



THE STYRENE SHEET

VOL. 47, No. 6 www.svsm.org JUNE 2013



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

LOOKING BEYOND THE PLANS :



“ Vision, Veterans and Modeling ”

Photos By: Mick Burton

Models & Text By: Patrick Finan

Modeling means many things to different people depending on your appreciation of warp-speed or sailing ships, exquisite figures, vehicles of every sort and/or caliber and any of a thousand other subjects. Principles which seem to bind these disparate tastes together are a broad imagination and detective-like instincts in finding just the right materials/kit. This is usually followed by a visual inspection of the pre-build kit or materials, a thorough review of the plans (or not) and a vision of the final project.

It was noted by a fellow modeler that modeling is a solitary hobby until you show the project to others who appreciate effort and a good laugh.

For one group of Bay-area modelers, vision-loss, fellowship and *(continued page 3)*



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

ONE CONTEST DIRECTOR (now Emeritus, aka retired) SALUTES ANOTHER FOR JOB WELL LAUNCHED !



SVSM 2014 Classic Saturday, April 5, 2014 Theme: " 1964 "

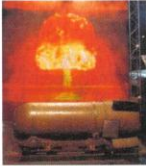


Celebrating 50 years of SV Scale Modelers

Napredak Hall 770 Montague Expressway San Jose CA 95131

9:00 AM Doors Open 12:00 PM Registration Closes 1:05 PM Judges Meeting 1:15 PM Judging Begins 3:30 PM Awards Presentation

2014 SVSM Classic Theme " 1964 " Muscle Cars to Missiles, Men at War and Men At Work, Scale Modelling's First Golden Age 50 years Then and Now



NOW OFFERING 47 Categories of Senior (18 & up) Level Competition

SWEEPS ALLOWED ! ALSO OFFER 12 "Golden Chances" for Special Awards

5 Categories for Junior (13-17 years) 4 Categories for SubJunior (12/under) Competition

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC NEED NOT BE AN IPMS MEMBER TO ENTER & COMPETE !



JOIN SVSM returning to their San Jose roots for a celebration of the 50th year anniversary as IPMS-USA chapter (we're older than that !)

NEW CONTEST DIRECTOR
NEW SHOW LOCALE !!
NEW SPECIAL AWARDS !
SAME OLD LOTS OF FUN !



THE BEATLES



Contestant Admission Pricing: \$ 12 Senior, Unlimited number of models entry
\$ 2 Junior, up to 5 models included, enter 6 or more = 5 dollars flat fee
\$ 1 Subjunior, up to 5 models included, enter 6 or more = 5 dollars flat fee

Spectators admission free ! RAFFLE ! FREE MAKE AND TAKE For 17 and under ! VENDORS !

The Silicon Valley Scale Modelers (SVSM) are a chartered chapter of the USA branch of International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS)

WHAT BETTER PLACE to have this than here? **Thank You** 2014 Contest Director **VP Mike Woolson** ! This is indeed a "Club Contest" of import and merits strong support of membership to see it "Golden" for our 50th year anniversary – mick

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. The Russian warship 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 ! A LOCAL fave, tied to Oakland and El Cerrito. What? The Capelis XC-12 from the Safety Airplane Corp.

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 !

MORE SVSM CLUB CONTEST CALENDAR will be continued in JUNE TAMS (I so promise!)

SVSM Meeting for MAY Minutes coverage also moved to "The After Market Sheet" (TAMS) JUNE. Editor wanted room for a fabulous Vets article with full coverage. Thanks to the timing, CONSIDER IT NOW OUR SVSM MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND ISSUE Thanks PATRICK , STEVE AND ANITA ☺

AN APPRECIATED SHARING WITH US BY A VETERAN, OF HIS MODELING DAYS NOW (cont'd from page 1)

military service are common bonds.

Like modeling, vision-loss comes in many varieties and with varying levels of intensity. When vision becomes a secondary sense due to age, injury or disease the sense of touch becomes a very significant source of information and access.

Imagine opening a box and tactilely inspecting it to determine if you have a car, tank or plane. Now set about the task of assembling the kit with little or no access to directions or sprue numbers and the challenge mounts.



Blind and visually –impaired veterans receiving outpatient care through the Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST), part of the VA Palo Alto Healthcare system, are provided regular opportunities to come together for social and therapeutic events.

Recently plastic modeling has become very popular thanks to Steve Travis and the Veterans Model Drive sponsored by the Silicon Valley Modelers club.

Many of the veterans served have attended the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center part of the VA Palo Alto. The program teaches diverse basic and advanced skills to veterans of all eras, ages and visual/physical challenges. The training often consists of technology to assist with reading and visual tasks, computers and I-devices and daily living skills such as cooking and mobility.

One area of emphasis is Manual Skills, where veterans learn to use their hands and tactile senses to gather information from the environment around them, manipulate objects and train their hands to become a primary sense. Other projects include wood working, home repair and ceramics. The common skill is to use hands where we used to use vision. Using tactile skills to assemble wood crafts, mold clay and other projects focused on hand skills make the need for this training clear.

Now consider a model kit as a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle. With that mental picture it becomes apparent how some blind and visually-impaired modelers can approach the craft. There are multiple combinations of technology and inventiveness which modelers with vision issues can employ. The Closed Circuit television (CCTV) employs a stable camera pointed down at a lighted platen which can be moved to view text, pictures or crafts depending on visual ability. Other techniques involve very acute organizational skills and, occasionally, a helping-hand from a friend or family member.

Holding a finished Pegasus 1/48 V2 missile after hours of tactile inspection, test fitting and some frustration, the assembled model is very satisfying and I'm having a blast! To be honest, having to ask for some help from my friends Bruce and Vince with tricky miniscule parts which feel like flash on the sprue doesn't seem like cheating. Painting is also a lot of fun.

(These V-2 pictures were taken at our May meeting, as were all of T-34 finished.

Patrick had wrote all this article only a week after I'd asked him to, at April Meet !
Boo Ya! –ed)



AN AWESOME ENLIGHTENMENT OF HOW MODELLING IS MORE THAN “JUST A HOBBY” (from page 3)

Since I'm working with no vision it is genuinely an 'imagine-it' effort while applying paint.



Having had sight for the first 36 years and losing it to disease, my memory of camo and color is still there. Translating my 'vision' of the paint scheme into reality is something else all-together.



Imagining the Russian green versus a German green may give an appreciation of the issue. Mixing and thinning the color adds another dimension. Applying the paint presents another level of challenge. Primarily for me, the issue is remembering the tint and shade of armor. Having spent ten years in the US Army and serving in self-propelled Field Artillery in Iraq, my memory is good.



The reality of vision loss and access to modeling as a viable hobby is something to be appreciated. Many thanks to the modelers and friends who have assisted in my return to scale modeling.

Fini - Patrick Finan

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 06-21-13

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

Reno High Rollers host #14, theme "Civil Wars" Desert Heights Elementary, 13948 Mt Bismark, Stead, NV

Sunday, September 29 2013

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

Friday, October 18 2013

IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting. Member's Contest Theme is "Odd Job"

Saturday, November 2 2013

Antelope Valley Group host their 17th Desert Classic ! Theme "Day At The Zoo", held at their home locale in Lancaster CA

Friday, November 15 2013

IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting. Editor's Contest Theme is "MOAB 2"

Saturday, December 7 2013

IPMS/ Silver Wings host their annual Winter Classic "SilverCon" Theme is "Days of Infamy"

Friday, December 20 2013

IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers monthly meeting, "Gift Madness" is theme. Locale TBA

Saturday, February 01 2014

NNL West 2014 host their Show, theme TBA. Santa Clara Convention Center Hall A, Santa Clara CA

Saturday, February 15 2014 Hobby Expo 2014 in Petaluma. Theme TBA. Same dream team, same locale, "Look To The Future" my Best Guess so far on what the Zanella Monster Con Clan has planned...thematically

Saturday, April 5 2014

IPMS/ Silicon Valley Scale Modelers host their *first* SV Classic Contest & Show, theme is "1964"

Saturday, April 12 2014

IPMS/Seattle host their Spring Classic, theme TBA. Renton Community Center, Renton, WA

*MAY MEETING PHOTO ESSAYS from the Editor
(take heart, official minutes may be along in time for May TAMS)*



First off, as the Editor was later arriving than planned he wasn't able to head off having tables set up for the "Often but not always" in house club contest. Which is why you see that impressive open tan space center.

"May Day, May Day" was placed in the calendar by Editor with no more intent than space holder unless a sudden inspiration struck for what it could be. With no "Eureka" moments from Jan to May, remained as such in calendar. Even after all these years, Editor forgets a

member or two in the club is always ready to meet the challenge of "club contesting rules" without any doubt.



As exemplified with skill by Life Member Mr Cliff Kranz that May night. If you look hard upper on right of front table, you may see what I handily have larger shot of, left.

Cliff pointed out that for "May Day, May Day" as theme he'd read in News Letter calendar, this 1/48



Rescue H-19 was finally completed by him. Undaunted by my bemused response that yes, that was a perfectly good interpretation of what I'd put in calendar. However I pointed out there never was any "supporting documentation" in Styrene Sheet/TAMS like I always do for the actual club contest themes, as a way to be more clear what/when a contest is being held.

Having me on the spot well, I gave Cliff his due for being a sharp reader and exemplary member in his effort to make sure he supported the club yet again by participating, even when the only one knowing the contest was he. Upper left here I show the completed "Rescue/Recovery" German armor vehicles that he later in meeting noted would have also qualified using those well founded rules for the "May Day May Day" contest which now has a mythic proportion to it. Thanks Cliff, you were given a "Certificate of Excellence" by me to the surprise of most at the end of meeting, as I happened to have one handy and felt it was the only honorable out I had for all that!

Next little missive, an appreciation of how diverse yet again May's meeting was in attendance. While picture at top may leave idea our showing was light for night, it was substantial in news to be had first hand and also wide ranging in who showed up.

Now the picture below may seem like a familiar "Murderer's Row", there's long time away returnee in that lineup. Yes, welcome showing by Joe Callahan, who had on his current club colors shown on right ...



That's the Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers, if you can't read the shirt.

Joe stays in touch with alumnus clubs of Fremont Hornets and SVSM thanks to PDFs. Glad you made it by, Joe !





Another look this time across to other side of room, being sure to give the “complete” picture of May 2013 turnout!

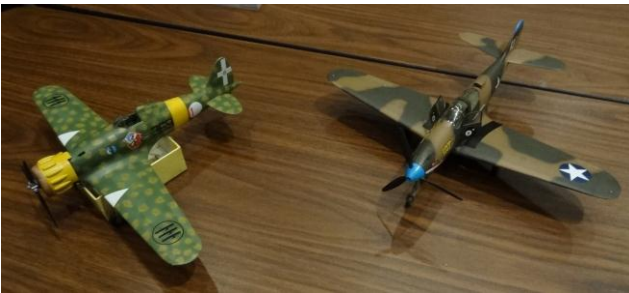
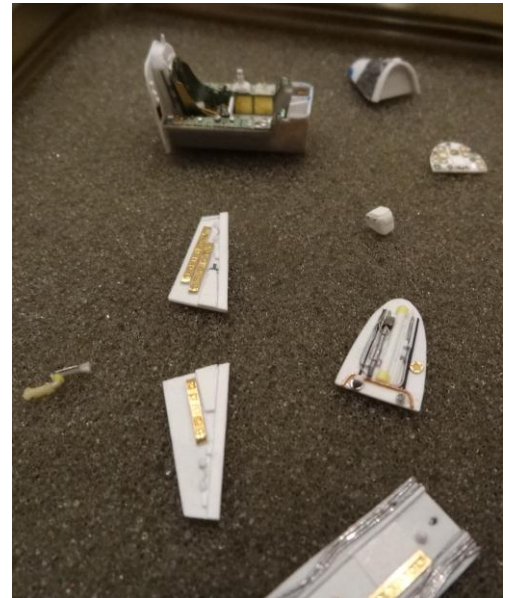
All while R-9 RC Chris Bucholtz in his secret identity as another Life Member of SVSM, gives up an update of his progress to date on the subject of our next essay (little did he know that at the time). Namely a favorite topic of the Editor, “Work In Process, aka Unfinished models”



Yes, of course when Chris’s official SVSM minutes are available I’ll publish them so you can get the full story. A wrap up with finished lead article here only required the remaining pictures be shot at this meeting by Editor, with TAMS to pick up remaining items for later. So you know.

On left, mighty move forward by Chris on three fronts: P-47D, P-51D, and Grumman F11F Tiger. What’s in

Box? Why it looks to be terrific Tiger ‘pit parts, don’t it? Obscureco will score heavily here, I bet.



A pair of “unfinished” by Ben Pada showed up in great form progress. One a Pacific Theater Ops P-39, plus a Med Theater Macchi.

Closer look at Italian on what else, below left !



Seeing now how we’re on the look out for 1//48 unfinished , maybe Focusing on what Laramie Wright had lined up is in order. Helps too that I don’t recall who made the PYRO Big Eye! Cool tho.



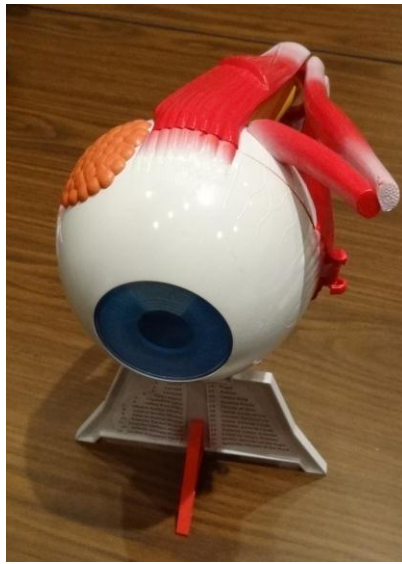
Laramie’s Unfinished business for the May meeting included a classic Tamiya lineup of JNAF fighters. Zero, Shiden, and “Rufe” . Accompanied by his armor of which I don’t recall specifics here.



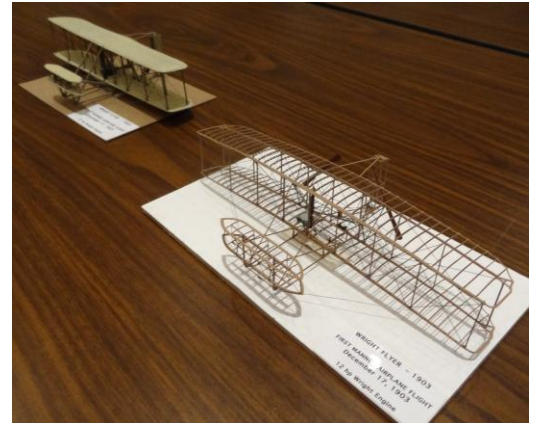


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Laramie's A6M looks lethal even in "unfinished" condition, doesn't it?

Well all "Eye" are on a lass....no ?



Editor is permitted to admit now he probably requires an optical unit the size of this one, in order to fully take in all of Al Kuhn's skill in 1/72 rigs!

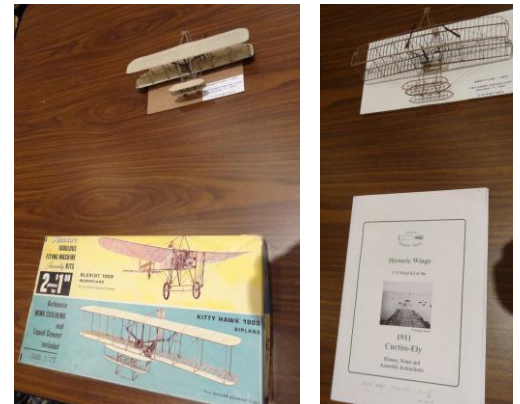


Again, I confess, not noted due to my being in and out all through meeting, just who has this poor female left in the sights of these tiny terrors of USN Aviation. Trouble ahead for her, they are Banshees and Panthers alright.



Not far from Al Kuhn display of mighty 1/72 magic, was a Z-M 1/32 Skyraider being made over like the real deal.

Kit is of a USN SPAD, builder is patiently making it a USAF version. He's also in market for a Z-M Shinden, anyone has ...?



We await official minutes with a closing out of "finished" models, a lovely Dauntless and Cliff's Rescue H-19





**CONGRATULATIONS TO
Patrick Finan
FOR WINNING MAY MODEL OF THE MONTH**



7:00 PM

FRIDAY

JUNE 21

COMMUNITY ROOM

Milpitas Police Administration Building

1275 N. Milpitas Blvd

Milpitas, CA

