

# THE STYRENE SHEET

VOL. 44, No.2 <u>WWW.SVSM.ORG</u> February 2010



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

### **HOLY LEFT HOOK! "CAP" TURNS 70 THIS YEAR!**

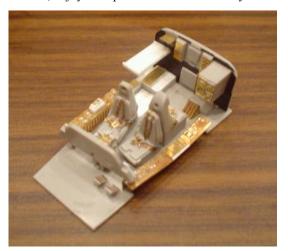


Reflections on a Golden Age Super Hero By Mick Burton

Thanks to Spiderman, Iron Man, the X-Men along with that green man The Incredible Hulk reaching sufficient mass cinematic audience, Marvel Comics and their progeny have become cultural fabric. They owe a big debt of thanks to the gentleman in the tricolor outfit above on right, in my book. Like Austin Powers, he is a "man of mystery" with no less than 12 "origin stories" to his credit. First born in December, 1940 *(continued on page 3)* 

#### **Editor's Ravings** — this month's editor, Mick Burton

Banzai! A short but oh so busy month this one! Timing is indeed, everything, and 28 days pass far too fast especially when falling as they do this particular year. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century precedes two powerhouse kickoffs of our model year, which of course I am not nearly as prepared for as forecasted I would be. I am speaking of the spectacular Saturday extravaganza known as the Model Expo 2010 put on by Santa Rosa and Diablo IPMS Chapters which now launch us in Region 9. Followed the very next day by NNL West's Model Car Show and WCME. Both of these are dearly looked forward to and NOT TO BE MISSED. I get exhausted just writing/thinking of it Hope to see many of you enjoying them Next month is no resting on laurels or otherwise, as our own yearly show will be day after our March meeting, and all that remains following it. Thanks for and to all who consistently contribute their time, effort as I am constantly reminded that it is our community that makes these events happen. More importantly, you all are what makes them so damn much fun. OK I really don't have any more editorial excess to indulge in here this month. It's my birthday this weekend I wrote this plus a cover piece, so you've suffered plenty already. Life is short and fragile enough, you'll know how I was reminded soon... Instead, enjoy here pics I took of two of my favorite surprises that were on January's meeting table. Thanks y'all —mick 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.



FACTUAL OR



**FIGURES** 

**FICTIONAL** 

OR
YOUR
FAVORITE
FASTBACK





#### Best Wishes Captain America on your 7th Decade's horizon (continued from page 1)

as Steve Rogers, "a gangly youth, a volunteer who just that day had failed his US Army Pre-induction physical "(from Captain America Comics #1). Transformed by secret chemical formulas into first of a hoped for corps of super secret agents for combating internal saboteur threats from the evil Axis. One of whom in fact was present at his "origin" and destroyed any chance for more members of his particular heroic caste. By eliminating the genius who created the chemicals plus the only vial of formula left after Steve Rogers was "super sized". In this same comic issue began Captain America's battle with The Red Skull, himself a man of mystery. Rumored to have begun life as a hotel bellboy, personally selected by Adolf Hitler for proving trials of "super indoctrination techniques" intended to create his "Nazi Supermen".

I knew next to none of this when I first encountered Cap and Red as a pre-teen. However their linkage to World War Two, which was firing my model building imagination at the time, certainly cemented them in my psyche from then on. So, having built a substantial amount of "next to useless knowledge" reading their exploits for years then, ( later returning to meet them again, in my studies about any chance to become a comic artist) not hard to conceive why encountering this kit of them was an easy sale to me. Made even more urgent when I was informed (aka forewarned) that these Horizon hard styrene kits were far from the gems that most of their brethren larger scale vinyl kit counterparts had become. In fact I was given good advice that even the hardiest figure modelers shied away from these styrenes as being far too much trouble, that scratch building the subjects could be said to be less hassle. As a long time vac form aircraft model aficionado, this was just the sweet toxin to seduce me to buy.

The Model, as a build: Okay, since it has been now a good number of years since I built this kit, all I can relay is that it is a Horizon Models kit, 1/12 scale, and part of a series of Marvel Comics characters they held licence to mold for sale in this medium of hard injected mold styrene. More or less intended to reach an audience they might not get with their fine kits of soft vinyl, of which I had attempted by then three (Silver Surfer, Spider Man, and original Terminator) and finished one. I began by dryfitting, taping together the two figures of Red Skull and Captain America. That indeed sobered me up with the reality I'd been promised, that these weren't any great bargains for the price became pretty clear, but also a challenge still.



Leaving the mostly finished construction figures aside, I soothed my disappointment with what was clearly going to end up a slow hard go by setting project aside for some two years. When I came back it was due to fact I'd work out some issues with Alclad and my then fave metal spray, Testors Metalizer Non Buff Alum. Yes, this model ended up getting finished so I could try out finish techniques for making "metal plates", "old concrete" and other uncommon items to add to my usual modelling skill set with less emotional investment. Playing a mind trick yes, but very useful. At right you can see the nearly finished base with pipes, diamond tread plate, the odd grilles and large machinery casings all done to finishes I'd never been able to capture before for my own modelling needs but had long admired, judged in others plenty enough before. My big

Captain America managed being cemented first, due mostly to better of two poor fits. Worst areas were the two part arm sets, joining at torso, which had to be carefully filed and blended by sanding after. Next worst was head halves since ears were split on the seams, as you see it can be overcome by figure modeler novice (moi). Sorry, no pics of Red Skull in progress were to be taken by me, but he was nasty bit of work every step with a smaller parts count. Most problems were with poor blending options of his clothing, and what seemed to be impossible to blend in "realistically" (yes, in 3-D comic reality still exists) his "busted open jaw" to the elongated skull main body.



fret by this point? How could I get the two piece skull that goes into a sealed clear container to look proper when it was supposed to be "wet" and how also to somehow not have viewer wonder as I was, why the hell the damned thing was seeming to be happy as all get out to be in that place? After all, The Red Skull was evil incarnate and he'd have to been up

to some sort of no good with this creature's remains, no?

In the end, I realized the view once main figures were in place would eliminate most of my misperception of what viewers would see, and I left things to be. Look at the picture I took though, and see if you think that skull has a suspiciously silly grin on his mug...

Happy with how my mix of acrylic grays and blacks and browns blended with the Alclad aluminum, Metalizer on my base, I proceeded to determine what would obtain the proper "comic character now in 3-D" in painting for the figures. I settled on flat olive enamel with acrylic flat black washes for Red Skull's uniform, burnished here or there with finger oils and paper towels to break up mono chroma effect. Semigloss black acrylic boots, glossy red acrylic (Guards Red) for his head, voila. Now Captain, I must get you right and you're harder to manage. Insignia Blue far too dark, comic book shade closer to USAAC 1930s blue which I chose from Polly S line to use. Red boots were same source as Red Skull's carmine, but the uniform and Cap's shield were Insignia Red acrylics in flat finish. Later I went over the stripes of uniform with a darker enamel red with a wash dilution, and ended up with accents of flat black to make it more like the comic appearance which definitely helped models to my eye.

Real challenge for me in the end which worked out: The flesh for Captain America's face and ears exposed to a bare but critical minimum. Acrylics, layered, Israeli Tan being one I recalled using. The eyes were also objects I still get trepidation seeking to get right, managed here.





Last but far from least, and in the end, finished shield of the Captain America figure. Red, White, Blue with circular and star patterns that you know you must get pretty well right or you will lose your viewer's eye/belief in no time. I managed to satisfy myself end result was "real" by combining efforts to hand paint a recovery of a bad job of multiple attempts to get the tricolor pattern to a concept it was "realistic weathering". In comic terms it was almost ludicrous, but since this was model interpreting a 2-D world, it made some sense. Like clear styrene wings for Cap's uniform must have to the mold design team. I have to this day no idea why they chose to use undyed styrene for those parts, other than maybe they realized they'd forgot these important detail parts and added them to mold for that bizarre skull container. But they painted up just fine.

Like my last minute rendering of rationale for painting of my "battle scarred shield, it just works if you don't spend time on (or in) analysis. So, there you have it. Not exactly a model review, like I said, it's a reflection on a Golden Age Superhero and his eternal foe.

But ya gotta admit, Steve's got quite a punch for someone who's about to turn 70. However, I can't help feeling today

he'd be up on charges somehow for "elder abuse", even though it's that Evil Red Skull he's deservedly decking. -mick fini

#### January 2010 SVSM MEETING as recorded by Mr Chris Bucholtz (with minor edits by yours truly)

At the January meeting, Steve Travis reported a major donation from John Bruns – and better yet, it's a donation that can be added to our kit drive incrementally, meaning that storage will not be a problem. Mike Burton reminded us of a series of upcoming contests – Santa Rosa on February 20, our contest on March 20, the Regional in Stockton on April 11, and contests in Las Vegas in May, San Diego in June, the Phoenix nationals in August and OrangeCon in October.

#### MODEL TALK

In Model Talk... Jim Priete had to make some modifications to the obliquely-firing cannons in his Tamiya Ki-43 "Dinah," because the kit's were very undersized. He used a 1:35 20mm gun's breech, some 1:48 gun barrels and the kit's flash suppressors, gaining a more in-scale set of guns. Jim's also using the Flightpath conversion to turn Airfix's 1:72 Vulcan B.2 back to a B.1; he's already rescribed the entire model. Cliff Kranz latest rendition of the classic Monogram Mosquito was painted with old Pactra paints, giving it that old model smell. He's also completed Maquette's Su-7 self-propelled gun, which he outfitted with a set of Fruil tracks that cost three times what the kit cost, and he's pledged to finish his newlystarted Tauro A7V tank this year. Dave Balderrama built the Buck Rogers star fighter so long ago that the series was still in its first run on network television. Mark Balderrama's HobbyBoss F4U Corsair is of a more recent vintage; he's put a single day in on his model, which he received at the gift exchange in December. Lou Orselli is putting in a lot of work on a 1:48 Hobbycraft P-51D, which he says is Airfix-like, with huge rivets. Lou's also built an Italeri RAH-66 Comanche experimental helicopter in 1:72; he left off the stub wings for a meaner look. Richard Linder is also looking back in time, building the Frog Polikarpov I-16 and Miles Magister virtually out of the box. While the molds are worn, the models looked fairly good. John Carr had a couple of headless large-scale figures on the table, a Dragon kit of a trooper from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division which was assembled, and a Dragon figure of a German 13<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division gunner whose complex camouflage uniform is painted. The kits were not bad, but John said he had to do a lot of work to restore detail lost in the seam and flash clean-up process. John's also getting into Trumpeter's 1:350 S-100 Schnellboot, and he's wondering just how much detail he should put into his finished model. Ron Wergin built Tamiya's 1:35 Jagdtiger directly from the box, but he may not give Airfix's new 1:72 Spitfire the same treatment. He was astonished that the new model had no detail in the wheel wells, and that the pilot was wearing a decidedly non-RAF crash helmet – the same as every other Airfix pilot of recent vintage! Laramie Wright's 90-day wonder will be Italeri's 1:35 StuG III, which he says is nice despite its age. Laramie's newer Dragon StuG III (early) is a little farther along than its Italian cousin. Laramie says the Tasca Sherman V is beautiful if overpriced. It has a reasonable amount of photoeched detail included, but the articulated suspension is driving Laramie crazy. Greg Plummer's next project is the Tamiya 1:32 Spitfire IXe, which is probably a lot of people's next project. Mark Hernandez is also working in 1:32, although his subject is a Shinden by new company Zoukei-Mura Inc. The canard fighter includes a complete engine, canopy masks, and, depending on how many kits you order, a selection of figures. Ben Pada used his usual formula – Gunze Sangyo paints, AeroMaster decals – to finish his lovely Hasegawa A6M5. Ben's Zero represents an example at Saipan during 1944. Chris Bucholtz completed his Academy P-40E in the markings of Lt. Jim Morehead at Darwin in 1942 with the aid of some parts from the Hasegawa 1:72 kit, a Falcon sliding canopy and interior parts from True Details and Eduard. His FineMolds A6M2 Zero fits really well, and basic airframe is complete following his superdetailing of the cockpit. Chris is also working on a master for an interior for the Douglas A-3 Skywarrior. The plane evolved a great deal over the duration of its service, so getting a versatile cockpit will require alternate parts. Ken Miller's 1:8 Dodge Hemi engine was nearly complete for a long time, so he decided to finish it off. It's complete now, even with its sound effects generator. In the engine box, he found two more models – small airliners from F-Toys, a 727 and a 737 – which came pre-assembled and needed only decals and landing gear. Kent McClure passed up a 1:43 VdeCR metal kit of the 1961 Birdcage Maserati at last year's NNL and regretted it, but he found one like it on eBay. In fact, once he bought it, he discovered it was the very kit he passed up! Kent also brought in some resin "hair balls," or evil carnivorous rabbits, and a display of 1:72 figures from an assortment of manufacturers. Gabriel Lee found a way to make a Venezuelan Fokker D.VII OAW – he found decals from Aztek for the planes flown by Carlos Meyer Baldo, who flew with the Germans during World War II. He has an Airfix Canberra in the works that will depict a Venezuelan machine hijacked to Cuba, and his camouflaged 1:72 Matchbox T-2C Buckeye is coming along. The decals for a Venezuelan T-2 Buckeye from S&M, left out the bars on the Venezuelan insignia! Gabriel's also at work on Anakin's Jedi Fighter and the Fine Molds 1:72 X-Wing, a P-40E in Brazilian markings (to replace an earlier effort that went awry), a Kfir C.2 in 1:72 that will wear Colombian colors, and a Special Hobbies F-86K Sabre that already has its Venezuelan markings. Mike Woolson found that HobbyBoss's AH-1 Cobra needed some attention to remedy its seams, and it had some odd decals, but it went together just the same. Frank Babbitt also has his mind set on a 1:32 Spitfire – only his is the Hasegawa Mk. Vb, which he has rescribed and dressed up with Eduard detail parts. Mike Burton found he had to put a lot of weight in the nose of his Monogram 1:48 MiG-15, which doesn't need a jet engine to be loud thanks to its Korean War tiger-striped camouflage scheme. Mike also discovered the need for much nose weight in his Smer 1:48 MiG-17. He's almost completed his collection of Soviet air to surface missiles, which now has an A-Model AS-1 "Kennel" (finished as a drone), an AS-2 "Kipper" taken from the Trumpeter "special edition" Badger "C", an A-Model AS-3 "Kangaroo," an AS-4 "Kitchen" stolen from the Esci Tu-22 Blinder "B", and an AS-6 "Kingfish," also purloined from the Badger. He still waits for the AS-5!

And the model of the month goes to... Mike Meek, who took High Planes' 1:72 "Mr. Awesome" Yak-11 racer and built it into a beautiful model, with a final scheme made with Tamiya spray can silver, Gunze Sangyo orange and Tamiya white.



Above, final total contestants for January. Far right, a most illogical "entry" (probably to "tee" me off...)

This month's club contest was "T Time!" Gabriel Lee built up Aoshima's 1:350 scale "Thunderbird 2," which looked lovely in its olive paint, and he also built Premiere's challenging T-37 Tucano, which he placed in Venezuelan markings. Laramie Wright brought in a 1:72 T-34/85 which, he discovered is motorized and he threatened to roll over the competition (literally!). Paul Bishop hauled out his 1:16 Trumpeter T-34, which he says is very nice despite its size, and if it gets dirty you can just take it outside and hose it off! Chris Bucholtz built Academy's 1:72 Tempest Mk. V as the plane flown by Warren "Smokey" Schrader while he commanded 486 RNZAF Squadron; he used a few bits from the Heller kit and an Obscureco interior. And the winners were... with an honorable mention for his two P-47Ds, Gabriel Lee. Gabriel built one as a Venezuelan Thunderbolt, and the other hails from Brazil. The second honorable mention went to Dave Marzola for his splendid Hasegawa Bf 109T. Dave used the kit-provided resin parts to extend the wingtips and add the slats to make his carrier fighter. In third place, with his Tamiya 1:48 P-47 Thunderbolt, was Ben Pada. Ben added a gunsight and finished the model in Alclad paints, then topped it off with AeroMaster markings. In second place, with his hypothetical F7F Tigercat racer "Miss Real Doll," was Mike Meek. Mike converted the AMT kit with cut-down props from a C-130 and Sea Fury spinners, plus a reconfigured fuselage featuring the rear of a T-33 canopy as the windscreen and custom-made markings done by Robin Powell. And in first place, with his HMS Thunderer, was Hanchang Kuo. It took him nine months to build the Combrig kit, but since the instructions were so bad, half of that was research! The model boasts a beautiful finished and an especially detailed boat deck.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO**





FOR WINNING JANUARY MODEL OF THE MONTH

#### "It's "T" TIME: Snapshot of our 2010 Inaugural Club Contest





Steaming away with First place award!

Congratulations to Hanchang Kuo for his HMS Thunderer World War One ship

In background you'll see Laramie Wright's 1/72 scale motored T-34 as escort vessel!



A "Real Doll" of a Tigercat

Mike Meek's Second place Contender was quite "racy"

A hybrid (Hypothetical and "Might Have Been") based on a planned but never built air racer from an F7F start. Mike's heated imagination, those spinners, could name have been anything else?





On left is our Third place Award winner. Ben Pada's lovely P-47D T-Bolt, done in a USAAF PTO scheme.

On right, Dave Marzola's Honorable Mention win, for his BF-109T. Done in rare Kriegsmarinewaffe "Atlantic" Theater Ops scheme...







Tempest V, Chris Bucholtz Honorable Mention "Thunder Venezola" A Model Gathering by Gabriel Lee



"Big T" 1/16 T-34, Paul Bishop

#### "The WAM Contest \*\* " SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME for MARCH 2010

# "Wonders Ancient & Modern, of Our Model World"

It is a riff from our past two years "90 Day Wonders" theme-ology, with an eye to clearing some backlogs...

Thusly, this contest is not open to entry by any prior year winners, my sincerest apologies

**MODERN WONDERS** are entries qualified by being COMPLETED SUBJECTS FROM THOSE you took home from the December 2009 SVSM Gift Exchange. Essentially 90 day Wonders and clearly Modern builds

**ANCIENT WONDERS** are entries qualified by COMPLETED SUBJECTS from *any* <u>prior</u> year's SVSM Gift Exchange, and we do have fairly sufficient records for at least the last 5 years to check you, so play fair! Finally an excuse to try to complete that bloody project from past attempts to finish in 90 days and maybe win award(s)

\*\* Nickname due to long winded original

# \*\*\* SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME APRIL 2010 "Ready for Tomorrow?"

\*\*\* Not a "futurist theme contest" but a teasing challenge for those seeking to complete any or all their entries for SVSM KOC 2010 being held on April 17. Reference editorial last month's issue for more details on this one.

## SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME MAY 2010 "Language, Dude, Watch the..."

Originally announced as, now just sub titled "Like, Silicon Valley Speak, Dude". Also known as "What the Hell...?" theme Basis of categories is Computer related Languages likely spoken at one time or another here in Silicon Valley

BASIC = Out of the Box entrants, any kind, MUST BRING INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPETE

C or C++ = Any "C" designated aircraft (such as C-47, C-97, CF-100, CF-101, etc)

OR

"C plus plus" Named subjects such as Chieftain, Challenger, Cougar, Cheyenne, etc.

**XML** = **Any X designated vehicles, including** XF-, XB-,XP-, examples.

HTML = Any rotorcraft subject

JAVA = Any subjects connected with Indonesia, including WW2 Pacific subjects of course as well as Malaysian, Sumatran, etc military service material

**PERL** = **Any subject finished in Pearl or** credibly considered connected to "Pearl of the Orient" or "Mother of Pearl" as a basis. Also consider items such as "Ace of Pearls" P-40 Tuskeegee Aircraft as eligible, for thought provoking example. Or even (gasp!) subjects relating to a particular location in Hawaii, especially in December.

Sorry to say to those who were planning on entering "Assembly" category, but it would be too damned easy to complete something for this (as opposed to using the language in its original context) so not offered this time.

# SVSM CLUB CONTEST THEME JUNE 2010 "BATTLE OF FRANCE, 1940"

Suggested thank you very much by a member and reader of last month's editorial on "themes" Although inspired by and celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the aforesaid event, not limited to subjects entirely from The Battle for France, 1940. ANY subject tied into the year of 1940 somehow will be also eligible.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 02-19-10

Friday, February 19 2010

**IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** monthly meeting, club contest theme "F is for February"

Saturday, February 20 2010

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

Sunday, February 21 2010

<u>NNL West</u> presents NNL West 2010 "25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1985-2010" Car Model Show and Swap Meet. Held at the Santa Clara, Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara CA. Theme is "Race Cars and Decade Cars" See their excellent website @www.nnlwest.org for much greater details and flyer

Friday, March 19 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme "Wonders Ancient and Modern"

Saturday, March 20 2010

<u>IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers</u> 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

Sunday, April 11 2010

<u>IPMS/San Joaquin Valley Scale Modelers</u> host their SJVSM 2010 REGIONAL Convention & Contest at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, In Building #2. 1658 Airport Way, Stockton CA. Theme is "Learning to Fly" and features a special raffle to win a flight in a vintage Vultee BT-13 trainer among other fun events. There will be several other shows on the grounds that day, including a Model Car Show and Contest, Antique Toy Show, a real Car Show and Swap meet. Information available in detail at website <a href="http://sjvscalemodelers.org">http://sjvscalemodelers.org</a>

Saturday, April 17 2010

<u>IPMS/Seattle</u> host their Spring Show at the Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway, Renton WA. For information go to their website at <u>www.ipms-seattle.org</u> or Terry Moore @ 425-774-6343

Friday, May 21 2010

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, club contest theme "Silicon Valley Speak, Dude"

Saturday, May 22 2010

**IPMS Las Vegas Chapter** will hold it's Best of the West XIV show at 2800 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, NV. For more information go to their website at ipmslasvegas.org or contact Johnny Galza.

Saturday, June 5 2010

**IPMS San Diego** will hold it's San Diego Model Expo 2010 at San Diego Air & Space Museum Gillespie Field located at 335 Kenney St in El Cajon. For more information go to their website at <a href="https://www.ipmssd.org">www.ipmssd.org</a> or contact Gary Williams.

Saturday, October 9 2010

**IPMS Orange County** will host the annual OrangeCon 2010 at Titan Conference Center - California State Fullerton located at 800 North State College Blvd in Fullerton. For more information go to their website at <a href="https://www.ipmsoc.org">www.ipmsoc.org</a> or contact <a href="https://www.ipmsoc.org">Nat Richards</a>.

**NEXT MEETING:** 

7:00 PM

**FRIDAY** 

# FEBRUARY 19 COMMUNITY ROOM

# Milpitas <u>Police Administration Building</u> 1275 N. Milpitas Blvd

Milpitas, CA

