

Concours



The Official Newsletter of the San Diego Model Car Club

April 2005

Some of you may have noticed that the April issue of CONCOURS is arriving a little late. This is because I was swamped with other things this month and just couldn't get around to it in time. A thousand pardons for this and I hope to be back on schedule next month.

HOW ACCURATE DOES A KIT NEED TO BE?

After last month's club meeting, a few of us got to talking and one guy asked me about the accuracy of the chassis in a recently re-issued fuel altered kit. He mentioned that he had discussed this with another guy during the meeting who informed him that the chassis in question was pretty inaccurate and needed to be completely re-done to make an accurate replica of the car it represented. The guy he asked is pretty knowledgeable about such things so his opinion carried some weight with my friend. Because of this, my friend expressed some reservations about even building the kit, which I was really disappointed to here. It also got me thinking about how important accuracy is in a 1/25th scale model car which may or may not be a replica of a real car. This is, after all, only a hobby, especially for my friend (and me, for that matter) and much of the chassis in question won't be seen on the completed model anyway.

When it comes to building model cars for fun, the emphasis should be on the word FUN. If you let yourself get bogged down by unimportant details that don't negatively affect the overall appearance of the finished model, you'll never finish the friggin' model. (Now I understand that some of you out there never intend to finish a model, so don't get you panties in a bunch! I'm not implying that you MUST finish a model to have fun with it!) But for those of you who really want to finish what you start, try and look past the small accuracy problems and finish the model.

Not all of us can be like Pete Johnson, who works incredibly hard to get every detail as correct as possible. Just check out the detail on his Porsche 935 chassis. At first glance, it looks like Pete got every nut, bolt, wire, hose, and every other imaginable detail just right, doesn't it? But he had to fudge a little on the fuel tank, because if you'll look at the simulated fuel in the tank, you'll notice by the color that it's clearly not the right octane rating for the car, is it? Did this little detail Faux Pas stop Ole' Pete from pressing on? Of course not! And it should stop you, either!

So a good model car project should be like good food. If it smells good, eat it! And if looks good in the box, go ahead and build it!



THEME NIGHTS FOR 2005

January – The Tri-Fives! In case you do not know what that means I will explain. Only Chevrolets from 1955 thru 1957 will qualify for this one. They can be built to suit any style or era you like. **The winner was Brian Kelly!**

February – The 1960's – Any thing that burned gas, had four wheels and was built in the 60's qualifies. **The winner was Brian Kelly, AGAIN!!**

March – Drag City! This should be pretty self explanatory. Nitro Rules! Any type of Drag Car qualifies, from Stockers to Fuelers! **The winner was Skip Samples!!**

April – Tamiya Night! – If I have to explain this one to you then its time you move out from under that rock, Osama!

May - European Connection – Only European iron qualifies for this one. Any thing that is European qualifies on this one. Race or Stock qualifies.

June – Resin Night – If its made up of at least 50% resin it qualifies! Here is your chance to build that resin Surfite kit you paid way too much for!

July – Red White and Blue! – This time we are really building American Cars and they need to be done up in Red White and Blue. Any combination of those colors qualifies.

August – American Tuners – American Iron tuned by Real Tuners! Shelby, Saleen, Roush, Lingenfelter, Yenko, Baldwin, Mr Norm and so on!

September – Wacky Show Rods! – Got a Mummy Machine burning a hole on the shelf? Here is your chance to build it! Show rods, either imaginary or real qualify!

October – Horror Night! Built a car that scares you to death! Like a Pinto or a Gremlin! But things like the Munster Coach or Dragula also qualify!

November - Pimp My Model! – Got some 20" wheels and a Pacer that is dying to be pimped? Get your Pimp juice on and built that booty wagon!

December – Out Of Business Kit Manufacturer Night – Brought back because it was popular! Only models that where originally made by a kit manufacturer that does not exist anymore!

The same rules from last year apply to this year, and the award will again be a \$25.00 gift certificate to Phillip's Hobby Headquarters in El Cajon.

Special Thanks go out to Phillip for contributing 50% of the award. The club pitched in the other half!

**REST IN
PEACE
TOM
COUNCE**



THE DERANGED MODELER

By Darryl
Gassaway

Sadly, I must admit I will not have my VW finished on time for the meeting. After getting a good start on the model life got in the way and reduced my modeling time to zero for the past 6 weeks. The good news is Greg is putting together another Contest issue of Model Cars Magazine. Since the middle of February I have completed 8 contest coverages, that means writing the captions, a brief story and compiling the results and sponsors lists plus one article for issue #103.

A SPECIAL THANKS

Now that the Goodguys Del Mar Nationals are behind us, I say us because of the massive assistance given by club members at the event, and I have recovered, I would like to take a minute to thank the volunteers. Cliff, Bruce, Bob, Mike and former member Bill Kovach along with 2 guys who entered the contest I convinced to help, did an incredible job running 96 kids through a marathon Make and Take that lasted for 3 hours and 45 minutes. I would also like to thank Drew who came in on Sunday and helped with the judging. Speaking of Drew and the Goodguys, he made it with his new ride and even though I missed my chance to get a shot of him "cruising" the new ride I can attest he was there and it did run.

NEW STUFF FROM REPLICAS & MINIATURES

The other day I went to the mail box and found a package from Norm containing some of his newest stuff that he introduced at the Toledo NNL a few weeks ago. This was quite a surprise since I had not solicited this and there was no bill inclosed. I called him and asked what the deal was and he told me that since I suggested a couple of the new items I should have them. So here's the deal, since I didn't pay for them I decided to raffle them off at the next meeting for free. I will give everyone interested a ticket then during the meeting we will draw the numbers and you can choose which one you want. Now here's what will be in the raffle: a 6 pack intake for a small block Chevy; a tri power intake for a small block Chevy; a dual quad intake and 2 Rochester carbs for a small block Chevy; a blower intake for a small block Chevy; and finally, an injection intake for the repoped Hemi Under Glass kit. Remember these will be given away for free so you have nothing to loose.

As a part of the stuff Norm sent I also got his newest catalog, seizing the moment, I placed an order for a few of his other new and some old products. The new stuff is a Halibrand Quick Change with axles, a set of 2 transverse rear springs for old school hot rods, a 4 into 1 header for Model A 4 bangers (it runs straight back over the door not below, very old school), a pair of '58 Lincoln headlights, a pair of '53 Buick headlights, both with clear lenses. Norm's catalog is so big it's hard to know exactly what he has. This time I discovered some stuff I've never seen before. A set of 4 louvered hot rod headlights with lenses, a set of Appleton spot lights and, well I forgot. I'll bring everything to the meeting for all to see along with the new catalog.

All of this aftermarket talk has me thinking. As much as I'd like to think I grew up during the "Golden Age" of car modeling the truth is this is the "Golden Age". People like Don at Modelhaus, Bob at Model Car Garage and Norm are not only keeping the hobby alive and thriving, but their continued pushing of the envelope is actually forcing the hobby to grow and improve. Add to that list the efforts of Model King, Polar Lights and Galaxie to bring us models that we have never seen or have been out of production for years and you have another force guiding the hobby along until the major kit manufacturers can reclaim their leadership position.

Well my time and space are both about up and I have stuff to UPS to Gregg so I'd better shut this down. However, before I go a little reminder for all my friends, it's a great day for modeling, enjoy it

PHOTOS FROM THE MARCH MEETING

Photos by Skip Samples

This month's Theme Night was DRAGSTERS and the winner was, of all people, Skip Samples! Here are a few shots of the models on display.



Skip Samples



Drew Hierwarter



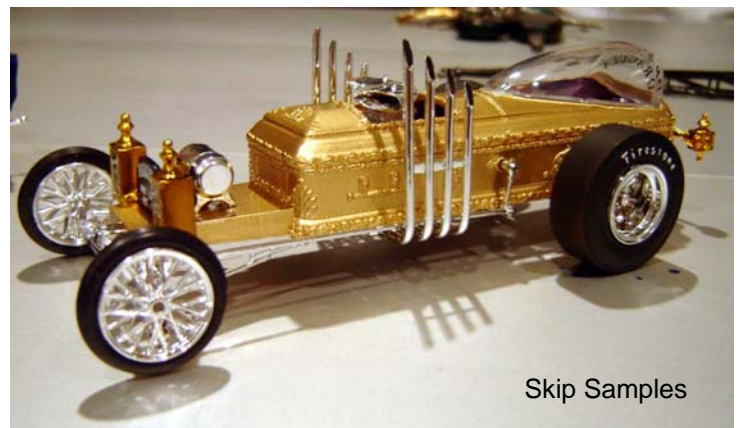
Jim Cunningham



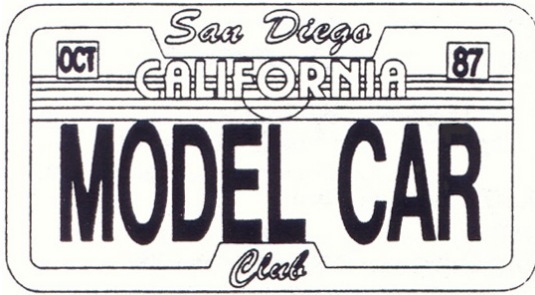
Jesse Chavez



Bruce Snyder



Skip Samples



The San Diego Model Car Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Canyonside Recreation Center located on Black Mountain Road between Mira Mesa Blvd. and Rancho Penasquitos Pkwy. From I-15, take the Mercy Road exit, go West to Black Mountain Road. Turn right and then left at the first stop light, about 1/3rd mile. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and the dues are \$30.00 per year.

HOBBY HEADQUARTERS in El Cajon is your one-stop car modeling store with kits, paints, decals, and aftermarket supplies. If we don't have it, we will order it for you. We're also proud to be the co-sponsor of the SDMCC 2005 Theme Night Awards.

Our hours are Monday through Friday from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Closed on Sunday

NOTE: CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS

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