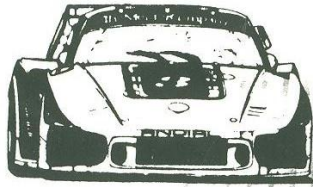


SAN JOSE SCALE MODELERS



San Jose
Chapter IPMS

JANUARY 1986



NEXT MEETING: JAN. 17, FRIDAY
TIME: 8:00 PM FOR BUSINESS
7:30 FOR GOOD SEATS

AT: MERCURY SAVINGS,
19376 STEVENS CREEK BOULEVARD
CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER'S MUCHO MINUTES -

We made it through another year, this one 1985, to send off our past year's officers and drag in the new. By the end of the meeting and the end of our December Quarterly Contest, the idea of sending off our past officers seemed like a much better idea as Larry Taylor, retiring VP, definitely needed a LONG rest. In his last official act, he created what must surely be this club's largest number of heretofore unknown, unused and entirely enjoyable contest categories. Never have we had so many class winners and so few losers, which if my tabulations are correct was none.

Lest I get ahead of myself and get the minutes in inverted order, I will refrain from describing the December contest any further until later in this issue. You know, dramatic impact and all that.

Chuck Hansen from the AAHS again stopped in and added to his comments from the previous meeting about their upcoming National Convention. As he had previously mentioned, he needs aircraft, space and missile models for display at the convention. What he added this time is that the individuals putting models on display will have free access to the convention. This will include all displays, speakers, swap & sell areas and more, but tours and dinners still cost extra.

First on the agenda for the evening, and probably first so it could be done before any one could run back out the door, was the election of the 1986 club officers. As I had discussed before, the offices of Treasurer and Secretary were offered separately. Nominations for Treasurer were opened to a great round of silence. Then David Cooper bravely stood up and offered to accept the position. He was hastily accepted before he could reconsider.

Next the now separate office of Secretary was offered and met with an equal round of silence. Figuring it might be as easy to take the notes myself, than to track down some other secretary to get the minutes, and since I would now not have to simultaneously count the coins, I volunteered for the job of Secretary. This too was accepted, but not as readily as Cooper's offer with there being some whispered grumblings through attendance saying "But isn't this the same guy who wrote that 'Christmas Foible'!?" Still I cut the mustard (isn't that one of those phrases you'd love to know the original meaning of?).

Next job up was the office of VP, or more often referred to as Excedrin headache #82. More silence, but this time it didn't stay silent long as Rodney Williams stood up. He offered to accept the headache, oops, office. He too was accepted, however I did warn him

right after the meeting that as future Secretary and continuing newsletter editor, I was not going to print EVERYTHING he had to say as the club could not afford the printing costs.

Lastly we came upon the job of El Presidente. At this moment a curious thing suddenly happened, as a number of chairs must have broken simultaneously as several members suddenly sank out of sight to the floor. Then in a perfectly orchestrated and executed move, somewhere in the room came a voice which said "I nominate Barry Bauer". Barry got as far saying "But..." when was heard a resounding "I second the nomination" followed perfectly by "All in favor say aye". "AAYYEEEE!" was the response, and Barry was now 1986's President. He never knew what hit him.

Now that the posse had rounded up the '86 hombres, we went on to other items, such as guests. In this area we had two, well three really. Tom Hanley attended, having just moved up from Orange County. A little later in the meeting Daniel Galgani and his son also arrived. You may remember that Daniel won our October contest's 1/25th scale car category with a very nicely detailed Porsche 956 Le Mans racer.

Larry Taylor next commented on the upcoming February contest, again at the Castro Middle School. His contact, Anita, said we will have the same number of tables and hopefully the closer bathrooms and parking lot gate open. Larry requested that we will need posters out by Campbell Avenue to encourage and direct attendance.

Larry has also dropped the cost for the Beginner's category (9 yrs. & younger) to only \$.25 from the previous \$.50. Juniors are still age 10-15 and Seniors 16-gray.



GO FOR THE GOLD!

Welcome To The Heart Of California

I.P.M.S. National Convention 1986

July 31, August 1, 2, & 3

Tours:

**McClellan, Mather, Travis, & Beale AFB's
FMC Defence Systems Group
California State Railway Museum
Family Tour, Lake Tahoe, & Napa Wine Tours**

AND!

**The Finest Model Contest in the USA
Speakers - Vendors - Banquet**



**For Additional Info:
1986 IPMS Convention
P.O. Box 1042
SACRAMENTO, CA. 95805
(707) 448-0114**



Rodney Williams next spoke up with recommendation that we show video programs during the judging period to distract people away from the display areas and to hold their attention. This could be done either in a separate room if it were available, or possibly in the seating area for the awards presentations. It was noted that D&J had rental programs. I have no notes to indicate if this idea was accepted or not.

Next Bill Magnie gave a report on this year's Veterans Administration Hospital donations. This year we actually had more kits than could be practically donated since an individual named Olaf donated his collection of 125 kits to us for the VA, plus what we had made a total of 215 with another 20-25 being donated at this meeting. Bill noted that kits can be given all year long, it is only us that have chosen to make it a Christmas-related gesture in the past. He commented that the kits are great for reestablishing hand-to-eye coordination for those recovering at the VA Hospital.

We then adjourned for a break and to allow the judges time to view the models. The number of models was not too large but the variety of subjects was very large, which must have been the inspiration for what followed in Larry's awarding of prizes. Prizes were awarded in 22 separate categories!

Best Unfinished Judy - Mr. Matsushita
Best Silver Pick-Up - Randy Vandraiss
Best Blue Jaguar - Dave Cooper
Best Black Trans-Am Firebird - Vandraiss
Best Bearcat - Mike Meek (1st & 2nd)
Smallest FW190 - Dave Newman (1/144th)
Best Me109 - Norm Engle (1st, 2nd & 3rd)
Top Ships - Jon Shumaker (1st & 2nd)
Best Harrier - Dave Newman
Best F-4 Phantom - Doug Summers
Best Seamaster - Dave Cooper
Best F-100 - Dave Cooper

Best 4-wheeler - Vandraiss (Bigfoot)
Best Ford on Plaque - Galgani (GT Mk. II)
Best Space Robot - Cliff Thompson
Best Unfinished 1/43rd Car - K. McClure
Best Space Fleet - Other McClure (1, 2 & 3)
and 5 more I missed writing down!

So departing VP Larry Taylor went out with a flourish by awarding every model a prize with some of the most improbable categories ever known to a quarterly contest!

Winners of the models-on-the-table raffle were Jon Shumaker & Bill Magnie.

The meeting was closed out with a slide show of aircraft on display, in storage and under restoration at the National Air & Space Museum and at its Silver Hill restoration facility. Two full Kodak carousels were shown for quite a lengthy show of beautiful, unique, obscure and plain old bizarre aircraft and aircraft components. Among them was the Sorceress biplane that Vorrass Elliot, this next meeting's speaker, crewed for.

GOOD NEWS DEPT.

A new hobby shop has opened up. Not too big yet, but give it a chance. Its Valley Hobbies in Milpitas. It had a Grand Opening on December 1 and is located in a new small shopping center at 106 So. Abel. Take 237/Calaveras east of Hwy. 17, turn right at the third stoplight at Abel and its just on your left-hand side. Phone is 946-0318 and they carry plastic models, trains, R/C and D&D. I told the owner of our club and he is hoping to come to our next meeting. Check it out, who knows, D&J started small too.

MEMBERSHIP ADVERTISING

Monogram P-61 port engine only needed: Tom Harrison, contact at January meeting.

Ford Pick-ups/1960 and 1961: Randy Vandraiss, 265-3661 or contact at next meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 11 - N.N.L. Western Nationals, Sunnyvale Hilton Hotel - 12 noon to 12 midnight

Jan. 25-26(?) - Nor-Cal Contest at the Oakland Roadster Show, Oakland Coliseum

Feb. 8-9 - Nor-Cal Contest at the Sacramento Car Show, 'Cal Expo(?)

Feb. 15-16 - AAHS National Convention - Sunnyvale Hilton Hotel

Feb. 23 - IPMS/San Jose Annual Contest, Castro Middle School, Campbell

NOTES

The Nor-Cal Model Car Builder's Assoc. is negotiating with the organizers of the Monterey custom car show, April 18-20, to hold a model car contest in conjunction with this show. The organizers of the show are very eager to have the contest at their show and it is also believed that Revell would cooperate in sponsoring this show too in light of the San Francisco show cancellation. Watch future newsletters for further details if this added contest gets the go ahead from all involved.

EDITORIAL OPINION

I would like to suggest that our chapter consider hosting a regional contest. A number of things in the near future would seem to me to encourage us to do this.

A] First of all, I think it would simply be a lot of fun for us to be host to even bigger event than we have hosted before, drawing people we haven't met from farther areas than we usually draw from our annual contests.

B] We could certainly increase the visibility of our new February contest date and site thereby increasing attendance at future contests which of course makes our contests more self-supporting or even profitable for our club treasury.

C] With the Nationals being held in July in Sacramento in 1986, this would be an excellent springboard for us to promote our regional contest as virtually anyone who would attend a regional contest is sure to make the Nationals. We could not ask for a better advertising medium than the Nats, so what better time to do it.

D] My recent experience with the Sunnyvale Hilton Hotel shows me that we could get such a nice site with a large room and many amenities for no more, or even less, than we would have paid if we were using Lenninger. Our February date and on a weekend is perfect timing for us to get maximum discounts and cooperation from the Hotel.

In setting up the N.N.L. Western Nationals, I found we could get a very good-sized room with as many tables and chairs as we require, all tables covered in white linen, large windows with fluorescent and track lighting, a microphone to tie into the speakers,

pre-addressed mail-in reservation cards, nearly 1/2 price room rentals, a half a large cheese tray, 4 dozen meatballs, 4 dozen chicken drummets & 2 dozen deviled eggs, a no-host bar and a very cooperative Hilton staff all for a maximum liability of \$350 and as little as \$175. Its possible that if we had a good number of attendees staying at the hotel, that we could even get it all for less!

E] We should make the decision now or soon as possible as the Hotel should know around a year in advance and we need to do the planning ourselves too.

SOAP BOX

I know that I have had a lot of fun with the newsletters so far, I hope to keep doing so and I do hope you enjoy them. However, I think we all need to consider where the model industry is going and our share in keeping it alive.

Most of us have been around long enough to see model companies depart. Now many of the model companies, even some of the best known, are seriously in trouble and some others owned by major food/toy companies have been sold off because they simply aren't as profitable as other types of "toys". Early on in the era of plastic models, say the 1960's, there were a number of models to be had, but nowhere near what there are today because many of those old molds are still in production. This dilutes the market that any new kit has and with new toolings of dies costing \$100,000 to \$200,000 each today, the companies can't easily afford to invest in new toolings and if the company guesses wrong as to what we will buy, the loss can hurt them badly.

Then along came the oil embargo, and since the plastic is a direct derivative of oil its price shot up the price of kits literally 50% over-night. I was in the retail hobby business then and a kit that cost \$3.00 and sold for \$5.00 in the very next shipment COST \$5.00 and therefore had to sell for \$8.35! This reduced the number of kits anyone person could purchase and moved many of the kits out of reach of younger buyers and their limited spendable income. At the same time Nolan Bushnell's PONG came upon the market and the video game boom soon followed stripping the model market of many of its buyers who were lured to the faster-paced action-video games. Now many youths have never been introduced to modeling and a constantly growing segment of the market is adult both because it is now attracting adults because of better detailed models and that most of the adults today were the youths of the 50's & 60's when plastic models came into being.

So what happens when today's modelers get older and die off, are there enough new modelers coming into the market to support future production and new toolings? I don't think so, at least not the way things are going right now. And if more companies fold as has happened recently or even if their toolings are bought up by companies who have an even smaller understanding of what models and modeling is all about, ie. pure "toy" companies such as ERTL who seem to think that fit & detail comparable to their own Tonka-clones is sellable, then the number of models, or at least quality models, will be continually shrinking until the models themselves will become extinct historical items as much as the subjects they are meant to represent.

So what am I getting at and what is it that I suggest? Several things actually. First of all, do everything you can to expose the

modeling hobby to others, I am still surprised how many people are modelers but don't realize that any organizations such as ours are available, nor that other people take modeling so seriously. We were all there at one time so lets try to bring as many new people into the hobby as possible to create a larger market base for the model companies. This also includes putting your models into contests and displays where the public has a chance to view our hobby. Don't look at contests as only competition, but also look at them as displays and advertising tools. Ignore the fact that some individuals and modelers feel the need to criticize your model either in accuracy or workmanship. Unsolicited criticism is rude to begin with, but build models to satisfy yourself first and think of yourself at contests as there to benefit the industry so that it can afford to bring you the new models you want.

Secondly, let those model companies know what models you want to build. Their marketing departments are usually limited and can often be influenced by a noticeable number of requests for the same model. Note the B-58 Hustlers and the MPC 427 Ford Cobra in 1/16th scale. Don't let them waste their limited budgets duplicating other companies subjects (how many F-4 Phantoms can you buy?). Also let them know what you don't like, such as Ertl's crude and ill-fitting new creations.

Lastly, try to introduce and help children get into models, their potential as a market is again growing through increased "allowances" and the death of video games. They will be the next generation of adult buyers.

Support modeling by breeding new customers for the model company manufacturers. The models you save may be your own.

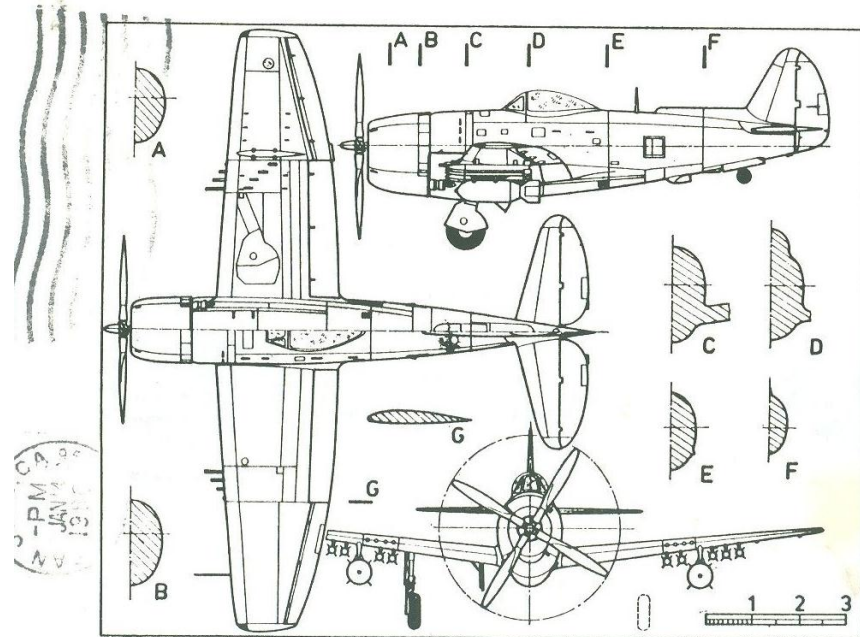


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