



THE STYRENE SHEET

VOL. 42, No. 4 WWW.SVSM.ORG APRIL 2008

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

All in all, a Civil Hound:



Making Peace with KP's Mi-4 in 1/72

By Mick Burton

While Mi-4 may LOOK like a Soviet Sikorsky S-55 (H-19) to many Westerners, Mikhail Leontovich Mil might have wished you berth in his homeland for saying so! Despite the resemblance, Mr Mil had in fact continued to expand on his extremely successful Mi-1 design layout. Hailing from Siberia, like his rival in Russian rotary circles Nikolai Kamov, Mil created a sound basic helicopter philosophy - (continued on page 3)

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

OMG! April club newsletter. No fooling! (Really. I hadn't time to try to compete with the stellar spoofing of editors past. Be my guest if you'd like and run for this mast, so you can give it a try next year, have a blast!)

Well next month's newsletter will be covering among other things, the happenings from the SVSM Kickoff 2k8 which opens 9am Saturday following our meeting. Hope to see all of you there and encourage you to consider a role as contest category Judge, we'll gladly train you in, even. Head Judge this year is our RC, Chris Bucholtz, who's ever hard at work improving our hard won gains. We'll also happily employ folk at raffle, guiding entries to the right tables, taking the spectator gate fees while getting entrants registered, along with my personal fave, overseeing the "make n' take". The more who help the less work for all and the more fun to be had in more time

If you're interested in displaying but not competing, check with me at the meeting (best case) or at the show (a dicey option due to competing time pressures). I have set aside 5 full size tables for use as display, club promos this year, intending to build on this launch over the next years to help generate a more unique event day for all. The cost of them is my donation along with partial sponsorship of make n' take kit supply, betting on the come.

Thanks to those who have already re-upped their memberships this year and also to those who contributed funds or kits/supplies to our big show, you're all saints even if you don't know it. It makes it all the more worthwhile.

Speaking of contributing funds for big shows, our sister chapter the IPMS Fremont Hornets would love to have you all drop on by June 13 for the regular club meeting. Of course everyone is welcome any time we meet but this will be one of our "dues holidays", waiving the 5 dollar meeting collection per person. Raison d'etre? The TERRIFIC HUGE STUPENDOUS WORLD CLASS FAMOUS HORNET AUCTION will be the sole agenda. If you've never been to one, the deals can seem surreal, the sarcasm is free and rampant at times, it is for good cause. October will be their time to host a contest and exhibition, this is major economic stimulus for that show.

As you may recall, last month's editorial I was reviewing in summary the basic duties of club officers that we'll be seeking nominations (or re-interment of) in upcoming months. Best use remaining space to resume project!

Secretary: Now you're in charge of making sure minutes are taken of the meeting, either by you or a delegate. A great way to learn who all the names that go with the faces are, and also a tremendous help to our monthly fun. You also are the keeper of the flame when it comes to the making many important contest documents every year.

Newsletter Editor: Once joined by a seemingly immortal slash (as in Sec'y/Newsletter Editor) this post is stand alone. Responsibilities include seeing to it a postcard (minimum, considered an emergency measure) or better yet a multi page letter sent out timely enough prior to each month's meeting. While a lot of work in some ways, the club provides a lot of support in equipment and editorial matters, you need only ask we'll clue you in how. Some of the fun part: you can come up with as little or as lot of ravings for here, prompt others to contribute too!

Treasurer: The secret master of us all. Keeper of the records of who's a member who's not, holder of all monies and accountable for the same. Registration secretary and Chief Financial Officer in one. Sir William Ferrante. See Bill for all the important background of this vital position, if you think you're willing to shoulder it. We have had a very slow turnover in this position for a reason. When I was first a member it was a 3 headed post, Sec'y/Newsletter Ed/Treasurer. Know it well, I was last one to fill it as such. Treasurer post was separated after at my insistence for sanity of any willing to take it on for length of time, which is how you get great at it.

This month's issue has another installment of Mr Abbott's neighborhood, which again demonstrates how much we owe our Bill's (among others) for club's success. I have a marvelous automotive article in queue sent me by a prolific modeler amongst us, and am told others are just around corner from contributing other great works. So don't be shy, remember I'll shovel in my own musings in miniature if left to my own devices. May club meeting will be at Round Table which will likely produce a tasty aside to the usual text fair. We'll see just how many can fit pizza and plastic on the same plate without tempting fate, hey? Writing of train wrecks as I wink... -enjoy!

COLLARING THE HOUND (continued from page 1)

using single overhead rotary wing with anti-torque rotor. This general concept was built upon by his bureau for many years without a great deal of change to huge successes. By 1967 (less than 20 years since Mi-1 "Hare" had first flown) Deputy Chief designer while in England was publicizing that Mil had constructed more helicopters than any other single concern in the world at the time. Mr. Kamov established very sound concept he similarly exploited for many years. One using overhead dual co-axial rotor wings and thus no torque, still had to provide a tail structure with conventional controls. Intriguingly, time's passage provides for wonderful posit for compare. In the West: Sikorsky, Bell, Piasecki, Hiller and others for most part all went along same lines as Mil. Only Mr. Kaman (hmmm...Kamov, Kaman, separated at birth?) chose to struggle. He succeeded strongly also with a twin rotors singly overhead cancelling torque concept, using more radical means (rotor intermeshing). Consider now: Mil and Kamov design firms still produce and compete pretty equally while staying within their chosen design paths from Eastern side. Kaman's wonderful work managed to prove heroic only in niche applications as West continues with single overhead rotors and various anti-torque tail schemes to this day. Digression yes, taking an opportunity to present it now so that I may refer to it when my other Mil (Mi-1, Mi-2) plus two Kamov kits do finally complete themselves (I don't build models I just whisper to the boxes) and write a bit less then.

Mil's Mi-4 flew in 1952, one year after Stalin ordered a great leap forward in Soviet helo design. Only Mil and Yakovlev were willing to take challenge on, to design, build and fly prototypes to meet this spec. Mil scaled up the Mi-1, moved the engine in a fashion proved viable by Sikorsky's S-55 and S-58 models, then adding a fourth rotor to basic layout. About 30 percent larger than Sikorsky it resembles, the "Hound" as Mi-4 named by NATO ASCC code proved far from a lazy dog in service terms. Originally spec'd to be a twelve seater combat assault vehicle, numerous versions were evolved and employed. The Mi-4T was the main military model, the 12 troop set up with bulged circular windows with gunports, ventral gondola for navigator/observer and tactical avionics. By 1954 civil model Mi-4P offered large rectangular windows, soundproofed heated interior with seating for 10 each carrying 20 kg baggage plus convenience of an onboard toilet. Mi-4L "deluxe" Hounds featured space for 6, not a large batch were constructed however. Civil, military models were also medevac outfitted for up to eight stretchers along with an attendant, in small numbers. Later yet came Mi-4S "Salon" VIP with greater load rating for civil usage, Mi-4A upgraded assault transport able to take on 14 troops or more cargo than earlier 4T models and fitted with 12.7mm machine gun in ventral gondola. The gondola got upgraded when Mi-4PL ASW version came to pass. ASW Hound equipped with towed MAD array at rear plus able to outfit with 4 250 kg or 6 100 kg bombs, chin radar and right side mount sonobouy rack. Mil's Hound production ceased by 1964 however Mi-4s continued evolving for many years. In 1965 a two speed supercharged version developed for high altitude uses, a Mi-4M "gunship" came out in 1968 featuring a gun turret and air to surface rocket capacity. Late as 1977! an electronic warfare "Hound" was created using Yagi arrays and other aerals, as a battlefield comm jammer. Not bad for an old dog. With 3200 built by Mil, and 700 of them exported to 6 different countries. As for his Mi-4 being a "Chinese Copy" of the S-55? Well, there actually were 545 licence built Chinese "Z-5" Hounds. That Mr. Mil would likely have argued, is about as close to any truth in that snide Western aviation media conceit.

KP's Mi-4 Model, Unleashed!

You thought we'd never get here, didn't you? Thanks to my fellow alumnus editor (William F), deciding on this kit was easy. I just forget everytime I ask. The advice is coming from only man I've ever known who could SO craft a MiG-9 "Fargo" from the Airmodel vacform. All with less than zero available reference material at time. Yet still be sane, smiling years later. If you've dealt with any late edition "improved" Airmodel kits, then here you'll see eerie similiarities. The KP instruct sheet is elegantly hand drafted, very complete, busy, so detailed. But like injection molding of the plastic, upon closer exam (trying to figure how/why things are not quite fitting where apparently indicated) the detail is a little soft. Or shallow on specifics. Vacform Experience highly useful to keep perspective. As in where "locator pin/socket" tooling is provided, it's more hindrance. Or from steps 1-3 discovering you're provided an excellent detailed cockpit assembly, including clear instrument panel., all basic sticks, pedals etc. Also a lower main cabin with seating, crew ladder, lots of interior bulkheads. Excites up to the point you're flipping back once too often to the reverse side of sheet when building these up and into final subs. Consistently step by step 2-D pictorials more or less depict destinations which don't quite jibe in 3-D reality. I won't grind away on what each component came to require, just expect to be hand fitting in everything. Decide to have NO doors opened on your Mi-4, you can safely skip much of this assembly that's – *continued on page 8*

An experienced scale modeler's guide to Bay Area hobby shops (Part 2)

By Bill Abbott

Alphabetically: These are places described which I think are worth visiting: In Part One:

Berkeley Ace Hardware, Berkeley, CA - <http://berkeleyace.com/>

Boss Robot Hobby, Berkeley, CA - <http://www.bossrobot.com/>

Capitola Hobbies, Capitola, CA - <http://www.capitolahobbies.com/>

Chan's Trains & Hobbies, San Francisco, CA - <http://www.chanstrains.com/>

Dan Webb Books, Oakland CA - <http://www.danwebbbooks.com/>

D & J Hobby & Crafts, Campbell, CA - <http://www.djhobby.com/>

In Part Two:

Franciscan Hobbies, San Francisco, CA <http://www.franciscanhobbies.com/>

Gunnings's Hobbies, San Anselmo, CA <http://www.gunnings.com/>

Hobbies Unlimited, San Lorenzo, CA

Hobby Company, San Francisco, CA <http://www.hobbycosf.com/>

Hobbytown USA, Fremont, CA - <http://www.hobbytown.com/CAFRM/>

Hobbytown USA Sunnyvale, CA - <http://www.hobbytown.com/CASUN/>

Japantown Collectibles, San Francisco, CA

J & M Hobby House, San Carlos, CA

Kit & Caboodle the Hobby Shop, Albany, CA - <http://www.kit-and-caboodle.com/>

In Upcoming Installment(s)

Nor Cal Hobbies & Raceway, Union City, CA - <http://www.norcalhobbies.com/>

R C Unlimited, Rc Unlimited Hobby Shop, Slot Cars and Hobbies, Slot Cars Unlimited Raceway, Speedway,

Castle Hobbies, San Jose, CA - <http://www.rcunlimited.net>

Slot Car Magic and Hobbies, San Leandro, CA - <http://www.slotcarmagic.com/>

Sheldon's Hobbies, San Jose, CA - <http://www.sheldons hobbies.com/>

Talbot's Toyland, San Mateo, CA - <http://www.talbotstoyland.com/>

Toy Safari, Alameda, CA

Yanni's Hobbies, Los Altos, CA –

----- Capsule reviews: -----

Franciscan Hobbies, 1920-A Ocean Avenue San Francisco, CA 94127-2745 - 415 584 3919

A medium-to-big, full range hobby shop. They stock a wide variety of plastic kits, with a particularly impressive model ship section. Planes, cars, armor/military each get a display shelf, and stock is not restricted to mainstream suppliers. There isn't a full range of any product line, but there are plenty of specialist kits, enough Revell-Monogram, Trumpeter, Hasegawa, Tamiya, Italeri, etc. Like Hobbies Unlimited and Berkeley Ace, they have a special display of new, big, expensive kits, up on the wall, just to whet your appetite. Trains are probably the biggest section, and I'm sure they make more money on RC airplanes, cars and boats than scale models. A small selection of aftermarket detail sets is at the register downstairs. Squadron and other softback reference books are plentiful. Magazines (including back issues that must be old hordes being recycled) plus a shelf of hardback references in finishing department. Bass, balsa, carbon fiber, metal sheet/tubing, plus fittings of every size, shape and description are available. The staff is enthusiastic and helpful. There are wonderful flying stick & tissue model airplanes hanging near the entrance, but no display shelf for customer's scale models. I have a sense that there isn't an advocate for static scale models in the staff I've met, but that they see a need and know the business. Anything you can name can be ordered, of course. The last things I got there were a (2nd hand) Falcon 1/72 F3D Skyknight, a bag of cottage industry tarps and bags for armor detailing, an Eduard 1/72 F4F-4 brass photo-etch set and the smallest model airplane 'kit' I've ever seen- Plastruct's 1/1000 civil airplane bag containing an SST and three large, single prop low-wing jobs- Pilatus PC-12s? Very cool!

Gee-Bee Hobbee 234 Golf Club Rd Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (925) 798-5133

Has just changed owners and when I last dropped in, the old stock was being sold off at (mostly) discount prices. No doubt this allows the new owner to stock to their liking, but I also suspect it was the last hurrah for the original owner, getting what he paid and a bit more on the stock that would otherwise simply go to the new owner. They had been very RC intense, which would keep doors open and pay the bills. But also had a wide

range of flying models, craft stuff, mainstream plastic models, some trains, and decades of 'hobby shop stuff'-tools, adhesives, specialty stuff. Model Master, Polly Scale, Tamiya paints, along with airplane dope and RC Car body paints, and a good shelf of Squadron books. The last thing I bought there was an A-Model 1/144 UH-16 Triphibian, priced a bit over market, a Hobbycraft B-47, priced a bit below market, and a Revell Ferrari 612 on sale for \$10.

Gunnings's Hobbies 538 San Anselmo Ave, San Anselmo, CA 94960-2614 - (415) 454-3087

A local hobby/craft shop out by Red Hill in the middle of Marin County. (Well away from highway 101.) Two facing shelves of plastic kits, mainstream and good quality, Evergreen styrene stock, I can't remember what paints they had. Also doll-houses, trains, RC airplanes, cars, etc. All in a small shop, everything somewhat on top of everything else. Like Chan's, think 'local' rather than 'gigantic emporium' and you've got it right. Very nice staff, neat neighborhood if you don't have to put up with the traffic every day. The last thing I bought there was a bag or two of Evergreen styrene tubing and a Revell Germany 1/144 Airbus A-319. Revell Germany have Danny Coreman (DACO/Skyline) produce a lot of their decals. He did the British Airways and the extensive detail markings that come with this kit.

Hobbies Unlimited 17950 Hesperian Blvd, San Lorenzo, CA - (510) 278-1150 (MOVING MAY 5 2008)

A broad-based, general purpose hobby shop. Deepest in plastic scale models, trains, RC and slot cars, flying models. Lots of airplane, ship, military and railroad train references. Solvent-based Model Master, the full line of Tamiya alcohol-based paints, and Floquil solvent based railroad paints are stocked. But no Model Master Acryl, or Tamiya static model spray paint. Paint, finishes for model rockets, RC cars/planes and train layouts available as well. In car kits, a large selection of domestic USA kits, Tamiya, some Hasegawa, Fujimi, Italeri, sometimes Airfix or Heller. Lots of sports cars and Grand Prix cars, besides the US muscle cars and dragsters. In airplane kits, Monogram/Revell, Airfix, Heller, Hasegawa, Tamiya, Accurate Miniatures, Minicraft as well as short run kits, resin, photoetch and vacuformed detailing parts are in stock. All scales from 1/18 display models, 1/24 down to 1/144, 1/350 or 1/700 kit available. Emphasis is 1/48 and 1/72 kits but this is consistently the best place for 1/144 kits in the Bay Area. Naval, military/armor builders also well served. The owner displays large kits at the end of the aisles and up on the walls, a lovely effect. The display case features a lot of work by Roy Sutherland, who lives near-by. 21st Century Toys (Roy's day job) products are well stocked, both the pre-built 1/18 planes and 1/32 kits. Resin, photo-etched, vacuformed accessory and detail parts for airplane or car models are behind the magazine stand in the middle of the counter.

Hobby Company, 5150 Geary Blvd San Francisco, CA 94118 - (415) 386-2802

Bigger than 'local', they have a fairly good stock of car, airplane kits, some armor/military/figures, ships, spaceships and fantasy figures. All mainstream, with the usual US and Asian brands, Revell Germany, BUM and Italeri. A largish collection of magazines; some hard and softback reference books too. The paint and finishing material stock is extensive, with Model Master (solvent & Acryl lines), Gunze-Sanyo and Tamiya. The arts/crafts side has a huge range of brushes, along with extensive art paints & supplies, craft stuff, RC plane & car supplies, doll house supplies, etc. Some train stuff but much smaller than static scale models. They don't stock complete lines of models, but it's not hard to find something of interest, and the stock turns regularly. A nice display case built into the front counter shows lots of car models from the local modelers. If I needed a mix of modeling, arts and crafts items this would be my first choice, in San Francisco.

Hobbytown USA - Fremont 39152 Fremont Hub, Fremont, CA - (510) 796-2744

My favorite Hobbytown, of the several that I've visited, since the old Milpitas store closed. Well stocked with Model Master (Acryl, military, automotive), Tamiya (bottles and spray can), Polly Scale (aircraft AND train lines) paint. Also Vallejo's full line of acrylics in squeeze bottles. Tools and adhesives of many kinds. Airplane, Ship, and Military kits get two facing shelf units each, separated by an aisle, Cars get a wall display across the end of the aisles. A good range of mass-market kits, but no cottage industry stuff, no resin or photo-etch accessories, no airliner decals, SNJ or Alclad, etc. Osprey and Squadron books are in stock, also a large selection of Aeromaster decals, mostly 1/48 fighters (duh). They are a volume outlet so the stock turns over and gets updated. Tamiya, Hasegawa, Revell/Monogram, Revell Germany, Academy, Minicraft, Testors, Airfix, Heller, Trumpeter, ERTL/AMT and some Aoshima Japanese drifters are all in large supply. Die-cast collectors stuff in traditional modeler's scales also get a pair of facing shelves, and Japanese Gashpon trading kits are

available. They also carry RC, trains and slot cars, arts/crafts stuff for kids. There is a 'sale table' with interesting selections at 25% off, typically. Some of the slower moving kits on the shelves sometimes wind up with a 25% off sticker. It's a big store, they seem serious about serving the local customers. The last things I bought here were a Revell 1/72 Hawker Hurricane Mk IIB, a set of photo-etched windshield wipers for 1/24-1/25 scale cars and a bag of beige flocking for the interiors of same.

Hobbytown USA - Sunnyvale 585 E El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA - (408) 738-9600

A smaller Hobbytown (they're a franchise...) with one shelf of airplanes, cars, armor/military, ships, Model Master Acryl & oil based paints. Lots of tools and adhesives, figure painting paints. Obviously the big turnover for them is RC and stocking spare/repair parts for RC cars, planes, helicopters. I'm sure they could order static scale stuff through normal distributors. The last things I bought here were two sets of 1/72 figures, (Lewis and Clark expedition, British 8th Army), four bottles of Model Master Acryl paint and a really great red sable brush.

Japantown Collectibles - Japan Center Kinokuniya Bldg., 1st Floor, 1581 Webster Street, San Francisco, CA
Tel: 415-563-2970

Oriented toward the anime and Japanese culture fan, plastic kits are only a small part of their stock, but they take them seriously. Lots of movie, TV theme car and plane kits that you'd otherwise only see at Hobby Link Japan. As well, non-marketing-tie-in stuff that isn't normally sent to the US market, like Toyota Leven 86 drift racers and the Honda Beat micro-super-car. This is the only place I have ever seen the Airfix TSR-2 on the shelf, and they stocked it because a look-alike was in an anime movie/series! With Airfix, other non-Asian brands in stock, you're looking at a wide, wide, assortment of kits here, plus the staff is both enthusiastic and informed. It's hard to predict which Drift Grand Prix, Space Battleship Yamato, Gundam, etc, kits might be in stock, but if your interests go that way, this is definitely a place to try. If you're after something specific, call first. The last thing I bought there was an Aoshima Honda Beat convertible.

J & M Hobby House 1660 Laurel St, San Carlos, CA - (650) 593-5019

Up to the minute stock with the comprehensive, warm environment of the old-style Hobby and Crafts store. Hobbies are in the back, Crafts up front. The husband and wife team that run this place have been there for 30+ years. The building is an old dear of Art Deco style, worth a trip just to see in itself. Stock is varied and fresh, mostly mainstream but with some cottage industry/short run stuff. Among the plastic scale models, planes, cars and ships get the most shelf space. Some military vehicles but less than say, Hobbies Unlimited or Berkeley Ace Hardware. Full range of Model Master, Tamiya paints, Squadron books. Huge selection of RC planes, boats and helicopters. An amazing selection of HO slot car hop-up parts, trains and operating ship models. Far from living in the past, they listen to their customers, clearly know quality when they see it, only have one or at most two of anything in the wall of kits. They sell a lot of RC Electric stuff to hardcore fliers, hop-up parts to slot-racers. The counter people sound like they know what they're talking about. If you visit only one store that's new to you on this list, this should be it. Then Gianni's, and the rest..

Kit & Caboodle the Hobby Shop 425 San Pablo Ave, Albany, CA 94706 - 510 524 9942

The local hobby shop north of Berkeley. Kit and Caboodle seem to have the most depth in RC (at a guess RC airplanes) and trains, with an interesting selection of plastic airplanes, some cars, some armor/military/ships etc. Some stock is clearly new, some quite obscure (Pegasus WWI subjects, Aircraft In Miniature vac-kits of transport aircraft in 1/72...) I think some of the airplane kit stock must be second hand, there are only a few of the 1/48 Monogram/Revell/Hasegawa/Tamiya/Academey kits that set the pace for plastic modelling today. So you might find an old dear by Airfix, Hasegawa, Heller or Monogram, in 1:72, or you might find the latest Revell Germany or Tamiya kit. Model Master, Polly Scale paint are in stock, plus extensive paint and finishing tools, supplies. A large range of spare/repair parts for outdoor planes, cars, rockets, etc. and sage advice for beginners, is available. All of the staff appear to be even older than this faithful scribe, which may explain why everything is so orderly and neat. They are very nice people and could doubtless order anything that's available through normal channels. The last thing I bought there was a set of Model Master photo-etch part clippers-similar to plastic part clippers but about twice as expensive, with hardened blades.

YES, THIS WILL BE THE CUTOFF POINT FOR PART TWO OF BILL'S EXCELLENT EFFORT...

MARCH 2008 SVSM MEETING as recorded by Messr Chris Bucholtz

Our April meeting will be held at the Milpitas Library, but due to a system-wide library closure in May we'll be meeting at the Round Table Pizza on Stevens Creek Boulevard. We'll have a map in the next Styrene Sheet and on the website so no one needs to get lost!

The venue for the Kickoff Classic is reserved, but the club needs funds to pay for all our contest expenses – particularly since some members are tardy with renewing their dues. Mark MacDonald is hustling up prizes for the raffle, and other members are working hard to publicize the event. You should be, too! If you need flyers, download them from the club website, www.svsm.org.

On May 4, Barry Bauer's museum, the Aerospace Museum of California at the former McClellan Air Force Base, is hosting another event of the Northern California Friends of the Aces. This symposium will feature Bud Anderson, Don Bryan, Barrie Davis & Art Fiedler, all Mustang aces. For more information, contact Chris Bucholtz at bucholtzc@aol.com.

In model talk... Jim Lund brought in a truly rare bird (from the RareBirds line, perhaps?): a YO-40A Raven, one of just three vacuformed from the wooden patterns carved by Gordon Stevens. This all-metal sesquiplane was wrecked and rebuilt twice. Also on the table were two Bell Airacudas, an XFM-1 and a YFM-1A. The XFM came from the Rareplanes kit; the YFM was converted into a tricycle-gear version from the new (and rather gap-laden) Valom kit. Of course, since Jim's conversion Valom has put out a tricycle-gear YFM! Shervin Shembayati was racing to get his "90-Day Wonder" finished, and his Fujimi F-4N would have been finished had he not gotten sick. Paul Bishop completed his Tamiya 1:12 Ferrari 312T; it's so large Paul left the nose at home! He's also working on Trumpeter's equally immense T-34, and has completed the engine. Mark Hernandez scrounged up some decals from the spares box for his RS Models Blohm and Voss MORP "paper plane," which still needs its canopy. Leon Venter's had his AMT 1:48 P-36 partially assembled for 20 years, and he's now making a push to finally finish the old bird. Mike Burton is trying to do a Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force collection, and one of the items in it is his Italeri 1:35 M24 Chaffee tank. Mike already has his "Winds of War" entry done in the form of his 1:35 Italeri Panzer I in Spanish Civil War colors, and he also has another 1:35 piece of armor coming along, a DML M4A2 in the hands of Chinese "Volunteers." Mike's also building Italeri's X-32 as a hypothetical production plane. Buddy Joyce brought in Braulio Escoto's rendition of the A-4F "Lady Jessie" in 1:48 scale. Ron Wergin's Hasegawa 1:72 F-86D was finished with Rub n Buff paints and wears decals from Microscale and the Hasegawa kit. Chris Hughes' Tamiya 1:48 M4A1 has an upper hull taken from the Dragon kit. The model had no interior detail, but Chris added some photoetched parts from Fighting 48 and a new metal gun barrel. Also new from Chris is a 1:48 M20 Greyhound. Hanchang Kuo started his 1:700 Hutsushimo in 2003; he used photoetched parts from six different companies, and he made the anti-splinter mattresses individually from putty! Bill Abbot has a trio of unlimited air racers for our next racers' contest: A Hellcat in the authentic colors of the owner of Alaska Air Lines, with markings from Draw Decals, and a J2M Raiden and a Ki-84 in totally spurious racing markings. Bill also built a 1:48 Mitsubishi WRC car, using IJN gray and green with a black engine cover and Aotake blue primer in the interior, and his Ford Mustang wears a color combination he calls "wasabi and parchment." To test that scheme, Bill bought a toy car of a Mustang and tried his paints out on it! Laramie Wright's Trumpeter KV-1 with the light turret is close to painting, and his T-80 from MiniArt is coming together. Laramie says the T-80 beats the old Eastern Bloc kits and has fine detail in some places, but not so much in others. His Panther now has its paint over a coat of Tamiya putty zimmerit, and he's also working on a Tristar Pz.38g, which he says has too many butt joins and fiddly bits. A stray thumbprint didn't speed things up, either! Mark MacDonald loves the Leopard tank, but he does not love the Hobby Boss 2A4NL. The fit is terrible, and Mark is pillaging a Tamiya Leopard for some of the parts. Joe Fleming's son has gotten into Warhammer 40,000, and he's now modifying figures and changing the equipment around on his Imperial Guards infantry troops. Joe is working on a couple of Bf 109s, or more specifically a Bf 109E and an S-199 in Israeli markings. He's busy texturing the top of the turret on his Trumpeter KV-2, and he's building an Academy Stuart as a mine-damaged tank in a soon-to-be-built vignette. Joe's figures this time were a Spartan, a wounded tanker and his rescuer, and a Swiss Halbardeer, and he's virtually scratchbuilding a Nebelwerfer rocket launcher from Lion's Roar, which has hundreds of parts. Finally, Joe's finished Italeri's 1:35 5VC Maiale manned torpedo, replacing much of the exterior detail with brass rod and wire. Alan Weber has started work on Paul Fisher's 1:32 resin racing Sea Fury and plans to finish it as "Miss Merced." To show the size difference, Alan brought in his 1:32 21st Century Toys P-51D Mustang. Jim Priete is only 11 months behind schedule on his Tamiya P-47D, which is almost ready for paint. He's moved much more quickly on Tamiya's Lancia Stratos rally car, which he characterized as a simple kit to build. Eric McClure has at long last finished his M4 Sherman with supplemental sandbag armor, having painted its crew and fixed them into the turret. He's also built an M3A2 Bradley from the Revell kit; the fit is great, but there's a minor detail error on the vehicle's rear end. Cliff Kranz repositioned the splashboard on his BTR-70 as one of the finishing touches on his Soviet armored car. Andy Kellock's finished one of his two Boss Mustangs, having wired the engine and giving a grabber orange paint job to his street machine, which beat the racer to completion. Kent McClure has his Minicraft 737 to the painting stage, and the Alclad finish is helping him spot areas he needs to fix! He'll repaint the Boeing soon. Kent's also painted up a squad of World War I doughboys and Marines from the Emhar and Hat 1:72 sets, and he also has two 1:72 cryogenic

chambers for use in some (Disney?) game. Mike Woolson greeted the arrival of the Eduard Hellcat by finishing his Hasegawa Hellcat, which he outfitted with an Obscureco cowling. Speaking of Obscureco, Chris Bucholtz's 1:72 Tamiya P-51D uses two products from that company (the P-51D-5 conversion and the wing with dropped flaps), and he still can't seem to get it into paint! On the other hand, his Sword 1:72 FM-2 is now dark sea blue and is awaiting touch-ups. And the model of the month goes to... John Carr and his 1995 Dale Earnhardt Chevy Lumina! The Revell model had lots of flash, but John carved it away, then finished it out of the box except for a logo from his father-in-law's company on the hood. Since his father-in-law is a big Earnhardt fan, it's a very nice gesture.

In our "90-Day Wonders" contest, in which modelers had to build their Christmas Exchange models, Kent McClure took a stab at the Maquette re-pop of the Frog Fairey Delta 2. It's a nice kit, except for some very minor details. Bill Abbott's Tamiya Mustang is a curbside with the correct underside color, and he used a Hot Wheels car as a paint testbed to get it right. Bill also built up his Hasegawa 1:72 F11F-1 Tiger as a Blue Angels machine, detailing the landing gear bays and adding some cockpit detail to the Grumman fighter. Laramie Wright did some "brute force" modeling to get his DML Panzer IV Ausf J finished; it's not a bad kit, but it seems old next to the new kits he's been building. And the winners were... In third place, for his amazing CA glue emergency tire repair vignette, was Postoria Aguirre! P.A. got a bunch of superglue in the exchange, then suffered a tire defect on his motorcycle on the way home. As a last-ditch measure, he applied CA glue and accelerator to his faulty valve stem – and it lasted long enough to get him home! In second place, for his submarine Kursk, was Brian Sakai. Brian built his 1:700 sub in just four days, applying a pre-shaded finish that offset its monochrome color scheme. And in first place, for his Tamiya P-47D, was Andy Kellock! Andy needed no putty to finish the model, and the kit decals settled down easily with the application of a hot towel!

"ain't nothing but a hound dog, continued from page 3"

inside, below flight deck as you can't see it especially due to FS 36118 gray color. Fuselage halves once locator pins cut off, join fairly well aligned. Before gluing, check fit with nose, chin parts because likely as not a small amount of "fitting in" will be yours to do. The gondola, if you're making the machine gun version, will be best left off til near end of all assembly, otherwise hand fit it now. Instructions at both step 5 and 8 endorse 10 grams weight be put in, 20g is excessive but this bird dog will sit hard on its rear if you don't weight it some. The tiny antennas, blade aerals, tail struts all shown installing at step 8 are best left to final assembly if you're not fond of rework. Everything is very scale so thusly extremely fragile on this helo. Tail rotor assembly is a last stepper too, instead of step 6. As shown, step 8, 9 direct landing gear install before canopy enclosures (step 10) DON'T DO IT. I spent hours carefully fitting, refitting the main canopy (a windscreen with overhead roof) to finally live with result of a slight "high side" fit on one side of roof join (won't say which, judges see it soon enough!) This to ensure the fixed side glass fit clean on left, right of cockpit. Wanted to have the door glass slid open to show off interiors, whole point of this kit when I first got it since it looked so cool and complete. BeDazzled? Uh, yes. Do landing gear before canopy fitting, almost assured you'll break it all off while getting your glasses on. Now I originally intended to make the Czech AF Museum Mi-4 from provided markings which has camouflage on it. Proceeded lastly fitting landing gear and other bits as I outlined and planned on painting processes. So on went the wee antennae, aerals, (KP even gives you separately molded IFF three pole array for in front of windscreen) Carefully I liquid masked each of the bulged windows that took much care to glue hard to interior walls without clouding. In a test fit I'd popped two of them out. Thankful it didn't occur after adhesion, might've been nearly impossible to refit, repaint inside by then! Cleverly (I thought), then I liquid masked the sliding cockpit doors and lower cabin entrance door onto my Hound so I could paint all seamlessly. Yeah. After going crazy painting the underside blue twice and replacing broken aerals, applied the Euro I FS34092 green base coat then stopped. After long contemplation, saw no way I could satisfy myself how to complete irregular camo patch scheme that my chosen Museum subject required. Many obstacles now appearing, seemed huge effort with dicey outcome. ARRGH. Bad time to change versions. However, as subtitled, I made peace with my well meant Czech canine. ONE scheme in kit was for CIVIL Mi-4, used by the Czech Agricultural Institute. Lucky me, it too had unarmed gondola just like Museum bird. Plus all those well detailed rocket racks/ pods wouldn't have to be dealt with.

Well painting a slightly different shade of green over my original just helped my Hound look a bit more worn. Peeling masking off didn't remove paint or parts, mounting the doors open went smoothly. Main rotor assembly did prove majorly taxing though. All the detail parts you could ask for but damnable fitting and alignment. Mind you this is not an H-19 sized bird, the rotor spread is impressive and unwieldy. Nice touch, pain to get the right symmetry for your eye is that KP "pre sags" the rotor blades. So, applying the decals didn't trample my mood did it? No...after awhile I just remembered each one that settled down was one less step to FINISH! My Civil Hound is happily housed now and awaits company in form of a Hare, Hoplite, Hip and Hind. Yes, despite my barking I'll easily recommend this Mil to any 1/72 Rotary Wingers looking for some different! - fini

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 04-18-08

Saturday, April 19 2008

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 details, contact Chris Bucholtz at (510)769-8316 or e-mail him at bucholtzc@aol.com, or visit the club website www.svsm.org.

Saturday, April 26 2008

IPMS/Las Vegas host "Best of the West" at the Marion Earl Elementary School, 6650 W. Reno Avenue Las Vegas NV. For details, contact Johnny Galza , phone 702 658 6029 .

Sunday, May 4 2008

IPMS/Puget Sound Auto Modelers Association host at the Puyallup Elks, 314 27th St NE Puyallup WA .

Saturday, June 14 2008

IPMS/ Ontario host "Region 8 Minicon 2008" at City of Ontario Senior Center, 225 E. B Street, Ontario CA.

Saturday, June 21 2008

IPMS/San Diego host "Region 8 San Diego Model Expo '08 Model Contest & Raffle" at San Diego Air & Space Museum Annex. Gillespie Field, 335 Kenney Street El Cajon, CA. Call Rich Durham 619-669-1609

Sunday, July 27 2008

IPMS/Dragon Lady present their Dragonlady Model Classic at the Plaza Room, 210 Julie Drive, Yuba City CA Theme for this event is "Speed". Special guest speakers are planned including a former SR-71 pilot and a former Test Pilot/Race Pilot For information contact Don Terbush (530) 674-8194, Harold Osborn (530) 635-3036. Additionally you can email them at ipmsdragonlady@yahoo.com or myspace.com/ipmsdragonlady.

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 For more information, go to website www.kcscalemodelers.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 for more info about sponsoring a category.

Saturday, October 18 2008

IPMS/Fremont Hornets host their "Tri City Classic V" at the Newark Community Center, 35501 Cedar Blvd, Newark CA. Theme is "The French Connection" with several special awards keyed to this as well as numerous "Best" in category. More details will be announced as the year unfolds and their website will also have updates.

Saturday, November 1 2008

The Antelope Valley Group presents Desert Classic XII at Antelope Valley College, 3041 West Avenue K in Lancaster, CA. For more details contact Mike Valdez at (661) 304-4941 or e-mail at mikevaldez151@msn.com or visit the club website at www.avg-ipms.org.

NEXT MEETING:

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

APRIL 18

At the

Milpitas Library Community Room

40 N. Milpitas Blvd

Milpitas, CA

EDITOR
SILICON VALLEY SCALE MODELERS
P.O. BOX 361644
MILPITAS CA 95036
Contact: email editor@svsm.org

