

Website Buzz (January 18 2012)

TRI CITY CLASSIC THEME-OLGY

(aka “One Shot at Framing Where Do They Come Up with this Stuff ??)

As promised, the Tri City Eight (TC8) Contest Director provides for those who wish to know, the “theme-ology” “then and now” behind the 2012 Fremont Hornets event. The main thrust is that we’re going for an “All American” emphasis for theme this year, just in case the following is confusing to you.

THEN) A Little History: Several years back, Contest Director at time Mark Schynert and his team came up with a clever “movie bill/geography” method for promoting our Tri City contest with a particular theme. Billed as “The Italian Job”, the actual focus for certain special awards and the “Theme award”, was any subject that was Italian or directly derivative. Thus was born, what has now become a twisted fun tradition for Tri City Contests that have followed. The very next year, our “The French Connection” with of course, France/French subjects the emphasis. This may have proved galling for some, however we had a HUGE collection of French Civil Air Transport as one entry, so couldn’t have been all bad. Tri City 6 was “From Russia With Love” which managed to be very well received, with of course a James Bond twist in it and all sorts of Soviet/Russian emphasis. A possible follow on of “The China Syndrome”, with of course Chinese subjects the special theme, almost came to pass the next year. However we went into shock at the nearly 2500 percent cost increase at that time so the whole event for 2010 was cancelled.

Upon retooling and relocation, Contest Director chose “Black Rain”, (interestingly, title of both an American AND a Japanese film with plot critical tie to the term! BANZAI). Focusing TC-7 with Japanese subjects the main theme and a very thematic group of special awards. Including one that actually allowed awarding in three ways with twist: in that it could 1) be awarded to Non Japanese subjects yet stick with Award Interpretation; 2) be awarded three different ways or any combine thereof and still stick with Award interpretation; 3) offer chance to test how much contestant interest would seem to be generated, so that future Directors may choose this same idea in a different manner.

In end, “Thrice A Mighty Blow” was awarded in the 3 different manners outlined for it : “Best Pearl Harbor” (the first Blow) and for a Japanese carrier from that Battle group; “Best Wind” (the second Blow, which allowed for both the obvious Japanese “wind” names and also Kamikaze, yet also non Japanese subjects if “wind” related) given for a “Mighty Wind” JNAF fighter, “Best Nuclear” (the third and final Blow (against Japan)) which of course gave non Japanese but related immediately directly (Bock’s Car, Enola Gay, Fat Man, Little Boy) and others not so related but nonetheless “nuke” a chance to win, so lots of hidden opportunity. It went to a lovely B-58 Hustler by the way.

All three most specific “theme” Special Awards that year in fact were themselves a “triple play”. In that they, in part poetically, in a fashion outlined the events of World War Two that led to “Black Rain” and what came after. First “The Rising Sun” for the overall best Contest Themed subject (the initial impetus of Imperial Japan’s drive for power). Next “Thrice A Mighty Blow” as detailed above, with Pearl Harbor, Winds of many sorts, and of course, Nuclear conclusion; and lastly the third trophy, “A Peaceful Resolve” award for all Self Defence Force (Japanese) subjects post 1945. While a bit complicated, judging and turnout for this theme scheme turned out pretty awesome.

So this concept was expanded by the Contest Director for Tri City Eight, just for fun, and finding that more than one anniversary of significance was occurring in 2012 , made much easier. So thusly chose billing “ the double feature” (with two movies tied to same geographic theme)

NOW) Still, Why and How?

The 70th Anniversary year of the Battle of Midway is 2012, and several clubs have it or will use it in their awards / themes for upcoming year. Great, and worthy yes, but again a World War Two cliché so to speak. Several contest folks have been trying to find successful means to use other themes broad enough yet also likely to generate enough excitement to get “theme competes”

Since it had not been noted (by me at least) that anyone in mainstream media nor modeler community, had made mention of the looming 50th anniversary year of the Cuban Missile Crisis, appeared a perfect addition. That it also happens to fall in the “midway” of our chosen month for Tri City 2012 was a fine bonus, nearly 50 years to the day! Providing a means to expand and be different but have some possible reach for “theme competes”. Combine this with wanting to have a large piece of geography to tie up some opportunities for contestants (Germany, Britain or USA were my first choices) to go with it.

This was genesis of Tri City Eight’s “All American Double Feature”. So I could “movie bill” the USA subjects as special emphasis. Plus pair both a popular World War Two anniversary with a similarly significant, serious historical point, whose 5th decade anniversary was also coming serendipitously on the very month of the contest! The movie titles available made it easy.

My trying for another “shadow twisted triple play inside of a triple play” came about fairly soon.

So know this :

“The Damned Yankee” , “The Sleeping Tiger” and “Peacekeeper” awards are like the Black Rain preceding them. An attempt at poetic arc and slipping in a true triple play inside them. As in the “Sleeping Tiger” offering the same chance to award three of the same of a kind or three different with not same history or geography, like geometry of “Thrice a Mighty Blow”.

So there you have it, if you read this damned far, now you know.

Yes, this all may be crazy, but it’s still fun to devise, plan and stage, and may be the last time any of the Hornet Contest Directors choose to use “movie/geography” logic to craft theme. So that’s my “double bill” and my Buzz for now and I’m sticking to it.

– mickb smilodon49, TC8 Contest Director

