

May 2012 SVSM MEETING Minutes by Chris Bucholtz with minor edits by Mick Burton, who shot pictures then himself



At the May meeting, we decided on a theme for the next display aboard the USS Hornet museum. The theme is “Air War Korea;” Chris Bucholtz can coordinate this, so if you’d like to participate, send him an email at [bucholtzc@aol.com](mailto:bucholtzc@aol.com) and let him know what you’d like to contribute to the display.



Steve Travis reported that the *Santa Clara Weekly* did a little article on him and Anita! As a result, Richard Fraser from the American Legion Post at 958 Homestead at Lafayette asked if SVSM could do a model display on June 30, when they’re doing a car show at their post. All models are welcome - not just cars!

President Joe Fleming announced that in the future, each month two members will be tasked with bringing in tips to show the club – so start filing away ideas in case next month is your month! In Model Talk...

Ken Miller discovered that the Pegasus Stargazer, the L1011 that launches the Pegasus launch vehicle, qualifies as an airliner according to rules of the Airliner Club – for whose model contest Ken’s the head judge. Meteor made this subject in 1:144; it qualifies because it carries a payload for money. To build outside his comfort zone, Ken’s dug out the Revell Ferrari 360 that sat for years on his shelves, now he’s striving to finish it. The model is still white – it will be a certain signature color by the time it’s done. Ken’s also broken out the cockpit from Monogram’s 1:72 SR-71, another model from the shelves. Dave Balderrama is building the Airfix Angel interceptor from “Captain Scarlet,” but he plans on finishing it in a modern scheme. Shervin Shembayati’s 1:72 Revell Hawker Hunter has had some wing issues; the leading edges were thicker than wings, and the inserts at ends of the wings also needed some sanding and adjusting. He used Humbrol metalcote for the silver and plans on buffing it to a shine. Laramie Wright’s 1:72 Hasegawa F4U-1D was going to be his entry in last month’s club contest, but it didn’t quite make it in time. He filled the step in the flap to more accurately capture the F4U-1D. Laramie’s Tasca Sherman V in 1:35 depicts a tank used by the Irish Guards in Normandy. He used .010 rod to make the tie downs. Laramie says this is a very nice kit, with some fiddly parts. Laramie’s “Frankentank” is really a Firefly Mk Ic; he picked up the turret, gun and decals at the Kickoff Classic for \$10! He found photo of a Polish Firefly in Italy in 1945, and decided to use these parts to depict this vehicle. He added the aftermarket parts to the Tamiya chassis, re-did the transmission housing, and adapted the brass muzzle brake with sheet styrene to fit the Chesapeake turret. Laramie’s also turned on his Tamiya Cromwell; it had been languishing on his shelf of shame for a while, but now it’s about 90 percent done and awaiting paint. It will be a Polish 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division commander’s vehicle. Also close to completion are two Soviet tanks, a KV-1 1942 cast turret and a KV-1E from Trumpeter. The Trumpeter kits are great bargains, says Laramie, needing minimal extra adornment, although he added weld beads and enhanced the bolt-on steel plate armor. Gabriel Lee is still at work on Celine from “Underworld,” converted from Moebius’ Black Widow. The 1:8 figure’s corset is done, and the boots need buckles, but all the easy stuff is done. Next, Gabriel has to make the weapons from scratch. He’s also working on a 1:72 F-302 from Stargate SG-1 from a kit from Starship Modeler; he hopes to get it done this year. Chris Bucholtz had to repair damage inflicted by his cat on the cowling ring of Hasegawa’s 1:72 A-1J Skyraider; now, with details inside the cowling complete, the model is ready for paint. He’s also nearing the painting stage on Special Hobby’s Firefly V, which has some dubious engineering that has made the build more difficult. He’s re-started the cockpit master for a future Obscureco F11F-1 Tiger set, and he’s hard at work converting



IBG's 1:72 Chevrolet of Canada C15A truck into the longer wheelbase C60L three-ton model. The kit's wheels were unusable, so Chris made new patterns for casting. Jim Lund wanted models of all the finishers of the Dole Race of 1927 – both of them! In first place was the Breese 5 “Aloha,” for which Jim couldn't find plans, so he drew them, then scratch-built the model. No color photos exist of the plane, so Jim's model is the most historically accurate representation! The second place finisher was the Travel Air 5000 “Woola Ruck,” which was also scratchbuilt, but he had plans for this plane. Jim used a Khee-Kha vacuform to build his Fairchild FC-2W2, and Aircraft In Miniature contributed the base kit for his Airspeed Ambassador, finished as a BEA Elizabethan-class airliner. To top it all off, Jim displayed a model of the Hughes D-2, a small-scale proof of concept aircraft that paved the way for the more famous XF-11. No models exist of it, so Jim worked with Mike Herrill to make patterns and vacuformed it. It's the only model in the world of the D-2! Joe Fleming has never built a car model, and he was born the year the 1967 GTO came out, so he's going to tackle the AMT kit. Which is terrible. Cliff Kranz built the 1:32 Lindberg LCVP and outfitted it with a pair of Cal-Scale .30-caliber machine guns. The ramp is supposed to work – but it won't quite thanks to some friction in the lines that pull it up and down. Cliff's almost ready to paint the ancient Tamiya Shinden fighter he picked up at the Fremont meeting; it needs a bit more sanding to clean up the seams. Steve Travis did a bang-up job on Eduard's 1:48 Yak-3, finishing it in the colors of Soviet ace Anton Yakimiko. Steve did his first weathering job on this kit, adding a wash to the final finish. His 1925 AMT Model T was dressed up with American Satco wheels and a gearshift knob, and then painted Tamiya blue with a complementary interior. Steve also handled ICM's miniature submarine which gave him a major headache in getting the propeller blades off the sprues. The model was painted gunship gray with light ghost gray spots. Frank Babbitt expected Special Hobby's A-35 Vengeance to be a difficult build, and his expectations were not disappointed! The shape of the model is good, and he liked the Australian markings; he's used Polly Scale paints for the camouflage, since RAAF colors are included in that line. Ron Wergin made short work of Tamiya's 1:48 SdKfz. 251 halftrack, then finished it with Tamiya paints, followed by an application of white pastels to simulate a winter scheme. He sealed it with Future mixed with Tamiya's flattening agent. And the Model of the Month Goes to... Rob Layton for his Pinewood derby cars. Ran the derby as a cub scout pack leader, and he's handy with Adobe Illustrator, so made his own plans, then carved wood to match. His cars did well in design in the dads' category – but they were hit or miss when it came to speed! Rob had four cars; for each he made his own decals in Photoshop and Illustrator. He added a lot of “air” to the car to keep it at 5 ounces and actually harmed the structural integrity! First came the “Punisher” car, complete with rockets and machine guns; next, a Ferrari-inspired car, cut on a mill. Then a patriotic themed car with a styrene engine, and finally a straightforward little race car.



Our contest theme was “Droning On and On,” featuring unmanned flying vehicles. Laramie Wright led it off with an F6F-5K from the Bikini Atoll shot; this was a drone to collect material from the fallout cloud. The orange Hellcat had a sea blue tail, but all the planes in the project had different color empennages; the color corresponded to the frequency. Laramie used the Minicraft 1:72 F6F for his build. Lou Orselli build a pair of Hs 293 glide bombs in 1:48, using the Eduard kit as a source. He found the photoetched control horns to be somewhat annoying to work with. Mike Burton used the old Revell kit to build his Regulus II missile, and he used the much newer (but landing gear deprived) Model Aire International resin kit to depict the Regulus I in 1:72. Mike converted the Tamiya V-1 into a Ford-built JB-2 Loon, a very straightforward project indeed. Cliff Kranz built the rather large Italeri 1:48 MQ-1 Predator and accompanied it with the relatively dinky 1:72 Accurate Miniatures version of the same model. He also borrowed the D-21 high-speed drone from the Monogram SR-71 kit; it looked good after a bit of dusting. Dave Marzola had a quick time of it with Tamiya's 1:48 V-1, but he had some trouble with the decals, which he eventually overcame. Rich Linder took the same D-21 that Cliff built and fashioned his own, including the kit-provided cart and a neat base. Rich painted his air-launched drone with Orchard Supply Hardware rattle-can black. Ken Miller picked up a resin cast 1:144 F-4, done by Don Schmenk, and outfitted it with gear and exhausts from the Otaki kit – and then gave it an orange paint job so it could become a QF-4. And the winners were... In third place, with his Trumpeter 1:48 SA-2, was Frank Beltran! Frank bought it from the veterans' model drive, but lost the decals. The model is glossed and awaiting a replacement set – if anyone has them. In second place, with yet another D-21, was Ken Miller! Ken also took his drone from the Monogram SR-71; it's a pity, really, that the plane in the kit isn't really accurate for the drone launcher! And in first place, with the Revell 1:72 Snark, was Frank Beltran! Frank enjoyed building the old 1:72 scale kit, and he learned a lot about this early cruise missile in the process.

AND A SPECIAL BONUS ANNOUNCEMENT ONE MONTH AHEAD FOR ONLY THOSE WHO GET E SHEET

**(THIS CLUB CONTEST WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN JULY STYRENE)**

**SVSM EDITOR' s CONTEST THEME MARCH 2013 “That's A Spicy Meatball ”**

While it may be a hard one to swallow, this dietary diatribe of a theme was independently tested during a meal after it was cooked up by your Editor. Chief aim of this recipe was to enable a wide variety of subjects that are otherwise unrelated, to be blended for competition. Ingredients of this non culinary conspiracy are: FINISHED items of either Mediterranean Seacoast Nations (of which there are MANY) OR the Nation of Japan (thus the meatball...) Aircraft, Armor, Autos, Figures, Animals, all eligible along with Maritime subjects, as long as they are as outlined above. So Italian, French, Greek, Turkish, Cypriot, Libyan, Spanish, Israeli (to name a few) and Japanese Air Forces or Ground Forces are easily competitive. That alone ought to spice things up. Bon Appetit.