the bottom of the model. After almost 4 hours, we all agreed on 1st 2nd and 3rd place.

The Canadian modeler related some data to us as to what they did differently during their judging events. Our next judging event was to look at the 3 models that were chosen for “BEST AIRCRAFT.” We didn't do this judging as a team, but did it as individuals. These three models were really fine looking so it took awhile for me to make up my mind.

This was my eleventh year as a National judge including about 250+ judging events in IPMS/Region 9 and yes, I learned a couple of things this year.

I can leave you with this to think about! Two models had their tires flattened slightly on the bottom by the builders. However the modelers did not re-groove the diamond treads back into the tires. The end result for the one model gave him a 3rd place. Had he done the “re-grooving,” his model could have been heavy competition for first place. REMEMBER: IT'S THE BASICS THAT COUNT.

Long ago Mick Burton coined a phrase about me: Rodney The Trophy Hunter.” Out of 43 models I won only 14 awards. Hey Mick, I'm slipping in my old age, but look out Omaha in 2011.

I had a great time at this year's convention and God willing I'll see you in Omaha! -Rodney

FOR NOW THAT CONCLUDES THE SHEET COVERAGE OF 2010 NATIONALS, UNLESS SOMEONE WRITES SOMETHING COMPELLING.

WE CLOSE WITH MY SHOTS, LEFT IS BANQUET ROOM WITH GRACIOUS SIGNOFF, BELOW IS SVSM'S SPONSORED CATEGORY 172

mick fini



"One Last Chance": Look back at August 2010 Club Contest

Mighty FOB (Field Of Battle) had several entries, all fine warriors returning from Phoenix National:



Ben Pada had a lovely 1/48 Zero in two color camo, along with a BF-109 Yellow Nose in 1/48.

Greg Plummer graced us with his OD early Mustang and sweet NM finished Israeli AF P-47D Bubbletop.

Jim Priete flooded the table with his 1/72 P-47D "Teddy" in an awesome camo finish, next door was his 1/72 X-4 Bantam. In 1/48 came Jim's 2 winged whale from WW1 Germany. (aka Roland C.II "Walfisch")

Mark Schynert rounded things out with his cover story from that month, the 1/72 Vacform Curtiss XP-46A.

Not seen here were the 27 entries by Proxy (emailed photographs of them) of Rodney Williams. Good try, OG, but my award money appears to be staying with locals this time. ☺



First Place
P-47D by
Jim Priete
(@ left)

Second
Place to
an Early
Mustang
by
Greg
Plummer



Third Place, Bf-109 by Ben Pada



Honorable Mention, XP-46A by Mark Schynert



NEXT MEETING:

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 17

COMMUNITY ROOM

Milpitas Police Administration Building

1275 N. Milpitas Blvd

Milpitas, CA

