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Preflight
Submitted by Bob Niemiec

Our next meeting will be at Astro's in Enfield. By now, I think everyone knows where it is. If not, go to the club website and the directions can be found there.

Another computer crash put any model building on hold while I re-installed the operating system and program files. Fortunately, it was the Windows partition that crashed and all the data is on a second drive and also backed up on line.

The last meeting brought up some good points and I received a suggestion to have each scale as a separate category. While on the face, it sounds like a good idea, we could wind up with categories with few or no entries. The way we've been doing it has worked in the past and will remain.

I hope everyone can get to the pizza party. We have a good time and more than enough food and drink. The best part is, it's on the club except for adult beverages. If you want one of these, you're on your own. See you at Astro's on May 1.

Meeting Notes
Submitted by Ed Potkai

Eighteen members turned out for our post ValleyCon meeting. Amazingly, after listening to us drone on for a couple of hours, visitor Tom Irving decided to become a member. Equally amazing, we have now signed up five new members this year.

The main topic was our annual review of ValleyCon 24 led by head judge Don Johnson.

We had a total of 105 contestants which included an encouraging 15 juniors. There were 338 entries. 37 contestants brought only one entry. One brought thirteen entries. 39 contestants brought enough entries that they paid more than the basic \$5 fee. Contestants came from nine states as far away as Virginia. Thirteen of our members entered the competitive classes. 43 people earned free raffle tickets by preprinting their paperwork. There were approximately 275 walk-ins.

The entries were spread amongst the five major categories as follows: Wings with 87 models (26%); Wheels with 79 (23%); the Miscellaneous classes with 67 entries (20%); Armor with 53 (16%); and Figures with 52 (15%). The quality was generally good, with most modelers achieving the modeling basics upon which we base our judging. There were outstanding models in all areas, but the USS Ronald Reagan, a 1/350 scale modern aircraft carrier with a

fully detailed and lighted hanger deck, was a deserving winner of the Best of Show award for Ryan Labieniec of Tolland, CT.

The Club covered its expenses, was able to put down the required deposit for next year's show - ValleyCon 25 to be held on Sunday, March 29, 2015 - and will still have sufficient funds for the annual feed at Astro Pizza in Enfield on Thursday, May 1st at 6pm, in lieu of our May meeting.

Sales at the Club Table were almost exactly what they were last year, which may only indicate that we're now passing around the same kits year after year! For various reasons, raffle ticket sales were a bit under historical average, and markedly down from last year's strong effort. We've been concerned for the past couple years that we were right at the tipping point concerning the manpower needed to have a completely successful show, and this year it may have caught up with us, notwithstanding everyone's hard work. The fact that we have new members should help us to get back to the point where all work stations are adequately staffed, with sufficient back-up and replacement to allow every member some time to hit the vendors and see some of the show.

Speaking of vendors, we did have five tables that were vacant, due to last-minute cancellations, but Al LaFleche reported that he has commitments for almost every table for next year's show, and a couple names on a waiting list. Post-show vendor comments were generally positive, with most happy with their results.

The club commended Gary Barr on his customary excellence in running the raffle. Jake Banas, Tony Kuralowicz, Jack Maynard, Ed Potkai, and Brad Wells, in particular, were thanked for their efforts in executing the event and awarded one year memberships to IPMS.

As is our custom, all aspects of the show were discussed, and several suggestions were made for changes to next years event. A couple minor adjustments to the Miscellaneous classes will be considered. A suggestion to add a 144th scale class (possibly termed "All Planes Smaller than 1/100th Scale) to the Wings lineup will be considered. This year's simplification of the Wheels classes appeared to be received without incident. **(Continued on page 2)**

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Don announced that the slate of Special Awards is being wiped clean for 2015. Members who wish to sponsor and select an award in a special area of the hobby should notify Don not later than the June meeting, to ensure that mention is made in the 2015 show flyer that will be finalized after the meeting. We have suffered, in the past, with awards that rewarded the same models; this year, members will be encouraged to reward aspects that have not previously been recognized (three “favorite blue car” awards is a little much!). The cost, as always, is \$10 per award, and the winner must be selected by the sponsor.

The 2015 event will be our 25th or silver anniversary. Don and Al are asking for ideas that will emphasize the specialness of the event. Already decided: new nametags!

On The Table
Show-and-Tell from the Last Meeting

- **Pete Dawson:** Various 1/35 scale King & Country figures; Major David Stirling; Kaiser Wilhelm and aide-de-camp; Air Chief Marshal Dowding; Captain Joseph “Pips” Priller.
- **Tom Irving:** 1/25 scale scratchbuilt 1936 Chevy Modified.
- **Scott Jamieson:** 1/72 scale Eduard Bf 110C-4; too many details to list.
- **Al LaFleche:** 1/9 scale United Empire Miniatures Kaintwakon, Senecan War Chief; out of box.
- **Jack Maynard:** 1/25 scale Polar Lights Gas Ronda Mustang; built out of box.
- **Bob Rys:** 1/48 scale Hasegawa F-104C Starfighter; Cutting Edge seat; auto paint with Model Master shades.
- **Brad Wells:** 1/50 scale Corel Half Moon; cut some bulkheads to deck level; added bow planking.

Interesting Links
Various contributors

First F-35A Arrives at Luke AFB

On Friday, March 14, the first F-35 Lightning II assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing was officially delivered during a ceremony at Luke Air Force Base (AFB) in Glendale, Ariz.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVhL019XdpU&feature=em-subsub_digest

AirCam Airplane

The AirCam is the greatest airplane ever because it will allow flying you simply cannot do in any other airplane. It's a twin-engine ultralight designed for use by National Geographic to explore Africa. It can fly 10 feet above the tree tops in safety as it can, with no engine management challenge, climb up and away on one engine. Such near-Earth exploration is not done in twin-engine GA planes, ultralights or any other aircraft, with the same level of assurance. AirCams can take off on one engine, easily, and with both Rotax 912's turning, leap off terra firma in less than 100 feet and climb 2,000 fpm at Vne, all while burning only 10 gph. Try all that in any other aircraft!

WATCH FULL SCREEN HD

Editor's Note: Works in Internet Explorer, but not Firefox

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/65863381> <http://player.vimeo.com/video/65863381>

WWII Atomic Bomb Photos

Very interest series of pix I've not seen before. kind of chilling seeing these guys handling and loading such an incredibly deadly device.

I have often wondered how this was done. Notice how few people were actually involved.

These are amazing photos.

This is the loading of the Enola Gay!!!!

Declassified Historical photographs.

http://www.alternatewars.com/Bomb>Loading/Bomb_Guide.htm

Ride the Shuttle's Booster Rocket

This is neat. They put cameras on the shuttle and it's solid rocket boosters. When they're jettisoned they parachute back to earth and are reused.

<http://www.tinyurl.com/o6sy6b>

B-29 Restored with ~ New Engines ~

Click on the nose of the B-29 when it comes on the screen

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Interesting Links (Continued from page 2)

I thought you guys would like to see a short video of the only flyable B-29 in the world. Notice the flight engineer is still wearing his "Confederate" Air Force patch.

To our friends who may not understand the passion we feel for planes and particularly planes from WWII, this is Fifi. It is the only flying B-29 Superfortress in the world.

This is one of the combat airplanes that flew from Iwo Jima, Saipan, Tinian islands to bomb Japan and help win the war. It was usually escorted by P-51 Mustangs to protect her from enemy fighters but many thousands of planes and aircrews were lost fighting for our country.

This happened at a time in history before we had long range missiles and electronics. These planes were flown by men from our farms and cities who left their families at home and risked their lives in high altitude gun fights. It was up close, brutal and extremely dangerous but they risked it all to protect our country. Many never came home again. We love, respect and honor all of our veterans. But we also have a love affair with the planes. It is a permanent addiction for us so we preserve these wonderful aircraft so you can see and experience the marvelous machines that preserved our freedom

We have completely rebuilt this aircraft and those powerful prop engines to bring Fifi back to life. It took years to accomplish, many thousands of donated dollars and thousands of hours of work by many unpaid volunteers to make this happen so that everyone can share this important part of our history. This is a unique flying museum.

If you get a chance to see her at an air show, don't pass up the chance. You are watching history and she is the only one left out of thousands.

This is truly a rare aircraft. Enjoy the video.
Col. Tom Leo, Golden Gate Wing

<http://vimeo.com/17388627>

Bradley Field pictures

<http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/courant-250/hc-pictures-bradley-airport-through-the-decades-20120710.0.6163864.photogallery>

United Air Force Flight Test School (1957)

About the United States Air Force Test Pilot School (TPS) at the Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert of Southern California.

Edwards AFB is the home of the Air Force Flight Test Center and has been an integral part of flight testing for over fifty years.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFrdPZPHeRQ&feature=em-subst_digest

<p>Twelve Squared? Submitted by Ed Potkai</p>
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One of the recent trends in aircraft modeling is the release of several models in 1/144 scale. Roden, Eduard, and Trumpeter are just a few of the companies that have offered new warplanes or airliners to the market. At our April meeting, aircraft judge Bob Rys suggested that we make this scale a separate class beginning in 2015.

Perhaps the major reason for separating these models from their 1/72 brethren is detail. Adding detail to a 1/144 model is nearly impossible while it's quite common in 1/72. For that reason, the 1/144 entrants can be at a competitive disadvantage for the top awards.

If tiny scale (1/100 and smaller) models got their own class, it would likely be a single class for all models of that size. As such it would probably draw about ten models – enough to warrant a separate class. But we must expect it to range from WWII fighters to 747's. Some might object to the width of variety.

Moving the airliners into this class would put an end to our existing Civilian Aircraft category. But the one or two large scale air racers that are left over could be relocated to the single engine prop classes where they should be able to compete fairly. And should the unlikely happen, there could be a one year split-off.

Bob's suggestion has merit. Hopefully we can decide at the June meeting.

<p>The Returning Modeler Submitted by Bob Niemiec</p>
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As I mentioned in Preflight, a computer crash put the damper on any serious modeling while I re-installed the operating system and program files. I recovered a lot of the e-mail but Ed has to send me another copy of the Meeting Notes.

I did get the cockpit set from Squadron for the Bf 109 and that's what I'll be working on for a few days. The Strikemaster part hasn't arrived and I'll have to send an e-mail to find out what happened. The upside is, the check hasn't cleared yet either.

The resin cockpit is a big improvement over the Hasegawa cockpit. The seat look really good with the molded on belts and buckles. The parts have been washed and the next step will be to trim them and start the painting and assembly.

More next month. Hopefully, nothing will interfere this time.



Al LaFleche
Kaintwakon - Senecan War Chief



Bob Rys
Lockheed F-104C Starfighter



Brad Wells - Half Moon



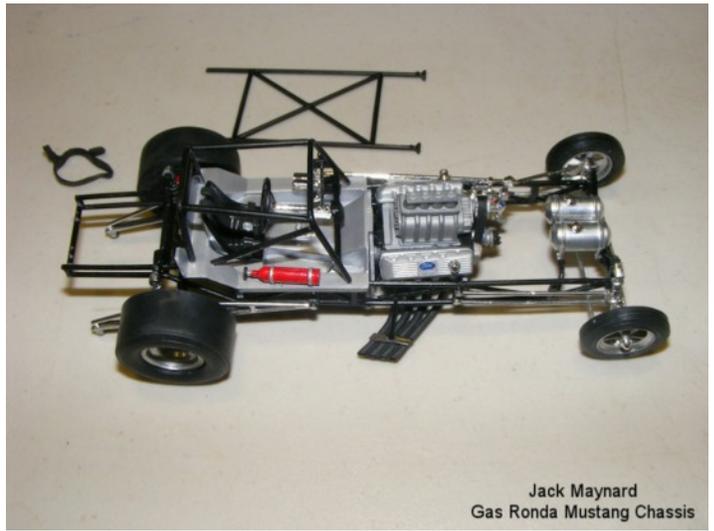
Brad Wells - Half Moon



Scott Jamieson
Messerschmitt Bf 110C-4



Jack Maynard
Gas Ronda Mustang Body



Jack Maynard
Gas Ronda Mustang Chassis



Pete Dawson
Air Chief Marshal Dowding



Pete Dawson
Kaiser Wilhelm and aide-de-camp



Pete Dawson
Capt. Joseph "Pips" Priller



Pete Dawson
Major David Stirling



Tom Irving - 1936 Chevy Modified