



THE STYRENE SHEET

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As Luck would have it, Chris gets Zero done



With Wild Abandon, Way Found to Commemorate Midway In Miniature On All Fronts

Text : Chris Bucholtz Photos: Mick Burton (cover shot by MB ©)

It had already been a busy war for Lt. Iyozoh Fujita by the morning of June 4, 1942. Almost six months earlier, he had shot down a P-36 over Hawaii during the Pearl Harbor operation; his leader, Lt. Fusada Iida, was hit, and he intentionally crashed his Zero into the allied facilities at Kaneohe Naval Air Station. Fujita's own plane was damaged in the dogfight, and on touchdown a cylinder fell off his engine. Fujita moved into Iida's role as the *Buntaicho* (*shotai*, or section, leader).

Next, flying from the carrier *Soryu*, he flew in support of the attacks on Wake Island, then *(continued page 3)*

Editor's Ravings – this month's editor, Mick Burton, is giving up the space to a worthier writer with a communal thread

AN EX- PRESIDENT SPEAKS – Marvelous Model Musings from Kent McClure (and my admiration at his writing voice)

So May was the installation month of our new regime. It's good to see new people stepping up to the "Big Office" if only to get a different perspective on things. And new ideas. El Presidente Joseph Fleming came to the meeting loaded with ideas. One of them was to try to get the modeler "out of his comfort zone". By this, he meant for the modeler to build something that he (or she) normally wouldn't do. This gave me time to pause and just think "What is my comfort zone?"

I took some time and pondered that question over a cup of coffee. What is my comfort zone? That's a very good question, and unfortunately not an easy one to answer. I've done a little bit of everything – ships, planes, tanks. Even some things that there is no category for (battle cattle, for example). Where is my comfort zone?

Then, it struck me. Right now, there are two areas that I would call my comfort zone. First, it's finishing a kit. I've got plenty of projects "in the works" but when was the last time I actually finished something? And what is it that has stopped me from finishing anything? That question has led me to my second "comfort zone" – just building something.

Since I had my two strokes back in 2010, I haven't built a single thing. Why? That's a good question. Partly because I'm afraid to. I know what I was capable of before the stroke, and now I'm afraid that what I will end up producing will be below my own expectations. So, my biggest enemy right now is myself. Now, I'm not saying that I should lower my expectations, just adjust them accordingly. Pick up a basic, even a sub-basic, model and do what I can with it. Then, try something a little harder the next time. If decaling is holding me back, then don't buy something with thousands of stencils. Go with the basics. Or do it as a "what if" and limit it to the basic markings.

The key thing to remember is that this is supposed to be a fun hobby. Remember – FUN. Then, overcome yourself. I'm not going to be a trophy hound. I'm not going to go out and buy the latest "superkit". Why? Well, first off, I'm too much of a Scotsman to lay down lots of cash. Secondly, if I can't master the basics, buying a superkit is not going to help me. I've got to get out there and try. Just like it was when I started out in this hobby some xxx (number muttered under my breath) years ago. – *Kent fini*

SVSM MEMBER' s CONTEST THEME JUNE 2012 " GO The Distance... "

Eligible: Finished items tied to Daytona, Sebring and of course Le Mans auto races. Also Targa Florio, Carrera PanAmerica, Mille Miglia and Dakar Rally. Round the world aircraft such as the B-50D, B-52, Rutan Voyager, OR sailing vessels that notably did the same, eligible. The 1934 MacRobertson Air Race has available qualifying subjects. Not to be exclusive, Figures or vehicles associated with LRDG, LRRP activities also eligible. Figures of baseball players also competitive, for cinema reasons, Anyone willing to scratchbuild those spacecraft set to leave our Solar System, feel free, you'll win 1st place.

SVSM MEMBER' s CONTEST THEME JULY 2012 " The DOGS of Summer "

Eligible: Anything FINISHED that you have so considered a "dog" of a model, i.e; one SO AWFUL that you've several times considered putting a bullet in it versus completing it. As a favor and perhaps means to increase the potential entrants, also eligible are finished "Hound Dog" AGM-77, Walker Bulldog M41, Staghound Armored Car, or of course any D, L, or K version of NA's famed Sabres. Or go ahead, indulge in your favorite Ilyushin. Thank member Eric McClure for this creative and timely theme. Watch out for Atticus Finch, may be a Judge

EDITOR' s CONTEST THEME OCTOBER 2012 " Eyeball to Eyeball " a.k.a

" Where were YOU in '62 ? " Many may not realize this will be the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis that month. It will also nicely coincide with the George Lucas's movie mythic triumph also set in that year. SO – ANY finished subject circa 1962 OR directly related to Missiles of October, very much eligible.

SVSM MEMBER' s CONTEST THEME FEBRUARY 2013 " Happy Birthdays "

Thanks ever so much to Treasurer Bill Ferrante, for being "Instigator, Special Project" on this conception here. The idea is to either to build a model of a vehicle or figure that was active in the year of your birth or something that occurred on the day of your birth from any year. For example from Bill, he could build a 1962 Corvette or a Lancaster that bombed the Tirpitz on November 12, 1944. As long as it ties into your birth year or birthday, anything is eligible. TRULY A MEMORABLE AND UNIQUE BIT OF CLUB BUILDING FUN. See you !

An Unquestionable Timely Build for Midway Army continued from page 1

after a few weeks home, participated in the raids on Port Darwin. A few weeks of training were followed by the raids on the British facilities at Ceylon, where he shot down a Fairey Fulmar, and Trincomalee.

On June 4, he was leading three fighters as part of the combat air patrol for *Soryu* when he received a report of American bombers approaching. He climbed, trying to reach B-17s, but they were too high to reach them. Instead, he spotted six B-26 Marauders closing in on the fleet. As he raced to attack them, he spotted 18 American planes below him; these were the Midway-based SBD Dauntlesses of VMSB-241. Fujita, fearing the tail gunners' fire, made a diagonal pass from the front of the formation of Dauntlesses and his 20mm cannon soon had two SBDs burning and plunging from the sky. He made several more passes, downing at least three more.

Out of ammunition, Fujita landed and was re-armed within 15 minutes. He took off in time to attack Torpedo 6, then engaged the TBD Devastators of Torpedo 4. He shot down four more.

What was Fujita's total for the day? It's tough to say; some sources credit Fujita with a career total of 11, others as many as 42. "I shot at that many, and my bullets did hit them, but how many went down, I do not know," he said after the war.

One that did go down, however, was Fujita's Zero. On his third sortie of the day, he was hit by Japanese anti-aircraft fire, which set his belly tank aflame. At just 650 feet, he bailed out, his chute opening just before he hit the water. After four hours afloat, Fujita was rescued. He survived the war, and became the head pilot for Japan Air Lines, retiring in 1977. He passed away in December 2008.

HOW IT ALL BEGINS ANEW IN MINIATURE (a model tale)

As a big student of the Battle of Midway, I was excited to hear about a brand-new A6M2b kit in 1:72 from my friend Brian Sakai. However, it was packaged in an unorthodox way: it was packaged as part of the November and December, 2007 issues of *Model Graphix* magazine in Japan. FineMolds produced the kit, and it looked beautiful on the trees.

When I found a packaged pair of the magazines/models on HobbyLink Japan's table at the nationals in 2008, I snapped it up.



FineMolds gives a lot of options, many of which casual fans of the A6M2b probably aren't aware of. Different bulges, bumps for armament are present to allow the construction of an early or later A6M2b.

Decals included in the model/magazine give you choice of two gray Zeroes and a later camouflaged aircraft. But I had a Midway Zero in mind; these were all Mitsubishi-manufactured aircraft, and they were all fairly new airplanes at the time of the battle.

Above and at right, Chris' Zero midway on display at the Fremont Hornets meeting

Those options mean that you need to pay close attention to the instructions – which can be somewhat tricky at times for non-Japanese speakers, since they're contained within the pages of the magazine. The instructions are the model's weak spot; they're spread through several Zero-related features, including a build article on this very kit. I used the painting instructions to identify the correct parts for my particular Zero.

I started with some of the last items to be added to the model. First, I glued together the halves (continues...)

Zero Director's Ravings – continued of the centerline fuel tank; the fit of this foretold the excellent fit of the rest of the kit. A tiny amount of sanding, a bit of gentle rescribing made the tank ready to add to the finished model. Next, I cut the propeller from sprues, gently removed a tiny amount of flash from the edges of the blades, and airbrushed the front of the blades with Testors metallizer aluminum, as were the spinner and backing plate. The back was sprayed with Japanese primer from AeroMaster. I added the warning stripes from the kit decals, then assembled the prop/spinner combination and set it aside.

Next came the wheels. The centers were painted natural metal, and then I used a mix of black, brown and gray to create a convincing rubber color, which I applied to the kit tires with a fine pointed brush.

Before starting work on the interior, I took the opportunity to spray the tail wheel interior, the area around the cockpit and the interior of the flaps with what the Japanese call aotake. That's a clear blue-ish primer; I used a metallic clear blue color, which did double duty by replicating the metal underneath the blue. It's a distinctive color – but don't paint the wheel wells with it if you're doing a Mitsubishi-built A6M2b. Nakajima, the other Zero contractor early in the war, left its wheel wells in aotake, but Mitsubishi applied the basic gray color used for the entire airframe inside the wheel wells.



Now I was ready to tackle the cockpit. FineMolds gives you a very nice cockpit interior straight from the box, with plenty of sidewall detail, an accurate instrument panel with guns on each side, a separate seat, rear bulkhead, and other goodies. I couldn't leave well enough alone, however, after I found an article at http://www.h3.dion.ne.jp/~mokei/e-gallery-fm_zero.htm about a Japanese modeler's build of the kit. He provided helpful step-by-step photos, so I simply followed along while detailing my A6M2b's office.

First, I added the emergency hydraulic pump and its associated plumbing using several gauges of thin lead solder. This bent easily with a pair of tweezers and could handle the sharp bends of the original. I used a bit of styrene rod for the pump itself, and then added some missing boxes from the cockpit floor with more bits of styrene. These had electrical cables added made from fine steel wire pilfered from a set of damaged ear buds. The cockpit floor was painted Mitsubishi interior green; then, after a wash, the hydraulic lines were painted a dull silver color.

The seat and the rear bulkhead looked nice right out of the box, but their lightening holes all needed to be drilled out. Belts from Reheat were added to the seats, and I thinned the mounting arms a little before adding the seat. The seat adjustment cord was fashioned from wire and painted white: I wrapped it around the lower left mounting arm, stretched it over and behind the seat and wrapped it around the lower right arm. Before I installed the rear bulkhead and seat to the floor, I added three oxygen cylinders; these came from a Prieser air compressor set. I painted them gray with brass valves, and somehow in the process of handling some of the green paint wore off. It looked convincingly like chipped paint, so I left it. The tanks are barely visible on the finished model – if you know to look, you can see them.

The fuel pump manual lever and the seat adjustment lever were made in the same way. First, I drilled small holes and added wire of the appropriate diameter. When they were secure, I touched a bit of white glue to their ends; this drop tends to dry nicely round. The shafts were painted green, and the balls at the end of the handle were painted red.

The cockpit was a departure from my usual reliance on photoetched parts. Instead, I used the kit's spectacular instrument decals – they provide them as separate items, so care must be taken to position them in the right place and to make sure they're facing the right direction. First, I added some missing switch boxes at the bottom of the panel and painted the instrument panel interior green; next, I gloss-coated the panel and began the painstaking task of adding the instruments, one decal at a time. When they were dry, I flat-coated the panel, which seemed a bit weird; I now had flat instruments. No problem – a tiny drop of Future in each instrument opening restored a nice shiny face to them. The panel was drybrushed and then added to the forward bulkhead for assembly later.

The rudder bar was detailed with stirrups made from lead foil, painted and added to the cockpit floor.

THIS CONCLUDES THIS PORTION OF CHRIS BUCHOLTZ'S ZERO HOUR. TUNE IN NEXT MONTH FOR FINISH

May 2012 SVSM MEETING Photo Essay fashioned by Mick Burton, as minutes were not available at time of publication



President Joe Fleming propelled us into a new year of fun to be sure, introducing a large number special project initiatives, hot topics to enliven our meeting there and in future, and outlining his much appreciated agenda of ways to enhance SVSM.



One immediate measure taken was having member Louis Orselli conduct “Model Talk” portion of the meeting. As Joe said, in part so we could hear a voice other than his, for a while. Excellence by them both! Since I was late getting to meeting and very busy for all of it, bear with my scattered notes, select photos I took, for giving just a sampling of May’s meeting . An effort to get the actual minutes as taken by Chris Bucholtz, into published form for reading at next meeting, will be my special project, by the way.

Above, look at our night’s table. Below, Jim Lund’s latest fabulous collection on left, on right, Gabriel Lee’s WIP



Left, Chris Bucholtz has the Army/Navy game covered, with a SPAD, Firefly and a truck in progress. On the right, Jim Lund’s 1/72 Ambassador ...





Steve Travis has this sweet Russian Underside Blue Rod down to a "T", whilst Jim Lund's Hughes D-2 is simply amazing. Airfix's tribute to Captain Scarlet re-released. David Balderrama brought along his WIP "Angel Interceptor" much to my joy.

Steve Travis mastered a weekend edition Yak-3 as you all see, right below. At far left, the meeting from another angle.



The last three you see here are all fine models, sadly I don't know who did them!



Still, all that shouldn't keep you from the one and only Rule of our hobby.

To have it be MUCH FUN.

Enjoy. *mickb*



Missiles Without Man In It Are Majority Awarded Away in Contest May !



With a very pleasing turn of events, Editor's wallet was again left empty but unbowed at conclusion of this club contest... Above is a mostly complete view of the Field of Battle (one GTD-21B had yet to arrive and the SAM-2 was barely in shot)



While it was popularly supposed that the recent spate of Predator drones in scale model form would be the clear majority, reality came in form of many others instead. The May Club Contest saw many entries in great variety. Here the winners: At left, Frank Beltran's sweet box scale Northrop Snark in First. Below left, Ken Miller's 1/72 scale GTD-21B in Second. A Third for his SAM-2 in 1/32, went to Frank Beltran. CONGRATS ALL for showing up to play. Thanks Shervin as Head Judge too

Til next month, when we first "go the distance" ... -mick fini





CONGRATULATIONS TO
Rob Layton
FOR WINNING May MODEL OF THE
MONTH



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 06-15-12

Friday, June 15 2012

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers meeting, contest theme “ Go The Distance”. Finished items directly tied to Daytona 500, Sebring, 24 hr Le Mans, Dakar Rally, as examples of endurance and/or long distance racing. Other subjects include Round the World craft (air/sea) like USS Nautilus, Rutan Voyager, or “Lucky Lady”. All MacRobertson 1934 Air Race subjects qualify, as do Dole, Cleveland Air Race subjects. Use imagination, enter.

Saturday, June 30 2012

IPMS/Ontario host Region 8 MiniCon. Locale Ontario Senior Com'ty Center, 225 East B Street, Ontario, CA.

Friday, July 13 2012

IPMS/Fremont Hornets monthly meeting, theme WTFK

Friday, July 20 2012

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers meeting, Alumnus contest theme “ The DOGS of Summer ”

Saturday, July 21 2012

IPMS/Dragon Lady host their annual event with theme of “ Aggressive Behavior ” in Yuba City, CA

Wednesday thru Saturday, August 8-11 2012

IPMS/USA Nationals hosted by Pelikan Model Club, at the Fantasia Ballroom of Disney Contemporary Resort Convention Center, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Not to say any of our models are Mickey Mouse...

Friday, August 10 2012

IPMS/ Fremont Hornets monthly meeting. Theme is Mug The E-Board.

Friday, August 17 2012

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers meeting, Alumnus contest theme “ The DOGS of Summer ”

Saturday, September 8 2012

IPMS/Reno High Rollers host their annual show, theme “ Between the Wars: 1919 to 1939 ” Held at the Desert Heights Elementary school, 13948 Mt Bismark, Reno, NV. ALWAYS a Great Show.

Saturday, October 13 2012

IPMS/Fremont Hornets host “Tri City Eight”, Milpitas Community Ctr, 457 E Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas CA. Theme “Midway & The Missiles of October” in “All American focus”. See this link www.fremonthornets.org

Friday, October 19 2012

IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting. Editor's Contest Theme is “Eyeball to Eyeball”

Saturday, November 3 2012

IPMS/ Antelope Valley Group host Desert Classic 16. Contest Theme is “Real to Reel”. Movie or TV subjects with an AVG strict twist. Check their website for rules and details. <http://www.avg-ipms.org/>

Saturday, December 1 2012

IPMS/SilverWings host Silvercon 2012, Elk Grove, CA

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

JUNE 15

COMMUNITY ROOM

Milpitas Police Administration Building

1275 N. Milpitas Blvd

Milpitas, CA

