



# THE STYRENE SHEET

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

## Zeroing In On A Fine Finish Of Midway Bird



### With Detailed Attention, Midway Anniversary In Miniature Made Right (second of two parts)

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

*(First sentence repeats from last month's article ending point)*... The rudder bar was detailed with stirrups made from lead foil, painted and added to the cockpit floor. The kit sidewall parts were used, but most of them were dressed up a bit. For example, levers were added for the landing gear, canopy actuator, tail hook release and radios on the right side of the cockpit, and electrical wiring was added to the bottom of the radio on the left side, running forward and aft. Care had to be taken to avoid getting detail in the way of the instrument shelf on the left side of the cockpit, which itself received three dial instruments and plenty of careful detail painting. Additional electrical lines and actuating rods were added using references as a guide.

The cockpit components were brought together carefully, with the final addition being the *(continued page 3)*

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

Very compressed issue in some ways, for GREAT reasons. This editorial page was open for 25 lines of wordplay a week ago from this point, when I asked for possible Presidential Pontification rather than my usual blather here. As they say (chuckling I am, really) BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR, you might get it ! Thanks to Joseph my dear friend and our President, we've a great editorial now on full page 9 of this revised July Styrene. So that's raison d'etre behind shorter combination of usual event calendars below. PLEASE read THE EXCELLENT EXPOSITION from our Executive on #9.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR AS OF SVSM MEETING 07-20-12**

**Saturday, July 21 2012**

**IPMS/Dragon Lady** host "Aggressive Behavior", Contest & Show. United Methodist Church, 3101 Colusa Hwy, Yuba City CA. Lots of vendors, good food and drink served on site, raffle

**Saturday, September 8 2012**

**IPMS/Reno High Rollers** host their annual show, theme "Between the Wars: 1919 to 1939" at usual locale.

**Saturday, October 13 2012**

**IPMS/Fremont Hornets** host "Tri City Eight", Milpitas Community Ctr, 457 E Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas CA. Theme "Midway & The Missiles of October" in "All American focus". See this link [www.fremonthornets.org](http://www.fremonthornets.org)

**Saturday, February 9 2013**

**IPMS/Santa Rosa and IPMS/Mt Diablo** host "Hobby Expo 2013" Theme is "Models from the Movies". The contest will offer SEPARATE CATEGORIES for the theme entries. See [www.ipmssantarosa.org](http://www.ipmssantarosa.org) for updates.

### **SVSM MEMBER'S CONTEST THEME JULY 2012 "The DOGS of Summer"**

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

### **EDITOR'S CONTEST THEME OCTOBER 2012 "Eyeball to Eyeball" a.k.a**

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

### **SVSM MEMBER'S CONTEST THEME FEBRUARY 2013 "Happy Birthdays"**

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

### **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.

### *An Unquestionable Timely Build for Midway Anny continued from page 1*

control column, and the cockpit was trapped inside the fuselage with its extra detail. It all integrated quite nicely. The last touch was a Quickboost gunsight; the kit clear part was a little chunky, so I added the resin, photoetched metal and clear acetate sight to the same mounting point the kit part would have occupied.

Now that the fuselage was joined, I added the deck behind the cockpit and started looking around for the direction finding (DF) loop that was situated behind the pilot's head. I couldn't find it, so I swapped in Reheat's photoetched version, painted it black with the rest of the deck, and was ready to add the canopy. The rear canopy and the windscreen fit like a charm; I used cyanoacrylate glue to fix them in place, then masked them with Parafilm M, cutting out the many frames with a sharp knife. The lower wing went on next, and fit cleanly, and the upper wings fit to the wing roots snugly with little clean-up required. Adding the horizontal stabilizers was equally simple; I eyeballed them to ensure their alignment with the vertical tail and wing, then set them in place with CA glue. Suddenly, I had a little fighter on my hands!

The fighter needed an engine, however. The kit engine is quite nice – but I wanted to improve it. I had a Sakae engine from Engines 'n' Things that was cast cleanly. The Engines 'n' Things parts were notoriously erratic in their quality; it seemed that if the part was from early in a run, it was crisp and neat; later, as the mold deteriorated, the parts became blobby, soft and, sometimes, utterly unusable. My example was pretty nice, but the crankcase needed work, so I ground off the resin crankcase and swapped in the crankcase from the kit engine. The cylinders were painted aluminum and given a heavy wash, then drybrushed, while the crankcase was painted gray. The pushrods were made from stretched black sprue, and glued into place. I also used the kit wiring harness part, then added the spark plug wires using fine steel wire that was tinted a grayish yellow to match the photos.



The guns in the cowling shelf looked good, but I wanted to drill them out. I carefully masked the gun troughs with tape, then bored out the barrels with a small bit in a pin vise.

At this stage, it was time to start painting. I gave all the panel lines some pre-shading with Testors aircraft interior black. Fujita inherited Iida's markings, so I could grab those from the AeroMaster sheet featuring Pearl Harbor raiders, but by the time of the Battle of Midway the dark blue bands denoting the *Soryu's* fighter unit had given way to lighter colored bands. I couldn't use the decals, but it was easy enough to airbrush the stripes and then mask them with Tamiya tape cut to width. I used a mix of Testors light blue with a touch of insignia blue to get the right shade.

Once the stripes were masked, I gave the model its final color coat. The color for Japanese navy aircraft is hotly debated, but I selected the Floquil Railroad color cement. This is a grayish-brownish shade with a tinge of green, which means it's a good approximation to the existing chips and recovered preserved samples of *Ame-Iro* (the Japanese name for this paint). Once the model was coated in *Ame-Iro* (including the wheel wells – Mitsubishi-built machines were painted, not left in *Aotake*), I stripped off the masking on the stripes and had a model that was ready for its decals following a gloss coat of water-based polyurethane (thinned 1:1 with water).



The decals came from several places. Initially, I planned to use the kit decals – which provides a host of small data decals and some good hinomarus – and the aforementioned AeroMaster sheet. All went well until I managed to screw up the flap walkway warning stripes; first the left set wrinkled, then they tore, then they became completely unusable. I didn't have any others in my decal collection, so I ordered a set from Japan intended for green Zeros; the outer lines were not present on earlier Zeroes, so I trimmed it away using a sharp No. 11 blade and re-applied the markings using greater care. MicroSet and MicroSol setting solutions took care of the rest.

The model was given a second sealing coat of polyurethane and, once this was dry, I slopped on a sludge wash using Payne's gray watercolor paint mixed with dishwashing liquid. When this was dry, I removed the excess with a cotton swab (*continued*)

### *Zero Director's Ravings – continued*

and wiped the model clean with a dry cotton rag.

The cowling was painted black, with a few drops of blue added, and the engine was mounted to the front of the fuselage. The kit provided a full exhaust manifold; I first drilled out the openings in the exhaust pipes, then added the manifold to the engine after it had been painted a dark gray mixed with burnt sienna. I had a hard time matching the lower cowling piece with the two exhaust pipes, which protrude through holes in the lower cowling, and the fuselage; much fussing had to be done to get it square, attached to the fuselage, and lined up once the cowling slid into place.

The wingtips can be displayed folded up or down, and while I generally don't like folded wings on my models, the 18-inch wingtip folds didn't dramatically distract from the Zero's lines. I decided to fold them, which was a simple process; the kit has inserts for the wings and folding arms that hold the wingtips in place neatly. I drilled some lightening holes in the insert and the inner surface of the folded wingtips to replicate what I found in reference photos, then painted them Aotake and gave them a wash. The arms had the appropriate areas picked out in red. I used colored plastic to replicate the wingtip lights, and sanded it to shape after using cyanoacrylate glue to affix it to the cut-out in the wingtip. Some polishing was followed by masking, painting and attachment to the folding arms.



The landing gear was painted and detailed according to references. That meant black struts, and the compression strut was given a bit of chrome silver. Brake lines were fashioned from fine solder before being attached to the struts. The gear doors went on with no trouble at all. The single-part tail wheel was also painted up and added to the model, and once it was on its gear, the propeller was placed over the prop shaft.

The sliding canopy was masked, painted and added to the model, and the antenna mast was painted and slipped through the hole in the rear canopy into its mounting hole. I painted arrestor hook and plugged it into the slot below the rear fuselage, glued the lower flaps into place and added the external tank, then flipped the plane over and rigged the aerial. I use strands from a pair of black nylons; the material holds fast with just a little CA glue and it stretchy enough to make handling easy and reasonably safe. I added an insulator near the tail by applying a dab of white glue to the aerial; once it was dry, I painted it white. The final touches were the mass balances atop the wings and, more precariously, below the outboard ends of the ailerons. These were tricky to align, but once in place looked tremendous – and finished the model.



This build deposed the Hasegawa A-1 as the easiest build in my collection, and the final result was a great addition to my Midway collection. It took the Best Midway prize at the 2012 Kickoff Classic in Santa Clara, but my biggest thrill came with its inclusion in the Battle of Midway display aboard the *Hornet*. Fujita and this Zero did more to defend the Japanese carriers than any other pilot and plane, but it was not enough; this model is emblematic of the outcome of that battle.

**-Chris Fini**

**June 2012 SVSM MEETING** *No minutes taken, some notes fashioned by Mick Burton while taking photos for memories...*



President Joe Fleming proved nimble as ever with June's meet. With two "Tipsters" lined up for short demos as a start, then he got the Editor slotted to cover club contest duties, already full night ahead. Then Joe let us know he'd be leaving early on an emergency drive to Fresno. Thanks to Kent McClure we had Model Talk lead covered.



As you see, we had some variety on the night's table. On the right, dispelling rumor Chris Bucholtz wasn't at the meeting. Below, some of Gabriel Lee's wins from Regional. Next to that was Jim Lund's grand sculpture of Douglas DC-4E, OMG



Left below is an incredible DML Black Widow done by Joe Fleming, more incredible was that it's a gift to Editor Mick Burton. THANKS JOE !! Beside it is picture of Ron Wergin's latest masterpiece, Tamiya's KV-1



*SVSM June Meet Photo Essay cont'd:* Jim Lund's coverage of how he gets those marvelous rare birds for his collection was a splendid speaking engagement, again thanks to Joe for asking him to share it.

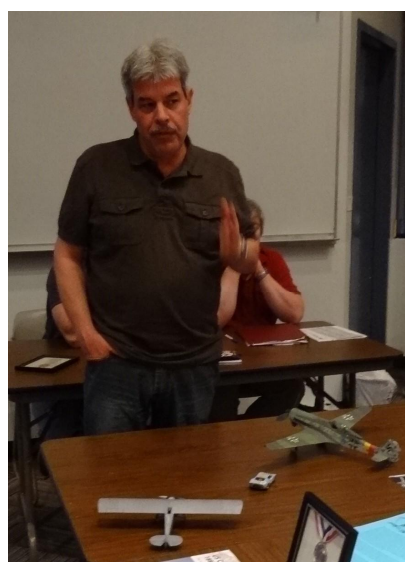


Al Kuhn amazed us with his review of Hubble Space Telescope built from a PAPER model kit.

Kinley Calvert's Ripley in Power Loader seemed to be bent on poking out Kent McClure's eye or something. Luckily as you see in picture, large Alien was there to save him. Not so obvious in the shot is a splendid egg model by Kinley's daughter. Wonder what plot she's hatching here, Dad?



Milt Poulos provided very good details in a Tip Share Talk, giving up "secrets" of how to get the vital basics of alignment done right for you! David Marzola was another, game to give Tip Share Talk. What covered: "washes" and how best to lube an airbrush so it sprays with virtuosity. As he was a "model of brevity" in his speaking. David won the Model of the Month hands down. Much to his shock!



Coverage of the Club Contest for June is elsewhere in Sheet

so I'll close out this brief essay with shots of Jim Priete's unfinished entry for "Go The Distance" and Milt's model tip demo props. THANKS TO ALL WHO SHOWED AND SHARED BY THE WAY. Summer started with a BANG .. mickb



**“ GO THE DISTANCE ” Challenge Met , With Surprising Results to Some !**



When SVSM member Rich Linder first proposed this possible theme (as an ongoing response to an earlier Editor’s Ravings, no less!) a while back, both of us had no idea how far it might reach in contestant response.

Begun as an idea to capture Long Distance Racing of both Auto and Aerial varieties for a start, without too much stretch managed to encompass Record Breakers and of course a Reach for the Stars. Even Baseball became involved in cinema fashion



As you may see on the upper left of this article, even with sufficient advance warning, the “field of battle” started out a wee bit thin. With enough time on the clock and good fortune in subjects on table for not contest purposes but clearly (to me as Judge) eligible, got fine results.

First Place went to Eric McClure for a grand Gulf Blue # 11 GT40 in 1/43. Quintessential competitor for the stated theme, well done Eric . My best shots, at left and below same, simply don’t do him justice.

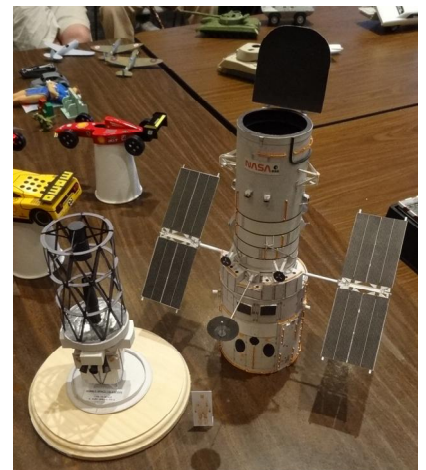


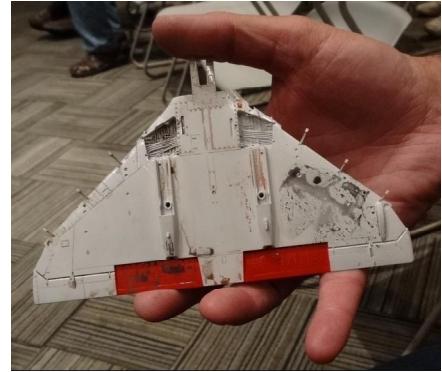
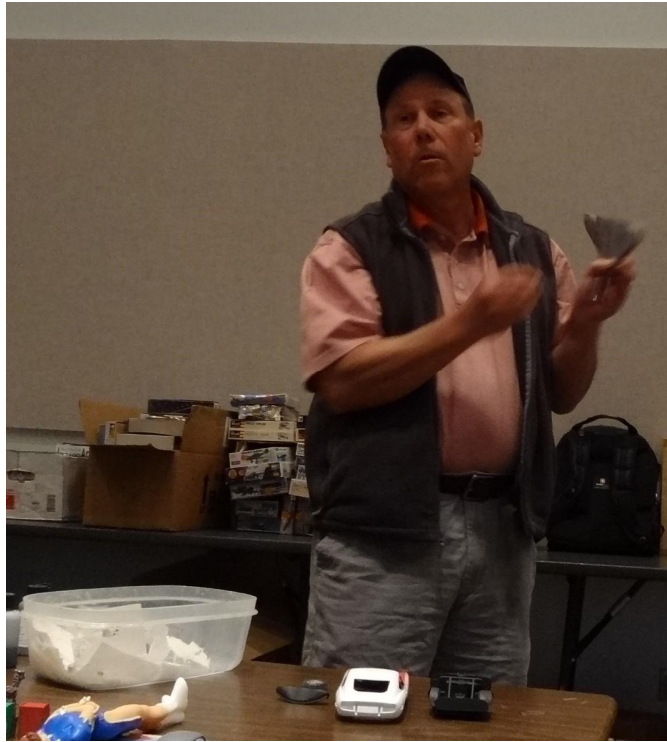
Second Place went to something “breeding down his neck” so to speak. Above and to left, say hello to Kinley Calvert’s “Horta” from the Star Trek (Original Series) episode “The Devil In The Dark”. Not only is this (albeit fictional) creature from a “galaxy far, far away”, my Judging criteria for entering the model (without Kinley at all the wiser until awards time) was as I said at meeting, one human character stated the tremendous mileage in tunnelling this little devil and her progeny were capable of. The colorful spheres are Mother Horta’s unborn children, by the way...

Third place was also a shock to the winner who, until award, had no idea he was “going distance” .

Al Kuhn’s fiendishly great papercrafted 1/48 Hubble Telescope struck my eye

as another “natural” entry here. Eventually. Your Editor did return to Earth so to speak, and Laramie Wright’s nearly done NYP Ryan from Revell’s kit stood Fourth. Thanks, all ! ---- mick fini





CONGRATULATIONS TO

**David Marzola**

FOR WINNING June MODEL OF THE MONTH



This well earned Award given not only for his 2 Model Tips, it's also to David, as a True Model of Brevity!





# THE BIG PICTURE

This month I would like to address the club in a few touchy areas. Since taking the Presidency on, I have faced a bit of a learning curve that some of you have already experienced in the past taking on one of the clubs Officer positions. That learning curve has been one of finally seeing clearly what I vaguely saw as a member of the club, but without having had any of the responsibilities that members routinely contribute to the success of club events and goals.

I received an email from Anita Travis regarding the American Legion car show event that we were invited to. Steve had offered up to the club 2 months in a row to determine participant interest levels. I did not say I would be there, because my parents were in from Phoenix, and I only see them twice a year at most. The 8 hour long obligation was not one I was interested in committing to due to those circumstances. However, Anita's point that the club came out looking bad embarrassed me, and put me into a mode of mulling the events and issues in my head for a few days.

I am not writing this to call Anita out on her email, nor am I calling anyone else out on not showing, because that would be hypocritical. I am writing this because of the 'Big Picture' as I like to call it. I miss some things, I forget names, I am not always available, and yes, I am not always willing to donate my time to the club. I must make the assumption that most people in the club are like me in that sense. In the very same breath though, I must say that I love the hobby and this club for all that it has given me as a social outlet in an otherwise isolated world of modeling. It is for this reason that I must plead with each member for a shift in how we do things-or as I like to call it "the big picture".

If you are like I have been in the past, you may be naïve to the fact that there are certain people within the club who don't necessarily care for each other (gasp). There are others who have completely opposing political or social views from others (gasp), and still others that have opposing ideas on how things should be run (gasp), and even those who have agendas (gasp)! Remember High School? So, let's accept all of that as true, because it is. Unfortunately, these issues can frequently affect the quality of our club, events, and personal relationships. In addition, we all have jobs, obligations, kids, or other hobbies or work that limit how much time and energy we spend on the club and our hobby.

I am asking everyone this; We need to be grown up with each other. We have to sacrifice a little, commit a little, help out a little, think a little, donate a little. We don't all have to be best friends. We do not need to revolve our lives around the club. In fact I will say this to everyone: it is only a hobby! Enjoy it for what it is but don't lose sight of that. Conversely I will say though that we do need to be there for each other as far as the club is concerned. There are times when you step away due to obligations. But come back with some energy and aid. I know that we could have the absolute best IPMS club on the west coast by just tweaking a few things within the club. The main tweaking is really our attitudes.

When Frank Beltran approached me about accepting the Presidential role, I was reticent. My concern was that I do not like politics or conflict. It isn't that I can't be good at either. In fact, I am very good at conflict, but this is my hobby. Conflict of any kind removes the enjoyment from the hobby and being in the club. He was insistent and so here we are. I saw some issues with the club, and decided that I would give it my best effort at changing a few things. My agenda (that's right, I have one) in taking this role was simply this: To contribute something back to the club (and it's members) for all that I have received. What I want to contribute is this: I would like to make this group a more cohesive group of modelers that appreciates each other for what each does. I want to bring in more fun, more talent, more skill and learning, sharing with each other, and a wider division of the various tasks and responsibilities within the club. I would like EVERY person to feel welcome and needed as much as humanly possible. If part of you is invested in the club, you care about it more. If you have fun and learn, you want to come. If people want you to share your work, you want to see their work. And the simple truth then comes into play, the club is more fun and far better than when only a few members are (perceived) valued and the rest of the members are there as 'bystanders'. I do not know if this is what the club wants as a whole, and will gladly step aside if it is not. But without being gunned down while watching a play at Fords Theatre, I will continue in the role.

This is why I changed the room around. So we face each other again like years ago. It is why I am asking for some donations for some good causes. It is why I want people to share their tips and techniques. It is why I want folks to try other people's categories of models (so you can appreciate what they do), and it is why I do not want to preside over each meeting the whole time. It is OUR club for better or worse. I think we can make it better. Unfortunately, I do not have all the answers. I just have a 'Big Picture'. So I will continue to ask for ideas and commitments and will propose a few more specific ideas to prevent events like the AL show going down as a negative in our collective SVSM ledger. I repeat, it is OUR club.

*-Joe fini*

**7:00 PM**

**FRIDAY**

**JULY 20**

**COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Milpitas Police Administration Building**

**1275 N. Milpitas Blvd**

**Milpitas, CA**

