



# THE STYRENE SHEET

VOL. 41, No. 6 [WWW.SVSM.ORG](http://WWW.SVSM.ORG) OCTOBER 2007

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

## Editor's Ravings

Hello! Welcome to the Halloween edition of our club newsletter, in the spirit of the season making an appearance as a ghost of itself Past, Present and Future. As Fate would have it, again I am allowed to be on the masthead of our August sheet. Well, no way to prove that since the August 2007 edition never saw light of day. Presently the resumption of publication is being undertaken by two former editors of club newsletter, myself (M Burton) and the esteemed Mr. William Ferrante. He's the hero who made sure September's issue made it to press in a fine turnaround. A Man of innumerable talents and awesome competitor with keen judgement, Bill still agreed to be in a publishing partnership with me so we could keep the Sheet going.

While of course maintaining his fearsome performance as our longest serving Club Treasurer (continuously since 1993!), his ever growing line of production for the Obscureco firm in which he is partner, his own hectic business of which he has a partner to answer to as well, and far from last or least, his own rich life with a dear wife who probably is more patient than anyone on earth. Oh and Bill has a model building hobby he'd like to keep up with in the midst of all this. Damn, I forget to mention the minor headache (ouch! Watch it with the leg iron, William!) of the design, manufacture of the nearly 200 pieces of handmade awards Mr Ferrante is taking on again for the SVSM annual contest. My hope is that all of you will be assisting my incredible friend Mr Bill in the near future with contributions of an Article, review, short insight or clever picture essay for the Styrene Sheet. He's setting us both up with the means to produce a meatier and more graphic newsletter in the next couple of months, and we will trade off according to how our own weeks ahead demand. No matter how our own time constraints work out for us, we're both planning/committed to put your work to print as soon as possible. So don't be shy.

The monthly meeting provides much fine and needed "live and new" material besides demonstrating the diversity, rich vibrancy of our club's membership of course. But minutes too require the committed effort on the part of folk who are already up to neck with things to do. Folk not always able to be there to produce them or find a soul who can capably fill in on short notice. Happily we were fat with minutes to plunder for both William's and my own re-inaugural issues. However, going forward that is a thin ice sheet to be skating on editorially. If that doesn't motivate any to manage a little something for Sheet report, consider this:

Once I get reacquainted with the more current tools to have half an idea how the whole process will and does work, I'll be as they say, knowing just enough to be dangerous. In other words, if you think this editorial ran on, just wait til I can self publish articles based on my tastes in scale miniatures w/o competitors.

Alright, even I know better than to invite my own execution in print. Still...

Okay here's hoping this issue gets to you in time, on message. Also hope someone en masse shows up for our sadly underadvertised October in club contest "Scale Spooks, celebrating Orange and Black". So that of course we can give Bill some great material for starting November's Styrene Sheet. Instead of grave doubts.

Thanks and see you all at the meeting! - Mike

## **MEETING MINUTES** September 2007 SVSM

Randy Ray (Pres) opened, recce'd for new people or returning long absent members, opened discussion for floor on subject of the recent IPMS Nationals hosted by Orange County IPMS in Anaheim. Much lively talk, being so many Bay Area modelers were attendees of this biggest ever Nationals hosted by Western Region.

While many familiar negative aspects were aired and clarified, generally agreed that truly, fun was had by all who went. Wrapped up discussion with a consensus that 2007 Nats a much more positive experience for most attendees than perhaps Internet and other media sources would have led those who weren't there to believe. A recap of the 2007 Reno High Rollers contest held only two weeks after the IPMS Nats provided your editor this month some bragging rights. Contest theme of "Old Kits (pre-1970)" provided some interesting contenders. Hosts as always put on a fine friendly event with a goodly number of vendors, unfortunately there was a smaller turnout than our region would normally be expected to have. Happily tho, IPMS/Reno already announced plans for another contest same time same locale, theme and other details to follow. On theme of contests upcoming, the TriCity Classic 4 hosted by the IPMS/Fremont Hornets which will occur the weekend before October SVSM meeting was promoted. IPMS Shasta Scale Modelers are holding an event Oct 27 in Redding and in Region 8, the intrepid crew of IPMS/Antelope Valley Group host their Regional this November 3. All are excellent opportunities to have fun

**Model Talk** (EDITOR'S FOREWARNING: The Skeletal Minutes were magnanimously taken by Veep Laramie Wright in place of absent Chris Bucholtz. In the following fully fleshed minutes, any errors, omissions or colourful misrepresentations resultant are solely the responsibility of this month's Editor. Thank you. MB)

Braulio Escoto got us underway with some intriguing reminders that Fleet Week is nearly upon us, along with a harbinger of October for SVSM. I'm referring of course to his lovely Hasegawa McDonnell F-110 in 1/72 scale. When first undergoing tests for introduction in USAF service, the US Navy's F4H-1/F-4B Phantom II was given a new identity. The well known F-4C Phantom II began life as the F-110 Spectre. Braulio's build could easily return next month as a competitor in our Scale Spooks/Orange & Black club contest. Check safety on the Bullpup missile he has on pylon, will you? Braulio also had a lovely 1/72 S-3 Viking in "Navy 1" scheme he built for a friend, alongside it USN A-1H Skyraider 1/48 scale in VA-215 markings lacking only a canopy. (Source kit was not noted for minutes) Not to be overlooked was Messr Escoto's 1/72 Naval Air Superiority fleet. This made up of an early F-4 in VF-74 USS Forrestal markings (harkens back memories of the Airfix F-4 kit), and a "Paris Air Show #180" F-4J of VF-33 on USS America. Not the least bit intimidated by Braulio's showing, neighboring Gabriel Lee had an impressive fleet underway as well. In the finished column Gabriel had a Northrop YF-23 in Blue Angels livery. It recently returned from display at the "What-If Modelers" exhibition at the Anaheim Nats. Gabriel reported much favourable traffic, comments generated by this and other interesting hypothetical models at the event. Recently completed also was his 1/72 Supermodel Fiat CR-32 in Venezualan service, not a hypothetical either! In progress mightily, Gabriel's Dewoitine D-500 in 1/72 from Smer Kit, thus documenting another lesser know FAV vehicle. Drydocked for now while constructing, Mr Lee has a Venezualan Navy Sub the Balao Guppy III which first went to sea as the USS Tilefish, alongside a 1/700 Destroyer called the Lupoff from Delfis Molds. Last but not least Gabriel shared the open box contents of his Special Hobby F-86K purchased at the Nats. This "Sabre Dog Gunfighter" also served in Fuerza Aerea Venezola. Until this new kit, F-86K was a nasty conversion encounter if you needed one in 1/72 collection. Cheering us further was Bob Morgan's tabling of the Beech D17 Staggerwing in 1/87 as captured by Hallmark. He noted this little gem is part of their limited run Christmas Tree ornament collection and now rather pricey. The scheme appears to be perfect clone of the old AMT 1/48 styrene offering of the same airplane, perhaps someone at Hallmark got that one as a kid under their tree?

Ken Miller again shows the unwary he's not fixated on making sweet airliner artistry in 1/144 from recipes based on ghastly kits. Ken's large scale centerpiece this month was a Visible V-8! Reassuringly he had a 1/320 scale Matchbox DC-10F nearly done nearby, along with a charming personalized trophy from a recent Airliners International event he competed in. As Ken entertainingly relayed, their administration of the contest made some others seem impeccably organized. In that no trophies were on hand to give out that day, seems that wasn't on someone's list of things to do. After the event he received a nice plaque with his name correctly spelt, noting his First Place in Small Prop and Second Place in Small Jet, so a fine finish after all.

Nick Moran inadvertently triggered the "two minute warning" from Prez Randy Ray when he followed Ken, with his opening of the tale of the Blue Tank. Having threat of invoking the little known Rodney Rule overhead, Messr Moran wove a complete tale that itself, a model of brevity. All proving that indeed Virginia, once there really was an "S" tank in royal blue with an "aim here" yellow cross. As his basis Trumpeter's STRV-103B kit and the aid of a Swedish Modeling Society (again the benefit of "social modelling across international boundaries" shows up, GO IPMS!) Nick crafted new resin parts. Finale with excellent painting to create a miniature replica of an anniversary scheme. One that truly goes the "S" tank one better for cool weird.

Shervin Shembayati demonstrated a need for speed. By Sherwin's rapid completion of his Academy F-15C Eagle, it on table only last month in "just started" condition. Very nicely done, he noted much sanding, detail working over the exhaust, flaps areas among the processes he underwent with this fine result. Sherwin chose the 48 FIS scheme for his 1/72 scale bird. At end of model talk he tipped this editor to how pleased he was with the particular metal coat paint system he'd employed on his exhaust for Eagle. Helpful as always, as he'd heard how I was agonizing again about poor luck working with Alclad. Reinforcing again how invaluable membership in a club can be for a modeler, thanks Sherwin hope I can return the favor! Paul Bishop showed he again is not in over his head with Revell's 1/72 Gato Class WW2 USN Fleet Submarine, he's progressed further along with it. Paul also shared with us two "nauty books". "Steel Shark in the Pacific" deals with the USS Pampanito which is now a floating museum in SFO. The other, "U-505, the Final Journey" covers the U-Boat now part of a well known Chicago museum. Frank Beltran's subject on table had it been completed only a bit earlier, could have been a contender at Reno High Roller's "Old Kits" theme contest! "It" being a 155 mm M40 SP gun, being built from the "Life-Like" kit of the 1960s. Frank reports that despite implied promise in the brand name, "Choo Choo Baby" builds up pretty basic by today's armor vehicle standards. Another blast from the past aspect of this M40, the 1/40 "military" scale. It was 1950s and early 60s traditional armor model scale, larger 1/35 scale of course went on to become standard. Frank also showed us the 21st Century Vought Corsair in 1/32 scale his wife gave him, very nice. Alan Webber introduced us to a new vendor whose wares he'd sampled at the Anaheim Nats, Thrust Decals. Alan has underway an example of their newest line in limited run conversions, this one being "Strega" Air Racer in 1/72 scale resin. While not inexpensive, the current alternative is scratchbuild/kitbash one yourself. Which makes the price seem a whole lot more attractive, Alan cheerfully elucidated. Another plus is fact you get decals for these elusive and unique subjects, another obstacle to completion removed handily! Dave Quick had another 21st Century 1/32 scale product on our table this month, a Macchi 205. Larry Lechowicz had some auto models "in the box" to show us this month, no details to relay sorry. Lou "The Italian" Orselli let us have our pick from those photoprints he had on display table, all shots taken by a friend of various club members in attendance at Anaheim Nationals. Ben Pada dropped by with Anaheim material, in the form of his award winning 1/48 Tamiya F-84 (First Place, Out of Box) parked on the trophy. Messr Pada also showed the lovely 1/48 Tamiya Dewoitine D-520 with First Place trophy from same event, marvelous and deserved. An almost complete 1/48 Me-262 rounded out Ben's display, again from Tamiya kit.

Ron Wergin was on a similiar vibe it seems in he had a completed Tamiya project on table, this a fine desert finish scheme Grant Mk 1 tank. The tank commander seated on turret, appeared in some angles (whilst this editor was photographing it) to be reporting in this suspicious activity, from way the Tommy was posed. Nicely done work by Ron of both armored vehicle and scale figure. Hanchang Kuo's Trumpeter 1/700 scale aircraft carrier USS Franklin was another exquisite work on display. Well underway at high speed it appears from white caps on his scale sea! Clearly the judges at Anaheim Nationals thought so too. Hanchang took home a First Place in Small Scale Ships, Powered and this wasn't a lightly populated category! Bay Area also blessed by winning work done by Frank Babbitt, whose Tamiya 1/48 scale P-47 "Ole Cock" took home honours as "Best P-47" at 2007 IPMS Nationals. Frank's 1/72 DHC Caribou took a First Place in Multi Engine Prop at this event, and the Trumpeter 1/72 scale Tu-16 Badger in Iraqi AF camouflage landed a Second Place for him at Anaheim as well. Andy Kellock made sure the Automotive categories felt our presence at Anaheim, his purple Plymouth Roadrunner hit and ran with a Third Place there too! Andy's Mercury Cyclone NASCAR #21 on Polar Lights chassis was a very fine neighbor on the table. His sweet Dodge Daytona Charger NASCAR #71 (K&K Insurance, Bobby Isaac) may make a repeat appearance in October, if Andy wants to join in the Orange and Black part of our in house club contest for Halloween month. Looked every inch a competition winner this month! Beside it, Messr Kellock parked his "looks like going hell bent for leather even standing still" #98 Shelby Cobra made from the Monogram kit, very very delicious build. Bill Bauer treated us to his #3 Trans Am Jaguar, made with a resin body on a Revell Camaro chassis. This "trans kit" wasn't just any old thing either, Bill is selling these and his example built up into a compelling head turner which ought to generate some sales. Greg Plummer turned some heads at the IPMS Nats this year too, his 1/48 scale "TurboRaider" landed him a Second Place in 1/48 Hypothetical Scratchbuilt A/C. He left the plaque at home, the model speaks for itself if you ask me. Craftily evolved using an Esci Douglas Skyraider as major basis, Greg's magic included a 5 bladed prop with bullet spinner, extended nose, wing tip tanks, huge flared dual exhaust, tail finlets. Topped off with immense underwing and fuselage ordnance load on pylons, and done in modern period shabby greys with Australian military service markings. While a suggestion of the real life Piper Enforcer (itself a Mustang based vehicle) mixed with Douglas Aircraft's own turbine powered Skyraider the Skyshark is in the mind's eye when seeing this model, Greg's genius and subtle artistry is very clearly there and all his. The hypothetical nature and origins of components just disappear even when you know. Your mind accepts this of course is a real but very obscure attack aircraft that you're seeing now for the first time as a model, lovingly built by someone who clearly knows it well. Jim Priete went to IPMS Nats this year and he didn't even come back with a crummy T-shirt. But he did show up at meeting with the very fine Roland C.II in 1/48 scale which was his entry in Biplanes/Fabric/Rigging category. By Eduard, Jim reports it is a nice kit, straight forward in build, his rigging ended up being easy but not perfect in execution. 3# monofilament was Messr Priete's weapon of choice in that process. Eric McClure free ranged his StegoCow from the Far Side, this not so wee beastie took 3rd Place in Humor in Modelling category at Nats 2007. His trophy was no small feat considering there were 29 entries in contention. Cliff Kranz had two finished projects that also could have found welcome TDY homes at the recent Reno High Rollers contest. Cliff's well built "old kits" out of the box in the form of ... Revell's molding of MacNamara's Folly! Cliff had both the F-111A in SEA TAC camouflage and F-111B in the USN scheme, He noting that both models of course have the working landing gear, wing sweep mechanics. Superscale provided the decals where needed. Kent McClure had books on Polikarpov I-16 and Avro Lancaster to share, along with his Third Placing 1/700 DML Alpha Class submarine entered at Anaheim Nats. Kent's toothsome Tamiya twosome were at Nats as well, generous 1/72 contributions to the group entry of P-47 Thunderbolts of IPMS/Fremont. The P-47D pair being "Big Ass Bird II" and "Chowhound". Brian Sakai brought back his Anime Princess now sporting a Premier award from Nats, which he also gsrnered for a MC 202 that he "smoked" Well, okay he "smoke ringed" the green camo on tan basis with an airbrush, quite effective work Brian! Messr Sakai took Second with his USS Ward at Anaheim, again no small feat the maritimers in miniature very competitive lot.

Greg Lamb displayed his 1/72 Tamiya P-47D on which he used Model Master paints and Eagle Strike decals. Bill Ferrante displayed great taste in marking his Academy 1/72 scale P-47D with "Five by Five" markings from none other than the 1998 IPMS Nationals sheet, created by Chris Bucholtz of IPMS/Semicon. Also well done was Bill's Revell/Germany Boeing 737 in 1/144 scale. Mike Burton somehow sneaked past the guards posted out front, and purported to have been working on the 1/48 scale F-86D by Revell Monogram he had on the table. Other unfinished projects he gesticulated about for a time were: Zvezda molding of the SU-100 building for a comparison with the DML. Tamiya's Jumbo Sherman which Mike expressed he had no clue as to kit's efficacy or accuracy but was making to relax. An Iskra TS-11 from the Mastercraft kit (Polish trainer by Polish model molders, how can he miss?) and lastly a stalled Porsche GT1 EVO from the Revell Monogram "Texaco/History Channel" release. We'll see if he finishes any or all of this WIP. Sure. When. Ever.

Laramie Wright, when he's not taking minutes of our meetings at drop of a hat or trying to herd cats (aka get our 2008 Kickoff contest going all in same direction) relaxes with such company like his Dragon M4A2. Done as a Red Army Sherman, he has a base coat of Tamiya OD on it now and rates it 90 percent done. No fear of things to do running out for Messr Wright has also underway a M4A2 kit bash. Academy's M10 lower hull/running gear meets up with Formation's upper hull, this followed by a rear plate replacement. Original part determined undersized, Laramie Unperturbed cut it out so he could scratch in his own styrene version detailed with boltheads. Transmission cover of this project difficult to install he reports. No dummy he, lastly in WIP is his Dragon 1/35 "Smart Kit" early Stug III G. Interior now finish painted, installed in a kit he reviews as well detailed and good value. John Korellis closed out our model talk evening with an enlightenment on his marvelous looking work in progress. This a Tamiya 1/48 Wildcat that John is taking from an F4F-4 back to -3 configuration. "Filling, sanding, rescribing" was how he so very understatedly put it, inspiring to see work like this. After reminding everyone present about the upcoming October club contest, President Randy Ray awarded Model of the Month trophy and closed the meeting. Model of the Month goes to Hanchang Kuo, for his USS Franklin. Anchors Aweigh!

## **SCARE EVERYONE THIS MONTH! BRING AN ENTRY OR TWO!**

*For*

**October 2007 SVSM Club Meeting Contest**

## **Scale Spooks, Celebration of the Orange and Black**

*Immediately qualifying material include:*

**ANYTHING ORANGE, BLACK or BOTH** (Dayglo Drones! Caltrans Workers. Goth Modelers. Model Goths. Orange Crates, Black Beautys. Great Pumpkins, in scale)

----- or -----

**MONSTER THEMED** (ALL VAMPIRES!(DeHavilland or Dracula for instance) All Witches (The Sea Witch or Strega Air Racer among them) Virtually all McDonnell Aircraft products (Banshees, Phantoms, Goblins, Demons, etc). Goblin Powered craft, Any number of Universal Movie subjects as well as Gojirah and company, the potential entrants just go on and on and on...

**OUR WELL KNOWN NON FATTENING, NOURISHING AND GENEROUS AWARDS AWAIT  
FOR FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PLACEMENT**

## COMING EVENTS

### Saturday October 27

**The Shasta Scale Modelers** present "River Classic I" at the Win River Resort and Casino, 2100 Redding Rancheria Road, Redding. Theme is "Halloween Havoc" For more information, contact Michael Lindsey at (530) 222-4794 or email him at mflindsey@msn.com

### Saturday November 3

**IPMS/Antelope Valley Group** presents Desert Classic XI Region 8 "Regional" Contest held at Antelope Valley College, 3041 W. Avenue K, Lancaster CA. For more information, contact Mike Valdez at 661 304-4941 or visit their website at [www.avg-ipms.org](http://www.avg-ipms.org).

### Saturday December 8

**IPMS/Silver Wings** presents "The Day After Pearl Harbor" at the Joseph Kerr Middle School, 8865 Elk Grove Blvd. in Elk Grove. For more information, contact Art Silen at (530) 753-3265 or email him at [artsilen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:artsilen@sbcglobal.net)

### Friday December 14

**IPMS/Fremont Hornets** host their annual Holiday meeting, details and location to follow. Everyone welcome however be advised the usual 5 dollar meeting room rental fee will be collected from all attendees.

### Friday December 21

**IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** will be meeting for our Holiday Gift Exchange at Round Table Pizza. Location, meeting schedule details to follow.

## 2008

### Saturday, February 9

**IPMS/Santa Rosa** and **IPMS/Mt. Diablo** join forces to present Hobby Expo 2008 at the Petaluma Community Center, 320 North McDowell Blvd. in Petaluma. This year's contest theme is "Making History." For more information, contact John Admire at (707) 838-2318 or e-mail him at [admire@pacbell.net](mailto:admire@pacbell.net), or visit the club website at [www.ipmssantarosa.org](http://www.ipmssantarosa.org).

### Saturday, April 19

**Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** present the 2008 Kickoff Classic at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway in Santa Clara. This year's theme is "Winds of War: 1931-1939." For more details, contact Chris Bucholtz at (510) 769-8316 or e-mail him at [bucholtzc@aol.com](mailto:bucholtzc@aol.com), or visit the club website [www.svsm.org](http://www.svsm.org).

### Saturday August 9 2008

**IPMS/Kings County Scale Modelers** hosts the Region 9 Regional, theme is "The Cold War". Event is being co-sponsored by **IPMS/Fresno Scale Modelers** and **IPMS/Central Valley Scale Modelers**. Held at the VFW Hall, 3538 N. Blythe, Fresno CA 93722. For more information, you are encouraged to go to website [www.kcscamodelers.com](http://www.kcscamodelers.com). They are actively seeking and welcoming sponsors as this is an expensive event hosting a regional. All parties willing to help here are encouraged to email inquiries to [webmaster@kcmodelers.com](mailto:webmaster@kcmodelers.com) for more information about sponsoring a category.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**7:00 PM**

**FRIDAY**

**OCTOBER 20**

**At the**

**Milpitas Public Library**

**40 N. Milpitas Blvd**

**Milpitas CA**

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