



THE AFTER MARKET SHEET



VOL. 60A, No.1A WWW.SVSM.ORG JANUARY 2026

A Publication of the SVSM Chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society, USA

PIRATE'S PRESENTS – Recent/Past, Present, Future



Photos/Text: Mick Burton Minutes: Chris Bucholtz



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



(shameless plug: www.mickbmodeler.com)

“ EDITOR TAKES A LOOK BACK, SCARES HISSELF ... ”

(JUST START AT PAGE 13 you'll see why)

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

(shameless plug: www.mickbmodeler.com)

“ AS WE GO FORWARD, A LOOK BACK : Again, Past is Prologue ”



THE STYRENE SHEET

VOL. 50, No. 1 www.styrene.com JANUARY 2016

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



Proof That SVSM Has Presents !



Photos & Text: Mick Burton Gift Wrapped Models : everyone from everyone

Officially & Deliberately Scant NON-MINUTES

of SVSM December Meet by Mick Burton

At the 2015 December meeting, again, we had our well known and sometimes notorious "Steal This Gift Exchange" occur.

Happy for this Editor, this year's event featured a major switch BACK to our accustomed procedure. Namely, Club Secretary and Notoriously Iron Fisted Xmas Exchange Operator, M.C. Buchholz was present in time to do all the evil deed we would need. So I'll just do photo essay recap for our opening. 16 CSS. communita.it



With the New Year comes another chance to reflect and the project, so your Editor indulges across "multimedia" in a manner

SAN JOSE SCALE MODELERS

THE STYRENE SHEET
Vol. 50, No. 11
M35 makeover: converting a 'Nam gun truck

THE STYRENE SHEET
Vol. 50, No. 10
Ventura's 1/72 Hawker Tempest I conversion

While I don't have stats for December 2016/1718 I developed THESE pre 2013s

- 1994 December Stats 39 players, 39 presents total, breakout: Single = 39
- 1995 December Stats 54 players, 54 presents total, breakout: Single = 54
- 1996 December Stats 64 players, 64 presents total, breakout: Single = 64 (PLUS a WW2 T-Bolt contest !)
- 1997 December Stats 57 players, 57 presents total, breakout: Single = 57
- 1998 December Stats 74 players, 74 presents total, breakout: Single = 74
- 1999 December Stats 76 players, 76 presents total, breakout: Single = 76
- 2000 December Stats 62 players, 101 presents total, breakout: Single = 43 Double = 19 No triples then allowed
- 2013 December Stats 33 players, 55 presents total, breakout: Single = 14 Double = 10 Triple = 9
- 2014 December Stats 21 players, 50 presents total, breaking out: Single = 5, Double = 2 Triple = 13
- 2015 December Stats 24 players, 49 presents total, breakout was: Single = 8 Double = 7 Triple = 9
- 2019 December Stats 28 players, 53 presents total, breakout: Single = 10 Double = 5 Triple = 13
- 2020 December Stats 0 players, 0 presents total, due to pandemic lockdown prevent holding any meets
- 2021 December Stats 22 players, 50 presents total, breakout: Single = 4 Double = 8 Triple = 10
- 2022 December Stats 25 players, 60 presents total, breakout: Single = 3 Double = 9 Triple = 13
- 2023 December Stats 29 players, 78 presents total, breakout Single = 1 Double = 7 Triple = 21
- 2024 December Stats 25 players, 61 presents total, breakout Single = 4 Double = 6 Triple = 15

2025 December saw 29 Players, 73 Gifts total, with 4 Single Gifter, 6 Double Gifter, 19 Triple Gifter -fini mickb

TABLE OF CONTENTS JANUARY 2026 AFTERMARKET

- 1) COVERAGE : A REVIEW of the DECEMBER 2025 Meeting Results And BONUS ARTICLES (resumes @ 3)
- 2) MORE CONFUSED SCRAMBLE BY EDITOR along with PERHAPS USEFUL TABLE OF CONTENTS
- 3) A Complete Look at 2025 EDITION of PIRATE'S PLEASURE CLUB CONTEST "Aka Gift Exchange " (runs to 12)
- 13) WANDER THROUGH WITH EDITOR in review of PreHistoric Beginnings of "Pirate's Pleasure" (runs to 21)
- 22) EVENTS CALENDAR
- 23) EYE OF THE BEHOLDER as a long time member GIVES AN ALTERNATE VIEW ON "Bad Models" (runs to 24)
- 25) UNOFFICIAL FLYER WINE COUNTRY MODELERS Model Expo 2026 Event in April
- 26) UNOFFICIAL FLYER LEFT COAST SCALE CLASSIC Car Model Expo 2026 Event in April
- 27) UNOFFICIAL FLYER BEST OF THE WEST Event MAY 2026
- 28) OFFICIAL FLYER FOR 2026 SILVERCON " HEAVY METAL MAY 2026
- 29) FLYER FOR IPMS FRESNO GRIFFONS BIG 2026 MEMORIAL WEEKEND EVENT
- 30) OFFICIAL FLYER FOR 2026 RENO HIGH ROLLERS " RED, WHITE AND BLUE " SEPTEMBER 2026
- 31) OFFICIAL FLYER FOR 2026 AVG DESERT CLASSIC #28 IN LANCASTER OCTOBER 2026
- 32) OFFICIAL FLYER TriCity CLASSIC EIGHTEEN "TOP GUN" Fremont Hornets NOVEMBER 2026
- 33) ENDPIECE REMINDER SVSM JANUARY 2026 " **SUPERAUCTION**



At the December meeting, cheer was shared, tears were shed, and Randy Ray was forced to open many, many presents. Here is the tale of that December meeting, when hearts were aglow with the season and many a dream was crushed before being restored by another kit!



AMT 1:24 Model T Ford: Opened and taken home by Myra Benjamin
Esci 1:35 T-55: Opened and taken home by John Jew





Tamiya 1:48 Sea Harrier FRS.1: Opened by Bob Meyers, stolen and taken home by D.J. Balderrama.

Monogram 1:24 Custom "Vett Agin": Opened and taken home by Mike Meek.

Hasegawa 1:72 F/A-18F Super Hornet: Opened by D.J. Balderrama, stolen and taken home by Mark Merkurjev.

Monogram 1:48 A-10 Thunderbolt II: Opened and taken home by Randy Ray.

Dragon 1:35 T-34/76: Opened by Laramie Wright, stolen by Jim Priete, stolen by Laramie Wright, stolen and taken home by Jim Priete.

Special Hobby 1:72 He 100 and Fujimi Spitfire XIV: Opened by Kent McClure, stolen by Bill Ferrante, stolen by Dave Balderrama, stolen and taken home by Bill Ferrante.



Williams Brothers 1:72 Boeing 247: Opened by Chris Meyers, stolen by D.J. Balderrama, stolen and taken home by Mark Balderrama.

Tamiya 1:48 Fw 190D-9: Opened by Randy Ray, stolen by D.J. Balderrama, stolen by Chris Meyers, stolen and taken home by Bill Christman.

Airfix 1:48 EE Lightning F.2A: Opened by Mark Balderrama, stolen by Frank Beltran, stolen by Kent McClure, stolen and taken home by Frank Beltran.

Cyberhobby 1:35 Sd.Kfz 251/17 half-track: Opened by Randy Ray, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen by John Carr, stolen and taken home by Randy Ray.

Guillows Wright Flyer: Opened and taken home by Sim Coester.

Tamiya 1:35 M41 Walker Bulldog and Tamiya 1:35 weapons set: opened and taken home by Bob Meyers.

Eduard 1:48 Fw 190A: Opened by Greg Plummer, stolen by Chris Meyer, stolen and taken home by Greg Plummer.

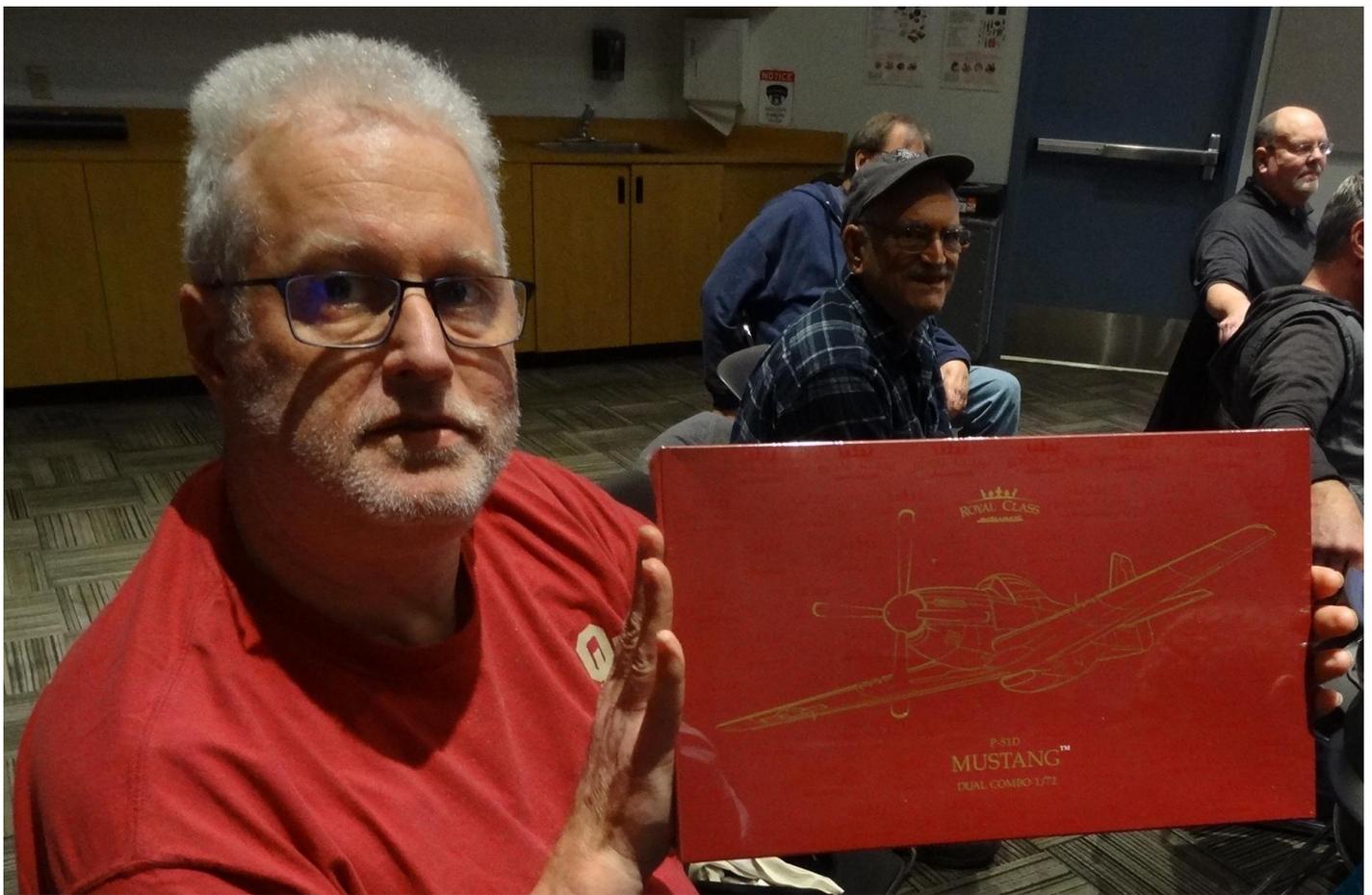
AMT 1:24 1964 Oldsmobile Cutlass: Opened by Mark Schynert, stolen and taken home by Postoria Aguirre.

Italeri 1:72 CANT Z501: Opened by Mark Schynert, stolen by Bill Ferrante, stolen and taken home by Mark Schynert.

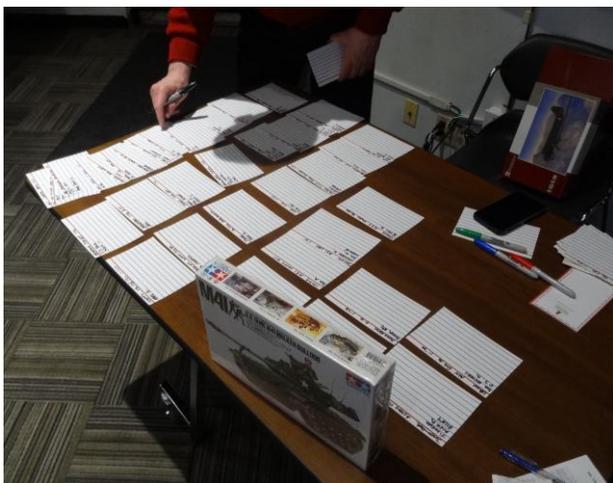


Academy *Titanic*: Opened by John Carr, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen and taken home by Riley Kitchen.
Hobby Boss 1:48 FM-2 Wildcat: Opened by Eugenie Ray, stolen by Ron Wergin, stolen by Ben Wergin, stolen and taken home by Riley Kitchen.
Hasegawa 1:72 Ju 188A/E: Opened by Mark Merkurjev, stolen by Bill Ferrante, stolen by Greg Plummer, stolen and taken home by Jim Priete.
Revell 1:48 F9F-5 Panther: Opened by John Jew, stolen by Ben Wergin, stolen by Frank Beltran, stolen and taken home by Ben Wergin.
Bronco 1:35 Comet Cruiser Tank: Opened by Max Balderrama, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen by Ron Wergin, stolen and taken home by Ben Wergin.
Academy 1:35 K511A1 Truck: Opened and taken home by John Jew.
Dragon 1:35 M21 Gun Motor Carriage: Opened by Laramie Wright, stolen by Ron Wergin, stolen and taken home by Laramie Wright.





Eduard Royal Edition 1:72 P-51D Mustangs: Opened by Randy Ray, stolen by Chris Bucholtz, stolen by John Carr, Stolen and taken home by Kent McClure.



AMT 1:20 Caterpillar Bulldozer: Opened by Max Balderrama, stolen by D.J. Balderrama, stolen and taken home by Frank Beltran.

Dragon 1:700 HMS Ark Royal: Opened by Bob Meyers, stolen and taken home by D.J. Balderrama.

Bandai Tickbalang: Opened by Riley Kitchen stolen by Landon Carr, stolen by Kent McClure, stolen and taken home by Myra Benjamin.

Hasegawa 1:72 F-111A: Opened by Mark Merkurjev, stolen by Max Balderrama, stolen by Frank Beltran, stolen and taken home by Dave Balderrama.

AMT Y-Wing, X-Wing and Tie Interceptor kits: Opened by Mark Balderrama, stolen by Postoria Aguirre, stolen by Landon Carr, stolen and taken home by Myra Benjamin.

Hobby Boss 1:35th Schneider CA: Opened by Mark Balderrama, stolen by Ben Wergin, stolen by Mick Birton, stolen and taken home by Jim Priete.



Meng 1:35 M109 Rogev: Opened by Randy Ray, stolen by Greg Plummer, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen and taken home by Frank Beltran.

Revell 1:24 Corvette ZR1: Opened by Postoria Aguirre, stolen and taken home by Sim Coester.

Revell of Germany 1:72 Heinkel He 177 Grief: Opened by Steve Hays, stolen by Laramie Wright, stolen by Bob Meyers, stolen and taken home by Ron Wergin.

Italeri 1:35 RSO with PAK 40 anti-tank gun: opened by Kent McClure, stolen by Ben Wergin, stolen by Ron Wergin, stolen and taken home by Ben Wergin.

Hasegawa F-104G Starfighter: Opened by Mark Merkuryev, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen by Frank Beltran, stolen and taken home by Mick Burton.

Aviation Usk 1:72 Ki-76 "Stella:" opened by Bob Meyers, stolen and taken home by Bill Ferrante.

Tamiya 1:35 M24 Walker Bulldog: Opened and taken home by Chris Bucholtz.

DML 1:72 Ta 152: Opened by Steve Hays, stolen by Bill Ferrante, stolen by Steve Hays, stolen and taken home by Bill Ferrante.

Bandai 1:400 Millenium Falcon and Bandai Death Star II and Star Destroyer: opened by John Carr, stolen and taken home by Postoria Aguirre.

Eduard 1:48 Bf 110E: Opened by Greg Plummer, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen by Mark Schynert, stolen and taken home by Bob Meyers.

Bandai *The Batman* Batmobile: Opened by Mark Merkuryev, stolen by John Carr, stolen by Ron Wergin, stolen and taken home by Mick Burton.

Italeri 1:72 Ju 52m Minesweeper: Opened and taken home by Dave Balderrama.

Eduard 1:48 Fw 190A-8: Opened by Mark Merkuryev, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen by Bill Christman, stolen and taken home by Mick Burton.



Revell 1:32 Opel GT: Opened and taken home by Sim Coester.

Revell 1:48 F-89C Scorpion: opened by Bill Ferrante, stolen by Postoria Aguirre, stolen and taken home by Laramie Wright.

AMT 1:24 1962 Corvette: Opened and taken home by Kent McClure.

Bandai GquuuuuuX Gundam: opened by Bill Ferrante, stolen by Postoria Aguirre, stolen by Landon Carr, stolen and taken home by John Carr.

Monogram 1:25 Bugatti EB 110: Opened and taken home by Eugenie Ray.

Sword 1:72 Jet Provost T. Mk. 5: Opened by Greg Plummer, stolen and taken home by Eugenie Ray.

Tamiya 1:48 Mosquito Mk. IV: Opened by Mark Merkuryev, stolen by Max Balderrama, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen and taken home by D.J. Balderrama.

Dragon 1:35 Sd.Kfz. 164 Nashorn: Opened by Randy Ray, stolen by Laramie Wright, stolen and taken home by Steve Hays.

Two Zvesda 1:144 He 126: Opened and taken home by Mark Balderrama.

Special Hobby 1:72 C-33/30: Opened by Sim Coester, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen by Mark Schynert, stolen and taken home by Chris Bucholtz.

Zvesda 1:72 Su-25: Opened by Steve Hays, stolen by Randy Ray, stolen by Mark Merkuryev, stolen and taken home by Randy Ray.

Revell 1:24 Pontiac GP Turbo: Opened and taken home by Bob Meyers.

Monogram 1:48 B-17G Fortress: Opened and taken home by Max Balderrama,

Bandai 1:35 Triceratops: Opened by Bill Ferrante, stolen by Mark Schynert, stolen by Postoria Aguirre, stolen and taken home by Eugenie Ray.

Special Hobby 1:72 P-40F/L Warhawk: Opened by Sim Coester, stolen by Ron Wergin, stolen and taken home by Greg Plummer.

Academy 1:72 F-35B: opened by Randy Ray, stolen by Mark Balderrama, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen and taken home by Postoria Aguirre.

Hobby Boss 1:35 D20 152mm Howitzer; Opened by Landon Carr, stolen and taken home by Laramie Wright.

Tamiya 1:48 Spitfire Mk. I: Opened by D.J. Balderrama, stolen by Mark Balderrama, stolen by Bob Meyers, stolen and taken home by Max Balderrama.

AMT 1:24 NASCAR Chevrolet Camaro: Opened by Kent McClure, stolen and taken home by Mike Meek.

Revell 1:24 Ferrari F50 Brachetta: Opened and taken home by D.J. Balderrama.





Revell 1:72 Junkers Ju 86: Opened by John Carr, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen and taken home by Mark Schynert.

Tamiya 1:48 Tiger I: Opened by Jim Priete, stolen by Ron Wergin, stolen by Kent McClure, stolen and taken home by Ron Wergin.

Revell 1:144 Saturn V: Opened by Max Balderrama, stolen by Mark Merkuryev, stolen by Mick Burton, stolen and taken home by Mark Balderrama.

Revell 1:25 Corvette C7: Opened by Mike Meek, stolen by Kent McClure, stolen by Jim Priete, stolen and taken home by Kent McClure.

Tamiya 1:48 Fw 190D-9: Opened by Mark Merkuryev, stolen by John Carr, stolen by Mark Merkuryev, stolen and taken home by Landon Carr.

AZ Models 1:72 Junkers EF 128 E/N-1: Opened by Dave Balderrama, stolen by Frank Babbitt, stolen by Eugenie Ray, stolen and taken home by Dave Balderrama.

Eduard Royal Edition 1:72 P-51D Mustangs: Opened by Mark Merkuryev, stolen by Chris Bucholtz, stolen by Kent McClure, stolen and taken home by Chris Bucholtz.

Hobby Boss 1:35 T-26: Opened by Chris Bucholtz, stolen by Ron Wergin, stolen by Laramie Wright, stolen and taken home by Ron Wergin.

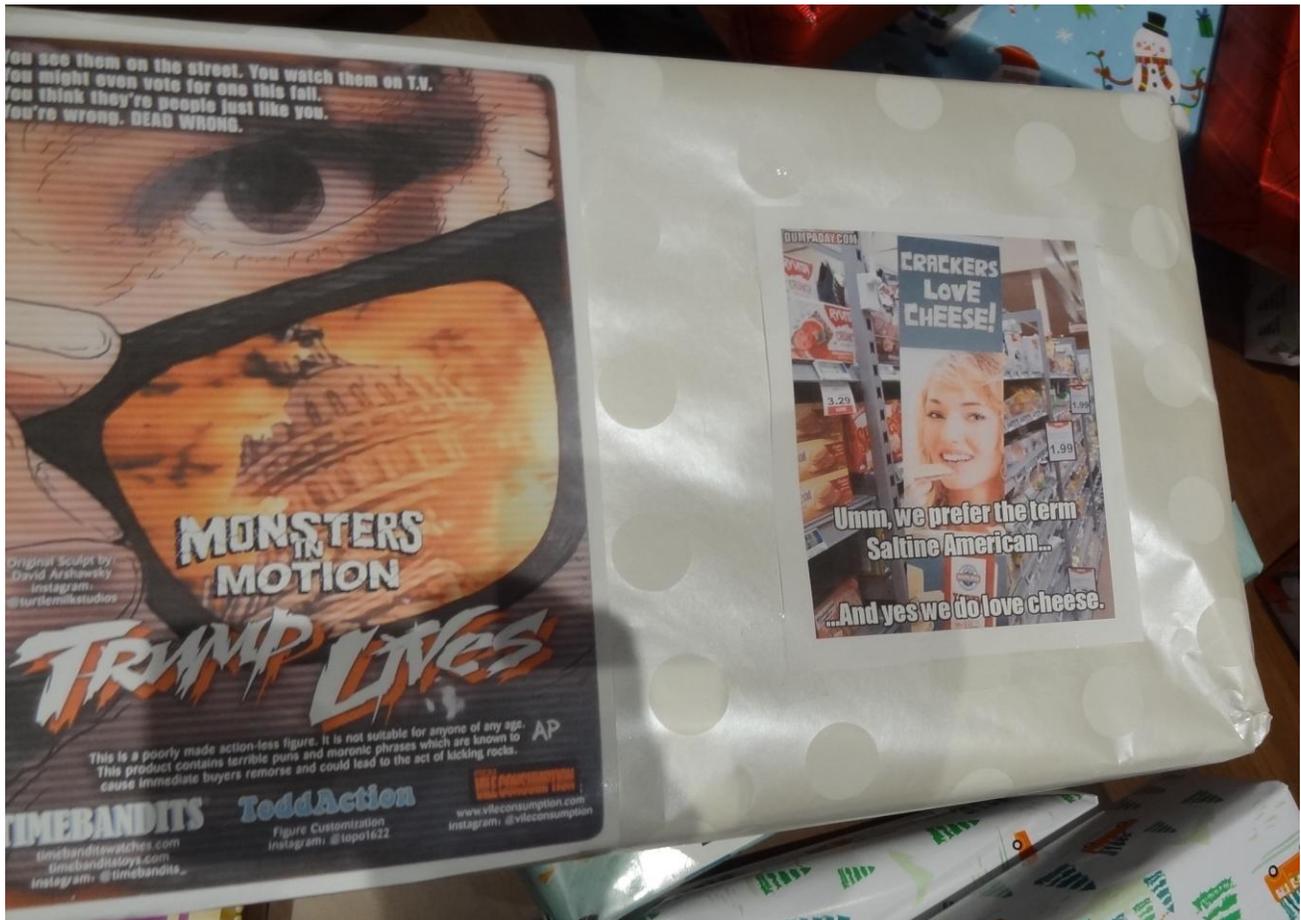
AMT 1:24 1960 Camaro Z28: Opened and taken home by Mark Schynert. **- chris fini**



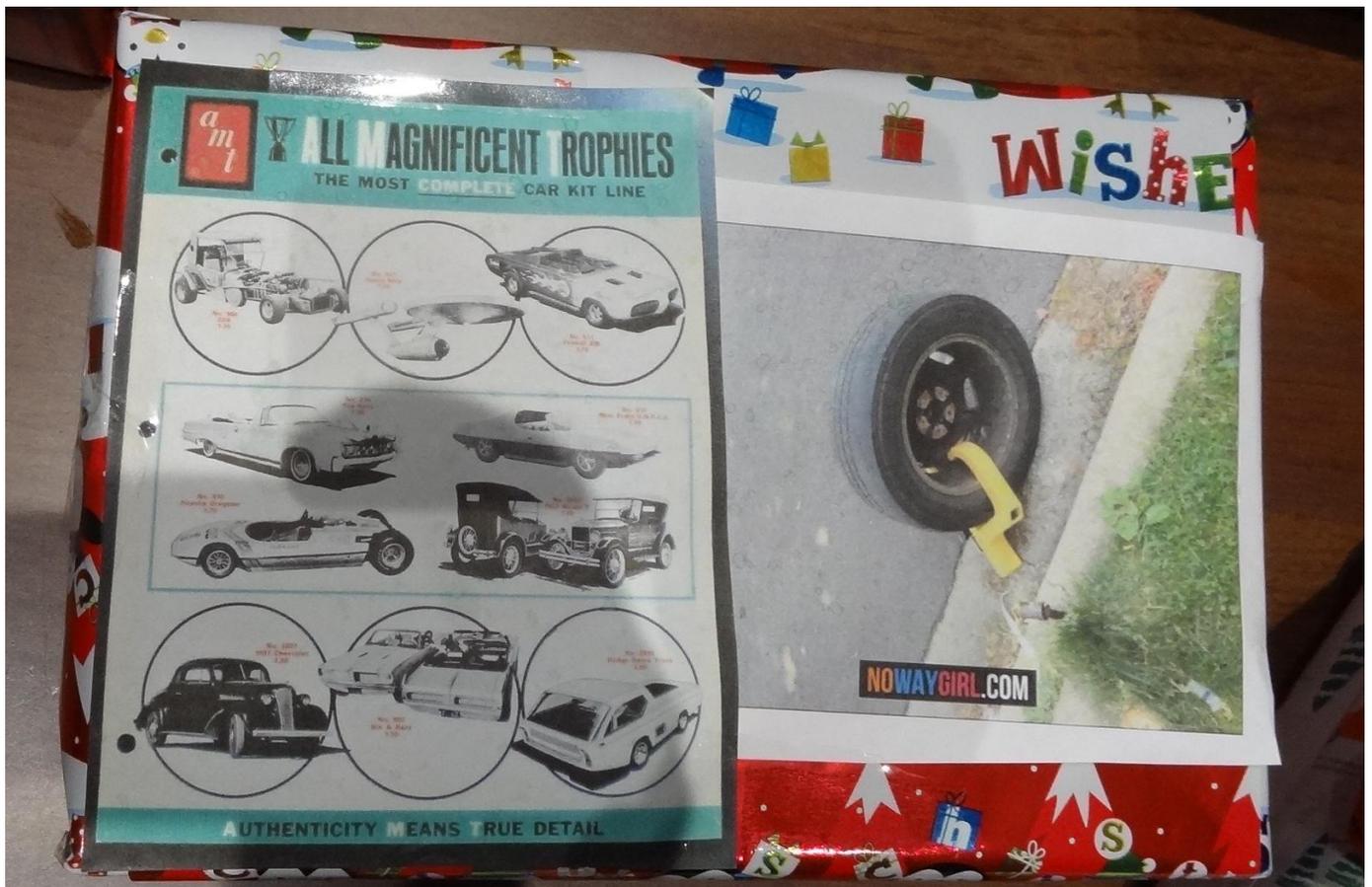


SOMETIMES ON TABLE GIFTS NOT MEANT TO LAST, LIKE 3-D INSTAGRAMS FOR EDITOR-





EVER A VAEIETY AND THIS YEARS CROP ANOTHER BUMPER BUNCH





EVEN AN APPEARANCE BY THE MOST INTERESTING MODELER MAN IN THE WORLD...



-mick fini

UNEARTHED EVIDENCE - How This Piracy All Came To Be !

As promised, now that I have reestablished contact with Planet Earth and can attempt communication, here is a briefing on the now notorious SVSM December event, from whence it sprang. – Mick Burton, witness to some

From December 1994 OSS (for the inaugural of Gift Exchange that month) Thank you again, David !

SVSM gift exchange: goodwill through theft

By David L. Sampson

Three out of four members of the executive board (the Vice President had already bugged out for the restaurant) have decided to do something different at the December meeting. The December meeting will feature a pizza party and gift exchange.

For this reason, members are asked NOT to bring kits, except as noted below.

The club will supply the pizza and drinks. If you are not a SVSM member, it will cost you \$5 to participate.

The gift exchange will work like this: take a new kit, book, or something of use to a modeler. Maximum cost is \$10, not including tax. If you bought a \$50 kit for \$10, that still counts as a \$10 gift. Each present needs to be wrapped. The presents will be piled on a table. Each member participating in the gift exchange (it's optional, but why not join in?) will get a number.

The person with number 1 will select a present and unwrap it. The person with number 2 will have the option of drawing a present from the pile or "stealing" any present already opened (in this case, only number 1 has a present). If he takes number 1's present, then number 1 takes another present from the pile.

The person with number 3 can steal any of the presents already open, or take a present from the pile. Any person who has a present "stolen" can either draw from the pile or take a present from another person—with the exception that he cannot take back a present that was stolen from him in that turn. The final rule is that any present can only be stolen twice.

My wife assures me that this is a lot of fun and that by January's meeting, the urge to blow up the car of the guy who stole the Iwata airbrush from you will be forgotten.

So, we hope that you will all join in for some good food and a great time.

From January 1995 OSS (noting results of First Exchange, also Randy Rothaar's correct model count) Editor Chris B now beginning his third year and still open to being punished further by accepting re-election

DECEMBER MINUTES

December featured no business, just a pizza pig-out and a gift exchange that proved to be a riotous, cutthroat blast for everyone involved! The Participants, in roughly the order that guest name-puller Bryan Finch pulled their names, were: Christina Johns, Doss Wilkinson, Stan Muniz, Stephen Shumaker, Jason Bice, Steve Shumaker, Dave Sampson, Tom Harrison (first gift stealer!), Frank Floon, Rich Pedro, Dan Grinker, Jim Lewis, Dave Balderrama, Frank Beltran, Joel Rojas, Bill Abbott, Eric McClure, Bill Dye, Bert McDowell, Vivian McBride, John McCune, Randy Rothaar, Bob Miller,

EDITOR'S BRIEF

A few errors which should be addressed with regards to our November issue:

About a half of the issues featured a headline that announced the article was about the P-35 when, in fact, the article was about the P-36.

Several captions were, inadvertently, truncated because of computer error.

The photograph with the story on the M923 5-ton truck was actually a photograph of the M939 5-ton cargo truck.

The minutes stated that Randy Rothaar brought in 38 newly finished models at the October meeting when, in fact, Randy only brought in 32 newly finished models.

The reference to "the late Rodney Williams" should have read "the frequently late Rodney Williams."

Okay, I'm being a little facetious here, but mistakes are made from time to time and no one is more chagrined at them than I am (especially that P-35 headline! Argh!). But it goes to

John Knopp, Mike Burton, Angelo Deogracias, Jack Van Zandt, Geoff Krueger, Bill Ferrante, Wendy Sloneker, Brian Sakai, Kent McClure, Manny Tamayo, Rodney Williams, Milt Poulos, Bruce McBride, Chris Bucholtz, Jeff Helgass, and Kathy Sampson. Thanks to everyone who participated in this event...

...And thanks to all who contributed to our Veterans' Hospital model drive! We got a late start and didn't think we'd be able to top last year's 100+ total, but our members contributed MORE THAN 300 KITS! A job well done!

show that no one is perfect—in newsletter writing and in model building. And, if you'll put up with the occasional botched headline or misspelled word, I'll be happy to keep at this editorial thing for another year—if you'll have me.

That's a good lead-in to the fact that our club's offices are up for election in February, so any of you who have hats to throw into the ring should get your throwing arms in shape now. And none of those Dan Quayle-style feasibility studies, either—these offices have squat to do with politics, just like modeling should.

By the way—is anyone interested in an index of the last two years of the Styrene Sheet? We could have it ready for the next issue, and I can still make back issues available for the paltry sum of 75 cents. Or maybe a bound edition of "The Best of the Styrene Sheet?" Or how about a roster, with real club participation? Let me know what you think!

—The Editor

Goodwill through theft: the SVSM gift exchange

By Chris Bucholtz

This year's Pizza Party and Gift Exchange will work the same as last year's party. For this event we must give credit/assign blame to Kathy and Dave Sampson; if you get stuck on who to steal a gift from, keep their names in mind.

For the uninitiated, here's how the Pizza Party and Gift Exchange works:

The club will supply the pizza and drinks. If you're an SVSM member, it's free; if you're not a member, it will cost you \$5.

Because of the volume of tomato sauce, pepperoni, olives, cheese and so on that will be on the tables, members should refrain from bringing built models to this event, lest they be subjected to some extremely unusual weathering.

The gift exchange, for those not present last year, will follow these simple but inherently evil rules:

Each person participating should bring in a gift, like a new kit, book, tools or other model-related present. The rule-of-thumb value is \$10, but if someone really feels like bringing in a *Tamiya Strike Eagle* in 1:32, no one will be all that upset. Each present must be wrapped.

The presents will be piled on a table, and each member

participating in the gift exchange will get a number.

The person with number "1" will select a present from the table and unwrap it. The person with number "2" has the option of drawing a present from the pile, or stealing any present already open (in this case, number 1's).

The person with number "3" can steal either of the two presents open or draw from the pile. This continues until Bert McDowell has his ship model stolen or the last number is drawn, whichever comes last. Any person who has had his present stolen can either draw from the pile or steal from another person, with the exception that he cannot steal a present that has been stolen from him in that turn. The final rule: each present may be stolen only three times.

Ask anyone at last year's meeting—this is a lot of fun and, by the January meeting, my plans to car-bomb Bill Ferrante's house for swiping that great F7U *Cutlass* from me in the very last round of the exchange had been largely forgotten. Largely, but not completely.

If you've got any questions, please give me a call. We hope to see you there for plenty of good food and a great time. You're guaranteed to come home with a new model—what more incentive to have fun could there be?

Above December 1995. As seen here, Chris now begins to shape natty narrative he would perfect in time

DECEMBER MINUTES

December's meeting featured no business or model talk. Instead, it was a pizza-eating, gift-stealing free-for-all. The editor kept track of the models in the exchange. It went something like this:

The book *Strangers in a Strange Land*: Opened and taken home by Joel Rojas.

1:72 *Hobbycraft C-45*: Opened and taken home by Sami Arim.

1:48 *Monogram A-10 Warthog*: Opened by Eric McClure, then stolen and taken home by Dan Grinker.

1:72 *Stuart tank*, 1:72 *Lysander*, IJN *Kagero* and IJN *Nagara*: Opened by Bill Abbott, stolen and taken home by Kent McClure.

1:32 *Minicraft M113A-2*: Opened by Eric McClure, then stolen by Jim Lewis, then stolen by Doss Wilkinson, then stolen and taken home by Eric McClure again.

Lindberg Pirate ship: Opened by Ralph Patino, then stolen and taken home by Tom Bush Jr.

Book set *Great Marques of Europe*: Opened by Jack Van Zandt, then stolen by Bryan Finch, then stolen and taken home by Brad Chun.

Hasegawa 1:48 P-38 "Nose Art": Opened by Bert McDowell, then stolen by Doss Wilkinson, then stolen by Dan Grinker, and finally stolen and taken home by Jim Lewis.

Kirin 1:32 Bergepanther conversion kit: Opened by Vivian McBride, stolen by Bryan Finch, stolen by Jim Lewis, and finally stolen and taken home by Peter Wong.

Minicraft 1:72 B-17F: Opened by Mike Meek, then stolen by Michael Fletcher, then stolen by Bill Dye, then stolen and taken home by Jim Gordon.

Italeri 1:72 F4U-5N Corsair: Opened by Bill Dye, then stolen by Mike Meek, then stolen by Michael Fletcher, finally stolen and taken home by Bill Ferrante.

Lindberg Tyrannosaurus Rex: Opened and taken home by Doss Wilkinson.

1:24 Ferrari F-181 racer: Opened by Tom Harrison, then stolen and taken home by Jim Priete.

Testors 1:72 SR-75 Penetrator: Opened and taken home by Tom Bush Sr.

T-55 tank, 1:48 F-100, 1:72 *Hellcat* and 1:72 *Harrier*: Opened by Jack Van Zandt, stolen and taken home by Brandon Christopherson.

Porsche 956 racer: Opened by Matt Reich, stolen by Jason McChristian, and finally stolen and taken home by Dave Sampson.

Minicraft 1:72 TBF Avenger: Opened by Jim Priete, and stolen and taken home by Michael Fletcher.

Testors 1:72 AV-8B Harrier and *Minicraft 1:144 B-25*: Opened and taken home by Wendy Sloneker.

Lindberg Tyrannosaurus Rex: Opened by Bill Abbott, stolen and taken home by Bruce McBride.

Testors 1:32 YF-22 ATF: Opened by Jim Lewis, stolen by Jack Van Zandt, stolen again by Tom Bush Jr. and finally stolen and taken home by Rich Pedro.

Monogram 1:48 He 111: Opened by Mike Meek, stolen by Angelo Deogracias, then stolen by Laramie Wright, then stolen and taken home by Jon Schumaker.

Minicraft 1:48 P-38 Lightning: Opened by Mark Hernandez, then stolen by Mike Meek, stolen by Michael Fletcher, then stolen and taken home by Al Gonzalez.

DML 1:48 Fokker DIII: Opened by Bert McDowell, then stolen by Michael Fletcher, who lost it to Laramie Wright, then stolen and taken home by Mike Meek.

Hasegawa 1:72 SBD-3 *Dauntless*: Opened by Jim Priete, then stolen by Chris Bucholtz, then stolen by Eric McClure, then stolen and taken home by Matt Reich.

Lindberg 1:32 T-80: Opened and taken home by Milt Polous.

Revell 1:32 P-38 *Lightning*: Opened by Frank Beltran, then stolen by Jeff Hargis, then stolen and taken home by Alan Weber.

Monogram 1:48 P-51D Mustang: Opened by Randy Rothhaar, then stolen and taken home by Stan Muniz.

Revell 1:144 B-2 and B-52: Opened and taken home by James Rasp.

Monogram Snap-Tite Truck: Opened by Tom Bush Jr., stolen and taken home by Ralph Patino.

Individual track links for a Stug IV: Opened by Jason McChristian, stolen by Frank Beltran, stolen by Brad Chun, then re-stolen and taken home by Jason McChristian.

Caravelle, Comet and 737 Airliners: Opened stolen and taken home by Brian Sakai.

Monogram 1:48 F-106 Delta Dart: Opened and taken home by Mark Hernandez.

"Chips" Kawasaki Motorcycle: Opened by Brad Chun, stolen and taken home by Jack Van Zandt.

Three-Enterprise "Star Trek" set: Opened by Tom Bush Jr., stolen by Stephen Schumaker and stolen and taken home by Angelo Deogracias.

1:48 "Thunderbirds" F-16: Opened and taken home by Doss Wilkinson.

DML 1:72 *Hokum* helicopter: Opened by Jeff Hargis, stolen and taken home by Randy Rothhaar.

Monogram 1:48 P-51 and F4F: Opened by Bert McDowell, stolen and taken home by Bill Abbott.

Italeri 1:72 F-15E: Opened and taken home by Chris Bucholtz.

Monogram 1:48 F-16: Opened and taken home by Bert McDowell.

Hasegawa 1:72 SR-71: Opened and taken home by Bill Dye.

Monogram 1:48 OS2U Kingfisher: Opened by Angelo Deogracias, stolen by Jeff Hargis, stolen by Tom Harrison, then stolen and taken home by Frank Beltran.

Lindberg 1:32 BMP-40: Opened and taken home by Laramie Wright.

A-10 Warthog in Detail and Scale: Opened and taken home by Kris John.

Testors 1:72 F7U Cutlass: Opened by Michael Fletcher, then stolen by Bryan Finch, then stolen by Tom Harrison, then stolen and taken home by Mike Burton.

Bat Boat: Opened by Vivian McBride, then stolen by Jessica Shipway, then stolen and taken home by Stephen Schumaker.

Hobbycraft 1:72 S2F Tracker: Opened by Angelo Deogracias, stolen with the aid of a bribe and taken home by Jessica Shipway.

Lindberg Velociraptor: Opened and taken home by Bryan Finch.

Italeri 1:72 Hs129: Opened by Tom Harrison, stolen by Jim Lewis and finally stolen and taken home by Angelo Deogracias.

Starfix 1:72 Mustang: Opened and taken home by Tom Harrison.

1:700 IJN *Natori* and IJN *Mikizuki*: Opened and taken home by Brad Chun.

Chevy 3100 Pickup: Opened and taken home by Jim Lewis.

1:48 Canadair F-86 *Sabre Mk. 6*: Opened and taken home by Dave Balderrama.

Datsun 240Z: Opened and taken home by Jeff Hargis.

Chevy Corvette: Opened and taken home by Tom Bush Jr.

That's 54 gifts exchanged, with 63 steals! And to all, a good night!

And on your right, the real deal, scanned from my old OSS of January 1996, with all gritty details of 2nd event

We had 39 gifters in # 1, so getting 54 second time out, quite a feat.

These events we were one gift limited, so the 63 steals Chris noted is revealing !

The SVSM gift exchange nightmare returns

It's that time of the year again, time for credit card debt, Rankin and Bass "animated" Christmas specials and mass deforestations in the name of interior decorating. Yes, it's time for the Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza Holiday Industrial Complex! That also means it's time again for the Silicon Valley Scale Modelers pizza party, gift exchange and theft-fest!

It comes around each year, just like cold and flu season—the third Friday of December, all hell breaks loose in Milpitas. We've done this for several years, but for the benefit of the newcomers, here's as brief an explanation as we can manage:

First comes the pizza. It's on the club for the paid-up members, and \$5 for non-members. That will include drinks and any other goodies that people want to bring. This year, please try to refrain from biting each other or eating any of the paper or plastic utensils, as this only leads to loud gastrointestinal outbursts later in the meeting.

Since we have all this pizza around, DO NOT bring models to the meeting unless they are for the "Really Resin" or "Virtually Vacuform" contests. There simply won't be room for more models, if the past is any indication.

Once the gorging has concluded, it's time for the gift exchange. Each person wishing to be in on this malicious activity needs only to bring a model or modeling-related item, valued at \$10 or higher, wrapped up in the obligatory manner of the season. These gifts will be piled high on a table, and as they are, the giver shall give his name to be written on a slip of paper. When the time comes, the first name shall be drawn. This person gets to choose first from the huge pile (which may be a problem, judging by how easily some of our members are distracted by shiny objects) and opens his gift in front of the members, for all to see. Person number two may pick his own gift to be opened before the teeming throng, or may steal person number one's gift. If that gift is stolen, person one goes and gets another present and opens it. The third person may steal either of the two open gifts, or may open a new one. And so on. This continues, as is tradition, until Bert McDowell's

model ship is stolen or until there are no more presents left.

The control placed on this ritual that prevents it from decaying into a grisly free-for-all is that a gift may only be stolen three times. After that, it's out, and the person who stole it last gets to take it home, fondle it, and stick it in the attic or garage with the rest of the stuff he or she will never build. Another sub-rule: Aircraft models by *Lindberg* are NOT welcome. The rule of thumb is this: your gift is not to be an item you would feel bad about taking home with you.

Just speaking hypothetically, let's say that person #1 is Roy Sutherland, and he opens a *Tamiya 1:350 U.S.S. Enterprise*. "Oh drat," says Roy. "It's not British!" Person number two (in this example, Bert McDowell) says, "hey, finally! a ship!" and steals Roy's ship. Roy goes and opens another present. It is a *Hasegawa Typhoon*. The third person drawn is Kent McClure. "Hey, that ship's in the same scale as most of my Anime figures!" yells Kent, who takes the ship from Bert. Bert gets confused and thinks Roy's *Typhoon* is a submarine and steals it. Roy opens a new present, this one being a 1:72 *Beaufighter*. Jim Priete is next, and he steals the *Beaufighter*. Roy opens another gift, this one being a *Hasegawa Macchi MC.202*. Lou Orselli is next; he steals the *Macchi*, Roy steals the *Beaufighter*, Jim steals the *Typhoon*, and Bert steals the *Enterprise*. Since the *Enterprise* has now been stolen three times, it's out and going into permanent storage at Bert's house. Then Kent picks a new gift and the process continues.

The preceding is only hypothetical, because, as you know, Bert never takes a model ship home from these events.

Recently introduced strategies include bringing multiple gifts, sending proxies with your gifts if you are traveling out of town, stealing in-demand kits you DON'T want to set up steals of things you DO want, and keeping track of the steals so that the Secretary (or whoever) gets his gift in a steal-proof fashion.

This traditional event is always the loudest, most raucous and most enjoyable meeting of the year. We look forward to stealing from you!

Oh yes, the December 1998 OSS classic riff, as we have survived the Nationals and go back to BAU...

LETTERS TO SVSM

I have yet to NOT enjoy myself at our infamous end of the year bash; in fact, I think I hurt myself laughing at our latest theft-fest. However, I was concerned about all of the club officers and volunteers doing clean-up detail past midnight when we should all be out of the room much earlier. I know it was past my bedtime. If you don't mind, I would like to offer some suggestions on economizing our time and have a bit more fun doing it.

First, decalre a "delay of game" penalty for multiple wrapping of gifts. The first one was funny; the rest were tedious, particularly the Scotch tape extravaganza. Ask for simple wrappings without ribbons or bows. Bah Humbug!

Next, try to avoid model contests and minimize business. I know we are about modeling, but the gift exchange fun is really the whole reason behind the reversal of our Christmas spirit which we call our party and theft doing. It only comes but once a year, right?

Third, I don't know how you can limit the time that one takes while shopping for a steal or shaking a wrapped gift, but it would help. If nothing else, at least make folks aware that time's a-wasting. It must have been tough on those people who brought little kids.

Like I say, I enjoyed myself, including the traditional losing of the ship. All the work done by those concerned is much appreciated. I hope we can have many more parties.

I think we have a great club; I hope everyone knows it.

—Bert McDowell

Here on the left is a letter from "Grey Admiral" himself so that you may know he was pretty okay with how we had our snarky way with him. This was his response to the 1998 event, which he noted included some glitches.

Sadly Bert went on the next voyage out a number of years back so he isn't able to regale you in person.

Gone yes, but not forgotten

NEXT UP:

From December 2000, Chris again weaves a wicked tale of how our beloved tradition works in a grand hypothesis

The horror that is the SVSM gift exchange

There's a chill in the air, the malls are full of surly people and there's a whole new section of ghastly music at the record store, which could mean only one thing: it must be December and time for the SVSM Pizza Party and Gift Exchange! At the December meeting, leave your built models at home, because we'll be eating pizza. Lots of pizza. Lots of greasy, gooey pizza. Unless you want your model camouflaged in reds and yellows, you'd probably want to leave the built models at home.

We'll have pizza for all our members free of charge; non-members (like family members, guests and others who just want to soak up the ambiance-yech!) will pay \$5. We'll also have sodas, and from time to time members bring their own home-baked desserts. If you want to bring such items, feel free! Guests are encouraged to use napkins, plates and other eating utensils to avoid a repeat of last year's unsavory events.

After the fellowship and camaraderie of the pizza party, the mood will turn 180 degrees and the dark side of human nature will come to the fore. No, I'm not talking about competitive flatulence. I'm talking about the annual gift exchange. To get in on this bloodbath, bring an already wrapped gift to the meeting. The gift should be valued at \$12 or so; more expensive gifts are not prohibited, and have the added value of making one person happy and, generally, three people miserable!

Please make these gifts items you would like to receive; *LifeLike* and *Lindberg* kits are strongly discouraged, old *Aoshima* models may result in a beating with a folding chair, and *Starfix* kits will draw a penalty that would make the Taliban cringe.

Each participant will have his name written on a slip of paper, which will go into a hat, can or other drawing-worthy container. At the start of the event, the first name is drawn, and that person picks a gift from the pile and opens it for all to see, much an African predator might inadvertently show its kill to the jackals and vultures. The second person whose name is drawn has the option of opening his own present or stealing the first gift. If the first gift is stolen, first person whose name was drawn must open a new gift. The third person drawn can steal either of the two now-open gifts or

open his own present.

The ground rules this year are thus:

1. Models may be stolen three times, no more. After that, the model is dead and is going home with the last person to steal it. The secretary/editor shall keep track of when things are stolen.

2. Please bring no more than two models per person for the exchange, unless they are exceptionally good. Violators will be forced to go pick up the pizza for next year's event.

Let us employ a hypothetical scenario to illustrate this ritual. Let's say the first name drawn is that of Cliff Kranz. Cliff opens a gift and receives a *Testors* M47 tank. "This is just what my lady friend wanted me to build for her!" he says. Next drawn is Vladimir Yakubov, who considers stealing Cliff's tank for .0002 seconds before opening up an *ICM* I-16. "This was the very best fighter of World War II!" he says. "Except for the fact that it was shot down in huge numbers and had an engine that tended to explode whenever it was exposed to oxygen or aviation fuel, and burst into flames if it was hit by anything heavier than sunlight." Next is Jim Priete, who steals the I-16, just because he's that kind of guy. Vladimir opens the next model, and it's an *AMT* XB-35; he looks confused, since there's almost no way to make an XB-35 in Soviet markings. Mark Hernandez is next; he steals the XB-35, hoping to make it into some kind of hypothetical German aircraft. Vladimir steals back the I-16. Jim opens the next present; a *Hasegawa* Ki-84. Laramie is next; he steals Cliff's M47. Cliff steals the XB-35, Mark steals the Ki-84, and Jim steals the I-16. The I-16 is dead, having been stolen three times. Vladimir opens the next gift, a 1:72 kit of any WWII British aircraft, and declares his intent to build it as a Russian plane. Robin Powell gasps in horror and tries to hold back his tears.

This goes on, as is the way of SVSM, until all models are opened or until Bert McDowell has had his model ship stolen, whichever comes last. (In the event that Bert is unable to attend, the all-important ship will be stolen from Duane Fowler.)

Hopefully, as in past years, this routine will be lively, fun and mostly violence-free. If you have any questions, call the editor, or better yet, Bert McDowell.

Okay, so now below left is actual evidence we didn't completely wreck our ability to be sharing fun, this unretouched letter is from a long time member and refers to the 2001 Horror (I mean Exchange...)

LETTERS TO SVSM—

Folks,

Thank you all for making my wife Jean and our son Benjamin feel VERY welcome at the Gift Exchange. Young Benjamin put the *Lindberg* Galley together using blue masking tape (no glue, it takes too long) the next night and we began gluing the S.S. *France* together shortly after Christmas. We've completed steps 1 and 3 from the instructions and while he's getting too much help for a contest entry, it may be done for display at the Kickoff...It was as good as I'd been promising them it would be.

Happy Modeling!
Bill Abbott

Below, a preview of scary stuff to come, as this again unretouched clip from 2005 OSS reveals some of 2004 December in action!



President Bucholtz attempts to divinely peruse the contents of the cloaked gifts.

NOW I could not resist including OSS December 2003 another classic spot on hypothetical narrative. Alao we now' were increasing the number of potential gifts per person you may also note

EDITOR'S BRIEF

It's December, which means that our monthly meeting will be a little different than usual. It's the month of the gift exchange, where gifts will be given, stolen and pronounced dead—all among friends, of course!

As we did last year, we are holding the event at Round Table on Saratoga and Moorpark It's an all-you-can-eat event; it's also an all-you-can-pay-for event.

Here's how to participate in the exchange: bring an already wrapped gift to the meeting. The gift should be valued at \$12 or more; make it something you'd like to receive yourself. The dregs of the hobby (we're speaking of kits, like *Lindberg*, early *Aoshima*, *Lifelike* and *Starfix*, as opposed to certain modelers) should be left at home; bringing one will mean that Mike Meek has to go home for his blowtorch and a pair of pliers. This year each participant may bring two gifts .

Each participant will have his name written on a slip of paper, which will go into a hat, can, *Trumpeter* aircraft carrier hull or some such container. Also, put your name on the outside of the gift. That way, if the present is inappropriate, like a *Tamiya* P-47D box full of athletic socks, the giver will be identified, mocked, attacked with either a banana or a pointed stick, given his gift back and excused from the rest of the exchange.

Otherwise, things remain as they ever were. The first name is drawn, and that person picks a gift from the pile and opens it for all to see. The second person whose name is drawn has the option of opening his own present or stealing the first gift. If the first gift is stolen, first person whose name was drawn must open a new gift. The third person drawn can steal either of the two now-open gifts or open his own present.

The ground rules are thus:

1. Models may be stolen three times. After that, the model is dead and goes home with the last person to steal it. The secretary/editor shall keep track of when things are stolen.

2. Please bring no more than two models per person.

To illustrate how this works, let us create a scenario. John Carr opens the first gift, a *Tamiya* 1:35 Wespe self-propelled gun. After John's usual excessively demonstrative display of emotion at opening such a cool kit, Bill Ferrante demonstrates nearly the same degree of emotion when he opens an *Academy* M3 Stuart tank. After Bill trudges back to his seat, Postoria Aguirre steals the Stuart, contemplating finishing it as a tricked-out three-passenger business tank. Bill opens the next gift from the table, an *A-Model* An-22 Cock. Vladimir Yakubov then keels over in a dead faint. Next is Barry Bauer, who makes some reference to the An-22's code name as you would expect him to and steals the big kit. Bill decides to steal the Stuart. Postoria opens the next kit, a *Bandai* starship *Enterprise*. Brian Sakai then keels over in a dead faint. Steven Quock opens the next gift and gets a book on the Banff Strike Wing. Several pasty-complexioned RAF modelers keel over in a dead faint. Brad Chun is next; he steals the Wespe from John Carr, who steals the Stuart from Bill, who grabs Barry's... An-22 (have to be careful with that code name!), and Barry steals the *Enterprise* from Postoria. The Stuart has been stolen three times and is "dead," meaning it's John's to keep. Postoria opens an Entex 1:20 Porsche 914 and thinks, "how hard could it be?" Scott Nagle is next and theorizes that the biggest must be the best, and he opens an *Academy* 1:32 F/A-18. He is happy, because he is a rookie to this and is unaware of the 15 other guys in the room waiting to pounce on his model like jackals—Christmas jackals, but jackals just the same.

This continues until all models are opened, until Bert McDowell's ship is stolen, or until Jim Priete makes a little kid cry, whichever comes last. If you have never been through this before, don't worry; you'll figure it out as we go along, and it'll toughen you up for the holidays!

—The Editor

AS WELL, TWO MORE EXEMPLARY ARTIFACTS FROM YES, 2004 SVSM GIFT "EXCHANGE"



P.A. bravely opens a mystery gift.



Greg Plummer is once again forced to give up a model.

AND A BRIEF LOOK AT 2005 while we're at it...

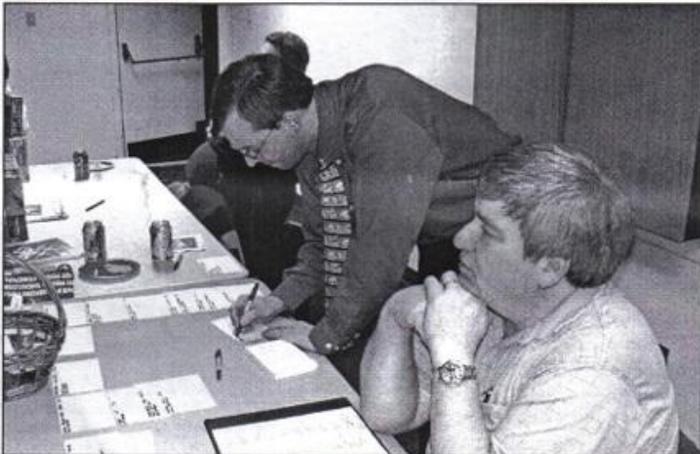


The December 2005 pile of presents awaits what's coming to it. In several hours these presents would never see each other again.

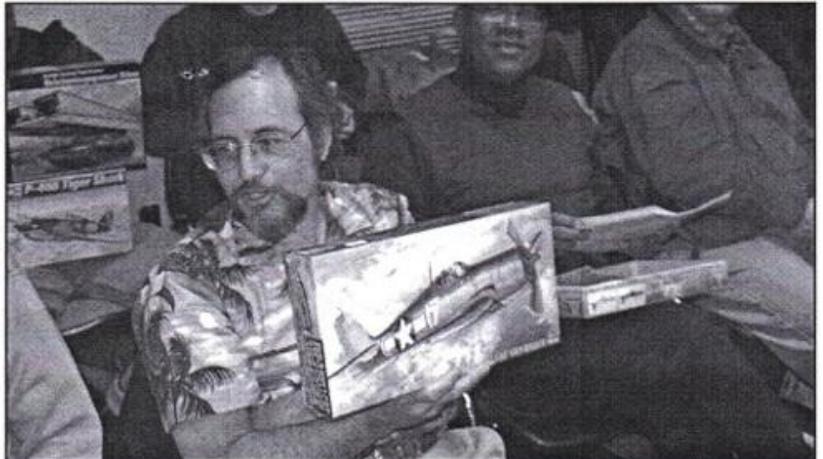
Not once but twice not to be outdone, John Heck as Editor has matched his captionary skills of 2004 with these for the 2005 Gift Exchange, which helps my little article



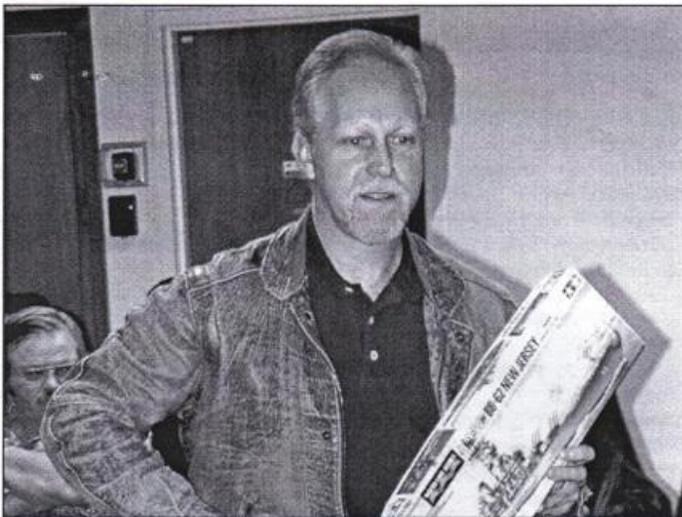
P.A. sizes up a Tamiya 1:48 Irving. He declines.



Vice president Bucholtz uses his patented method of tracking the opened models. My sources says it involves 3 x 5 index cards.



Kent McClure offers his Hasegawa 1:48 F6F Hellcat for swiping. Your editor obliges.



Andy Kellock opens a package to find a Tamiya 1:700 U.S.S. New Jersey. In a disturbing crime spree, the kit was stolen by Ron Wergin, stolen by Brian Sakai, stolen back and taken home by Ron Wergin. Ron Wergin is still at large.



Keiko Wright keeps track of Laramie's winnings, for the evening. Perhaps she is visualizing another trip to Disneyland. (Think big, Keiko—think Walt Disney World!)



Yes, really did get us all in this room with pizza and gifts, rather successfully, see any familiar faces here?

On the right, Greg Plummer has a look that could say a lot less than a thousand words yet state more

AH YES – 2006 where we proved we can fit into phone booth
Thanks again goes to John Heck for getting first three months of 2006 OSS done with a thoughtful introspective signoff in the March issue which today rings ever so true still. Worth a read !

These pictures were taken by Editor Jared Bishop for the January 2007 OSS. Where after 10 issues under his belt he began showing signs that Harry Calahan wasn't off note on leaving USS Hornet at end of Magnum Force told "smart new guy boss" : " A man has got to know his limitations"...



Say, I think I have seen that ball capped bloke somewhere. Oh yeah on a milk carton at a Fremont meeting, that's it.

Okay for now you're in luck as after taking Editor post on with Bill Ferrante in September 2007 as Jared vanished..., the events continued on but took a while to get pictures in again, as I had stopped being an Editor in cut & paste days



HOWEVER – IN CASE YOU EVER WONDERED- From my early 2008 news came INAUGURAL of these club contests...and the following one in 2009!

And keep the midnite oils burning you intrepid builders as we are at D minus 30 and counting for ...

Er

Theme Club Contest for March 2008 SVSM Meeting

"NINETY DAY WONDERS" Limited Competition. Specific Eligible Entries:

Any and all models that an entrant obtained as a result of the SVSM 2007 December Gift Exchange, that are presented as "completed" for our judges to evaluate at the March SVSM meeting. Here's your chance to get over any "AMS" or other hindrances to getting something done and on the table. Fun, foolery and frenzy at same time. GEE Whiz! (Gift Exchange Entry, built by a Whiz) Go ahead, give Kelly Johnson run for his money

ABOVE, All now POTENTIAL ENTRIES for CLUB CONTEST MARCH 2009

THEME IS "90 Day Wonders Redux"

In keeping with the inaugural run of this contest idea last year (thank you to all who came up with and lobbied to get idea into working form, now proving to have real heart in it, which is why we now have "redux") any item that is connected to 2008 "Theft" is eligible. No restrictions on how you choose to have your item(s) completed (stock or wild, anything goes) JUST MAKE SURE ENTRY IS "FINISHED" ok? Based on January meeting table, we certainly have some field of battle

" That ROBBED Sense ": December 2010 Club Gift Theft Revue



Pizza Parlors and Modelers seem to be a theme here, don't they? Our last meeting for 2010 was again at Round Table Pizza off Stevens Creek in San Jose. With a decent turnout of participants for the " Gift Theft ". Whereupon normally civil and decent folks turned on their friends and neighbors in order to grab that kit they simply can't do without or don't want to see someone else getting. We'll go for it again next year, no doubt...



In any case, we always keep good records as you see above. On the right you may notice the varied reactions of some players. Paul is apparently about to box Frank's ears...oww!



Other participants take a gentler approach. Here we see Bill Ferrante kindly offer Mike Meek an aircraft kit, it seems Mike wants none of it

Maybe an Airfield Tractor then?



Steve Travis is puzzled. Yes, it IS on a desert floor, and looks a lot like a Salt Flat Belly Tank Racer...But do I want it?



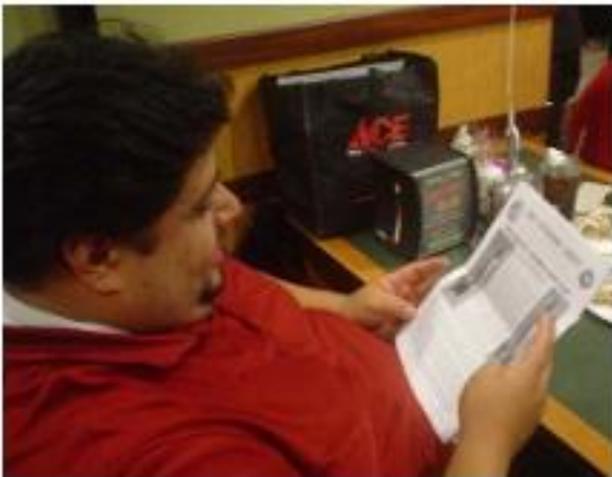
No matter, Bill Abbott later steals it for his own nefarious purposes. Thank John Heck for the kit



At left, it seems at some point it became a fashion to wear kits as hats. So Dave Quick went on the prowl for the perfect accessory...



Meantime, another Dave finds time for some light reading in an oddly familiar publication.



Happily, Dave Quick finds the head gear to suit him. Friend to last, Bill loans Mike a hat.



And a Happy New Year Y'all

- Mick fini

Yes-indeed, mick fini (for now)

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF 01-27-26

Friday, January 30 2026 NOTE WE MEET ON FIFTH FRIDAY for this first meet of 2026

IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers meeting at MPD Community Room. **SUPER AUCTION is the Club Contest**

Friday, February 13 2026

IPMS/ Fremont Hornets host their meeting at **IRVINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER** in Fremont

Friday, February 20 2026

IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers meeting at MPD Community Room. **“No One Wants You” Club Contest**

Friday, March 13 2026

IPMS/ Fremont Hornets host their meeting at **IRVINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER** in Fremont

Friday, March 20 2026

IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers meeting at MPD Community Room. **“Here Comes The Sun” Club Contest**

Saturday, April 11 2026

IPMS/Wine Country Modelers host **“WINE COUNTRY MODEL EXPO ”** Show at Petaluma Community Center 320 N McDowell Blvd, Petaluma CA. **AN AWESOME EVENT not to be missed, with lots to do and see, new concept**

Friday, April 17 2026

IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers meeting at MPD Community Room. **Another 120 Days Wonder Club Contest**

Saturday, May 02 2026

IPMS/Las Vegas host **“BEST OF THE WEST ”** Show at their favorite locale Orleans Hotel & Casino

Saturday, May 16 2026

IPMS/ Silver Wings host their SILVERCON 2026 at their favorite locale. Theme is **“Heavy Metal”**

Saturday, May 23 2026

IPMS/ Fresno Scale Modelers host their major event CONTEST & SHOW in conjunction with CASTLE Air Museum Theme is **“250 Anniversary of USA”**, contest/show is at Atwater Community Center. OPEN COCKPIT Day is at Castle.

Friday, June 12 2026

IPMS/ Fremont Hornets host their meeting at GAMES of FREMONT in #200 Fremont Hub, Fremont

Friday, June 19 2026

IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers meeting at MPD Community Room. **D-Day for Let Me Finish That For You**

Saturday, September 26 2026

IPMS/ Reno High Rollers host their 25th Classic at National Auto Museum, Reno NV Theme is **“Red, White & Blue”**

Saturday, October 17 2026

IPMS/ Antelope Valley Group host their DESERT CLASSIC #28 at Antelope Valley College cafeteria, confirmed Antelope Valley College, 3041 W Avenue K, Lancaster, CA Theme is **“ Feminine Phenomenons ”**

Saturday, November 14 2026

IPMS/ Fremont Hornets host their CONTEST & Show TriCity EIGHTEEN themed **“ TOP GUN “** being held at the Fremont Elks Lodge #2121, 38991 Farwell Dr, Fremont CA.

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER



Text: Kent McClure Photos: Mick Burton/Anonymous Sources



It's a Bad Kit, ... Really?

Have you ever looked through your stash of models and wondered "I should really get rid of this model. It's a bad kit." Is it really? Why is it a bad kit? What makes it a bad kit? Or did you just ask the wrong question?

Is it actually a bad model, or is it a bad kit? "Wait a minute", I hear you say. "Isn't that the same thing?" Not necessarily. True, the model that you have may not be the perfect representation of the aircraft/tank/ship/car you want but is it a bad kit? I suggest to you that maybe you should have a few bad kits in your collection.



"Heresy!" I hear you cry. No, not heresy but perhaps a slightly different way of looking at things.

Scenario 1. Let's say that Manufacturer X has just released a new line of paints and he makes a lot of pretty promises about the virtue of his new products. So, you buy a couple of bottles of the paint and want to try it out.

You dig through your stash of "Tamiyagawa" kits looking for a "paint mule". But the rough average price of the kits in your "Tamiyagawa" stash is \$25 to \$30.

Sorry, I'm just too much of a Scotsman to use a \$25 kit as a "paint test mule".

I can tell you just where to stuff that idea in your kilt.

Scenario 2. You want to convert your “Tamiyagawa” kit into a different version that has a different arrangement of panel lines on it. Or maybe your kit has raised panel lines but you want recessed lines.

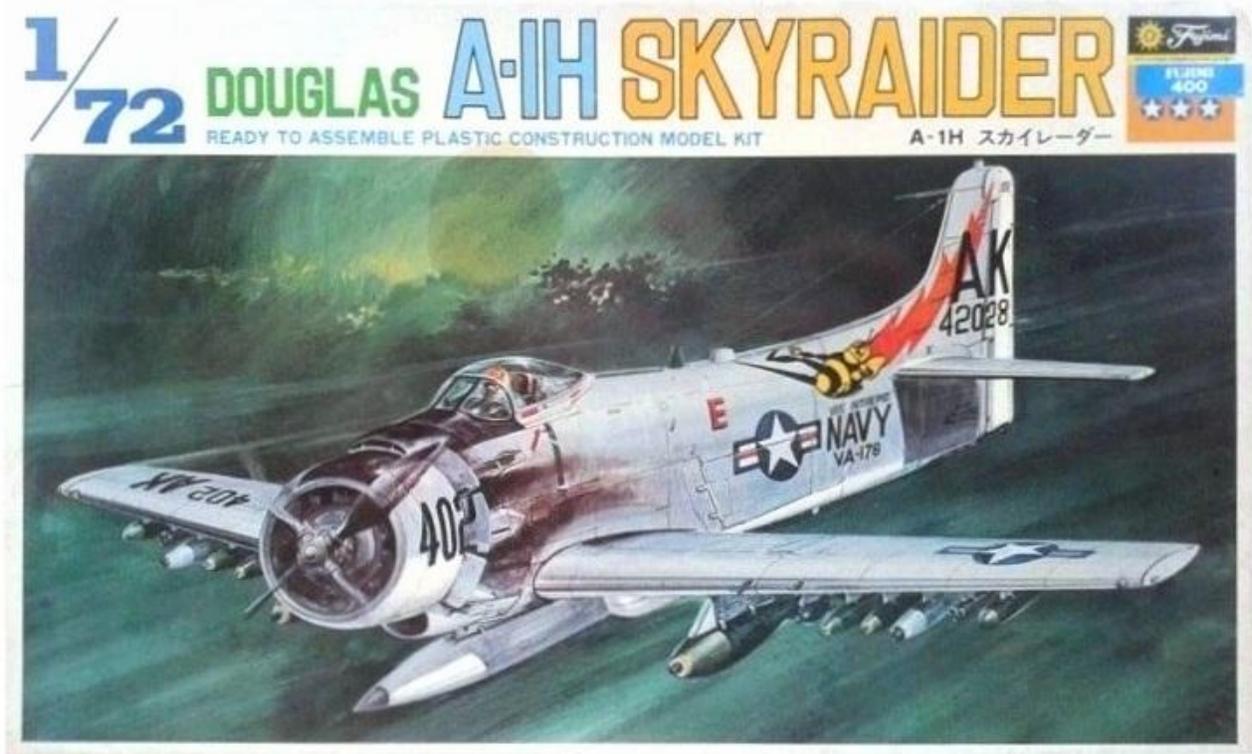


In either case, you have never scribed anything in your life. Are you going to use your “precious” as a sacrificial goat while you learn how to scribe?



In both cases, here is where your “bad kit” comes into play. You grab one of your “bad kits” - preferably a cheap one - and just repurpose it as your test dummy.

Auctions/flea markets/garage sales are great places to find “donor” kits.



Is the light coming on? Now do you see the advantage of having some “bad kits” in your collection.

Use those “bad kits” to hone your skills, then transfer that knowledge to something you want to keep. Keep the difference between what you paid for your “bad” kit and what you would have paid for a “good” kit and use it to pick up the kit you really want.

Then buy yourself a cup of coffee with whatever is left over. -Kent fini

EVENTS ALREADY BOOKED for 2026 !

UNOFFICIAL FLYER COURTESY of MIRANDCO



ABSOLUTELY AWESOME REGION 9 APRIL NEWS !!

***THIS is HUGE TURN of EVENT Check it out Please
HATS OFF to The CREW UP NORTH for This One***



April 11th, 2026

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Petaluma Community Center

320 N. McDowell Blvd Petaluma CA, 94954

<https://winecountrymodelexpo.com/>

GO TO THEIR WEBSITE to get the BIG PICTURE truly exciting opener for 2026

THE DATE's OFFICIAL

This Flyer is not



Saturday April 25 2026

Calling All Model Car Enthusiasts!

As passionate builders and lifelong fans of the scale modeling hobby, we're excited to invite you to a brand-new gathering that picks up where NNL West left off—celebrating creativity, craftsmanship, and community. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, we invite you to join us for a gathering that celebrates detail, style, and shared passion. Bring your builds, share your stories, and connect with fellow artists who appreciate the beauty of the art. Let's showcase our work, inspire each other, and keep the model car scene thriving!

<https://www.leftcoastscaleclassic.com/>

***Unofficial Flyer courtesy MIRANDCO
All information deemed reliable but not complete***

Ventura County Fairgrounds

at Seaside Park

Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 West Harbor Boulevard
Ventura, CA 93001



NEARLY 21,000 Square Feet of exhibit hall all within walking distance of historic downtown Ventura.

UNOFFICIAL FLYER COURTESY of MIRANDCO



Information deemed reliable but not complete, date was provided but no other details at this time



BEST OF THE WEST



EVENT COMING

Saturday May 02 2026

Stay tuned for locale and further details

IPMS SilverWings PRESENTS

SilverCon 2026

CONTEST THEME: HEAVY METAL

Best us of Natural Metal Finish

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Registration: 9am - 12pm

Judging begins: 12pm



VENDOR CONTACT: JERALD CLEMENT\$ 916-346-4419
or **BIGJER009@GMAIL.COM**

ADULT (18+) \$12 FIRST 2 ENTRIES, \$3 EA ADDITIONAL ENTRY

JUNIOR (7-17) \$4 FIRST 2 ENTRIES, \$1 EA ADDITIONAL ENTRY

KIDS (6 & UNDER) FREE

2 RAFFLES

50+ CATEGORIES

TOWN & COUNTRY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4049 Marconi Ave
Sacramento, CA 95821

<https://www.sacramento-model-club.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ipmssilverwings>



AN ABSOLUTE TREAT for 3 Day Weekend

GO GRIFFONS !



IPMS FRESNO

IN CONJUNCTION WITH
CASTLE AIR MUSEUM
OPEN COCKPIT

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MODEL CONTEST

@ THE ATWATER COMMUNITY CENTER

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD
2026

THEMES: USA 250TH ANNIVERSARY
CASTLE AIR MUSEUM /AFB SUBJECT
BEST CRAPPY MODEL

PLEASE SCAN QR CODE FOR
FURTHER DETAILS

25TH ANNUAL MODEL CONTEST

THEME

**Red,
White
& Blue**



**Contest Celebrating 250 years
of American Independence**

**2 BIG RAFFLES
SWAP MEET**



**2 FREE
RAFFLE TICKETS
WITH ADMISSION**

**Admission Includes
Full Access to
Museum Exhibits**

Date: Saturday - September 26, 2026

9:00AM - 4:00PM

National Automobile Museum

1 Museum Drive - Reno, Nevada

Admission Fee: \$10.00 Adults - Children 5 and Under - Free
Contest Entry \$6.00 for First Model - \$1.00 for Each Additional Model
Chapter Contact: - Douglas Summers (775) 867-8554 - ghpltd@att.net
Vendors Contact: - Andre Urruty for Reservations: urrutyam@gmail.com



Visit us at www.renohighrollers.com

Desert Classic XXVIII

Presented by

The Antelope Valley Group

IPMS Region 8

Saturday October 17th, 2026

Antelope Valley College Cafeteria
3041 W. Ave K, Lancaster CA 93536



This Year's Theme:
**"Feminine
Phenomenons"**

Categories

1. Rotary Wing, All Scales & Types
2. Aircraft; Biplanes, All Scales & Types
3. Aircraft 1/73 & Smaller
4. Aircraft 1/72 Prop
5. Aircraft 1/72 Multi Engine Prop
6. Aircraft 1/72 Jet
7. Aircraft 1/48 Prop
8. Aircraft 1/48 Multi Engine Prop
9. Aircraft 1/48 Jet
10. Aircraft 1/32 & Larger
11. Ships 1/500 & Larger
12. Ships 1/501 & Smaller
13. Submarines: All Scales & Types
14. Military Vehicles Small Scale 1/36 & Smaller All Types
15. Tanks/Assault Guns Closed Top -1945 & Earlier (1/35 & Larger)
16. Tanks/Assault Guns Closed Top 1946 & Later (1/35 & Larger)
17. Artillery & Open Top Self-Propelled Guns (1/35 & larger)
18. Military Vehicles Tracked (1/35 & Larger)
19. Military Vehicles Wheeled (1/35 & Larger)
20. Auto Factory & Replica Stock
21. Auto Street Machine & Hot Rods
22. Auto Cruisers, Customs, Low Riders
23. Auto Competition Straight & Oval Track
24. Auto: Motorcycles & Miscellaneous
25. Commercial & Construction Vehicles
26. Figures: Historical
27. Figures: Fantasy/Sci-fi/Wargame 53mm & smaller
28. Figures: Fantasy / Sci-fi Biologic Types
29. Dioramas: All Compositions
30. Vignettes
31. Gundam / Mechs / Robots
32. Sci-Fi & Real Spacecraft
33. Miscellaneous
34. Jurassic Plastic (OOB Rules) Instructions Required
35. Tom Daniel Creations
36. Juniors: 17 & Under

Special Awards

Best of Show
Theme Award: *"Feminine Phenomenons"*
Presidents Award
David Newman X-Plane Award
Best Auto Finish
Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy Subject
Best A-10
Best Lockheed P-38
Best Boeing B-17
Best NASA Subject
Best Reconnaissance Subject
Spirit of '76
Trophy Hound Award

Schedule:

Registration 9:00 AM to Noon
Judging 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM
Awards Presentation 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Fees:

Adult: \$15.00 up to 3 entries.
\$1.00 ea. per additional entry.
Juniors: FREE
Spectators: FREE
Vendors: \$45.00 Per table (reserved)
\$50.00 at the door.

Vendor Contact: Curtis Stidham

cbstidham@sbcglobal.net <http://www.avg-imps.org>



TRI-CITY CLASSIC XVIII

Scale Model Contest and Exhibition



Saturday, November 14 2026

at the **Fremont Elks Lodge**, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont, California **9am - 5pm**

67 Categories of Competition in **Aircraft, Autos, Figures, Ships, Military Vehicles, Space & Fictional, and Paper Kits**

“TOP GUN”

(On Theme Entry Subject anything from USA or from Vietnam Conflict 1964-75)

NEW Special Awards in addition to traditional First/Second/Third place are:

“Tomcat” Award for Best Entry befitting the Contest Theme

“Best of the Best” (three awards: Best: Grumman “Cat” Subject, Armored “Cat” Subject, “Bird” subject)

“Great Balls of Fire” Award for Best Post 1976 U.S.A. subject (any, includes hypothetical)

ALSO “Mulieres Volante” for Women In Aerospace Subject & “Know A Hornet’s Mighty Sting” for Best American Fighter Aircraft

Plus these: “Lightning Strikes Twice”, “IT FIGURES” (Up to 3 Awards for Junior/Youth with prolific entry)

Also: Vendors, a raffle and other fun items announced on day of event!

Free Admission to all spectators!

Contestant Entry: \$ 10 for modelers 18yrs & older w/FIVE model entries/less (\$15 for SIX or more) Modelers 17/under, FREE with unlimited entry

For Vendor Information, Contact VP David Parks, DAVIDPARKS81@comcast.net. Be advised : **VALID CA SALES TAX PERMIT REQUIRED**

For All Other Queries : Email **Contest Director** Mick Burton directly at DAZE61283@mypacks.net with “Tri City 18 Contest” on subject line

The following are planned for 2026 TriCity Classic XVIII. Entrants should not plan for nor expect splits. **SWEEPS ALLOWED** in **REGULAR CATEGORIES**. (Not for Specials)

Cat #	Category Description	Youth = (12 & Under)	Junior = (13-17)	Senior (18 and up)	AS = All Scales	AS/AT = All Scales / All Types
1A	Youth Aircraft AS/AT	1B Youth Automotive	1C Youth Mil Vehicles	2A Youth SF/Fantasy/Veh & Figures	2B Youth All Other	
3A	Junior Mil Vehicles	3B Junior Automotive	3C Junior SF/Fantasy/Veh & Figures	3D Junior Ships/All Other	4 Junior Aircraft AS/AT	
5	Biplanes/Fabric & Rigging, 1/32 & larger		11 Multi Engine Jet/Rocket Aircraft 1/72			
6	Biplanes/Fabric & Rigging, 1/48 & smaller		12 Single Engine Prop or Turbo Axis 1/48			
7	Single Engine Prop or Turbo 1/72 Axis		13 Single Engine Prop or Turbo Prop 1/48 Allied/Neutral			
8	Single Engine Prop or Turbo 1/72 Allied/Neutral		14 Multi Engine Prop or Turbo Aircraft 1/48			
9	Multi Engine Prop or Turbo Aircraft 1/72		15 Single Engine Jet/Rocket Aircraft 1/48			
10	Single Engine Jet or Rocket Aircraft 1/72		16 Multi Engine Jet/Rocket 1/48			
17	Aircraft 1/87 scale and smaller		22 Rotary Wing Aircraft, AS/AT			
18	Aircraft Prop or Turboprop 1/40 and larger		23 Artillery and related ancillary vehicles, Cannons, unmounted Small Arms, AS			
19	Aircraft Jet 1/40 and larger		24 Surface Ships 1/401 & Smaller			
20	Air Racers/Civilian Air, AS		25 Surface Ships 1/400 & Larger			
21	Air Liners AT/AS		26 Submarines, AS			
27	Autos Custom & Low Rider, AS		34 Military Softskin 1/35			
28	Automobiles Competition, Open Wheel, AS		35 AFVs & Military Softskin 1/48 only			
29	Automobiles Competition, Closed Wheel, AS		36 AFVs & Military Softskins 1/25 & Larger			
30	Motorcycle/Autos, Other, (Stock, Utility, Pickups) AS		37 AFVs Military Softskin 1/50 & Smaller			
31	Armored Fighting Vehicles 1/35 Allied		38 Military Multi Vehicles & Towed Trailers, AS			
32	Armored Fighting Vehicles 1/35 Axis		39 Real Space, Capsules, Orbiters & Deep Space Vehicles,AS			
33	Armored Fighting Vehicles 1/35 1955 & later		40 Real Space, Surface Exp/Land Craft,& Earth BOUND test subjects, AS			
41	Missiles & Rockets, Real Space Launch Vehicles AT/AS		47 Sci Fic Vehicles/Spacecraft, AS		52 PAPER Models, AS/AT	
42A	8” or less tall Figure Fant & Sci fi, Horror, Robot (No Gundam)		48 Figures, Historical, to 18 th Century		53A (Less) UNFINISHED Subjects	
43B	9” & taller Figure Fant & Sci fi, Horror, Robot (No Gundam)		49 Figures, Historical, 19 th Century & beyond		54B (More) UNFINISHED Subjects	
44C	GUNDAM Models, ONLY, 1/144 scale & smaller		50A Dioramas, 8”/smaller base		55 Collections (5 or More subject), AS/AT	
45D	GUNDAM Models, ONLY, 1/143 scale & larger		51B Dioramas, 9” & up larger		56 Miscellaneous, AS/AT	
46E	SciFi Wargaming Subjects ONLY (Warhammer, et al)		57 GUNDAM Beginners ONLY, All Scales (if you’ve never competed in Gundam, this is for you!)			

Special Awards in addition to traditional First/Second/Third place are: (Please Note: **NO SWEEPS** in Special Awards)

1. “TOMCAT” Award for Best Entry befitting the Contest Theme
2. “Best of the Best” Award (3) Best “Grumman “Cat”, “Armored “ Cat ””, “ Bird ” Subject
3. “Great Balls of Fire” Award Best Post 1976 U.S.A.Subject (Real or Not)
4. “ Mulieres Volante” Award for Women In Aerospace Subject Entry
5. “ Know A Hornet’s Mighty Sting ” for Best American Fighter Aircraft, in honor of Sir Bob 1759 OBE
6. “ Lightning Strikes Twice ” : Best English Electric or Lockheed Lightning, Arado Blitz (all are Twin Engine Lightning) **OR Qualified Pair of SE A/C**
7. “ Kenneth Jung Memorial Award “ Contest Director’s Choice
8. “ Steve Travis Service Award ” Recognition for Service to Fremont Hornets or Region Nine
9. Awards Best in Category for: Fig or Robot; Auto; Ship or SpaceShip; Aircraft; Armor; Diorama, Show Senior, Show Junior or Youth
10. “ IT FIGURES Lester Tockerman Memorial Award ” 3 set Junior/Youth Awards, Given by MIRANDCO in honor of a great man and contributor
11. “TOP SECRET” Award for Best Spy Subject (Vehicle or Person(s))
12. “TOWARD THE UNKNOWN” Award for Best Pioneering or Exploratory or Experimental Subject (Vehicle or Person)





INVITE YOU & FRIENDS
TO
OUR
SV CLASSIC X
FUNDRAISER AUCTION

NOW BEING RE- SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON
OUR **REVISED** MEETING NIGHT OF **FRIDAY**

JANUARY 30 2026

AT OUR MILPITAS MEETING LOCATION

Community Room, Milpitas Police Department, 1275 N Milpitas Blvd, Milpitas CA

Business begins promptly 730 PM & everything must be concluded by 10 PM

ADD TO THE FUN !

BRING AN UNSTARTED MODEL KIT (or two!) THAT YOU WOULD BID MADLY FOR
TO GET BACK, AS A DONATION

NOTE: NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED

PLEASE SHARE THE JOY OF OUR HOBBY AND FRIENDS

Because it seems sometimes more than a few forget this :

THE ONE TRUE RULE OF MODELLING (if ever there is).

*If you're having fun,
Then you're doing it right.*



EDITOR
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