



The Official Newsletter of the San Diego Model Car Club



June 2006

Sorry about not doing a newsletter in May, but I was out of town. Actually, I was out of the country. I spent a big part of the month in England and had a truly wonderful time. While I'm not going to bore you with tales about the great food, great beer, friendly people, and great sights, I will say that if you ever get the opportunity to visit this delightful country, don't pass it up. It's well worth your time and money to go there at least once in your life.

One of the interesting things about England where us model builders are concerned, is its history and enthusiasm for the hobby. Now, since I was with my wife and this was a vacation, I didn't get much of a chance to explore the hobby while I was there, I've been reading many British Model Magazines for several years now (I'm as much a model aircraft fan as I am a model car fan), and I'm convinced that some of the best model makers in the world come from that great country.

One of the best model magazines you can read is Tamiya Model Magazine, which, despite the fact that Tamiya is a Japanese company, is actually published in the UK and virtually all the articles are written by Englishmen (and recently, a couple of Yanks!). While most of the models are either armor, ships, or aircraft, there are a few cars in there occasionally and ALL the models featured are nothing short of remarkable. Even if armor, ships, and aircraft don't normally interest you, most modelers can appreciate fine models, regardless of the subject, and can learn new tricks and techniques that they can carry over to cars.

Personally, I'm not surprised that some of the best model publications come from the UK, and many of the best modelers do, too. Plastic model kits actually originated in the UK back in the late 40's and early 50's. And, it was the Brits that settled on constant scale models (such as 1/72 for aircraft and 1/32 for cars) when the US was making their model scales to fit the boxes they were packed in. This "constant scale" gave the models a little more credibility because you could easily see the relative size difference between a P-51 and a B-17. It was easy and in fact, desirable to build up constant scale collections because of that.

While I was in London, I was able to sneak off for a few hours and visit one of the most famous hobby shops in the world, Hannant's in Colindale. Hannant's is the premier hobby shop in Europe and really the rest of the world, for that matter. They actually have two shops in the UK and the one in Colindale is the smaller of the two locations. Nevertheless, it was FILLED with every kit, decal, and aftermarket item you could think of.....for aircraft, armor, and ship modelers. There wasn't much there for car guys, (I don't think car modeling is that popular in the UK) but as I mentioned before, I dig jets, too, so I had a great time snooping around in there. Hannant's isn't afraid to carry a large selection of lesser known kits and aftermarket items and I assume that this is because the locals in the UK actually BUY them! This also applies to paints, books, and magazines, too.

On to other news. Philip Huston at Philips Hobby Shop in El Cajon has announced that all of his car kits (except the latest issues) are being blown out of his shop for 30% off list until they're all gone. Once they're gone, he won't restock. This is because it appears that car modeling isn't all that popular here, either, and he can hardly give these things away anymore. He'll still carry paints, Alclad, and other related supplies, and will special order anything you might want, but don't plan on browsing over car kits there, anymore, because they won't be there.

This seems to be a problem around here lately. Even though we have a model car club filled with model car "builders" there's not much building going on lately. I noticed at the April meeting that we had very few models, and the Theme Night category (Drag Racing) didn't have enough entries to make a contest, so we had to expand it to racing cars, which Dave Allin won with a very cool '64 Comet Rally Car.

And then Jesse tells me that the May meeting had so few car models that he cancelled the Theme Night, which was Red, White, and/or Green models, by the way. How come nobody is building anything right now? What's the problem? Let's try and turn this trend around in the coming months, okay?

Later,

Skip

2006 Theme Night Categories

January – Finish a Them Night Model Theme Night: The winner was Jay Rotun!!

February – Odd Models: Have a weird kit lying around, not a car but some weird Chinese fruit stand or an Atomic Power Plant? Then here is your chance to build it! The winner was Bob Burns!!

March – Rat Rod: Time to primer away or go nuts on the Flake! Remember, not all Rat Rods are just rust and primer. The winner was Bob Sontag!!!

April – Drags: Any type of vehicle that can run down the 1320 qualifies! From Stockers to Fuelers! The winner was Dave Allin!!!

May – Red, White and Green: Celebrate that all American of Holidays! Cinco De Mayo! Build in any one of these colors or a combination of all three! Apparently, there was no winner because there were no entries!!

June – Box Stock: Any kit qualifies, as long as it is box stock! No aftermarket anything, not even decals!

July – Foreign Race Cars: Any competition Vehicle not raced normally in the USA. From Rally to F-1 and all in between

August – Orphans: Once again only kits from now defunct kit companies qualify, MPC, Renwal, Jo Han and so forth.

September – Resin: Models with resin anything qualify, from bodies to valve covers, if it has resin, its good!

October – Corvettes: Only GM's plastic fantastic qualifies for this night. Does not have to be a stock Vette!

November – The 70's: Any car from 1970 thru 1979 qualifies! So get that Gremlin going!

December – Kustom: Go nuts with the custom stuff or just do some cool mods to a stocker!

Also please keep in mind that the Quarterly Contest will allow all builds from the theme nights or new builds. Old builds, contest winners and die cast need not apply! Please let's keep it fair and honest!!

President's Column

So many things to do and so little time to do them, that is one of the biggest problems some of us are experiencing at this moment and that is why we are going to postpone the kit auction scheduled for this month. Instead we can just have a great time like we always do. Also, the group build kit is the Revell 40 Ford street rod that you can build any way you like! Hopefully the vendor will have our order in by the next meeting. Apparently these things are really selling and most vendors are out of them! But, they are on order and should be here soon.

I also would like to remind you that this weekend on Saturday the 17th they will be holding the NNL Contest and Museum kit sale. We have sponsored the automotive classes and we are also doing the Tom Augustyn Memorial Award at the show. So come on down and support your local contest and kit sale! Our very own Skip Samples will be hawking his wares and he has sponsored the 1/48th scale aircraft class in memory of our late friend Tim Warcup.

Also, in case you do not read the Hobby Heaven Message Board. HH has announced that they will be doing an exclusive run of the Ohio George Multi Maverick! Kit will be complete with proper decals and tires! And best of all, molded in white! So order today!!

Well, I am keeping this short and sweet. See you at the meeting!

Color Me Gone!

Jesse

PICTURES FROM THE APRIL MEETING

As you can see, there wasn't a lot to take pictures of at the April meeting, (and I have no pictures from the May meeting), but what was there was awfully food!



Brian Gilliam



Dave Allin



This is Dave Allin's remarkable '64 Comet rally car. He built it from the recently reissued AMT kit but he made a lot of modifications to get it to look like this. The model is actually a replica of the restored car he saw at a vintage race a while back. He every deservedly won the Theme Night award for this, which was donated by Dan King.



Brian Gilliam



Jesse Chavez

THE DERANGED MODELER

By Darryl
Gassaway

The Club Build

Last month Jesse announced the next club build would be the new Revell Goodguys version of the "40 Ford Standard. I contacted Hobby Heaven and was given a good price on the kits, but a problem arose. It seems that nobody had 24 kits to sell. Hobby Heaven was completely out and Fantastic Plastic only had 4 kits left. The people at Hobby Heaven told me that Revell is totally out as are all their distributors. A second run of the kit has been ordered, but the kit is made in China so they won't be available for a couple months. This leaves us with 2 choices, time we can either change the subject for the club build or wait a couple month until the new shipment comes in.

Congrats to Bob Sontag

At an earlier meeting Bob mentioned he was in contention to be a participant in a national Hobby and Crafts event sponsored by the VA. Well Bob dis qualify and will be off to South Dakota for the Nationals late this fall. Good luck Bob.

My latest unfinished project

Modeling time has been hard to come by the past few months. The 1 year remodel of my step_father's house is almost complete. It was supposed to take 6 months, I wonder what went wrong? Even with limited time I have still been able to play with a few different kits. Last week I drug out a resin bodied '49 Mercury Woody wagon I bought a couple years ago. After looking at the body I was unhappy with the wood detail, it was too light, so I filed it all off and decided to try making my own wood trim out of bass wood and walnut veneer.

Something different

A couple weeks ago I was going through a project and discovered I needed a few additional aftermarket parts. Instantly I called Norm at Replicas & Miniatures to place the order. While talking to Norm I asked if there was anything new, he told me about a straight 6 cylinder engine made from the Revell '68 Firebird kit. Now you may ask why anyone would want that engine, well I can tell you it will turn up in a hot rod with a few modifications. I called Cliff Wright and asked him about a couple ideas I had. The easiest conversion would be to make a new intake and add 3 _ 97's and a set of headers, but I was more interested in fuel injection or perhaps 2 quads. As a result of that call the 2 quad idea has been dropped.

Well that's it for this month. I have nothing to more to say unless you want to talk about remodeling. You see the plans have already been drawn for an addition on my aunt's house and my wife has been all over me to get going on several small projects we have planned. Before I go remember it's a great day for modeling, enjoy it.



In my never-ending search to find new and interesting products to make my hobby more fun, I sometimes come across something really exciting, and not necessarily what I was expecting. Such is the case with this new clear gloss base from Alclad. As many of you know, Alclad makes a whole line of metallic paints that are FAR superior to any other metal paints on the market. Two of the paints in their line are Chrome and Polished Aluminum that, when applied properly, create a finish that comes pretty close to full-on chrome plating. The trick is, of course, to apply them properly. And, one of the most demanding requirements is to get the surface smooth and glassy.

Over the last couple of years, I've tried all sorts of things to make this happen including every clear-gloss paint I could find, including two-part catalyzed concoctions. Most of these worked okay, but not really what I was hoping for. Even the ultra-expensive MirraChrome, which offered more promise than any other product I tried, (even Alclad!), presented problems with surface preparation.

However, this new clear base (sometimes called Honey Primer) from Alclad seems to have solved those problems and makes it possible to create a virtual chrome surface on plastic using Alclad Chrome, which is much more readily available than MirraChrome, and priced better, too. It's thin enough to spray straight from the bottle, dries very quickly to a hard, glossy sheen, and accepts either Alclad Chrome or MirraChrome equally well. When you begin to mist on the Chrome Alclad, you'll see the chrome reflection pop-up almost immediately, and the more to spray on, the deeper the reflection. Check out the plastic spoon I tested it on in the picture above, and you'll see me focusing my camera to take the picture. I also think it looks more like scale chrome than the chrome plating that comes on most model kits.

One of the real advantages of the Alclad line of metal paints is their durability. They dry almost instantly and can be handled and even masked with little or no damage. However, I learned through experimentation that they don't accept clear coats OVER the chrome very well. Alclad recommends that you use a black primer (they sell an excellent gloss black primer for this purpose) but I think it makes the chrome a little too dark. I recommend their amazing Gray Primer and Micro-filler instead. Like everything else in the Alclad line, it's pre-thinned for airbrushing, and leaves a very smooth surface on which to apply the clear base and then the chrome.

What we now have is a product that will enable you to "chrome" any surface that can be painted, whether it's plastic, resin, metal, or anything else, for that matter. It's easy, inexpensive, and incredibly effective. It's also easy to find since most decent hobby shops carry Alclad nowadays. I must admit, however, that the only place I've seen the Clear Base (so far) in Southern California is Philip's Hobby Shop in El Cajon. (If you're here locally, stop by his store and check out the samples I did for him to show you. You'll be amazed!)

If you're not local, Squadron Mail Order (www.squadron.com) also carries it. It's Alclad II Clear Base ALC 303. Philip sells it for \$7.85 per 4 oz. bottle.

Here's an interesting tip I pulled out of one of the aircraft modeling magazines I like to read. If you want your Testor's Model Master Gloss Paints to dry REALLY GLOSSY, try thinning it with Pactra Aero Gloss Thinner (43-4) instead of any other thinners I've tried this on a few small parts recently and it really makes a noticeable difference. I don't know why it would work better than Testors thinner, but it does. You can find this thinner at most local hobby shops, especially those that support RC Airplanes such as Discount Hobby Warehouse, Hobby People, and Hobbytown. I haven't seen it at Philips Hobby Shop, though. It's sold in 3.5 oz bottles for about \$5.75 each.

Skip

San Diego International Plastic Modelers Society Presents

San Diego Model Expo '06



FR

Model Contest Raffle and Exhibition

Contest Theme: Marines; the Few, the Proud



SATURDAY, June 17, 2006

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(See other side for vendor info.)



San Diego Air & Space Museum

Gillespie Field, 335 Kenney Street, El Cajon, CA

*Directions: From San Diego, take Interstate 8 east to State Route 67.
Take 67 to the Prospect exit and head for the Atlas missile on your left.*

Admission.....\$2.00

Model Contest Registration: Adults.....\$7.00 17 and under.....\$3.00

Contest registration includes unlimited model entries.

IPMS national rules will be used during this contest, including the no sweeps rule and no previous IPMS winners.

Complete rules are at www.ipmsusa.org. All categories are subject to splits where applicable.

SCHEDULE

Model Registration
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Raffle Drawings
1:00 p.m.

Awards Presentation
3:00 p.m.

San Diego Model Expo '06 Contest Categories

- | | |
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| 1. Novice: All scales and types | 11. Cars: Factory stock |
| 2. Juniors: 10 and under, all scales and types | 12. Cars: Competition, open & closed wheeled |
| 3. Juniors: 10 and under, all scales and types | 13. Cars: Street rod, custom |
| 4. Aircraft: 1/72 and smaller | 14. Dioramas: All scales |
| 5. Aircraft: 1/71 to 1/33 | 15. Ships: 1/451 and smaller |
| 6. Aircraft: 1/32 and larger | 16. Ships: 1/450 and larger |
| 7. Helicopters and Rotary Wing: all scales & types | 17. Figures: 53 MM and smaller |
| 8. Armor: 1/48 and smaller | 18. Figures: 54 MM and larger |
| 9. Armor: 1/47 and larger, fully tracked | 19. Sci-Fi and Real Space: All scales |
| 10. Armor: 1/47 and larger, wheeled, semi-tracked | 20. Miscellaneous: All scales and types |

Special Awards

S1. Best of the Best: Judges Grand Prize

S2. Expo Theme Award: Best U.S. Marines Subject

S3. Best Junior Model

S4. Best Out-of-the-Box Model in Show

S6. Tom Augustine Memorial Award (Best Race Car)

Sponsored by the San Diego Model Car Club

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Category Sponsorship Application

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

PHONE(S): _____ E-MAIL: _____

Make check or money order payable to: **IPMS San Diego, C/o Gary Williams, 4741 Robbins Street, San Diego, CA 92122**

CATEGORY # (S) _____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

For category sponsorship, indicate the category number(s) you wish to sponsor and multiply by \$25.00. Note: Don't forget to give us your name, address & Ph # above.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

For additional information and updates: www.ipmssd.org, or call Gary Williams, (858) 453-8777



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 \$20.00 per year.



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