



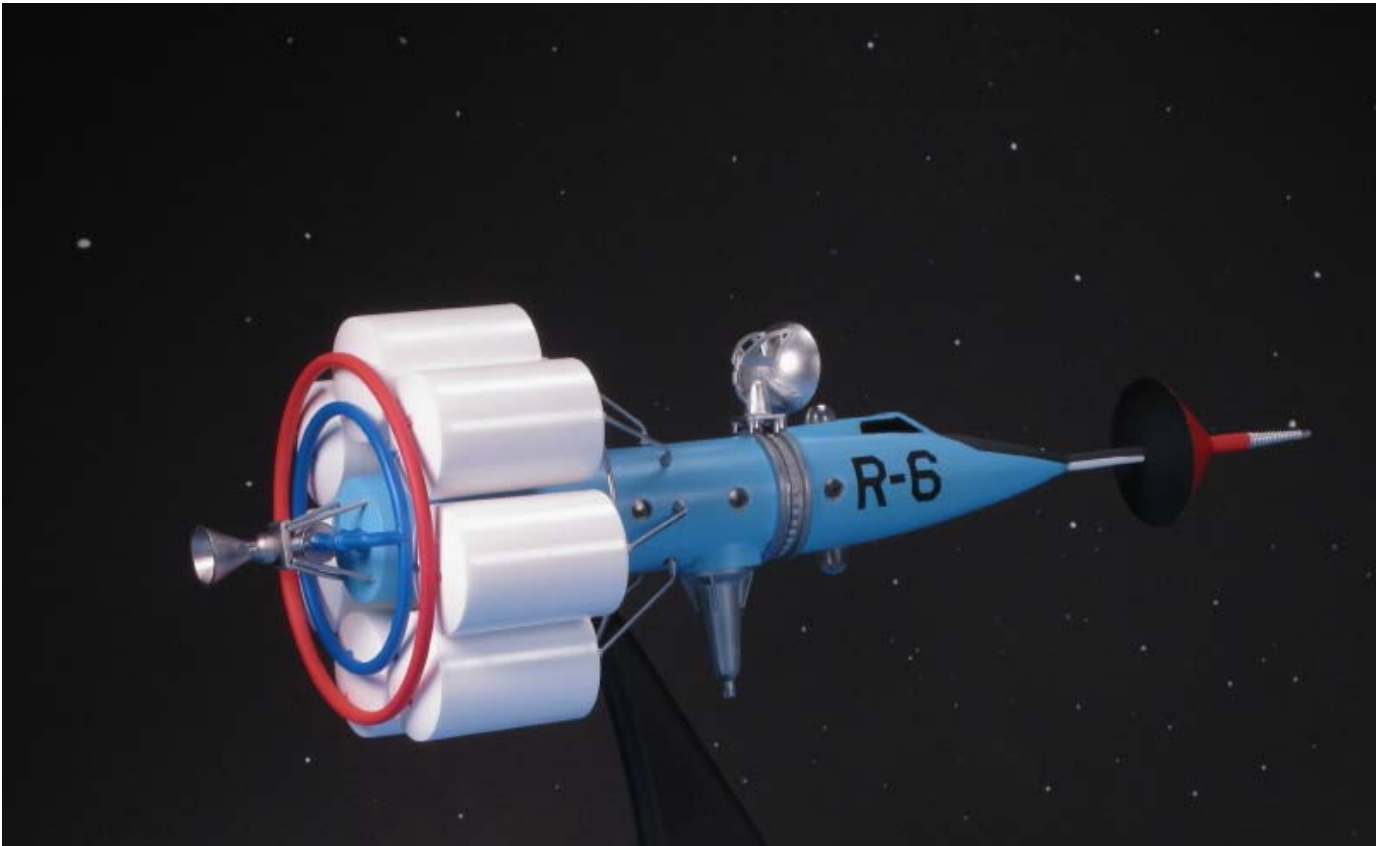
# THE STYRENE SHEET

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## Retired Rocket Scientist Has Lunar Redux



1/72<sup>nd</sup> Scale Glencoe Retriever Rocket By: Bill Dye

### Introduction

I think I was eight years old, around 1957, when I saw this Strombecker kit, along with the myriad of other futuristic space kits like Willey Ley's rockets and the Revell XSL-01! Who knew that that collection of tubes, with a little delta winged airplane on top, would pull hundreds of dollars on eBay 50 plus years later ?

I bought the Glencoe reboxing of the Retriever Rocket (originally called the Lunar Reconnaissance Rocket by Strombecker). In the fifties this was together in a half an hour . . with tube glue. I had to put down about thirty pieces of newspaper so as not to ruin my mother's dining room table. She told me that I started building models when I was four; she supervised and she still supervised when I was eight . . slow learner I guess; or, she still wanted to preserve her table. I bought this on eBay for around ten bucks but alas it didn't come with the box or decals (hence the price). No matter, I wanted to do my own color scheme anyway.

### The Kit

The plastic is all white and rather soft (I like that). There was a fair amount of flash but not as *(continued page 3)*

**Editor's Ravings** – this month's editor, Mick Burton

First things first! THANKS to two Bills for making sure I had something for the main article this month, and also inspiring a subject for editorial as well. Upcoming this weekend is Father's Day, the parent most often popularly associated with all things modeling when considered "why the hell did I get into this %##%! Pastime anyways? " However, as Bill Dye's lead writing this month reminds me, many more than first come to mind can literally credit their hobby genesis to The Mother of All Models. I know of several modelers who've shared with me that it was their mom who got them or encouraged them to stick with their model experience, some even were referring to "stick and tissue" kits by Guillows, Comet, CLEVELAND even. In any case, thanks for that from me to either one or that well loved other relative who got any of you into this stuff!

For me, it was that Lockheed F-90 by Aurora built by Dad with me the "helping hands", then ITC "Stegosaurus" bones, again by Dad with me and brothers occasionally helping, finally the Airfix Zero mostly on my own. Dad was pretty much "out of there" in the model business soon after, with completion of a super size cutaway Field Cricket by Renwal. SO be it!

In any case, nice memories and seeding for writing, as well as re-igniting this fire in someone else today! Some folks have even "institutionalized" this concept, as I recall now that Seattle IPMS for many years now has the NABBROKE special award...Nostalgic Aging Baby Boomer Real Old Kit Experience (thanks to Scott Kruize and Ken Murphy). Very cool idea.

Speaking of awards, we have upcoming R-9 Regional in Yuba City. Theme is "Centennial of USN Aviation" which means if you finish something for that, you have entry for same theme in September when Reno High Rollers fine show goes on ! Don't forget, before both of these comes the Mother of All Auctions this summer at July meeting of Fremont Hornets .

Apologies for the late publication of newsletter, reality intervened on me this week. However, perhaps you'd like to try out the E-version maybe next month instead ? Email me at [dens25403@mypacks.net](mailto:dens25403@mypacks.net) to let me know. Be glad to share -



***From ANY angle, Ron Wergin's three entries in the "Red Stars" theme club contest truly delight the eye with a fine finish! Below to right of Ron's SU-100 "RussT Bucket" is Rich Linder's Trio. 1/72 scale sweet hearts all, thank you Rich for showing them.***





## *Time and Spacing Out With Rocket Scientist Bill Dye (continued from page 1)*

much as I expected. It says 72<sup>nd</sup> scale but the cockpit area, read, “no cockpit provided”, sure looks big to me.

The clear parts were as expected; sorta clear and would take some work to smooth the pieces in place. The propellant tanks and their ‘ends’ didn’t match up well on, fortunately, only a few tanks. My eBay kit had one of the tank lids missing – or I lost it; I’ll save that fix for later. The kit came with a stand that you must use or improvise one yourself. I couldn’t wait to start this.

For old time’s sake and as a tribute to my mother, I put newspapers on my workbench when I started.

**Construction:** Fuselage: Obviously, to facilitate painting, you have to build this up in assemblies. I decided to build the fuselage, nose boom thingy, comm. antenna, tanks and plumbing/engine pieces as separate sub assemblies. I painted the interior of the fuselage gloss black and glued the clear parts to the inside (as designed). I contemplated removing the canopy framing, making or finding a different canopy and adding it later but then I snapped out of it and proceeded. The smaller windows would be added later. Nominal sanding and putty and the fuselage assembly was ready.

The tanks were no issue until I got to the last tank; there was no lid or end. I looked everywhere; gone. What to do? From about 0.040” plastic I cut a disk the same diameter as the tank and glued it to the open end. I cut another disk about 2/3rds the diameter of the first and glued it to the top of the first disk. Then I cut a small button out of 0.020” plastic and glued it in the center. It looked like a target. I applied a skim layer of light blue putty to the target, waited a day, sanded, applied more, waited, sanded, ditto, ditto. Finally I had a matched outside convex contour of the tank end. Took an evening or two interspersed with other tasks.



The rest boiled down to cleaning up flash.

## Painting and Finishing

I hosed down everything with Auto Primer white by Duplicolor – great stuff; thin, not pebbly, grips the plastic and is already smooth for paint.

On a Google search, I found a photo of a Retriever Rocket done by another modeler. I really liked it and used that as the basis for my color scheme; but I made several changes.

The fuselage was painted light blue. The tanks were painted gloss white and the plumbing lines red and blue (fuel/oxidizer). The rocket engine was Alclad II steel with rub and buff violet and blue for that ‘burned’ effect. I added some streaking on the inside of the nozzle. The comm. Antenna; Alclad Polished Aluminum and the nose probe thingy white, red and facing the cockpit—flat black. The miscellaneous struts and the tank pressurization manifold on the front end of the tanks was painted Alclad Steel.

Assemble the subassemblies, decal on the side, stick on the stand that I painted gloss black; done.

**Conclusion:** It was easy. It was fun. It took longer than an hour. But at least it’s done. . . .

**Bury me with sandpaper.** *Bill - fini*

REFERENCES: I found a photo on internet when I did a search for the kit and used it as the basis for the color scheme (unknown). (Too bad Bill, I’d have lent you my uber-rare copy of *Aerofax* Minigraph on [US Lunar Recon Rockets](#), but my dog ate it. *Editor mick*)

## **SVSM EDITOR' s CONTEST THEME JUNE 2011 “ Here Comes The Sun ”**

This is a SUMMER CELEBRE! . Editor's not shilling as a Solar Power Consultant, merely emphasizing the bright outlook for participation in this. ANYTHING Finished in PRIMARILY Yellow is a potential winner. Need more clarification? Conceive not just USN trainers or Blue Angel "Beetle Bombs" fit this bill alongside "Roth Mysterion" and Dick Tracy Space Coupes. So does any WW2 German vehicle with Dark Yellow schema. Need more nudging? "Oxydol Specials" (RCAF Ventura trainer) USAAF Gun target Culver Cadets...

## **SVSM EDITOR' s CONTEST THEME JULY 2011 “ Vive Le Republique ! “**

This is a PATRIOTIC riff, in spirit of our annual celebre, of course with twist. Editor's outline of obvious entry: any FINISHED Republic Aircraft product (for competitive purposes I am allowing Seversky aircraft inclusion) There is of course an edge to gain, if you can finish your work in French markings convincingly, more success. Which offers you a rainbow of possibilities, I hope a flash of inspiration will streak through you. Chief concern is you all aren't just struck with a thunderbolt of a single note, makes me screech to think of it. Must jet off now.

Oh, My Bad! I have completely overlooked the more inclusive angle to this particular patriotic endeavor! NOTE everyone who wants to enter ANY AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR subject (and like many "modern" historians, I consider the War of 1812 to be the true "end of that conflict" so you can build range accordingly...) OR if you're in a wheeling and dealing mood, AMERICAN MOTORS COMPANY products clearly do qualify!

Oh, OF COURSE We cannot have this celebration go on completely smoothly and simply. Oh No! Not that !

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**JULY MEETING AND CLUB CONTEST** will take place at **Round Table Pizza, 2129 Morrill Ave** (near Landess, off of I-680) in San Jose. We have reserved use of two meeting rooms in the back.

## **SVSM EDITOR' s CONTEST THEME NOVEMBER 2011 “ SPORTS NIGHT ”**

Actually, this theme came about (forgive me) as *a team effort* while at a winter contest, brainstorming for a new "global outreach" for SVSM's annual KOC contest. Since I couldn't stand idea of not using it sooner than later, chose to offer it up as perfect way to wrap up the club meeting contest year (this being last meeting w/models)

You can thank Super Sport Fan Mr Chris Bucholtz for sparking this up when we were first discussing ideas and also for the majority effort in making this compiled list of possible entrant examples. Not exhaustive list yet, btw

NFL category:

SH-60/Armstrong-Whitworth SEAHAWK , A-1 SkyRAIDER, Dodge CHARGER, Tu-95 BEAR, OV-10 BRONCO  
Hawker-Siddeley BUCCANEER, F-105 ThunderCHIEF, AN-2 COLT, HH-65 DOLPHIN, F-15 EAGLE, F-16 FALCON  
SEPECAT/XF10F JAGUAR, F9F PANTHER, PATRIOT missile, EF-111 RAVEN, AT-6 TEXAN, TITAN missile  
S-3 VIKING, (figure or diorama subject) COWBOY

MLB category:

PBM MARINER, An-12 CUB, Yak-28R BREWER , F-82 TWIN Mustang , F6U PIRATE, CV 440 METROPOLITAN  
XPBB-1 RANGER, F4D-1 SkyRAY, F11F TIGER, P5M MARLIN, Jolly Green GIANT (HH-3 or H-53)

NBA Category:

A-3 SkyWARRIOR , A-4 SkyHAWK, F-84 THUNDERJet (or, really, any Republic fighter) , F-22 RAPTOR  
Boeing/Martin CLIPPER, Tu-4 BULL, Piper PACER, Douglas D-558 SkyROCKET, F/A-18 HORNET,  
BAe HAWK, T-50 BOBCAT

NHL Category:

A2D SkySHARK, P-38 LIGHTNING, UH-60 BLACKHAWK, F9F PANTHER, CF-100 CANUCK  
Britten-Norman ISLANDER, XPBB-1 RANGER, Wright FLYER, RQ-1 PREDATOR, F-86 SABRE  
Hawker HURRICANE, Grumman J2F DUCK

**May 2011 SVSM MEETING** *Minutes by Chris Bucholtz, with minor edits by yours truly*

At the May meeting, our new VP Dave Balderrama filled in for Frank Beltran as President. We all wish Frank the best and hope to see him back at the club meetings soon.



In model talk...Eric McClure has the frame and cab of Academy's 1:72 M26 "Dragon Wagon" assembled; he's astonished by the sheer number of parts in this kit. Shervin Shembayati's "relaxing" Tamiya 1:48 Spitfire Mk. I is painted and weathered, but in trying to attach the undersized rear canopy he broke the part! Other than the fit of the rear canopy, he says, the model goes together beautifully. His Italeri Lancia rally car was dominant, winning eight of the nine races in a season, but the kit itself is not very good. The interior is toylike and the fit is atrocious, but he has the model painted and on the verge of final assembly.

Jack Clark's Triumph TR-3A convertible came out of a Minicraft snap-together kit, and he says it was an easy build. With its nice paint job, you'd never guess it was a snap-together! Cliff Kranz is building Revell's big 1/32 AH-1 Huey Cobra straight from the box, and plans to hang it from the ceiling. Cliff also built two Huma Me 209s in 1:72 scale, one as the world speed record plane and the second as the V-4 failed fighter version. He also did a fine job on Premiere's 1:72 Lippisch 153 coal-powered jet. Gabriel Lee is keeping his movie-themed boatyards open by starting work on a couple of Cybermodel 1:350 submarines. His *Maryland*-class SSBN will be completed as USS *Alabama* (from the movie "Crimson Tide"), and his USS *Chicago* will be an entrant in our sports contest (see *November SVSM meet on calendar – editor*), since Gabriel plans to build it as it appeared leaving the yards during the 1990s with an enormous Chicago Bulls logo chalked on its bow. Lou Orselli has a Me 262 under way with the aim of building it as the reconnaissance variant for the Fremont "Eyes in the Sky" collection. He's using the Revell 1:72 kit and was at loggerheads about the shape of the camera ports. Lou also has done a bang-up job on the heritage edition of Revell's old Wright Whirlwind engine; he spent four days working on all the flash only to discover that some of it was actually present on the real engine! Paul Bishop has made tremendous progress on Tamiya's FAMO halftrack, but he still has a ways to go on the tracks and suspension. He's painted it in an improvised field camouflage scheme. Mike Woolson threw us a curve by building a car – even if it is a 1:48 Kubelwagen. The Tamiya kit provided the base, and Mike painted it as an example from 1941; he says it has fit issues with the windows, and needed a scratch-built firewall. Mark Balderrama has his Tamiya 1:100 Il-28 "Beagle" all built, but still needs to add the canopy. He's also built HobbyBoss's 1:72 T-6 Texan and even added some detail to the trainer. Brother Max Balderrama also has his sights set on a HobbyBoss 1:72 kit, this one being an La-7. He has the model assembled even though he used no glue! Dad Dave Balderrama was hoping to get a quick build in of PM's Yak-15 in 1:72, but he was disappointed at how rough the model was. It had no cockpit, but now it has a lot of putty. Ben Pada's Hasegawa 1:48 AR-234 bomber was built out of the box and wears AeroMaster decals – and a new nose, since Ben dropped the model and broke the first one! He also applied a fictitious scheme to the FineMolds 1:48 J8M1 Shusuei rocket plane to portray an active-duty example.



Chris Bucholtz has his Hasegawa SBD-3 Dauntless in paint and has to still add decals, landing gear and the dreaded photetched dive flaps. His FineMolds A6M2b Zero will join the SBD aboard the USS *Hornet* as part of the Midway +69 display, and he displayed the first commercially-available castings of the Obscureco F2G racer set, featuring a new cowling, cowling scoop and prop spinner.

Speaking of the Midway +69 anniversary display, Mark Schynert was the first to finish a subject for this endeavor. He's done this feat completing Mania/Hasegawa 1:72 B5N2. He picked this model up for \$2 at auction, and finished it with



Polly Scale paints (with some AeroMaster paint on the prop). Mark's Nipponese torpedo bomber flew from the *Kaga*.



Mike Burton has almost finished DML's SdKfz. 234/2 Puma, which he's painting dark yellow overall for next month's club contest, and he has a SdKfz. 234/3 from Italeri following close behind. He says the DML kit of this vehicle is more complicated by a factor of five! Mike's completed building the Eduard P-39, which he says combines all the difficulties of an Eduard kit with the ham-handedness of an old Monogram kit; he's clearly biased after building Hasegawa's sweet 1:48 kit intended to be finished in a Pacific Island scheme (using the Eduard decals!). Mike is also still tangling with FineMolds' 1:48 D4Y2 "Judy;" the model fits badly but builds quickly, given enough elbow grease. John Carr's F4F-4 Wildcat comes from the Hasegawa kit; he says the fit is fantastic, even if the cockpit details are rudimentary. John's Wildcat will be part of the Midway display.



And the model of the month goes to... Jim Lund's collection of five B-24s, all built from the venerable Revell kit!

First up was a straight B-24D, built directly from the box as a Ploesti veteran. Next comes a B-24J, which Jim made by grafting on the nose from the otherwise awful Airfix kit. Third was a PB4Y-2 Privateer, not from the Matchbox kit but from the Uniqueform conversion, which was apparently packaged as just a bag of parts. Number four was a PB4Y-1, which Jim made by adding a spare ball turret made extraneous during an RY-3 conversion of the Matchbox Privateer. And finally, Jim used a conversion to make a C-87 Liberator Express transport.

Our contest focused on Red Star subjects. Laramie Wright bought his T-62 some years ago sealed and discovered two entire kits inside, less the road wheels! His Tamiya kit may be old, but the addition of brackets, hand holds and other details makes it stellar even today. Mike Burton mastered the allegedly unbuildable Hi-Tech P-63C and gave it Russian markings; he says it's really a nice kit that just takes some work. Ron Wergin used the hairspray trick to weather his Tamiya Su-100, making his model look rather beaten up. Ron added two more in 1:72 scale: a Fujimi MiG-21 dressed in Finnish livery and a Bulgarian MiG-15 rendered from the Airfix kit. Jim Priete asserts that the Hobbyboss 1:72 MiG-3 is the best in the scale; he carved away the sealed-off cockpit and added detail, then finished the model off with Model Master camouflage. Dave Marzola says that the Trumpeter MiG-19 in 1:48 scale has some major fit problems; many bits of sandpaper and flexible files gave their lives so his model could live. Rich Linder's collection of 1:72 Russian vehicles included a PST Zil-13 truck, Revell's classic I-16 "Rata" fighter built straight from the box (with a bit of putty), and an Airmodel resin BA-64 armored car, which he up-gunned with a white metal machine gun.

And the winners were... In third place, with an An-14 "Clod" in 1:72, was Frank Babbitt! Frank used the KP kit to build this cute little STOL transport. In second place, with a 1:72 Neomega UT-1, was Chris Bucholtz. This all-resin kit had some warp issues, but once they were solved – and a coat of Halfords appliance white paint was applied, it built into a nifty little trainer. And in first place, with his Great Patriotic War M4A2 Sherman, was Laramie Wright. Laramie used the 1/35 Dragon kit as a base and added lots of extra detail – but then used the kit decals! Congratulations to all who entered!







**CONGRATULATIONS  
JIM LUND  
FOR WINNING MAY MODEL OF THE MONTH**



**One kit of B-24D = Liberates Modeler 5 ways!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 06-17-11

**Friday, June 17 2011**

**IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** monthly meeting, club contest theme “ Here Comes The Sun ”

**Saturday, June 25 2011**

**IPMS/Ontario** host the Region 8 Regional, Minicon 2011. Location is the Ontario Senior Community Center, 215 East B Street, Ontario CA. Nice venue, offers vendors, competition and excuse to visit Chino Air Museum.

**Friday, July 8 2011**

**IPMS/Fremont Hornets** monthly meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> hold Elections THEN ON TO HORNET SUPER AUCTION !

**Friday, July 15 2011**

**IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** monthly meeting, club contest theme “ Vive Le Republique!”  
*PLEASE NOTE:* This **MEETING** will be held at the **Round Table Pizza on Morrill at Landess** (just off I-680).

**Saturday, July 23 2011**

**IPMS/Dragon Lady** host our Region 9 Regional. Theme is “Wings of Gold” celebrating 100 years of USN Air. First United Methodist Church, 3101 Colusa Hwy, Yuba City CA. Vendors, Raffles, Food, Fun. Don't miss it!

**Saturday, September 10 2011**

**IPMS/Reno High Rollers** yearly contest, “ Centennial of US Naval Aviation “ Raffle, Special Awards, Vendors Location is Mt Bismarck Elementary School, Reno, NV (located VERY CLOSE to Reno Nat Champ Air Races)

**Sunday, September 25 2011**

**IPMS/Fremont Hornets** host Tri City Classic 7 Exhibition & Contest. New Locale, now in Main Auditorium, Milpitas Community Center, 457 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas. Event theme: " Black Rain " anything Japanese or directly related. Contest Director Woodrow Yeung, via [warhawkp40@gmail.com](mailto:warhawkp40@gmail.com) or see [www.fremonthornets.org](http://www.fremonthornets.org)

**Saturday, October 8 2011**

**IPMS/Orange County** host their OrangeCon at the Pavilion, CSU Fullerton. Event theme TBA

**Saturday, November 5 2011**

**IPMS/Antelope Valley Group** host “Desert Classic 15”, AntelopeValley College, Lancaster CA. Theme will be “Arch Rivals “. Allows for a wide range of paired subjects, e.g; F-86 v MiG-15, Batman v Joker, etc.

**Saturday, December 3 2011**

**IPMS/Silver Wings** host “Silvercon 2011”, Elk Grove Elementary Gymnasium, Elk Grove, CA.

**Saturday, February 4 2012**

**IPMS/Santa Rosa & Friends** host “Hobby Expo 2012”, Petaluma Community Ctr, Petaluma CA. Theme TBA

**Saturday, February 11 2012**

**NNL West** host “NNL Western Nats 2012”, Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA. Theme TBA

**Saturday, May 19 2012**

**IPMS/Fresno Scale Modelers** R-9 Regional, theme “ Desert Warfare ” Show location TBA.



## STARRING ROLES AT MAY'S MEETING MAKE US SEE RED!

SVSM Editor's Contest for May 2011 : "Red Stars". What else could it be in the revolutionary month?



"May Day was Pay Day" for three with Editor's promised prize bucks paid out. Credit to hard work of volunteer judges, fair & square! Nice turnout, with some newer material and competitors as well.

The Field of Battle included a T-34, T-62, SU-100, MiG-21, MiG-15, MiG-3 and a SMOKIN' MiG-19! P-63A, UT-1, An-14, and rounding it off, the total three items Rich Linder has built that fit in this idea (thanks for that wry phrasing, Rich! - *editor*)

Laramie Wright got First Place for his T-34, with the Second going to Chris Bucholtz and his UT-1. Frank Babbitt buzzed off with Third place for his "Little Bee", the An-14 Pchelka in DDR scheme. Shervin and Eric as Judges were winning team too!



My thanks to everyone who showed. More coverage pix appear on the Editorial page, dearly wish I had even more display room. -mick



Above and to the right, our top three contenders. Directly on right, "scale" exhaust from Dave Marzola's MiG-19 panicked my P-63 pilot, fled the scene!

**7:00 PM**

**FRIDAY**

**JUNE 17**

**COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Milpitas Police Administration Building**

**1275 N. Milpitas Blvd**

**Milpitas, CA**

