



THE STYRENE SHEET

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

2 DAYS OF SVSM AT THE D & J SHIPYARDS



Make 'n Take at Summer Sidewalk Sale
By Undaunted Modeler



We again were asked if we would provide the expertise and human support this year for the Model Make and Take at D & J Hobby's annual Summer Sidewalk Sale. Last year we had quite a success in this effort, amazingly this time we exceeded ourselves with far fewer souls on board. The few, the proud, the very tired were: Mick Burton (the author of this), Laramie Wright (he who coordinated the program) and Randy Ray, still mint fresh new civilian from his LONG and appreciated stint as SVSM President. Mick managed to hog most of the shift, incoming modeler traffic on Saturday, until Randy showed to relieve him (or was it revive?)

Sunday saw Mick arrive first, then Laramie and Randy later. Both days saw impressive numbers of first time and "only did this when I was a kid, when they come out with this "snap tite" stuff?" model make and takers. Saturday was dominated by snap fit F-14s, Space Shuttles with a smattering of A-10 Warhogs for the daring. There were some impressed into (well they did ask me if I had anything else) building without a net (aka decals or instructions or even a box to guide by) building some cars and a plane leftover from last year. Sunday was the "LST Shipyards" and Bonneville Salt Racer Fest in large part, with only Shuttles left in snaptite box. So we had fine LARGE turnout of "gluebies" who mastered the tiny 40 plus year old molds of Hawk under now Testor box of the bedeviling LST without fear and much smiling fun. The racers were old rubber band toy models, now alas, without the vital guts to make the motor. Both kit types provided us much amusement relating their actual history as models and as subjects to our building audience (this from their feedback, I am telling you true) plus s being much good introduction to art and science of model building. At least ELEVEN of miniature LST models were launched that Sunday, along with a good quantity of blue/yellow/red "Sal Flat Racers" and snapped Space Shuttles. Promotion of the hobby, the local club community, the hobby shop who provides us all with chances to share great times was certainly generously provided to all who came and participated. Most importantly, the fun alongside concept if you're having fun, you're doing it right as can be, was abundantly shared and felt. Thanks to D & J for providing the kits and the opportunity. WE THANK YOU and so do all who came by. -mick fini

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

Well by the time most of you are reading this, I'll be safely ensconced in the state of Ohio where I can't hear the groans or be struck by stray brickbats. This fortune due entirely to the generosity of one of our club members, who lent me the means and did all the frustrating arrangements for our trip. I won't be just playing though, for it's the 2009 IPMS-USA Nationals I am talking about. First time to the area of Columbus/Dayton for me was in 1997, coincidentally for same event. Worked the show then too, helping sell our upcoming 1998 event of the same order. Second time out I will get to do my own photo ops, with luck may now know how to use a digital camera, and USAF History Museum of course is my Holy Grail of effort.

This is the second shot at hosting Nationals for the club in Ohio, I'll of course be curious how they are enjoying it now that we both have "veteran status" to compare notes within. Truly exciting, in many ways which escape my fingers trying to put words to screen/paper, but if you were part of Santa Clara 1998 or have dug in at any of our larger Region 9 contest events, I think you get what is subtext. There is a goodly number from Bay Area going to this year's show, delightful company all.

If you aren't attending, no worry, there will be innumerable recountings from every angle and shade as always in the post Show months to come. If you are a very new member to our group, ask around about best realtime links to visit, for so so SO many folks now have blogs and linked in personal websites that produce much mirth and of course notoriety too while The Nats are underway. Not my thing, best spend time in real time trying desperately not to try to see and do everything at The Show. That's what friends are for! Tell you what you missed, who got kissed, who got hissed while you were off in a corner being royally pissed. Due to not arriving at some legendary vendor table in time to get something impossible to build at a price you only can tell yourself you can afford when your other half is indisposed ☺ Naaah. I learned not to do that...

In the end, the one truly GREAT and NECESSARY reason to attend these big shows: To be with your old and soon to be newfound friends, at the once in a lifetime each time party, for us odd sods who do this hobby. When those trophies, if any come home with you, have been long dusty and forgotten, the "had to have never seen again purchases" have joined their closeted brethren, the memories of special times with special folk who know you are like them and they you, remain aflame to inspire and ire you to do it...one more time! Hope you all back here have as fun a meeting as we always do, to tell me of.

ANNOUNCING CLUB "FUN-TESTS" FOR SUMMER 2009 & BEYOND

" Special Delivery - HOT AUGUST NIGHTS " for our August 2009 meeting

Eligible subjects are: ANY SCALE, FINISHED, Nuclear Weapon or Special Weapons delivery vehicles. Get those Bock's Car (s) jamming the tables with Enola Gay. Let Little Boy or Fat Man show up for a chance at a prize, smash the atomic structure of styrene into completion for that Thunderstreak with the "special weapon" underwing. Honest John looks so much better built up, same for those Mirage IVAs, B-36s, B-47s, B-58s just languishing in your closet!



" Battle of Britain " SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME for September 2009

Eligible: Any scale, finished: Air Land or Sea subject suitably employed in the summer and fall months that comprise "Their Finest Hour". Summer to September 1940 is a good working frame if you like specifics. At least Hurri Up, as them bloody Heinkels are coming. You better Spitfire at them Fokkers I mean Messerschmitts

IT's " T " TIME! SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME for NOVEMBER 2009



Eligible: Any scale, finished subjects as outlined: Autos that have "T" names such as Toronado, Tempest, Tiger, Torino, Talledega, etc. Aircraft that are "T" named such as Tomcat, Tempest, Tigercat, Thunderjet, etc. Plus of course "T" for Trainer mission aircraft. Armor builders may also rejoice, of course. Eligible are Tigers, all manner of Soviet "T" tanks (T-34, 55, 74 among them) USA T-26 Pershings, etc. Maritime and Prehistoric buffs need not feel slighted, Typhoons, Ticonderoga, Triceratops or a T-Rex all are fair game as quick examples. Figure and Fantasy/SciFi builders, please! Show us your imaginative entry sense. As this will be the last chance in 2009 for us to have an in house club contest, The SVSM editor is offering up to 9 awards if attendance warrants them all

July 2009 SVSM MEETING as recorded by Mr Chris Bucholtz (with minor edits by yours truly)

At the July meeting, Steve Travis gave us an update on the veterans hospital model program. Three major donations of models came in from Robert Morgan (50 kits), Daniel Quand (70 kits) and James Carpenter of Berkeley Ace Hardware (a major donation of make-and-take models and a large \$100 ship kit, plus seven boxes of models). Through these donations and others like them, we can keep the veterans hospitals of Northern California well supplied with snap-together models for their rehabilitative programs. Thanks!

MODEL TALK

In Model Talk... Michael Connelly plans on using Fisher's conversion to turn Trumpeter's 1:32 F-8E Crusader into an F-8C. The Trumpeter kit has lots of odd features - like photoetched turbine blades that you can't see once it's installed - but it promises to be a rather nice Crusader once done. Chris Bucholtz brought in three WWII-era ship ID models - the Yorktown, the Alaska and the Richmond - from a collection of 53 similar metal models he was given by his wife's aunt. The models were mass-produced during the war - an estimated 10 million were made - but today they are highly collectible. Chris is making progress on several models in 1:72 - an Academy P-40E, a Tamiya P-51D mounting the Obscureco wing and D-5 conversion, his Martin Maryland, which finally has paint on it, and the interior parts for Special Hobby's Fairey Firefly FR.V and FineMolds' A6M2 Type 21.

Gabriel Lee's own 1:72 P-40, which will be finished in Brazilian markings, is coming right along, and he has another fantasy plane in the works, this one a jet with the rear of an Airfix Saab Draken grafted to the nose of an F-20 Tigershark, plus parts from a Gripen and an F/A-18. A Saab Kraken, perhaps? Randy Ray's StuG III from DML has the waffle pattern zimmerit already scribed on it. It goes together well, but the tracks require an undue amount of clean-up. Rich Linderer says his Czech Resin Fiat Ansaldo CV-35 had mediocre fit, mediocre instructions, and mediocre detail, but you couldn't tell that from his final product. He built his 1:72 tankette in just three days. Kent McClure is pounding away at his Hasegawa P-40M in 1:72, and he has an Otaki 1:48 F6F Hellcat almost ready for display, although he complains that he messed up the drop tank supports. Kent had some fun with RPM's T-38, and the Internet saved him from making a lot of detail omissions. He's also hard at work on a white metal Alfa Romeo T-33 in 1:43 scale. Alan Weber is working to convert Trumpeter's 1:32 F8F Bearcat into Lyle Shelton's racer in 1969; he still has to make the DC-7-style prop and spinner for the model. He's also added Nautilus Models' wooden flight deck of Hasegawa's 1:700 U.S.S. Hancock, and he added some unused Dragon weapons to the older model. It's the first time Alan's used photetched parts on a ship. Ben Pada showed his usual degree of excellence with his Tamiya 1:48 Bf 109E, finished in Gunze Sangyo paints, and his Tamiya P-51D Mustang is finally on its gear after getting a metal coat of Alclad. He used his usual Gunze Sangyo approach on his masterful Horton Ho 229 two-seater, but he veered away from his routine with an AMT '36 Plymouth, which he describes as "crude." The model now has boxed-in wheel wells and scratch-built shock absorbers thanks to Ben's efforts.

Woody Yeung is taking the Fremont Hornets P-40 contest very seriously, with three Hasegawa 1:32 P-40s, two 1:48 P-40s and a Revell P-40B in the works. Woody likes the detail in the Hasegawa kits, but the multi-part mold strategy has left him a lot of seams and joints to clean up. When AMS set in, Woody defeated it by building a Fujimi Fw 190 straight from the box. He also is having a tussle with ICM's Bf 109 in 1:48; he says it's also over-engineered and its fit is bad.

Chris Hughes was pleased as punch when Vulcan's 2-pounder gun came out; he says the model has good fit and great detail. Shervin Shembayati is taking a different approach to his Academy F/A-18, decalling and spot painting it before final assembly. He's used Xtracolors to match some of the colorful blue markings provided in the kit. Roy Sutherland needed a base for his new bonus 1:144 Barracudacals for the P-47, so he grabbed Platz' wonderful little kit and built it up. He says the model does not have much interior but the engine is very nice. Roy's also working on a Hasegawa Spitfire IX in 1:72 as another decal horse, this one an HF.VII with the high-altitude wingtips which participated in Operation Starkey over Calais. He also has a 1:48 Tamiya Crusader I ready for painting. Paul Ward built Revell's venerable Fokker DR.I and then applied a hand-painted finish to replicate streaked doped linen, aiming to recreate Werner Voss' plane. This month's batch of rare and unusual models from Jim Lund included a Classic Planes AEG covered in Americal Gryphon lozenge decal, and a Classic Planes Junkers J.10CL. The fact that these were all vacuformed kits was a difficult-to-ascertain secret! Frank Babbitt is nearing completion of his Heller Mirage IV, which has completely re-scribed panel lines and decals from IPMS France, and his Heller Noratlas - also totally rescribed - is resplendent in its Djibouti-theater camouflage. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the moon landing, Pete Nardo displayed his build on Monogram's classic 1:48 Lunar Module and Command Service Module. Postoria Aguirre is embarked on something a little different - a build of Guillows' 1:77 balsa wood Spae Shuttle. He says it's a complex model with lots of working surfaces and vacuformed pieces for certain parts. Ron Wergin took a break from reality to build a nice Luftwaffe 1946 project in 1:72 from a Huma kit. Cliff Kranz cut open the nose and tail of Otaki's 1:144 C-5A and installed a full cargo bay into the venerable model. He also took great joy in Dragon's new 1:3 M14 rifle, which replicates one he carried while in the army. Cliff's other projects this month were an Accurate Miniatures RQ-1 Predator with two Hellfire missiles and Maquette's Su76M self-propelled gun.

And the model of the month goes to... Jim Lund and his Contrail Zeppelin Staken RV.I. Jim built his long before the Roden kit was available and used Americal Gryphon decals to replicate the lozenge fabric on the wings.

In our contest this month, the theme was "Red White and Blue."



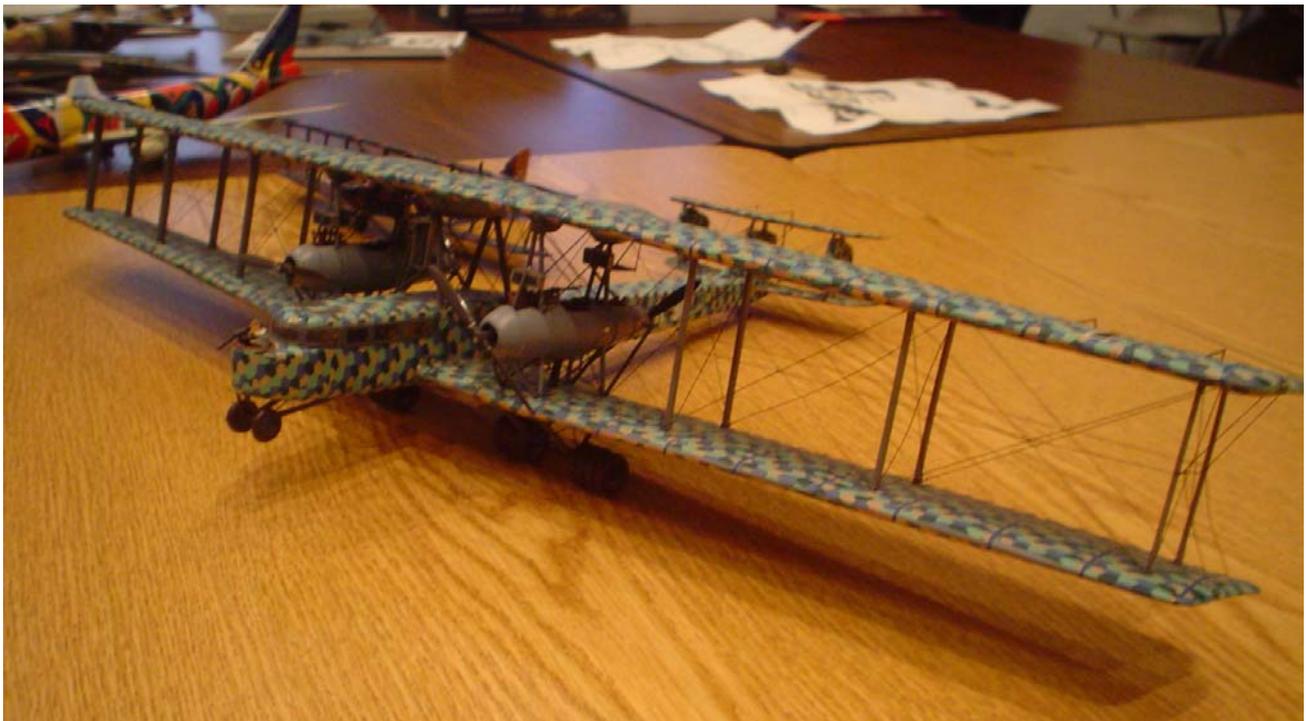
Eric McClure built the 1:43 Starter Ford Mustang GTP a while ago - for the San Diego IPMS USA Nationals!

Cliff Kranz built a 1:48 Fairey Barracuda and installed a Hemi engine into it, making it a Hem-powered Barracuda! It qualified for the contest with its metallic blue finish.

Rich Linderer built a Rosskopf kit of the Mann 5-ton truck and outfitted it with Roco decals to replicate an all-white U.N. relief truck. Bill Ferrante built Matchbox's Dornier Do 228 out of the box and gave it a white air ambulance scheme. Dave Marzola built a colorful T-33 from the Hasegawa kit, and finished it in a natural metal scheme with Alclad. He also built Matchbox's 1:48 FJ-4B in the bright markings of Carrier Air Task Group 1. Mike Burton's patriotically-painted models included a red Country Time NASCAR Pontiac, the all-white 1:48 Hawk "Ike" race plane, Revell's take on Felicity Shagwell's Corvette, a Johan Plymouth Barracuda in Sox & Martin colors, a Hasegawa 1:72 F6F Hellcat painted as the very first Blue Angel, and Revell's somewhat brutal kit of Mickey Thompson's Challenger 1. And the winners were... In third place, Kent McClure used a Record resin kit to craft an immaculate Porsche CKS. In second place, Bill Ferrante took his Christmas gift exchange Academy Me 163 and finished it as the all-red Komet that made the type's first operational flight. And in first place, with a Special Hobby X-1E, was also Bill Ferrante; he built the model straight from the box.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Jim Lund



FOR WINNING JULY MODEL OF THE MONTH

**Now, A Look Back at ...
Our July 2009 SVSM
Red, White & Blue Contest**



Cliff Kranz's spirited Anglo American entry



Sadly, no record of who brought this lovely red racer!



1st Place Winner Bill Ferrante's Bell X-1E (Special Hobby)



2nd Place: Komet Me-163, by Bill Ferrante (Heller)

(One might wonder how things may have turned out in a certain civil war, had Bill been around in the 1920s as a military leader. Well done comrade, you managed to make that little comet suck money out of my wallet three times this year ☺)

3rd Place: Kent McClure #5 Porsche Cartier race car



and to the right, Dave Marzola's sweet FJ-4 Fury in 1/48th



Though I didn't have anything new, did bring supporting entries! At left, the well named "Challenger I" LSR car, body built off the chassis since it fits (NOT!) '70 'Cuda tricolor drag racer, Felicity's Made In America Vette (GO CHEVY). In front of that, the old Hawk kit of Howard's "Ike" air racer. Finally, Blue Angel # 1, their first F6F Hellcat, using Hasegawa kit. My thanks to Judges: Shervin S, Jim P, Frank B. *-Mick fini*

"Presidential Ramblings" by Kent McClure

Well, here it is – another month and another installment of Presidential Ramblings. Hey, what can I say? You get what you paid for. Oh, you didn't pay anything? Well, you got what you deserve then. Anyway, getting back to where I was headed (and there are those who wonder why I bother), I recently had my annual - once a decade –physical, where I heard those wonderful words “I think you could use some exercise. Any reason why you don't?” Well, I can tell you that I could come up with a number of reasons why I don't – not enough time in the day, too busy with every day chores, I'm tired when I get home from work. You know the drill. Fact is, I'm just too lazy.

Now you may be wondering what this all has to do with modeling? Well, I'm getting there. It's just that I'm taking the scenic route. Now, getting back to the point (he's got a point?), I noticed that my modeling also seems to be getting lazy. It's getting harder and harder to drag out the tools and sit down to work on something. I'm in a “modeler's funk”. I need some **exercise**.

So what can of exercise can you do? Well, I know there are times that you want to use your most current kit as a piñata (come on, I know you do! We all do!), but that's not the type of exercise that I'm talking about. I'm talking about exercise to get you out of “your comfort zone”. How about trying to build in a genre that you normally don't? Let's say that you build nothing but tanks. Okay, then go out and build an airplane. Or a ship. Or, let's get real crazy here, a Gundam. Sure, you're still utilizing basic techniques but now you're stretching out and applying them in a different way. Maybe switching categories is a little too radical for your tastes?

Then change scale. Let's say you build only quarter inch P-40's (now who in the world would do that ☺). Switch down to 72nd. You'll learn a whole new way of MacGyvering things so cockpits and wheel wells look busy and not be. Or go the other direction and jump up to 32nd.

Now you'll realize that what was a little error in 72nd scale is now a **HUGE** error. You may even learn how to scratchbuild items with more fidelity because now a toggle switch has to look like a toggle switch, not just a piece of stretched sprue.

There are other ways to stretch your limits. Do a kit in a different nationality than it came in or what you're used to building. Or try a resin kit. Or a vacuform. Or pick up a kit from the early days of modeling and try to make that sow's ear into a silk purse. I'll guarantee that you will expand your modeling capabilities if you give it a try. Maybe even find out something about yourself (like how much you've expanded your vocabulary since you started this project).

Maybe this all sounds too difficult and daunting. Well, there is one thing that you can do that is really easy - volunteer to judge. I'm not suggesting that you jump right in and become a head judge at a local or regional contest. No, I'm saying start off volunteering to be part of the judging team at one of our in-house club contests. Or, if you are really brave, start by being a member of one of the judging teams in our local contest. You will be amazed at what you can learn – everything from the basics to some of the more complex techniques like metal finishes or weathering. You can even learn how to disguise mistakes – or at least how not to make them look so prominent. And don't be afraid to ask questions. The only really dumb question is the one that goes unasked.

Well that's it for this month's ramblings. Get out there and do some “exercises”. As for me? Well, I got this “piñata” that's just calling out to me. So it's “game time”.

Until next month, have fun and hope to see you at the meeting. Ciao for now. – *Kent Fini*

“ F is for February ” SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME for FEBRUARY 2010

Eligible: Any scale, finished: F is for Fighter, Ford or Frigate. Or any Fallschirmjager, Fantasy Fraulein, or Frankenstein. Or F is for Foto recon aircraft, or Firefly or Ferdinand or Ferrari ... I trust everyone who wants to furiously compete can find something suitably “F'd” enough to suit them.



For example, here's shot of two potential Entrants underway now Works in progress, but definitely fit into the stated theme



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 08-21-09

Saturday, September 12 2009

IPMS Reno High Rollers present their 10th Annual contest which will be held at Desert Heights Elementary School, 13948 Mt. Bismark St. Reno, NV. For more information see their site at www.renohighrollers.com or contact Douglas E. Summers at 775-835-0140. Theme is Baby Boomers, wide open number of potential entries!

Saturday, September 19 2009

Oregon Historical Modelers Society present Evergreen Air & Space Museum Show and Contest 2009 Held at the Evergreen Air& Space Museum, 500 NE Michael King Smith Way McMinnville, OR, They are offering 66 categories of competition, large number of vendor tables. Featuring of course marvelous museum exhibits, all entrants and spectators will have to pay at least minimum (1 wing) museum admit. more information contact [Brian Yee at 503-309-6137 or E-MAIL: byee1959@gmail.com](mailto:byee1959@gmail.com) or see Website <http://www.geocities.com/oregonshow>

Saturday, October 17 2009

IPMS/Fremont Hornets host Tri City Classic 6 at the Newark Community Center, 33501 Cedar Boulevard, Newark CA. Theme is "From Russia With Love" this year, with several special 'theme' awards as well as 43 categories of competition planned. For details or vendor table data, email daze61283@mypacks.net .

Saturday, October 17 2009

IPMS/Orange County host ORANGECON 2009 at CSU Fullerton campus, in Titan University Conference Center, 800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton CA. For more information, see their website at www.ipmsoc.org

Saturday, November 7 2009

IPMS/Antelope Valley Group present their event Desert Classic 15 at the Antelope Valley College, Lancaster CA. Theme is "Land of the Rising Sun". Plenty of other special awards to vie for as well.

Saturday, November 14 2009

IPMS/Craig Hewitt present their ModelZona 2009 at the CAF Museum, 2017 N. Greenfield Rd, Mesa, AZ .

Saturday, November 14 2009

IPMS/Region 9 present "Travis Scale Model Expo" at Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum, Travis AFB, Fairfield, CA. It's a Model Exposition, not contest! For details, contact Chris Bucholtz @bucholtzcc@aol.com or see our website www.scalemodelexpo.com

Saturday, December 5 2009

IPMS/Silver Wings present their event Winter Classic 2009 at the Joseph Kerr Middle School 8865 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, CA. For details, contact Art Silen email artsilen@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, February 20 2010

IPMS/Santa Rosa will hold Hobby Expo 2010 at Petaluma Community Center 320 North McDowell Blvd in Petaluma. Fore more information go to their website at www.ipmssantarosa.org or contact John Admire.

Saturday, March 20 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers host their SVSM 2010 Kickoff Classic at Hall "B" of the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara CA. Theme is "News at Eleven..." - any subject from the last 10 years. Vendor contact: gregplummer@gregplummer.com, see also club website www.svsm.org

NEXT MEETING:

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

AUGUST 21

COMMUNITY ROOM

Milpitas Police Administration Building

1275 N. Milpitas Blvd

Milpitas, CA

