

AN UNAUTHORIZED (mostly due to unnecessary, also because I said so being I'm the Author) PUBLICATION

# The BUZZ – of The Fremont Hornets V.1

Issue 25

November 30 2014



**Somehow managing to wing it for now over 37 years...**

## Welcome

**IN THIS ISSUE – You will find: (basically in the listed order, tho a stream of consciousness device)**

**A Short Take on Present BUZZ (Issue's Editorial, in case you need clarification) Reminder of Upcoming Nest 12-12-14**

**Short schedule of upcoming near meets and events of possible interest to Hornets and their friends**

**A REMINDER – DECEMBER 2014 Meeting is ONE HOLIDAY FEAST NIGHT for the YEAR !**

**A LOOK BACK FROM THE FRONT – “ HUIZZAH ! ” November Club meeting**

**REAL ANNOUNCEMENT to PROVE *THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE* ! The Contest Director Proudly confirms TC-11**

**GOOD GREIF ! Seeking follow up this Teutonic Tout with details for “ GRUPPE BUILD 2015: Any BF's by AF “**

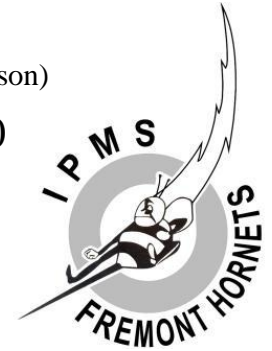
**Coverage aplenty how things looked down South in Lancaster, CA at the AVG Show !**

**CLOSING NON SENSE with a reminder we have a Free Hornets Special Award with Straight Up Winning Potential**

# THE Latest BUZZ (as of Nov 30 2014 evening)

(a Short Take On Present Buzz) by Mick Burton, Buzz Editor (& Hornets Treasurer a Deux, Current Contest Director for 2014/15 season)

**YES!** Now #26 In case you are a new reader, the Issue number is off by one always, since #0 was outset of this lark. That clarified or muddied, let's get to some actual important business!



**IPMS SILVERWINGS**

IN COLLABORATION WITH

IPMS DRAGONLADY, YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA

## **SilverCon 2014 MODEL SHOW & CONTEST**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

CONTEST THEME

*The Push to the Finish – The Last Year of the War\**

**SACRAMENTO, CA**

**Town & Country Lutheran Church and School  
4049 Marconi Ave.**

Hours 9-4, Vendor tables @ \$40; 2 or more, \$35 each\*  
\$7 first 2 models and \$1 each additional entry  
Jrs. under 14, \$1 for each entry

Russ Niles - Contest Vendor Coordinator [r\\_nilest@juno.com](mailto:r_nilest@juno.com)  
916-381-1395

Art Silen - Chapter President  
530-753-3265, [artsilen@bcglobal.net](mailto:artsilen@bcglobal.net)

Additional information regarding model registration, make-and-take activities for children, and vendor table availability may be found on the IPMS Silverwings website:

[Http://www.sacramento-model-club.org](http://www.sacramento-model-club.org)

\* With paid reservation prior to November 1, 2014; afterward, single tables @ \$45; 2 or more @ \$40. All fees subject to change without notice.

## **“The Push To The Finish: The Last Contest of R-9 Year”**

*Here* is a reminder we do have something to look forward to in our model world for the holiday month, right off in the first weekend of December.

SilverWings of Sacramento traditional “Winter Classic” will be with us all at their new location just inaugurated last December. This year they will be joined in hosting by our friends from Dragon Lady, and every indication is that this will be even bigger show. Sadly this Editor missed the debut 2013 event, and has worked hard to see that this coming Saturday won't be repeat of that ! In any case, hope that many of you get to make this festive model show, see other friends there and make new ones while loading up on those special gifts to be found. Plus of course making room on your trophy wall, for another win this year. Congratulations to the hosts for holding this show, something to look forward on the way to our own Holiday Nest... – *mickb*

## **The Hornets Nest Night coming up Friday December 12 @ Irvington Locale WILL BE**

## **Minimal Business and Our Holiday Feast & Fest Night**

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Friday, December 19 2014 – IPMS Silicon Valley Scale Modelers meeting Theme “Steal This Gift, Damn it” Usual meeting locale, Milpitas PD  
Saturday, January 31 2015 – NNL West host their annual “NNL Western Event” at Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara CA –LOT of fun

## Free Hornet's November Nest (a look back from *The Front*)



*With a flourish and an awesome restraint of sarcasm, we made sure our last “normal” Nest for 2014 was filled to the finish with model festivity !*



*THANKS* to having suffered from my first fall idiopathic respiratory distress, better known as “maybe a cold, not the flu, but makes one sick, YOU”, for nearly all thirteen days after start of the month, Free Hornets President was in no hurry to start the “official business of the meeting”. The first two shots of the meeting may reveal the pleasing cooperation of the membership in making this not a problem. As prior announced, agenda for November was to be minimal business, major emphasis on getting some Model Talk display items and of course, lively Build-festing. By time Gabriel Lee had arrived for the picture above, there was a pretty engaged bunch of builders present. President Burton took it easy for a while longer from here, since a good chance to take a good number of clear shots of display table and “WIP” items candidly presents itself. Knew ahead of time that four members to be absent that night (Mike Woolson, Mike Meek, Dave & Christine Anderson) but considered likely at least two more would come in somewhat late.



Providing their fellow Hornets yet more time to assemble, converse and have a lot of unsupervised fun, later arrivals Randy Ray and lastly, Chris Bucholtz had themselves integrated into array. Leaving Burton little choice except call the official meeting to order, conduct some sort of important business.

Since there had been a pleasing sizable presence of Free Hornets at the AVG hosted Desert Classic in Lancaster two weeks prior, first order of agenda was to congratulate the biggest winner. Also to put him on the spot over the award.



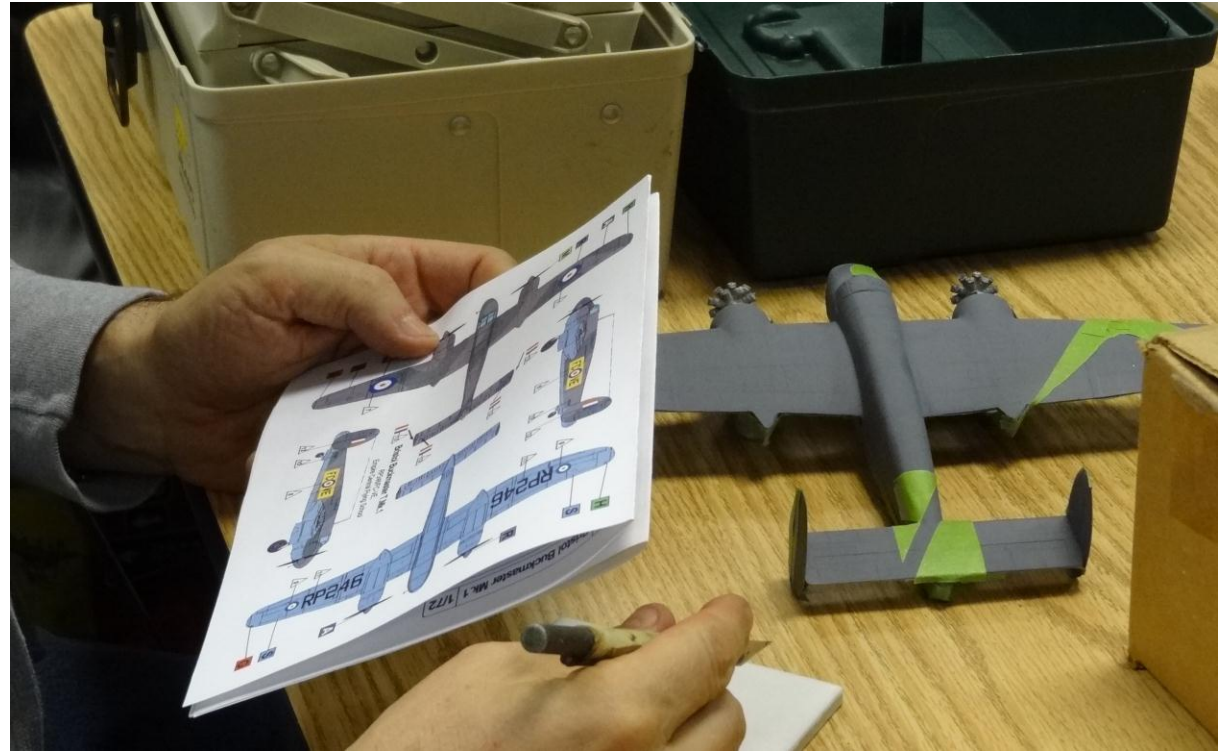
Since he modestly didn't come to the meeting with the splendid trophy, I show you here. One Milt Poulos with well deserved "Master's Award" at the show that day. With a very large amount of tough competition for this trophy, Milt's 1/32 Panavia Tornado carried the day with the equally tough Judges of AVG. Unknown to him at showtime, we had a "special interest" in getting a close up look at the big prize. In the spring, a trip to the Plane Crazy Days with a bonus drop in at the AVG Club meeting had included a donation to the Fall Desert Classic. A decision to go ahead and launch a "Master's Competition" for the first time at their show came out very well, the sponsorship for the trophy was honor of the Fremont Hornets as you can now see with these select clips !



Traveling to the Lancaster show with this entry among others had been enough trouble and potential trauma for Milt, so I hadn't any expectations he'd bring GR to the meeting. Had hoped though, to see it in the calm of our meeting since that would be only the second time ever had chance to photograph this cool trophy. It was not to be, however Milt's recounting of his experience with the Classic was a fine way to start off. Here is a shot I took of the "big Tornado" at the DC- 18.



A more in depth account of Hornets attending Desert Classic 18 is planned for another portion of this Newsletter, so suffice to say that all who went from our end of the world were again pleased to have been there, as another great show. Announcements of remaining Region Nine 2014 shows (aka SilverWings SilverCon 2014, which is now being cohosted by IPMS-Dragon Lady) promoted, also reminders of firmed up 2015 Region Nine shows. Finishing of course with the first official news announced at a Hornets Meeting, of the TriCity Classic 11, “The Good German” coming 9-27-2015.



First up, Mark Schynert's Valom 1/72 scale kit of British postwar twin, a Bristol Buckmaster T Mk 1, taped here.

While Mark was for first time in a month being able to model (home remodeling has precedence!) his neighbor Kent McClure had an army in miniature literally nearby,



Now, as you have already seen, there was a good sized Display Table going on and in timeline terms, that's where we went next. However, this is a photo essay not a strict minutes recount, so instead we'll now shift into a look around the table at what all were working on. Since we'd not held any "official speaking" moments during this meeting. Particularly to test the Editor's ability to identify and relate what little he knew about what was happening here, in real time. Join him !

lined up in front of him. Kent was concentrating on another of his “Resin Heroines” which of course, since I didn’t have a public speaking period, is going to remain anonymous, as are hordes of soldiers on surfboards you see. Sorry !



Right after Kent, we found “Trucker” Cliff Kranz attired in a natty “Things go better with Nitro” Racing T shirt in red, making metal tracks aplenty.

Next to Cliff, we find Randy Ray working on a Tasca “Easy Eight” M4A3E8 HVSS Sherman, with



fellow armor enthusiast Kelli sharing in some of his opening fun here. We’ll come back around to what Kelli has underway, fairly soon. Randy has a lot of projects going these days, and it is hard for me to keep track of them. One thing in common with them all though, is they’re deeply researched, and I would not be surprised to have learned that here he was either sharing some recent finds for his project with Kelli on his I-Pad screen, or more likely sharing some new research that would assist Kelli. In any case, this is an excellent example of how “social modelling” is a valuable process. Smiling clad in red plaid is Ken Miller, who has some 1/144 magic underway himself. But that “Blue Whale” in his hands was 1/300 “special”



Ken's a smiling perhaps because he knows how there's almost zero chance I can pronounce the bloody kit make properly, but he doesn't know I won't be "speaking" it. This is the Zhengdefu brand 1/300 rendering 747-400 in ANA markings "Marine Jumbo". Literally flying art, as a fanciful blue whale canvas is entire fuselage length, a set of markings I can't make out are on top of that.



Then also "work in process" by Ken here, in scale by Minicraft. Ken's comment to us: how odd their



1/144 is a light gray C-130B kitted anew idea of cockpit detail; namely just floor.

Brian Sakai observed me watching as Gabriel Lee intently studied his latest efforts in Latin American Mustangs using Airfix P-51 kit as basis. Truly, I show true record of my findings, but not quite sure I know where that last step in the sequence came from.

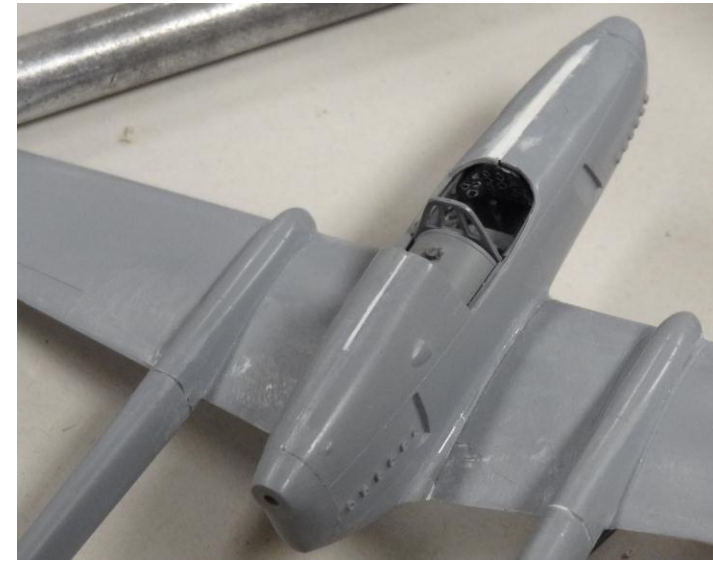


some "forcefully added pressure to be applied to cockpit assembly". Or not. All I can do is put the pictures out there and briefly narrate what I saw...

Clearly, what ever the actual method here, apparently the results were satisfactory. There in the center photo, are the cockpit in question, do look fine.



Brian showed himself no slouch with cockpits.



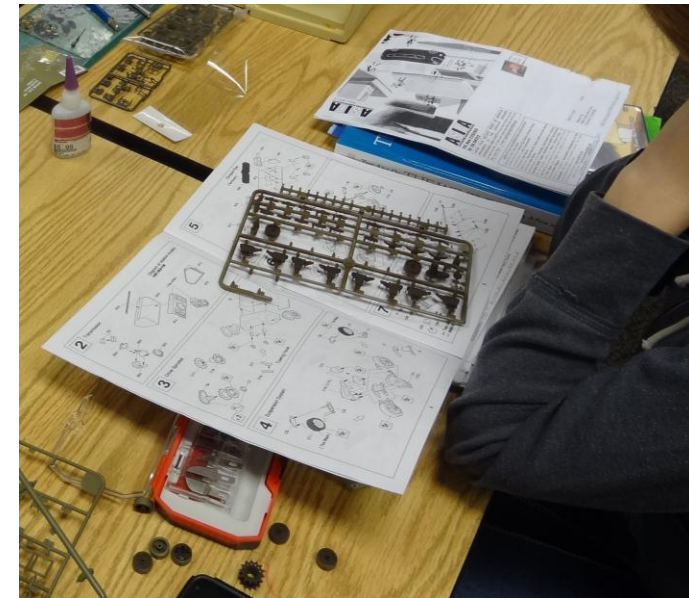
A look right at his Fokker D 23 Dutch twin engine twin boom fighter will demonstrate very well !

Another Fokker of an earlier period was also underway from Brian with the Dutch treat, it was an Eindecker III monoplane scourge of the 1916 Air War. Mr Sakai has a start on TC-11 theme, yes.

Meanwhile, Steven Ng tries to distract “Speed Builder” Kelli with news on a Special Exhibit of



Walt Disney’s model trains.  
It’s local and pretty cool.



This did not seem to any impediment to her work in progress, while she, like the photographer, did evoke a keen interest in the material.

Just to be sure to get it recorded here in complete enough detail: Kelli’s project shown underway at our November Nest: an AFV Club 1/35 scale kit she’s very enthused to be doing. The M10 US Army World War Two Tank Destroyer, specifically. So you know. Based on fact her “first armor kit” she shared with us in 30 days after starting was a nearly completely done 1/35 DML Sherman, be afraid. Very afraid.



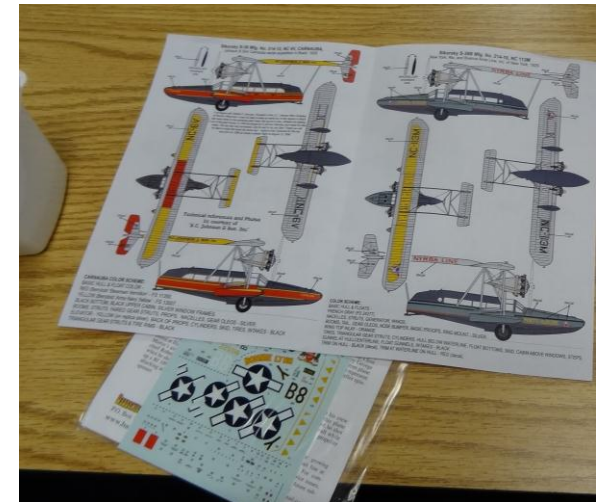


While Louis the G-Man gestured at me, I caught a candid shot of Patrick Hsieh who did a convincing job of appearing nonchalant as he worked furiously fast. That Academy 1/72 Me-163B “Komet” would definitely be a contender, if he finishes it for the newly announced TriCity 11 with theme “The Good German”

My apologies now to Louis, as his gesture distracted me. Thus I failed to record what he’d underway here, as his latest secret model weapon

Milt Poulos left his awards at home, true. But he showed up, brought along this 1/35

Tamiya kit of the Russian Army issue T72 M1 MBT. Milt can pretty much master anything he sets out to build, thus my bet, this Soviet strike vehicle has a good shot at an armor award in the future. Next to Milt, I found Frank Babbitt had this “Sweet” 1/144 Royal Navy Wildcat. Aptly named.



Center and right above, lastly we espy Chris Bucholtz’s “Spirit of Africa” (well OK, not really with this kitting, but it’s another scheme for this) bird. Actually this resin challenge is the Sikorsky S-38, and schemes shown are for the “SC Johnson Carnuaba Wax”, NYRBA Lines (New York, Rio and Buenos Aires) liveries of this storied aircraft. However, there is a number of modelers who’ve done an “Osa’s Ark” S-38 and her husband’s S-39 companion, “Spirit of Africa”. I am pretty sure Chris’s plans are for something special here. He’s already pointed out the excellent one piece resin molding of upper wing just begs to have all the kit struts replaced. Since they too are resin, over time the likelihood they buckle under the “wingload” is about 100 percent. Still, looking forward!

Now, we’ll return to the actual meeting timeline, with Louis on the left pointing the way, or perhaps just musing over the effort that Chris is about to undertake with the aforementioned Sikorsky... In any case, there’s our lineup of “Modeltalk”

Ken Miller literally threw in the towel this night in a search for display stand ☺ His 727 wore it well, you see.



Ken noted he had display stand earlier in the day, a good chance it was even in the car. Modeler that he is, knew when it was wise to just go without it for his display here, rather than a loss of relaxing evening.

He detailed us that 727 is a “sales model”, not usual kit. Ken found and put on a different scheme, which proved its own set of challenges. Nice



was triumphant report in from Cliff Kranz. Actually, was only Army OD Jeep that directly fit his colorful description of its qualities. Chosen scheme fits exactly as he operated in them while serving stateside in USA. Kit modified in suspension from molded version, so accurately reflect the actual construction of this Jeep version, a very tricky animal, Cliff recalled vividly. He finished the “USMC Green” Jeep basic, a box stock, as “control” for those to best appreciate when viewing, nature of the modifications done to OD one.

“Death Jeeps” *done*,



Mikoyan Gurevich’s notorious MiG-25 “Foxybat A” as captured in 1/72 by the Hasegawa model company, all thanks to defector V. I. Belenko back in 1976. Cliff said he’d finally finished this one as a serious nostalgia piece, he’s now in market for an “also way old” 1/48 kit of this MiG by Revell, if any one has one.

He prefers that edition, stated he’s not happy with reviews covering the recent new molding released by the KittyHawk firm of this Cold War icon.



Of course, wasn't all Cold War & Death Jeeps with Mr K, here's his recent finished "Pearl Harbor Defender" P-36A.

Done as the Hawk that took down two of the enemy on that December 7, from 1/48 Hobbycraft kitting, of course. Plus Cliff brought in the carmine Ferrari F-1 of none other than Michael Schumacher, as well.

Now the Long on Lockheeds but short on the finishing thereof modeler, is of course Editor Moi. Not much has happened since last time



my Academy P-38 here showed up, but center picture neighbor is brand new companion to her !

I had three 1/48 scale Lockheeds of similar mix at a Nest within last year, but this time the P-80 you see is NOT the same one. The next Monogram Shooting Star moving as rapidly as possible to completion, with faint hope of making the following Friday's SVSM "Sharks Special" club contest. A scheme of "Beer City Special" is still going to be seen through, as February 2015 SVSM Club Contest is "Kelly's Heroes" and these three all qualify.

On the right is the slowly advancing Academy edition of T-33A Shooting Star, now happily the original planned scheme out of box for Luftwaffe service version will dovetail with Hornet's 2015 TC-11, as contender for "Post 1945 German", "German Theme" and "Straight Wing Jet" awards.

Another barely updated model since last visit was Burton's Birthday Sabre, aka RAF Germany 1956 F.4 Sabre from the Hasegawa 1/48<sup>th</sup> boxing. Oh perhaps by aforementioned month of NEXT February, Mick will see this "quick build" of his completed. It too, now likely be missing a chance to "open its Shark Mouth" to vy for awards at next Friday's SVSM meet.



Hoping that won't be the case for *THIS* Shark Mouth, Burton had an Airfix "new mold" Bf109G-6 that Out of the Box just happens to get the builder option of "mouthy Me"

Dragged into the table play for the purpose also to show Louis O that an Italian Me was part of the OOB offerings. Finally, brought so that a "2015 Gruppe Build" would be in agenda for November Free Hornets

By the time this was "in Model Talk" the final shape of this 2015 GB had evolved into "ANY Airfix 109, scale and molding date unrestricted" from the original fiendish plan that had only "newest mold Airfix Me's" eligible to play. So that was the final portion of Burton's talk, news of the "formal ruling and flyer" will be found elsewhere in this issue of "Hornets V.1 Buzz".



Last but far from least, Louis Orselli's Model Talk was on this "Good German", which we sarcastically thus cast as "the OTHER Me-109" during his talk.

While thanks to an overly cautious President calling



for a reduced number of Raffle Prizes had us with a start of ONE, as Jim Priete considered a vulnerable volume of the President's, there was a "surprise" addon by the Prez. Which is why you see Peter and, Ray here mugging as they won them both!



The "Tuskegee's Heroes" book joined the new Sunderland in the prize pool. No, that wasn't our big "Surprise"...

## OUR BIG FREE HORNET SURPRISE OF NOVEMBER !



***Congratulations to Model of the Month winner, Chris Bucholtz !***

Chris showed up, brought along his part of FH 2014 Gruppe Build so he could “Model Talk” on it.

I left out the mention of it entire, so now that this could be done ☺.

*Mick-fini*

But there's more:

And if you'd like to see MORE pictures:  
link on here [www.fremonthornets.org](http://www.fremonthornets.org)  
(gallery) under Hornets Nest 2014 meets look  
for NOVEMBER of course



AND YES, YOU HEARD CORRECTLY AT THE NOVEMBER NEST, SO NOW HERE ANNOUNCED AGAIN FOR EMPHASIS



# TRI-CITY CLASSIC 11

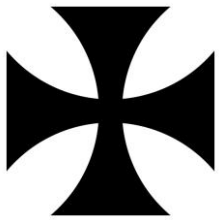
Scale Model Contest and Exhibition



## Sunday, September 27 2015

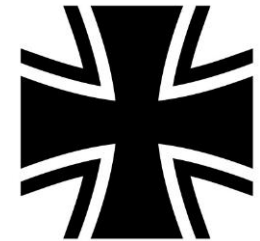
Milpitas Community Center 457 E Calaveras Blvd. Milpitas, California 9am - 5pm

50 Categories of Competition in Aircraft, Autos, Figures, Ships, Military Vehicles, Space & Fictional, and Paper Kits !



## " ***THE GOOD GERMAN*** "

(anything German or directly related)



NEW Special Awards in addition to traditional First/Second/Third place are:

“ **The Desert Fox** ” Award for Best Entry befitting the Contest Theme

“ **Vengeance Is Mine** ” (three awards for: Best “Marine”, Best V-Weapon, Best “Bulge” (not limited to German either)

“ **A New Germany** ” Award for Best Post 1945 German subject

Plus these: “ **At Dawn’s Early Light** ”, “ **1915** ”, “ **Best Straight Wing Jet** ”, “ **Mightiest Mercedes** ”

*Plus:* Vendors, a raffle and other fun items announced on day of event!

**Free Admission to all spectators!**

Contestant Entry: \$ 10 for modelers 18 & older w/ TEN model entries or less (\$1 each additional entry) All modelers 17/under, FREE/unlimited entries

For Vendor Information, contact **Lou Orselli** by phone at (510) 481-7335 VALID CA SALES TAX PERMIT REQUIRED

Email Contest Director Mick Burton directly at DAZE61283@mypacks.net with “Tri City 11 Contest” on subject line

**OF COURSE, DETAILS HERE:** <http://fremonthornets.yolasite.com/tricity-events-news-present-and-past.php>

WITHOUT APOLOGY FOR THIS TEUTONIC TURN OF TOUTING EVENTS, THE FREE HORNETS PRESIDENT PRESENTS YET MORE “ HUN SENSE “ WITH GB 2015 !

*The Gruppe Build for 2015 is “ Any BF (109) as long as it's by AF (Airfix) “*



VERY SIMPLE RULES TO FOLLOW !

1. ANY Edition of an AIRFIX Messerschmitt 109 may be used to start with. Some examples of old & new shown here
2. You do NOT NEED TO FINISH IT OUT OF THE BOX, YOU JUST NEED TO FINISH IT (by 9-27-2015, 9AM)
3. Exercise as much or as little “creative, artistic, or of course, SARCASTIC” license in your entry(s) as you feel like
4. You must be a Free Hornet to play (participate)
5. No one is compelled to participate, it's merely another chance for FREE HORNETS to LET OUR FREE FLAG FLY

# THREE HORNETS GO SOUTH, FEEL LIKE NEVER LEFT HOME !

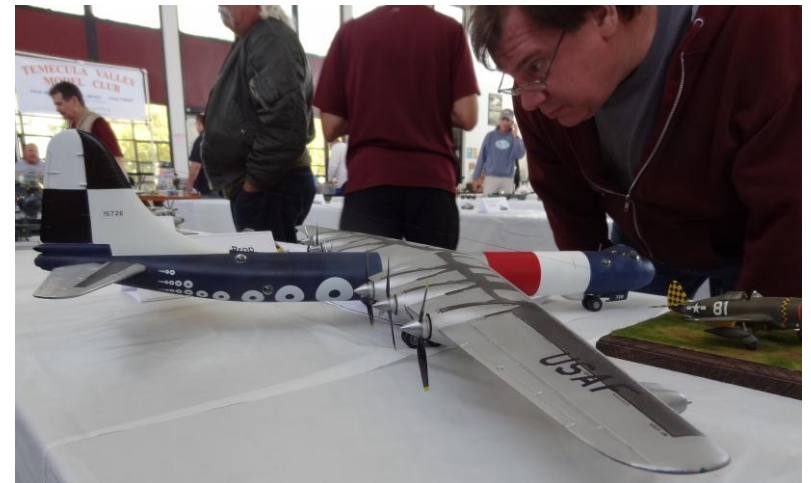
## A Brief Review of the AVG Contest

Missing Desert Classic #17 wasn't really my plan, nonetheless that seemed to be theme for me last fall and winter of 2013, not to take road trips with friends to favorite shows like this one !

Worse yet, due to the lack of attending, I'd not gotten the vanity prize of photography by me of award we'd sponsored ! Having been on a road trip in Spring 2013 that included a visit to AVG meeting, where chance to give contest support came in form of \$\$\$. So that missed experience, not to see how #17 turned out, was extra stressful.

Giving that preface to assist illustrating why seeing these gents in the chairs pondering the awards lineup at Desert Classic #18, now 2014, was extra cheering. What a difference a year makes !

I had seen several of them up in Oregon for the OHMS show in September, another road trip that has some fond memories of repeat performances after missing some. Three Road Warriors (Mike Meek, Jim Priete, Me) made sure we got to this Southern Cal show, and we find all these folks we know from all over, are already there ! Most pleasing. Not only some of the So Cal Trophy Clan who were at OHMS, but some Hornets we know too ! Milt Poulos, Frank Babbitt and Peter Long all had arrived the night before, were well into the flow of AVG show by time I shot picture of Mike looking over this "photo check B-36"







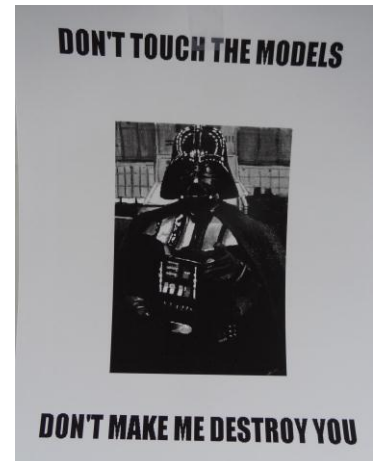
Over the years I among others, have been promoting the concept that the AVG Desert Classic is on the short list of “should not be missed” shows

Again, a definite reward was to be had for those who made the effort to be there this year, another great gig . Just ask Milt, Pete or Frank for their take on things, for further emphasis.



Not only sweet variety and number of quality scale model entries AGAIN this year. You were treated to signature items that just make the day fun. Example, one “special theme” award for DC-18 was for the “Best Hollywood Subject”. Might have influenced a bit in direction “No Touch” sign maker took , hey?

The turnout in one category or another always seem dominant over all others, without necessarily clue of which one it will be. Seemed this year the Customs Auto took top honors, a look upper left will perhaps help you see why I state that. In past, Armored cats have just crushed like this, and 1/48 aircraft all type.



Perhaps this time out the customs showed up to vvy for one of the signature Antelope Valley Group Special Awards, in the style shown here. This one itself an attractive finish with no paint (only silkscreen ink) made to look somewhat polished volcanic rock (obsidian), nice.



Whilst I have no evidence in depth, just an observation, which if you check the Hornet's Gallery for AVG 2014 show has a fair amount of individual entries photographed besides what you'll see here, might lead you like conclusions. In any case, it is a good bet that is why the increased number of Japanese related Aircraft were present. Pretty reliable to have a few every year there, but this time this incentive given as notice ahead of time in the flyer, and definitely got some contenders:

Beautiful looking is this JASDF F-104J, a 1/48 scale work. Same scale for the Skull Tailed "Dinah" twin engine beside her.

Hasegawa plus Two Bobs provided artist of F-104J his canvas. Tamiya for Dinah is



all I know of Ki-46 "red skull" origins to end. Think it very likely these two going after this below, specifically as a Special Award for one aim. There's a hint of a clue, surely true.



By George, these two gave their all against others in their respective categories too. Yes, that's a 1/48 Shiden, center. As you will soon see, the category battles were definitely going to test your Grace under fire, like Aichi B7 seen here.



As expected, all still be putting in entries in regular category thus to compete. Judges would later look for round sticker on entry sheet. A "meatball" used,



as those devilish Contest Hosts selected “red spot” as marker for those after the “Best Japanese Aircraft” award. Maybe a small touch, still amusing.

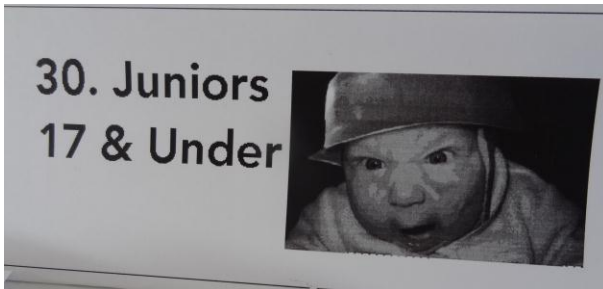


Where I’m going right now with this is, the Category battlefield is slightly different to what many in our end of town are accustomed. So am pointing out how these Japanese aircraft are competing amongst themselves and others in more ways, due one ! The Dinah is in the same arena as the 1/48 Messerschmitt 410 just below. Yes, you say, of course. They are both twins...

That signage beside the sweet olive of Italy here, should clue all. Yes, she too, a SINGLE engine fighter, vies for 1/2/3 place in category with the Japanese and German twins, plus add in George and Grace you just met. Now also consider this attractive Me-109 with the yellow accents, another -109 “wood decked”, a passel of FW-190s, yet two more Me-109s (all these are shown in Hornet’s Gallery, not here). Then there’s even another Japanese in the mix, the “Zero” with these new to me “character meatball” insignia,

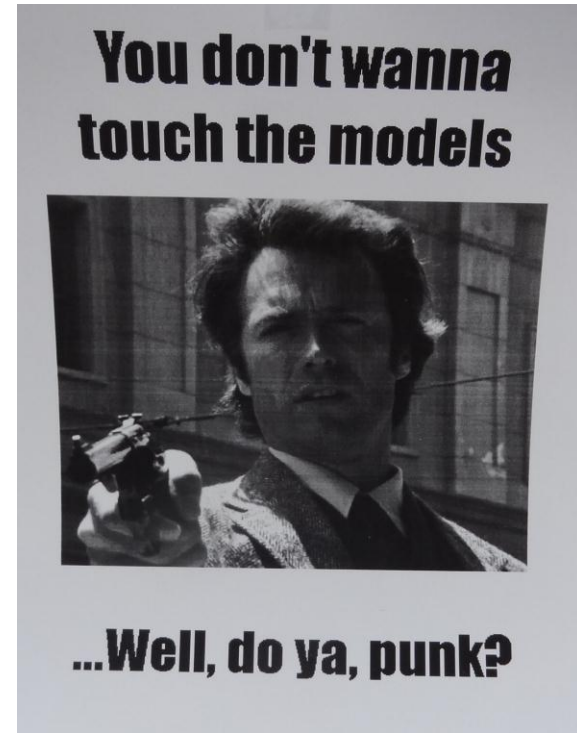


now perhaps better idea of “bigger picture” can be had.



So there’s another good reason for traveling to events out of your “comfort zone”. Getting ideas doing “the regular things” in contest setup slightly different, for one. Like all the multi, single engine in same groups, still in division by scale and “Axis & Allies” though. Another interesting one, how AVG ruled Juniors may choose to compete (appears their signage model may have been more surprised than I was, reading the rules). **Both** in their own specific Junior category and the regular (aka “Senior”) categories, **or only in one**, or other. It’s a variation in some ways of “Masters” competition. This bears serious consideration to try (it also can put that same look on some Seniors, if they lose out to Junior here...)

*Seniors*, by the way, are likely defined as **anyone who knows from a first hand first run theatre seating, movie that “hands off the work” sign maker got this inspiration from.** Here, take a look while I get a hot dog.



See, the Allies in 1/48 prop didn't get any relief, as this Catalina flying right out the tub joined the Mossie and Hawkeye for competition with these 6, among them.





The Vought Kingfisher isn't that often seen built up on contest tables, which is really a shame, a very vibrant example shown here might bring that home. Bonus, it's the landplane version, even less often done. Another AVG show eyecatcher here, the tricolor scheme Wildcat, new to me.



As was this PR Spitfire, my camera nearly left the building with my attempts to capture colors.



So there is an idea of the fun the Judges will have in Allied 1/48 Prop, along with a grand variety for illustrating what can show up at this event. Lovely.

Not to worry, there's no relief in sight for the 1/72 Allied Prop team. This checkerboard Razorback P-47, spiral snouted Me-109, severely distressed (about to become a diving submarine...) tail on fire A6M Zero single engine birds all join this colorful ten engined B-36 in contention.



This overhead shot gives best idea of this assembly.

Saving a closer look at the Zero for closing bit.

B-36 Peacemaker is a very big model, yet not many choices for equal "big effect" scheme. This one overcame it, with flourish. Real, too.



In Biplanes All types and Scales, there was another excellent “very big model canvas” which met challenge of equal scheme and attention to details.



1/32 scale Gotha bomber in “night scheme”. Wingnut Wings kit, rendered as you see here by Mark Glidden.



The 1/48 Nieuport wasn't the only competitor for the Gotha, merely only one I chose to put in this photo essay

Again, Hornets Gallery Site will my shots in full size, abundant.

Now for switch to the Armored



Angle on the competition side of things at Desert Classic 18, for yet more challenging variety. For instance, these two approaches to “mine clearing” mission. The “plowed” USA vehicle busy with detail and precision, is modern day exemplar.



USA vehicle busy with detail and precision, is modern day exemplar.

Met the builder before he left show, he spent years in an M1 Abrams as commander, enjoys doing modern armor of all nations. He had few other pieces that I shot that are in Gallery.

The Minenraumer here is an older German WW2 solution to the mineclearing mission, I just was so taken seeing one done in the tricolor scheme. More attractive than usual grey



As a smitten big fan of 234 series armored eight wheel vehicle, it was no question, take shots of this DML kit based beauty. The 234/3 version, as identifiable from that short barrel big gun. All manner of subtle magnificence was evident in the making of this model, pictures don't capture enough

Many armored entries at Desert Classic 18, only showing a few here, the Best Tiger Tank Special Award alone set off its own group effort. Tamiya just recently offered the GAMA Goat, and this is first time I'd had chance to shoot pictures of a finished one.



The GOER M520 was also new to me both as prototype 1/1 and as a resin kit.



Again, the best way to see true depth of the Armor is visit our Gallery



Meanwhile, worked out in wrangling of this photo essay together, placing a shot of the “regular 1/2/3” awards in closeup here is a good enough idea. So, a brief diversion, you may recall at the beginning the lineup of awards on stage was captured in one of my shots. This gives a better idea of them.

Then on the right, a good clean shot of the “President’s Award” for DC-18

“This award goes to the Best Model as determined by the AVG-IPMS Club President. In essence, Club President’s favorite model.

Subjective, yes, but fair.”

That’s the direct quote as advertised, I quite thoroughly enjoy this and find it refreshingly accurate in all manner too







Antelope Valley Group definitely has synchronicity with the locale, Edwards AFB, home of Experimental and Research in Aerospace since before the name change (Muroc AFB). They don't shy from trying new and different, it's one of their signature charms. Another example this year was this "Trifecta" Special Award.

Trifecta: 3 models of different classes grouped and displayed as a single entry. The models will be judged as a group, with overall quality determining placement. Credit will be given for diversity of entries. Entries must be composed of 3 models selected from 3 of different categories (i. e. , 1/700 Battleship, 1/48th aircraft, 1/35th armor). No more than 1 of the 3 models constituting an entry may have won as an individual entry in a previous contest



While you see this sort of thing at Nats, it is really rare and cool to have it offered on Local level. Glad they got respect for this, in form of competitors. One of them seems to have taken a deep approach, in that there was also a "Hollywood" Special Award. The "Nautilus" and "Around the World In 80 Days" in the Trifecta above, strike me as fitting that parameter

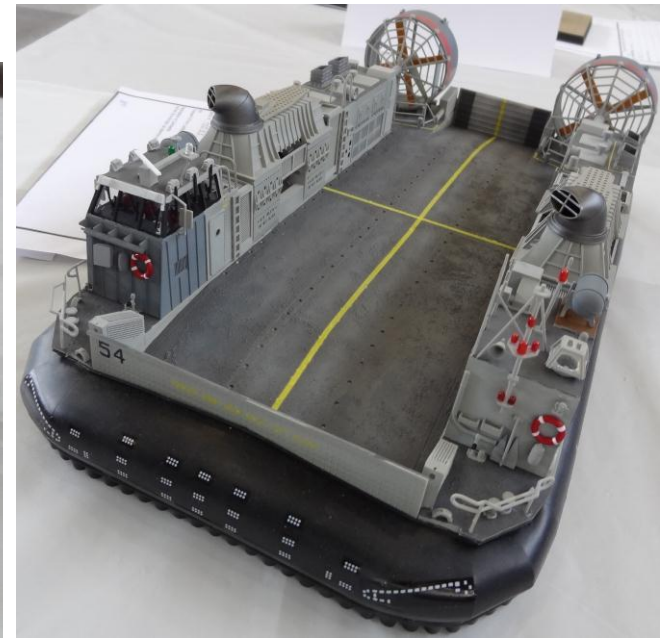
This one here, goes to the bold spirit of the Competition angle. There's a hypothetical, In form of Thunderbirds P-51 Mustang in 1/72 scale, a fearsome and none to easy to model well fantasy figure which came out damned good, and a challenging build of a Star Wars Tie Fighter.



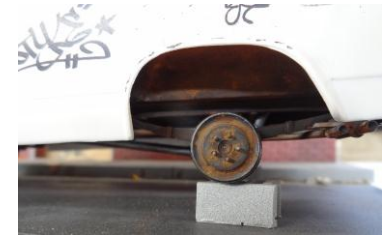
Maritime entries weren't as abundant this year at DC-18, but definitely quality in what showed. This USN Landing Craft, Air Cushioned in 1/72 scale, does the Trumpeter kit justice in results

Part of the challenge to project like this one, is similar to that B-36 in the same scale. All the "empty deck space" blends "into the canvas" so to speak, due subtle weathering detail and just looks right. A reason why you more often see cargo or other items on miniature this size when it's on a show table, makes it "finished" in look when seen by the viewer.

Dioramas present challenge too, getting enough "blending" while resisting "add more stuff" solution. Story telling with humor deserves much recognition for all the accomplishment, and for competing.



So I picked the entrant titled "Urban Blight" for the essay flagship of Diorama entrants at DC-18. While appearing to be a pretty "simple" composition, a sidewalk, a wall, curbside with "vandalized van".



Each piece is a work of model art on its own, once you begin to look it over.

The van rusted, graffitied, up on blocks could go compete on its own alone

Wall and wall tagger, as well.

Together, very cohesive blend.

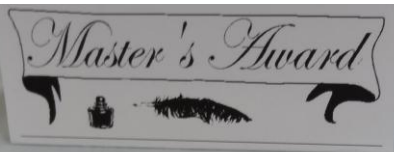


Not to say that the only automotive entries seen at this show were treated in such a scandalous manner. Take a look at some of my favorite picks...



That red bucket is quite a tale in itself. Titled "Little Big T" the builder related on his sheet how this replica of Darryl Starbird's early 1960s Big T show rod came from an original "Little T glue bomb" he swap meet purchased 10 years earlier! After addition of an Accurate Miniatures Corvette engine that's detailed with several different aftermarket parts (3 carb manifold, air cleaner, spark plugs and boots are specified), there were replacement parts from a later "Boomer Bucket" for several unsalvageable items. Finally, scratchbuilt fuel tank, battery in bed under the tonneau. Really a lovely recovery.

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### Masters Award

Due to popular demand we have included a Masters category. Here's your chance to compete against the "Best of the Best" for one special award, open to ANY model you feel competitive enough to go against some of the top models in the country, including past "Nationals Winners". This category will be open to all subjects and types. Enter any completed Model that has previously won First, Second, or Third at Any Regional or National Contest, or any model that you feel can stand up to the competition. All models entered into this category can not be entered into any other category.

Whilst on the subject of favorite cars that I chose to show here, perfect way to segue to this special Special Award effort that we Free Hornets sponsored for its first run at the AVG contest.

This vehicle was on the table set for some of the Master's competitors, as a practical method to integrate them emerged. Namely, they were put into

the respective categories (Aircraft, Armor, Auto, etc) and flagged similarly to way other Specials contenders were, on their entry sheets. So the "no judgement against others in those areas" would take place, but definitely made for better management.

This year's DC-18 had theme of "What If?" and this entry here captured fancy of me and a few others. Part of the entry rules included you had to have a story to tell:

*"What if " Germany had won World War II ? New for 1967, the Volkswagon Westfalia, complete with 70mm cannon, 30mm armor plate and Panzer running gear for off roadin' ! Sorry air bags not included – but hey, who needs 'em in this thing. And for some fun in the sun, a matching Schwimmwagen Jet Ski and trailer.*



That was the modeler's story, and he was sticking to it !

That Bundeswehr cross on 60's style surfboard was fine little trick, a riff on real surf's Maltese.

At the start, did mention that Jim Priete was among the Free Hornets who made this trek. Here's irrefutable evidence, and also a lead in to two more AVG contest tunes. "Best Hollywood" Special Award would be another trophy "The Space Ark" from movie "When Worlds Collide" Jim's model here would be competitive for. The category 27 also had this memory stir as an entrant. One can only wonder if the driver was named Alice Kramden



This 2001 Moon Bus kit being re-released (and improved) by Moebius Models helped in many more ways than just by becoming available. The kit master molds supposedly were lost in a train wreck (you know, the train wrecks that took oh so many models to planet Unobtainia back in the 1970s...)

Yes, those singular railroad accidents. Moebius Models re-release here included a slight retooling, to offer the builder the correct "non aerodynamic" (flat) windshield (which competitor here used), a welcome fix. Oh course, since the molds were lost in that horrible wreck, they had to make masters anew. But being modelers, they faithfully recreated the faults of the original molding in every way, and only added the windshield glass to improve the new product offered... I have kit myself, know first hand along with all the "science fiction" tale that have grown up over years since Aurora, first run Moon Bus went into history. Moebius's refurbish of the magically returned tool brought this to a buildable state, removed from deep space orbit all the prices asked (and answered!) in collector's market, and again generally demystified the odd little bus



Intriguing model in its own way, but know this: a box scale (1/55) with fairly minimal detail, typical of the period. That removable top to show interior didn't match fit then or now. Without aftermarket lighting kit (not cheap) not much to see if you choose to close it up permanent, light bleed if not. It's a bus, when you're all done. Not going to get any awards for marvelous aesthetics. Still, I love seeing one on a table, too.





dull, counting that “Bad Nooze” auto, this Iraqi T-55 and “Daphne C” F4U among the contenders this year.

**OKAY ! ALRIGHT ALREADY !**

We’ll wrap up with some who won and

Oh NO ! One entrant has had it, he’s taking a low level strafing pass to eliminate ALL competition that day. Well, sometimes “Out Of The Box” needs a little assistance to make it seem more exciting. Category wasn’t



with what. First off, the “Best Hollywood” Special Award went to the Trifecta entry that included the Balloon from “Around the World In 80 Days”. Sorry, didn’t get a name.



I did get name and picture of the one AVG Special Award that has become an institution

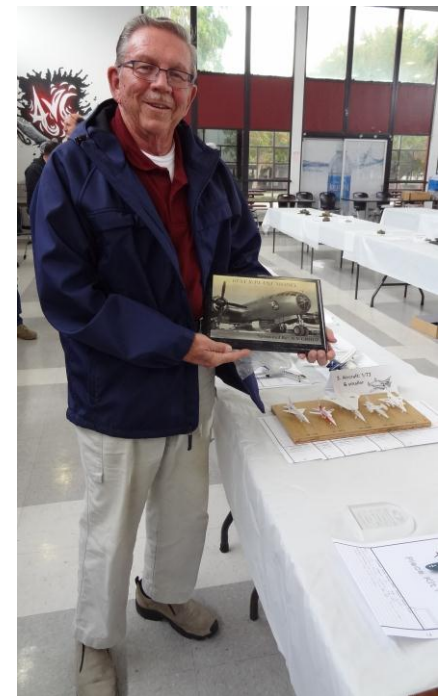
The “ Best X-Plane Model ”

Hornet Jim Priete has won FOUR of these, which right now stands as record for it.

THIS YEAR, Mr Niilo Lund of the Antelope Valley Group deservedly took this trophy, a surprise to him, pleasingly.

Niilo had a 1/144 scale resin aircraft fleet. Three are “ X” birds, while obscure to some perhaps, but winners all here.

**BIG Congrats to Niilo !**



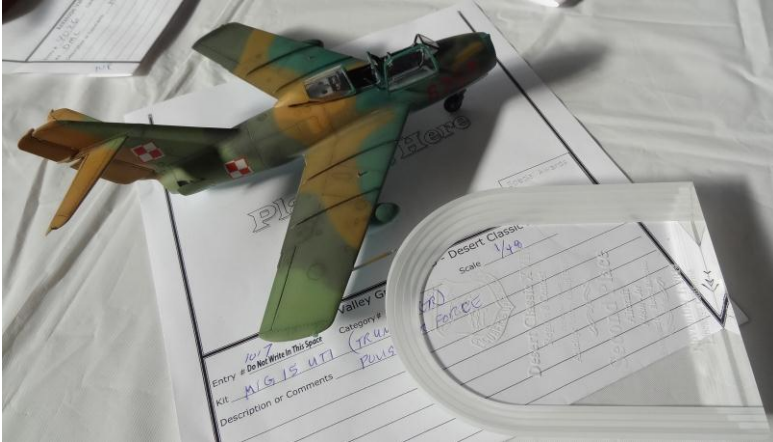
Recall during review of the 1/72 prop entries, I'd promised closer look at the "A6M Zero about to be submarine"? Here it is, along with the award it won in the category. Again, my apologies, didn't record name or 1/2/3 standing

Happy to report that wasn't the case below, Jim Priete's "Space Ark" took its first award, a First Place in category



Jim also scored 2<sup>nd</sup> place with his blue Stratos WRC pictured directly below the Space Ark.

Frank Babbitt took a 2<sup>nd</sup> place home for 1/48 scale Jet category with his MiG-15UTI Polish two seater.



In 1/48 Prop, the Hurricane took 1<sup>st</sup>, the Kingfisher 2<sup>nd</sup>, Editor took no names of any there, nor the 3<sup>rd</sup> place. *Pretty much have exhausted my knowledge of the awardees all in any detail, except for one we'll close with:*

***AND IF THIS POSE AND PICTURE SEEMS FAMILIAR ...*** well mayhaps it should. I took similar one at the Desert Classic 18 and used it in review of November Nest, for noting the "Master's" Awarding. So -

**CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN to Free Hornet MILT POULOS**

***FOR WINNING The AVG DC-18 Best of Show SENIOR Trophy !***

So there, More than 3 Hornets at Antelope Valley 2014 show, look what happens ! Again too we had fun –

Go to Hornets Gallery at [www.fremonthornets.org](http://www.fremonthornets.org) for my huge collection of the photos taken on this trip - *fini Mickb*



# “ DESERT CLASSIC AT EIGHTEEN – MORE SNAPSHOTS OF THE DAY “





Before closing further reference to Antelope Valley Group's Desert Classic 18, the model attendance provides an excellent chance to ask this:

***WHAT DO ALL THESE AVG CONTESTANTS HAVE IN COMMON ?***

Well, if all happen to show up next Fall at our **Hornet's Tri City Classic XI**, they're all eligible for

**“ BEST STRAIGHT WING JET “ SPECIAL AWARD**

