



# THE STYRENE SHEET

VOL. 47, No. 2 [www.svsm.org](http://www.svsm.org) FEBRUARY 2013



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

## SAY, LOOK THERE. A CAR MODEL ON COVER!



Another Scandalous Effort by Editor to show he finished something recently...

Text/Photos By: Mick Burton

Okay full truth is that I've been irritated, not having an automotive or armor item done recently on our Page One so concocted an evil plan. Do "quickie review" on four Italeri issue Sdkfz 234 "8 wheel recce" armor cars I had slammed together in 2012. Yes, would've had a "double for my money" item, cheap! Well, I ended up with "a yellow car" on cover (all my 234s were in "PanzerGelb"... ) just not my anticipated selection. A "free kit so go, experiment", AMT 1937 Chevy Stovebolt taught me fun skills in making fixes for missing parts. Better part was achieved a decent Tamiya gloss finish! Also bonus, another car for join in Hornet Gruppe Entry at Hobby Expo.

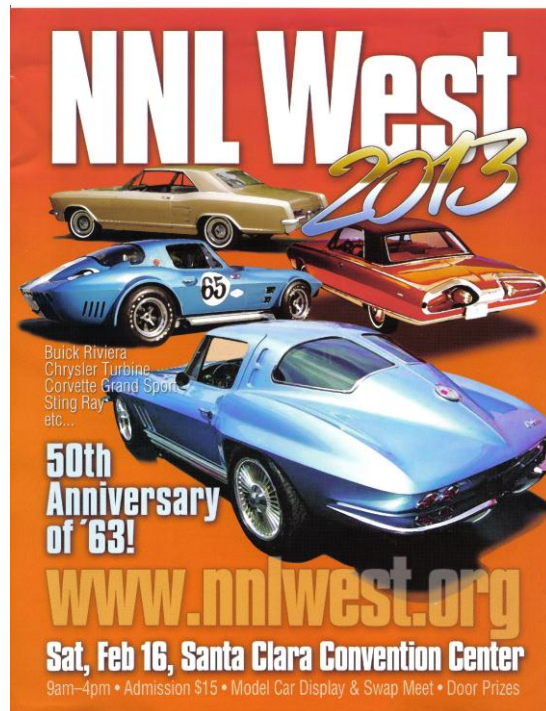
**Editor's Ravings** – this month's editor, Mick Burton

What a Winter Start we have going again this year ! By time you are reading this, "Northern Kickoff" (as I've been terming it lately) will have just occurred, aka Hobby Expo staged by IPMS Santa Rosa and Mt Diablo clubs. Imminently on horizon (namely day after this February SVSM meet) is the NNL West 2013 show, which also has "West Coast Model Expo" shopping opportunity within. Amazing event, this "car modeler show" as some characterize it without really "getting it" entirely. Knowing the folks of the "administration" in many cases who have been responsible for its now 26 plus year run (quite a feat for a "silly little hobby" I'd say) helps me "get it" a mite better in depth than some.

Moreover, the very very few left who have yet again steered this very valuable model exhibition to be there for us all to come enjoy this year, have my utter admiration, deepest respect. Understand, here in the same halls of Santa Clara Convention Center that we have staged a few shows ourselves, those Nameless National Luminaries of the West make entire space fill with "joy of modeling" quite handily. Yet, they offer not any "contest or competition", only chance to show your automotive art work to any and all. No "big deal award" of any kind.

Actually is a great testament to dispute often expressed view (especially within IPMS USA circles) "that if you don't offer competition, few will show up and there will be not much worth looking at, of those that do. It just doesn't work"

I totally invite you to see for yourself, the undeniable proof that NNL West's show a very vibrant, well attended retort to this mistaken viewpoint - mickb



### **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 !

### **SVSM EDITOR' s CONTEST THEME MARCH 2013 "That's A Spicy Meatball "**

While it may be a hard one to swallow, this dietary diatribe of a theme was independently tested during a meal after it was cooked up by your Editor. Chief aim of this recipe was to enable a wide variety of subjects that are otherwise unrelated, to be blended for competition. Ingredients of this non culinary conspiracy are: FINISHED items of either Mediterranean Seacoast Nations (of which there are MANY) OR the Nation of Japan (thus the meatball...) Aircraft, Armor, Autos, Figures, Animals, all eligible along with Maritime subjects, as long as they are as outlined above. So Italian, French, Greek, Turkish, Cypriot, Libyan, Spanish, Israeli (to name a few) and Japanese Air Forces or Ground Forces are easily competitive. That alone ought to spice things up. Bon Appetit.

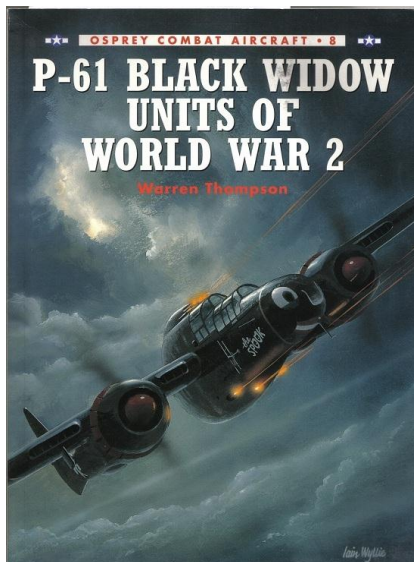
### **SVSM MEMBER' s CONTEST THEME JUNE 2013 " UNKNOWN HISTORY "**

Thanks to Webmaster Vladimir Yakubov for being "Instigator, Special Project" on this idea here. The concept is simple enough. Examples given include the Yak-23 "Flora" test flown in USAF markings at WPAF before it was returned to Eastern Bloc from whence it came. Or the Russian warship that was docked in SF Bay back in 1904 (during the Russo-Japanese War) thus subject to possible internment if not embarked within 24 hours. I'm not sure in fact what happened to that one. Or of course a LOCAL favorite, tied to Oakland and El Cerrito. What is it? The Capelis XC-12 from the Safety Airplane Corporation. Be prepared to share when you bring entries !

### **SVSM EDITOR' s CONTEST THEME JULY 2013 " CORVETTE SUMMER "**

What better way to mark the American Birthday Celebration theme? HeartBeat of America indeed, Chevrolet captured it now for SIXTY years running with this 4 wheel fountain of eternal youth. Don't be shy, there are SO many models out there to choose from, surely at least one appeals to each and every one of you. Okay, no, fine. Well expect I'll see at least a few of the old girl. If you're not in an automotive mood, still may vy for Editor's award money with a "legitimate" maritime version, of which there's an abundant potential in sail, steam, steel !





## P-61 Black Widow Units of World War Two

By Warren Thompson

1998 by Osprey Publishing Limited

ISBN 1-85532-725-2

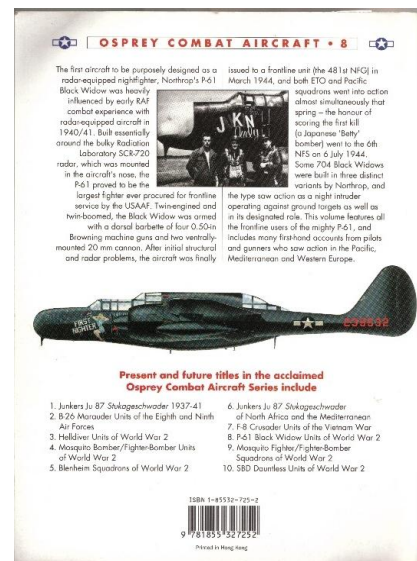
Retail currently : \$22.95 US

Review by : Mick Burton (from an award "gifting")

That glossy, dark evocative art dominating the box, "Black Widow" prominently titled as only Aurora could, our first meet and I fall lost in love that night. So the Northrop P-61 ever since has bewitched me.

Thanks to author Warren Thompson's toned text and editor Tony Holmes' potent packaging, I'm a goner. The writing of this slim volume never fails to bring home all the heroes and the magic, delightful surprises inside as well. It's an excellent introduction if you've never had the pleasure of knowing this big aircraft or want to share the love. Powerful passions punctuate history of the P-61 and her crews, author in the first chapter "Prelude to Combat" swiftly illustrates how with stunning comparative data. In same December 1942 to August 1945 time frame, 35,000 day fighter pilots were trained versus only 485 night fighter crews. The crews survival and success were intimately tied to their ability to function as a team at all times, whereas the day fighters while expected and trained to fight in teams were under no such constraints. Not to mention having light to sight their targets as a given. The following four chapters outline the four major theaters (ETO, CBI, Med and of course Pacific) where "they fight by night" was the hard rule for the few lucky enough to crew the Widow.

It's made abundantly clear early on, how misunderstood initially by the young line pilots what true strength and inherent performance available to do the "fighter's job" lie within "the big airplane". That nearly did the Widow in. One pilot years later wrote the Northrop Test Pilot John Myers of how powerfully his demonstration ride had removed all doubt of what a P-61 really was about. Especially the point when he dove down on a flight of Navy F4Fs, leveling out with one engine feathered as he passed them while doing a series of slow rolls! Myers' own recounting of his "little showoff flight procedure" he'd practiced really brings it home : "...about three minutes. Very short take-off roll, back across the deck at red-line 420 mph, loop down to the deck again in an Immelman. Coming out of this maneuver, feather one engine on the way down to the deck, two slow rolls off the deck into the dead engine, approach, and land short..." This to imbue confidence to those kids about to take this 15 tons of twin engine aircraft into battle at night that the Black Widow WAS MANEUVERABLE, ENGINE OUT wasn't a BAIL OUT. Or as he later put it to another : "You chaps must remember this is a fighter! You have the safest, most modern airplane built to date. You also have the best engines in the world, Pratt & Whitney R-2800s. DO NOT BABY THEM. Use them to the utmost. They will not fail you... fly the hell out of this airplane, it won't hurt you!". The missions recounted range from very exciting (aka damned dangerous) night time intercepts of V-1 Buzz Bombs in ETO to a PTO dawn intercept of a "tough target", a Ki-84 Hayate (Frank) at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> night mission. Our P-61 pilot, crew close the 6 miles and 5000 ft altitude for their reward on question of who's the tougher, get a rare graphic demonstration when the 20mm batteries opened up 75 feet away from target. Yet more shocked to later discover that far from being "low on ammo" when that Frank was disintegrated, they'd only expended 382 rounds for a four kill night and still had 200 aboard ! There are also plenty of examples how the Black Widows didn't let the dwindling aerial opponents over time dismay any, turning in some quite terrific reports when employed for harassing train and truck material movers in nocturnal ground poundings. Probably my own favorite though was to learn how a PTO Black Widow on a night mission was credited with a full kill without firing a shot. No, not the confirmed mission kill where an evading JF flew itself into the water, I'd read of that P-61 tale before. No, this was "Skippy", a P-61A defending Owl Island during a 10 plane raid. Her pilot while in midst of lining up on a "Betty" was alerted by his R/O man in back that they were taking tracer fire from another. So, he dove out of way as "#2 Betty" promptly downed "Number One" for him. See, the Black Widow indeed was/is "America's Most Dangerous Spider". Okay, that's actually another book entirely and first time published before Northrop's plane came to be. However I came to first know that title, it's still true. Get this book, you too, will see. - Mick fini <http://mickmodeler.yolasite.com/>



# STENOPS-OPHY: Rodney's Take On Another Old Beastie

"STEGOSAURUS STENOPS" My 3<sup>rd</sup> Tamiya Dinosaur Kit in 1:35 Scale Model, Photos & Text : R.J. Williams



Another model with bad feet. This makes 12 bad feet altogether (quick Rodney, call the prehistoric podiatrist! – ed). At least Tamiya is consistent in their screw-ups when it comes to making dinosaur kits. I'll rename this dinosaur to: "Slab Back-Tail Tusks."

Since these flat slab-like projectiles stick up out of this animals' spine, I chose to glue them in prior to joining the two body halves, including the elongated spikes in its tail.



I was able to sand in-between the slabs once the two body halves were joined together, with my special 6" long files I have had for over 20 years.

The mouth was molded closed on this model. So, all I had to do was clean off a bit of flashing here and there on the model.



Like my other two recently purchased (horned) dinosaur kits , I had to revise the areas where the kit parts fit together so that the seams would not look so bad. It's rather hard to re-create the animals skin texture on these dinosaurs.



Left: " 3 dinos "

Right: "Help Me!"





**SPIKE THEE RODNEY** (continued from page Xx)

I used Tamiya paints on all three of my models and over-coated them with Future (floor finish) then some (Testors) dull coat.



Like my Triceratops model, I used another piece of my Rocky Mountain-River Bed sandstone for the model base. Then decorated it with some local reddish brown river sand and including some green model grass.

The small stones, tree branch also came from this area of the “Great American Southwest Desert, “ sometimes called “The Land of Enchantment.”



This now makes model number 23 that I have built this year (2012).

I’m 80-90% done with another 4 models, which gives me 27 days to get them finished. It’s nice to be fully retired.

So have nothing to do but watch TV, help the wife around the house, take daily walks, drink some beer and build models in my spare time.



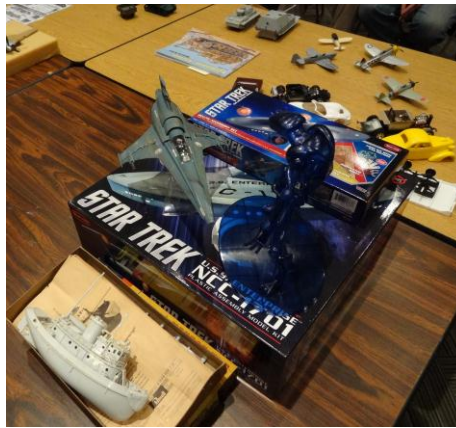
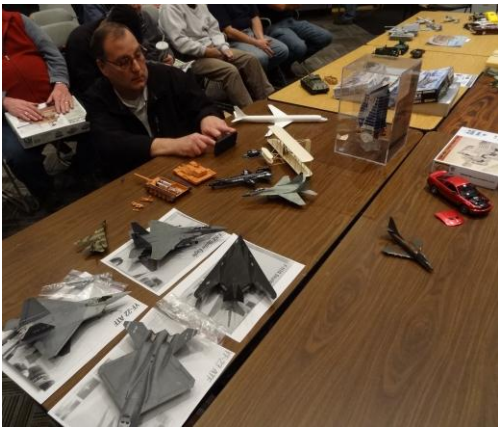
Enjoy -

Rodney



# Opening Look at How SVSM Started off The New Year:

Photo Essay Sampler for January 2013 SVSM meeting Photos & Text: Mick Burton



My notes were very scant as I arrived late and found we were “sans President”. Chris Bucholtz was kindly offering to run meeting. As Bill F, myself were happy to take him up on it and so swiftly we went. Mr Steve Travis gave excellent news on how well he and Anita have been working magic for our Vets projects. We



owe them an incredible amount for all that they always up to. Retired? Not hardly. A very big variety of items eventually occupied the tables, a good number of the built ups were part of David Balderrama’s success at the recent Santa Rosa auction which included some Testors box art in 3D form. Chris Zanella gave us an update on final progress for Hobby Expo 2013 and more flyers too! More coverage of everything, everyone I did get noted is in The AfterMarket Sheet (TAMS) for this month. I close now with hats off to Bill Bauer, his Model of the Month with Corvette !



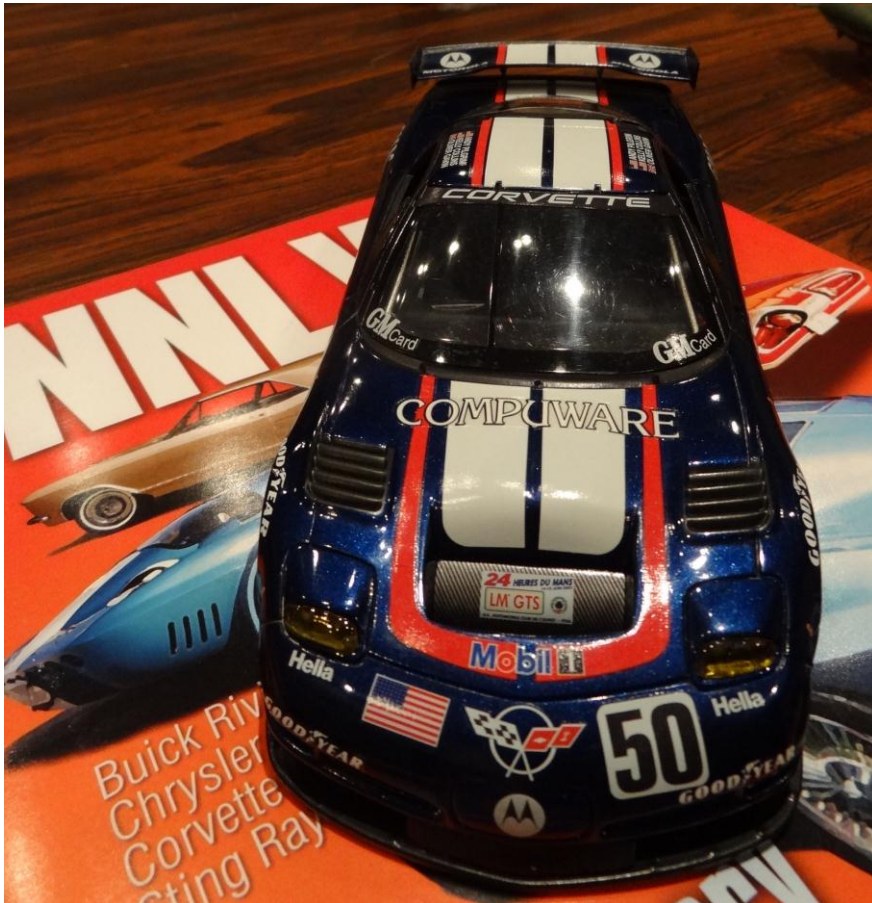




CONGRATULATIONS TO

**Bill Bauer**

FOR WINNING FIRST 2013 MODEL OF THE MONTH (JANUARY)



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 02-15-13

**Friday, February 15 2013**

**IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** meet. Member's Contest theme "Happy Birthdays".(as in Day or Year)

**Saturday, February 16 2013**

**NNL West** host NNL West 2013 Show at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway Santa Clara CA. Theme is "1963" (Cars built in that year). See also website [www.nnlwest.org](http://www.nnlwest.org) for more info

**Friday, March 15 2013**

**IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** monthly meeting. Editor's Contest Theme is "That's A Spicy Meatball". With 21 Mediterranean countries and the Empire of Japan, how can one miss on eligible subject material?

**Saturday, March 23 2013**

**IPMS/SVSM** host KOC 2013 contest & show "Go The Distance" is theme. Dakar Rally, 24 hr Le Mans, 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". Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Pkwy.

**Friday, April 18 2013**

**IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** monthly meeting, "WTFK for KOC 2013" is theme. Results of event.

**Friday, May 17 2013**

**IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** monthly meeting. Editor's Contest Theme is "May Day, May Day ? "

**Friday, June 21 2013**

**IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** monthly meeting. Member's Contest Theme is "Unknown History "

**Friday, July 19 2013**

**IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** monthly meeting. Editor's Contest Theme is "Corvette Summer "

**Wednesday thru Saturday, August 14-17 2013**

**IPMS/ Colorado Group** host The Thin-Air Nationals. Located @ J Q Hammons Conference Center & Embassy Suites Hotel, Loveland CO. Website for rules/awards/themes and details <http://www.ipmsusa2013.com>

**Friday, August 16 2013**

**IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** monthly meeting. Theme: "Hey where did the Editor run off to???"

**Saturday, September 7 2013**

**IPMS/Reno High Rollers** host #14, Theme "Civil Wars" @ Desert Heights Elementary School. Stead, NV

**Sunday, September 29 2013**

**IPMS/ Fremont Hornets** host "Tri City IX", Contest Theme is "Soldier of Orange" (They're going Dutch!)

**Saturday, November 2 2013**

**IPMS/ Antelope Valley Group** plan to host another delightful "Desert Classic" (# 17 !) Theme TBA.

**Saturday, December 7 2013**

**IPMS/ Silver Wings** host their "Winter Classic". Theme "Days of Infamy: Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal"



## A Member's Editorial

### *Sign of the Times ...*

All –

Given a motivation in the November news letter to voice out as a member who puts his time in to help the club (whether I'm paid up or not). I feel there is a need to input as one of the few remaining, actively attending "Family" members.

When I joined the club many years ago, I was surprised to see how many families and possible "Next-generation" modelers attended the meetings and contests.

Sad to say, both have dwindled over the years for various reasons.

Including just a plain bad attitude towards people with kids by some members who are, or prefer to, fly solo.

I respect your decision to remove yourself from the gene pool. But for those of us who decided to stay in and continue, outwardly aggressive comments like "did we all of a sudden open a day care", are not really appreciated or needed.

With that, it's not hard to see how a lot "Next Gen" modelers on the receiving side were mysteriously whittled away. By the lure of Nintendo, Playstation and the all dreaded XBOX video games, as a family activity.

AND unfortunately, yet another nail in the SVSM club coffin is the new stance of our annual holiday gift exchange.

I was honestly disgusted to see that during the holidays, we now need to employ some pretty aggressive segregation between "Members in good standing", Non-Members" and "Families" (Barely making it and the better off alike)

Wasn't this was supposed to be a fun holiday gathering. For all to enjoy, member, non-member and family alike regardless, that they ALL put their time in for the benefit of the club over the year with no flags raised or questions asked by anyone?

Did we really need to pick this one time to segregate participants, enact new gift entry levels and absurdly up the money value of the kits yet again for a greedy few?

These club decisions are just continuing a bad club down turn, and if you haven't noticed, we really need to think about returning to our old club values or the last chances for any remaining spirit of club cohesion are out the door for good.

*Fini - David Balderrama*

*As a side note:*

Even though we bought an Xbox 360 2 years ago with games for the kids, it still remains in its original unopened box, unused. As we continue to build models as the preferred family activity.



**7:00 PM**

**FRIDAY**

**FEBRUARY 15**

**COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Milpitas Police Administration Building**

**1275 N. Milpitas Blvd**

**Milpitas, CA**

