

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 148



April 09 2026



Somehow managing to wing it for now over **49** years...

Welcome

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

LATEST BUZZ (*Issue's Editorial, bearing no relation to the picture on the right*)

Also: What comprises other contents ... Can they be summarized ? YES

Just Enough Time To Give First Big Promotions for 2026 TriCity 18 Specials

ALSO an APRIL & MAY ONLY look at calendar for 2026, Editorially speaking

You May Call This BUZZ The “ still Caught Up At The Moment issue ”



ALL INSIDE THIS

CERTIFIABLY ANCIENT PRODUCTION

(well, maybe just the Editor)

Reminder : <http://fremonthornets.yolasite.com/> Just three little pages

Not a lot to dig through , + **Events Calendar web page 3**, ALWAYS

THE Latest BUZZ (as of APR 09 2026 728 PM)

(a Short Take On Present Buzz) by Mick Burton, Buzz Editor

YES! Now # 149 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!



Model Show and Contest Fund Raiser for the Veterans Hall

Date: August 29, 2026 (Saturday)
Location: Stanislaus County Veterans Services
3500 Coffee Road, Suite 19
Modesto, CA

Contestant Admission Price:

Seniors: \$15.00 for unlimited number of models.
(18 and up)
Juniors: \$ 10.00 for unlimited number of models.
(14-17)
Sub-Junior: Free for any quantity of models.
(5-13)
Spectators: Free

Schedule:

7:00 AM: Doors open for vendor set up.
9:00 AM: Doors open for registration.
12:00 PM: Registration closes.
1:00 PM: Judges meeting.
1:15 PM: Judging begins.
3:30 PM: Awards

Amenities:

Free Parking: There is plenty of parking available.
Food: There may be in facility eating available but there is plenty of eating establishments within walking distance.

Raffles:

There will be Two Raffles during the day which will include models and model related items. Times of raffles will be posted.

Raffle Tickets will be broken into two categories:

Regular: \$1.00 per ticket
\$20.00 per 25 tickets
Premium Tickets: \$5.00 per ticket

Vendors:

Each table will cost \$25.00
Contact: Tony Quartaro for tables & availability.
Phone: (209) 665-6599
Email: Thedeckguy53@gmail.com

San Joaquin Valley Scale Modelers History

The Club was started in 1983 as the "Stockton Tomcats" a Chartered Club of IPMS-USA. Over the years, we have held meetings at numerous places with several goals in mind; share modeling ideas; help other modelers and gather in a very none structured setting. We started at the Seifert Community Center in Stockton, CA where we held several local and regional model contests. Next we met at Modesto Hobby and Crafts for many years until Brad closed the store. Then we started meeting at Alan Weber's hanger at the Stockton Airport. Tony Quartaro joined the club and we started meeting at his house/garage in Manteca, CA. Now we hold meetings at both Tony's or Alan's depending on the circumstances. Many of our club members have entered and won awards and judged at many Local, Regional and National contests. Now we are known as the San Joaquin Valley Scale Modelers (SJVSM). Currently we are not a Chartered Chapter with IPMS-USA but many in our club are Members of IPMS-USA.



“ AN AUGUST SHOW, INDEED ”

If this flyer or editorial here at all seem familiar, no surprise I would hope. THIS is PART of THREE PIECE FLYER sent not long after I had been pursuing for details/confirmation so could be published in the BUZZ and other places, publications

Since this issue has a limited scope for the most part being I am trying to get underway publishing, promoting aspects of the TriCity 18 better than I had done for TriCity 17, didn't put the full treatment of this at the end run of calendar flyers for this issue. I originally planned to just put April items in it.

However, having only recently gotten confirmation that the Region 9 IPMS event in late May is now on the Official USA calendar, decided to include that month along with a linkage, for anyone who thought I was misinformed or needed to see it.

As a proud past member and attendee of the Stockton Tomcats and been by when I could make it to the SJVSM gig @ Modesto, won't stand for missing a chance to remind everyone that here is our NEXT BIG SHOW after end of May. DON'T MISS IT !

Or I may just be in a clawsome mood, come November -mb

APRIL 10 2026 Free Hornets MOM & TOM theme:

ACES HIGH

WHAT? REAL SIMPLE :

Up to FIVE total (ANY CRAFT considered a true SPY plane (strategic vs tactical recce))

This excludes some vehicles like Beech F-2, Lockheed F-4/5, NA Mustang F6, Boeing F-13 and the like unless you have documented evidence your entry was thusly employed.

However, there were some craft that never made it into the air which will qualify, and a surprising number of "ferrets" –

GO WITH IT! ***BE A SAVAGE COMPETITOR***

JUST SO YOU KNOW (and can plan ahead, you savage, you) Here's what else on:

<https://freehornetsannex2.yolasite.com/tom-may-2026.php> “ ***MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE*** ”

<https://freehornetsannex2.yolasite.com/tom-june-2026.php> “ ***JUST IN TIME*** ”

<https://freehornetsannex2.yolasite.com/tom-july-2026.php> “ ***JIG IS UP*** ”

<https://freehornetsannex2.yolasite.com/tom-august-2026.php> “ ***AFTER THE RAIN STOPS*** ”



TRI-CITY CLASSIC XVIII

Scale Model Contest and Exhibition



Saturday, November 14 2026

at the Fremont Elks Lodge , 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont, California 9am - 5pm

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

“ TOP GUN ”

(On Theme Entry Subject anything from USA or from Vietnam Conflict 1964-75)

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

“ **Tomcat** ” Award for Best Entry befitting the Contest Theme

“ **Best of the Best** ” (three awards: Best: Grumman “Cat” Subject, Armored “Cat” Subject, “Bird” subject)

“ **Great Balls of Fire** ” Award for Best Post 1976 U.S.A. subject (or qualifying “Fire” subject)

ALSO “**Mulieres Volante**” for Women In Aerospace Subject & “**Know A Hornet’s Mighty Sting**” for Best American Fighter Aircraft

Plus these: “ **Lightning Strikes Twice** ”, “ **IT FIGURES** ” (Up to 3 Awards for Junior/Youth with prolific entry)

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

Free Admission to all spectators!

Contestant Entry: \$ 10 for modelers 18yrs & older w/FIVE model entries/less (**\$15 for SIX or more**) Modelers 17/under, FREE with unlimited entry

For Vendor Information, Contact VP **David Parks**, DAVIDPARKS81@comcast.net. Be advised : **VALID CA SALES TAX PERMIT REQUIRED**

For All Other Queries : Email **Contest Director** Mick Burton directly at DAZE61283@mypacks.net with “Tri City 18 Contest” on subject line

OKAY you likely have seen this first page of current TC-18 Flyer, but next is re-imagined second page, especially on left

TRICITY 18 Entry Categories **GROUPED BY GENERAL TYPES**

- YOUTH (under 13)**
- 1A Youth Aircraft AS/AT
 1B Youth Automotive
 1C Youth Mil Vehicles
 2A Youth SF/Fantasy/Veh & Figures
 2B Youth All Other
- AIRCRAFT**
- 5 Biplanes/Fabric & Rigging, 1/32 & larger
 6 Biplanes/Fabric & Rigging, 1/48 & smaller
 7 Single Engine Prop or Turbo 1/72 Axis
 8 Single Engine Prop or Turbo 1/72 Allied/Neutral
 9 Multi Engine Prop or Turbo Aircraft 1/72
 10 Single Engine Jet or Rocket Aircraft 1/72
 11 Multi Engine Jet/Rocket Aircraft 1/72
 12 Single Engine Prop or Turbo Axis 1/48
 13 Single Engine Prop or Turboprop 1/48 Allied/Neutral
- MILITARY**
- 31 Armored Fighting Vehicles 1/35 Allied
 32 Armored Fighting Vehicles 1/35 Axis
 33 Armored Fighting Vehicles 1/35 1955 & later
 34 Military Softskin 1/35
 23 Artillery and related ancillary vehicles, Cannons, unmounted Small Arms, AS
- SHIPS**
- 24 Surface Ships 1/401 & Smaller
 25 Surface Ships 1/400 & Larger
 26 Submarines, AS
- AUTOMOTIVE**
- 27 Autos Custom & Low Rider, AS
 28 Automobiles Competition, Open Wheel, AS
 29 Automobiles Competition, Closed Wheel, AS
 30 Motorcycle/Autos, Other, (Stock, Utility, Pickups) AS
- REAL SPACE**
- 39 Real Space, Capsules, Orbiters & Deep Space Vehicles, AS
 40 Real Space, Surface Exp/Land Craft, & Earth BOUND test subjects, AS
 41 **Missiles & Rockets, Real Space Launch Vehicles** AT/AS
- FIGURES**
- 42A 8" or less tall Figure Fant & Sci fi, Horror, Robot (No Gundam)
 43B 9" & taller Figure Fant & Sci fi, Horror, Robot (No Gundam)
 48 Figures, Historical, to 18th Century
 49 Figures, Historical, 19th Century & beyond
- GUNDAM**
- 44C GUNDAM Models, ONLY, 1/144 scale & smaller
 45D GUNDAM Models, ONLY, 1/143 scale & larger
 57 **GUNDAM Beginners ONLY**, All Scales *(if you've never competed in Gundam, this is for you!)*
- SCI FI (other than Figures)**
- 46E SciFi Wargaming Subjects ONLY (Warhammer, et al)
 47 Sci Fic Vehicles/Spacecraft, AS
- DIORAMA**
- 50A Dioramas, 8"/smaller base
 51B Dioramas, 9" & up larger
- OTHER SELECT SPECIFICS**
- 52 PAPER Models, AS/AT
 53A (Less) UNFINISHED Subjects
 54B **(More)** UNFINISHED Subjects
 55 Collections (5 or More subject), AS/AT
 56 Miscellaneous, AS/AT
 58 **MASTERS** (Max. *THREE* Entries per Entrant, Nationals Winners encouraged, **OPEN to ALL**)

- JUNIOR (13-17)**
- 3A Junior Mil Vehicles
 3B Junior Automotive
 3C Junior SF/Fantasy/Veh & Figures
 3D Junior Ships/All Other
 4 Junior Aircraft AS/AT
- 14 Multi Engine Prop or Turbo Aircraft 1/48
 15 Single Engine Jet/Rocket Aircraft 1/48
 16 Multi Engine Jet/Rocket 1/48
 17 Aircraft 1/87 scale and smaller
 18 Aircraft Prop or Turboprop 1/40 and larger
 19 Aircraft Jet 1/40 and larger
 20 Air Racers/Civilian Air, AS
 21 Air Liners AT/AS
 22 Rotary Wing Aircraft, AS/AT
- 35 AFVs & Military Softskin 1/48 only
 37 AFVs Military Softskin 1/50 & Smaller
 36 AFVs & Military Softskins 1/25 & Larger
 38 **Military Multi Vehicles & Towed Trailers, AS**

SIMPLIFIED LIST OF SPECIAL AWARDS
TRICITY EIGHTEEN (As of 02-17-26)

- 1 Best Of Show Senior
 2 Best Of Show Junior /Youth
 3 " TOMCAT " Award for Best Entry befitting Contest Theme
 4 " Best Of The Best " (up to three awards, in any combine)
 Best " Grumman 'Cat ", Armored " Cat " " Bird " (A Nod to "Goose")
 4A Grumman ' Cat (F4F to F-14)
 4B Armored " Cat "
 4C " Bird " (e.g. Lockheed Blackbird family, A-8 Shrike)
 5 " Great Balls of Fire " Best Post 1976 U.S.A. subject (Real Or Not) **or qualifying "Fire" subject**
 6 " Know A Hornet's Mighty Sting " Best American Fighter Aircraft
 7 " Lightning Strikes Twice " Best EE/BAC or Lockheed Lightning or Arado Blitz **or Qualified Pair SE a/c**
 8 Best in Category for **Aircraft**
 9 Best in Category for **Armor**
 10 Best in Category for **Automotive**
 11 Best in Category for **Figure or Robot**
 12 Best in Category for **Ship or SpaceShip**
 13 "Space, Time and 42" Best in Category for **Diorama**
 14 "It Figures" Lester Tockerman Memorial Award for Junior / Youth Only
 14A "It Figures-First"
 14B " It Figures-Again"
 14C " It Figures-Again & Again It all adds up"
 15 Kenneth Jung Memorial Award - Contest Director's choice
 16 SAT Service Award Recognition for Service to The FH or to R-9 Community
 17 "Mulieres Volante" Best Women In Aerospace Subject
 18 "Top Secret:From Real Genius to Top Gun" Nod to Val Kilmer (SpyVeh/Per)
 19 "TOWARD THE UNKNOWN" Award for Best Pioneering, Exploratory or Experimental Subject (Vehicle or Person) Nod to 1956 Film and premise
 20 "HARD DECK" Award for Best Aircraft Carrier (includes "helo only")

ALL of this can be found on the TriCity News Page on website. I am just highlighting it here to aid my upcoming pages and FYI



TRI-CITY CLASSIC XVIII Scale Model Contest and Exhibition
Contest Director's **SPECIAL AWARD PROMO**
& POSSIBLY USEFUL REFERENCE DATA
FOR

“ **TOP GUN** ”

BRIEF: Our TriCity Classic has a long run tradition, theme being combine of a known movie linked directly to specific geography. This time not so obvious as say in past, with “ The Good German ”, “Battle of Britain ” or “ Out Of Africa ”.

“ **Top Gun** ” actually covers a currently topical and historical range of current world real estate, yet stays within the movie.

Geography “on theme” is entire **USA (within 1776-present)** , also that of *any combatant parties generally recognized to be part of the 1964 to 1973 Vietnam Conflict (core years of major US involvement and in keeping with original movie plot point)*

FOR CONTEST : **ANY and ALL MODEL SUBJECTS are encouraged, warmly welcomed to enter.** Contest Theme just way to have some fun, set an overall tone for show from one year to the next. So, PLEASE FEEL FREE to ignore it entirely or plunge headlong into the fray, as you see fit. Just see fit to enter show and enjoy is all the Contest Director here wishes for.

SPECIFIC CONTENTS: Below is current list of the TC-18 Special Awards and some details for each. Within this and coming issues of The Buzz, I will try to illustrate and perhaps excite some interest in competing for some of these. Some are pretty self explanatory so won't warrant much comment, others may need page or two. **RED** = Covered **here** **GREEN**—Done Black-TBD

SA3 “ TOMCAT ” Award for Best Entry befitting Contest Theme SA2 Best Of Show Junior/Youth SA1 Best Of Show Senior

SA4 " Best Of The Best " Series SA4A Best Grumman “CAT” SA4B Best Armored “CAT” SA4C Best “Bird “

SA5 " Great Balls Of Fire " Best Post 1976 USA subject or qualified “Fire” SA6 “ Know A Hornet's Mighty Sting “ Best American Fighter A/C

SA7 “Lightning Strikes Twice ” Best EE or Lockheed Lightning, Arado Blitz OR qualified SE Pair SA8 Best in Category for **Aircraft**

SA9 Best in Category for **Armor**

SA10 Best in Category for **Automotive**

SA11 Best in Category for **Figure or Robot**

SA12 Best in Category for **Ship or SpaceShip**

SA13 “Space, Time and '42” Best in Category for **Diorama**

SA14 “It Figures” Lester Tockerman Memorial Award Series (Junior/Youth only)

SA15 Kenneth Jung Memorial Award

SA16 SAT Service Award for Service to FH or R-9 Community

SA17 Mulieres Volante Best Women In Aerospace

SA18 “TOP SECRET ” Best Spy Vehicle/ Person

SA19 “TOWARD THE UNKNOWN ” Best Pioneering, Exploratory, Experimental Subject

SA20 “HARD DECK” Best Aircraft Carrier (includes helo only vessels)



TRI-CITY CLASSIC XVIII Scale Model Contest and Exhibition
Contest Director's SPECIAL AWARD PROMO
& POSSIBLY USEFUL REFERENCE DATA
FOR

“ TOMCAT ”

Award for the Best Entry befitting the Contest Theme “ *TOP GUN* ”
(Entry Subject anything USA 1776 to 2026, or directly related to 1964 to 1973 Vietnam Conflict)

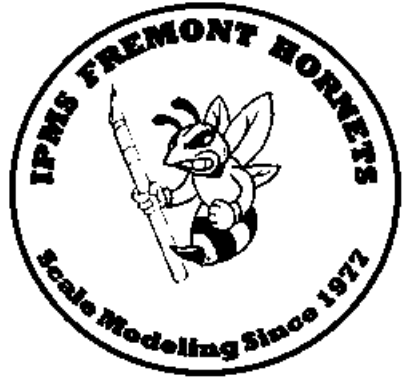
BRIEF: While entire plot of first movie and decades later followup employ primarily USA, more specifically US Naval Air assets in tale told, in (movie) real time, some key specific point references are made to the history that has passed. Namely later years of definitive US role in the Vietnam Conflict (correctly referred such as never a declared war, just like Korea). With of course reference to fact of having to disrespect people's memories, legacies and their sacrifices made; “all for the greater good or in saving face for current politics, keeping in mind what's in the big picture”, with its real world consequences in downplay.

The number of debate stances, topics relative to this real world practice are immaterial to this Contest Director. The true history of many who died in service of their causes unheralded, unknown to this day or being as officially portrayed utterly inaccurately purposely, not in question as fact or practice.

Merely excellent that practice is provided in movie as plot device. So now allows a framing of more specific geographic/timing theme to be added to this contest's theme. So perhaps you see there's more than a “ hoo ray USA ” cheer lead going on here.

So be creative. Consider that if you're a real passionate soul on particular subject, your model render will reflect it undoubtedly, then it's one you'd be willing to put your name so to speak on the signup sheet line for this. Otherwise, go with movie specific obvious tie-ins such as F-14, A-4, F-5 aircraft (not necessarily in movie versions, mind you) Already I have given confirmation a “ Final Countdown F-14 ” is as eligible as real life Gulf of Sidra shootdown Tomcats. Remember the sequel Maverick movie had several other qualifiers which may not initially come to mind. Or go directly to the SE Asia specific angle offer here.

QUALIFYING: Anything from the USA 1776-2026 (be aware you do have to sign up on sheet to be considered). Again as plot, anything directly in relationship to 1964 to 1973 period of USA-Vietnam Conflict. **Don't forget that busts, figures for instance, of real people or representative (NVA Soldier, USA Grunt, SVNAF Pilot) could easily qualify, or past Presidents !** Of course, closer your entry actually adheres to the spirit of the theme basis, the more weight it will be given in the final judgement.



TRI-CITY CLASSIC XVIII Scale Model Contest and Exhibition
Contest Director's **SPECIAL AWARD PROMO**
& **POSSIBLY USEFUL REFERENCE DATA**
FOR

“ Best Of The Best ” Series

Up to 3 Awards in any combine, for :

Best Grumman “ CAT ”, Armored “ CAT ”, or “ BIRD ” subject

BRIEF: Our “Tripoley” award series this year features a wider than first appears range . Work titled to fit within theme in a manner that’s coherent to the basis movie, however one is not limited by it. One perhaps offers small number of options, but is quite viable. Other two offer more range, also more work!

SA4A – Grumman “ CAT ” . Grumman’s rich history of achievements, yet one particular group has been a signature of theirs which ended fittingly with flagship of our theme movie. Entire lineup began with arguable “last of their Barrels from the Iron Works” ; F4F Wildcat. This airplane is as much a link to preceding FF-1, F2F, F3F as it is clearly start of the Grumman Cats.

So yes, you are type limited to all these Grumman officially named feline products. Almost all saw actual service somewhere in their lives which increases the variety. F4F, F6F, F7F, F8F, F9F, F10F, F11F, F14 are your specific limits. Mind you, all of the “foreign” employments do count, so don’t be narrow or feel put off competing here. In fact if you go with option of “ Martlet ” you are qualified for entry here and “ Best Bird ” . So go forth and claw your way to victory.



And yes I am making a blatant plea here for SOMEONE to please brave entering “ **The Tomcat’s Dad** ”, seen here at the left. WTF?

Yes, this is *the one and only JAGUAR*, the Grumman XF-10F-1.

Which has been offered in scale model form in resin, vacform and paper in several scales from 1/144 to 1/32. If you were to do one, you could sign up for SA4A, SA19 and have an inside shot at the SA15 which is Contest Director’s direct choice. Just saying,..

How is it Tomcat’s Dad ? It’s Grumman’s first SWING WING for the USN, predating the F-111B and F-14, *go look it up.* -mb

SA4B – Armored “CAT” Alright, first the Contest Director wanted to be VERY CLEAR here, Armor modelers deserve a special award “in theme” shot, being recognized as major entry contributors to every big open range model contest. While may somewhat be taken as stretch by my use of “CAT” I hope to make sure here now that it’s well understood for this award.

Right off, all German WW2 Panther and Tigers eligible, as well 8 wheeled “PUMA” armor recon vehicle. There is also the Panzer II Luchs (Lynx) from same period, of course postwar they have the Leopard family of modern MBTs to choose from.

USA fans know M18 Hellcat works. Perhaps more challenging, but they are valid, these “modern day armored ‘cats” exist:



So research, don't be shy. Also consider “ARMORED MARITIME VESSELS”

AND NOW ON THE RIGHT –

a sneaky lead into the last of the three here for “Best Of The Best” that shows a qualifier in SA4C, yet which ISN'T listed on next page...*



SA4C – “ BIRD ” Arguably not the most obvious for some, how it ties to movie theme, perhaps seems somewhat scope limited. **NOT SO!** 1) As key character in both movies. Namely “Maverick” ‘s RIO, yes Lt. Nick Bradshaw, aka “ Goose ”. And for 2):

SA4C BEST Bird qualifier list (not exhaustive but it's an aide)

USA		UK	Germany
Bell	V-22 Osprey	Blackburn Skua	Fieseler Fi-156 Storch (Stork)
		Fairey Gannet	Heinkel He-219 Uhu (Eagle Owl)
Curtiss		Fairey Flycatcher	F-wulfe Fw-187 Falke (Falcon)
		Fairey Fulmar	F-Wulfe Fw-189 Uhu (Eagle Owl)
A-8 or A-12	Shrike	Hawker Harrier	F-Wulfe Fw-190 Wurger (Butcher Bird – Shrike)
SOC-3	Seagull	Hawker Kestrel	F-Wulfe Fw-200 Kondor (Condor)
SOC	Seamew (a common gull)	Sopwith Snipe	Messer. Me-262 Schwalbe (Swallow)
F11C	Goshawk	Supermarine Swift	Me-262 SturmVogel (StormBird)
P-6E	Hawk		Etrich Taube (Dove/Pigeon)
P-36	Hawk	USSR	
P-40	Warhawk	Beriev Be-12 Chaika (Gull)	Italy
Condor biplane	Airliner		Cant Z 1007 Alcione (Kingfisher)
Grumman		Canada	S-Marchetti Sparviero (Sparrowhawk)
F4F	(Martlet) Fleet Air Arm		Reggiano Re-2000/2001 Falco & Falco II (Falcon)
J4F	Widgeon/Gosling	Aircraft SNOWBIRDS scheme	Fiat CR42 Falco
JRF/OA/FAA	Goose		Frati/Sequoia Falco F8L Sport/Race plane (1980s-)
G-21	Goose	Czech	
HU-16	Albatross	Aero L-39 Albatros	
G-73	Mallard		
Vought	OS2U Kingfisher	France	
Fisher	P-75 Eagle		
McD-D	AV-8 Harrier	Sud SO4050 Vatour	
McD-D	F-15 Eagle		
GD/LM	F-16 Falcon	Japan	
LM	F-22 Raptor		
Lockheed	F-117 Nighthawk	Ki-43 Hayabusa (Peregrine Falcon)	
Lockheed	A-12/YF-12/SR-71 Blackbird	Ki-61 Hien (Flying Swallow)	
Lockheed	XV-4 Hummingbird		
Aircraft USAF	THUNDERBIRDS scheme		

* The USS Macon? no. Curtiss F9C Sparrowhawk? Yes.



TRI-CITY CLASSIC XVIII Scale Model Contest and Exhibition
Contest Director's **SPECIAL AWARD PROMO**
& **POSSIBLY USEFUL REFERENCE DATA**
FOR

“ **Great Balls Of Fire** ”

Award for the Best Post 1976 USA Subject
OR
QUALIFYING “ **FIRE** ” Subject

BRIEF: Closing loop of the three part series of TriCity Contest Theme Specific awards (Overall, Tripoley, Closer). Again as “post” annum theme direct tie to movie then and now, while also meshing directly with the 250th USA anniversary theme too.

Okay, original movie was actually released in 1986 (as noted earlier, makes this 40th anniversary year) with its sequel of “Top Gun: Maverick” debut 2022. Consider though, the original film is inarguably iconic American culture, sequel every bit as good, which is impressive in itself considering the time gap between them. Yet the storylines mesh, real values are maintained, a solid dramatic continuity exists without being forced. A true love of country, family, real friend expressed in utterly American terms

In the first movie, Pete Mitchell learns of his dad’s ultimate sacrifice and the coverup for accepted rationale of it. All of which took place during a dark period of modern American history immediately preceding final fall of South Vietnam in 1975. There, 30 years after the end of WW2 which set forth American leadership in shaping postwar world. Post 1976 began the renewal of American spirit, a return to having a faith in ourselves as a nation. Seems appropriate enough marker by itself.

Fittingly, it’s the device of RIO “Goose” as character that emotionally and physically links the two movies, 250th anniversary as my theme here for the award. Do recall, “Great Balls of Fire” by Jerry Lee Lewis sung by the Bradshaw clan is the wormhole time tunnel between 1986, 2022 Maverick and his RIO Goose’s son. You can’t get too much more AMERICAN than Jerry Lee, and that song rocks anyway you play it. So, like the overall theme award, more here than just a surface cheer lead for 250th anny

QUALIFYING : ANYTHING directly supportable as post 1976 U.S.A subject matter (yes, hypothetical/”futuristic” do count) so go crazy as you like here: Figures, Aircraft, Ships, Military vehicles, Automotives, Buildings, everything USA. OR go with **FIRE**: Fire Equipment/Personnel, Fire Bombers, Flamethrower AFVs, Flamethrower Soldiers, FIRE BREATHING Dragons, the Human Torch, Pokemon class FIRE (only). ***SORRY, Firefly tanks/planes/SF alone*** do not qualify as such, nor similar vein



TRI-CITY CLASSIC XVIII Scale Model Contest and Exhibition
Contest Director's SPECIAL AWARD PROMO
& POSSIBLY USEFUL REFERENCE DATA
FOR

“ TOP SECRET: *From Real Genius To TOP GUN* ”

Best Spy Vehicle or Person (real or fictional)

The Fremont Hornets 2026/27 President's Memorial Award Honoring Val Kilmer

BRIEF: Free Hornet President and the Contest Director are in complete agreement that Val Kilmer deserves as much respect and recognition for his work in the original movie plus the sequel to Top Gun, for none of it would have worked without him.

We also are fans of his first two major movies, which were TOP SECRET (his cinema debut and excellent parody/homage to any number of great “spy/secret agent hero” movies), and REAL GENIUS, another enthused comedy with a subversive serious side on how science, research, human ambition can go severely awry. Those 1984 and 1985 steps took him right to “ICEMAN”

CONTEST : With a Secret Agent, Spy, Strategic Intelligence Gathering/Espionage and related Agency as one unifying theme within both films, it was easy to premise “Best Spy Vehicle or Person” for this award framing. So below, listed are **some not & yes will** qualifying examples of vehicles for subjects. Not limited to these, only try to illustrate the cut points. Also of course, if going for Busts or Figures path, Real or Fictional personages are equally acceptable ***just be sure to get entry on sign up sheet.***

Aircraft:

Westland Lysander **yes** (insertion retrieval a/c) F2, F3, F4/5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F13 **no** (tac recce not strategic or espionage)
F11, F12, specifically RB-29, RB-36, RB-45, RB-57, E/RB-50, RB-57D, RB-57G, RB-66, RB-69, E/RC-135, P4M, PB4Y-2, AJ2P, E/RA-3B, EP-3, U-2 family, A-12/SR-71, D-21, Tp-52 or PR.9 Canberra, Yakovlev Mandrake (Strategic recce & ferrets)

Other than aircraft (Real Space, Automotive, Maritime, tie in Movies/TV) :

James Bond 007's specific automobiles, MOL, X-20, X-37, KH-11, Corona satellites, “Fishing Boats and Trawlers of USSR, PRC, USA, UK etc with suspicious lack of such equipment aboard...”, Lotus KAR 120C, Agent 86's Sunbeam Tiger...



TRI-CITY CLASSIC XVIII Scale Model Contest and Exhibition
Contest Director's SPECIAL AWARD PROMO
& POSSIBLY USEFUL REFERENCE DATA
FOR

“ TOWARD THE UNKNOWN ”

Best Pioneering, Exploratory, Experimental Subject
The Fremont Hornets Contest Director's Award for TC-18

BRIEF: A movie by that very title, celebrates its 70th anniversary with our theme movie made 30 years later, and shares critic's take of them both as : Great aircraft flying scenes movie, as that nearly could be called recruitment film for US military service (US Air Force in 1956's *Toward The Unknown*, US Navy in 1986's *Top Gun*), with heavy pro USA propaganda tone... *Okay!* While then as now, TTU film has its detractors and critics, also has its fans and proponents, of which Contest Director is one.

Sure, the USAF, Edwards Air Force Base went out of their way to support fully “ *Toward The Unknown* ”, well known at the time, far from shocking also. Yet they also let TTU have movie plot points which coincidentally mirror “*Top Gun*” use of truth of *Maverick's* dad's demise in its story. Ones that weren't particularly flattering to US Government or so well known at time.

Namely: How the main character Major Bond was basically considered “unreliable and suspect” for any useful further military service. After being subjected to torture, brainwashing and eventually he ended up “confessing” to “war crimes” during his 14 months as pilot POW in Korea. Also noted just how he “goes unstably violent when restrained” during a fight scene in the film. All of which TTU film based on true history of an American WW2 ace and then a Korean War air vet Walker “Bud” Mahurin, who suffered similar actual events. As did the TTU film's “air boss” Lt Col. Pete Everest (he was an X-2 pilot too!), with whom William Holden (Maj Bond in movie and film's producer) became close to during the filming. This real life history sharing also included another real life pilot of Bell X-2, Milburn “Mel” Apt, who died after being first to break Mach 3 in the real airplane. Mr. Holden's character Major Bond survives the TTU film's X-2 demise, by the way. Also saves his doubters and proved right

Another, sad parallel between two films: *Toward The Unknown's* “Gilbert XF-120” fighter ? Really a Martin XB-51 bomber, then in test at Edwards AFB. The one used in film was flying to Eglin AFB in Florida from Edwards AFB, still in its “XF-120” markings, for an extra footage shoot when it crashed after a refuel stop in Texas, killing pilot. This is not well known even now. *Top Gun* ends on a dedication to memory of legendary pilot Art Scholl, who died during its filming, lost doing intentional spin.

So, in a nod to all those who brave the unknown to explore and pioneer, so that others may live, this award is offered for TC-18



TRI-CITY CLASSIC XVIII Scale Model Contest and Exhibition
Contest Director's SPECIAL AWARD PROMO
& POSSIBLY USEFUL REFERENCE DATA
FOR

“ HARD DECK ”

Best Aircraft Carrier (includes helo only vessels)

The Fremont Hornets 2026/27 President's Award for TC-18

BRIEF: ANY (using modern day definitions) CATOBAR, STOBAR, STOVL or Helicopter/Amphibious Assault carrier ships (note that not all helicopter carriers are considered Amphibious Assault vessels)

Which means in 2026 there are 14 countries operational with “aircraft carriers, at least one” by this definition.

The President decided it was not at all sensible for the Contest Director to leave out chance for a nice Special Award with this year's theme, by ignoring a clear part of the success quotient of the entire premise (Carrier Aviation), namely Aircraft Carrier!

As well too, so much history with these ships has been recorded yet the aircraft component is often the focus popularly and yet again the entire support system, personnel aren't enough recognized equally. So she has set this award up to rectify for once !

THE CONTEST : Any period, any nation, as long as vessel fits within the four general definitions given at first of this article.

So don't sign up catapult launch seaplane fighter or recce aircraft ship as they are not equipped so as to qualify, by definition.

DO consider there a huge number of World War I, between wars, World War 2 and into the 1970s vessels that served and can be rendered in model form pretty easily to qualify in most commonly accepted traditional aircraft carrier format. Since 1970s a number of significant design formats evolved that still essentially fit the “Hard Deck” concept quite clearly and should compete

As a favor to the more casual reader not prone to look this stuff up as I had to do, here is a quick summary guide on terms above

CATOBAR – Catapult Assisted Take Off But Assisted Recovery (for most, the very definition of an aircraft carrier, in essence)

STOBAR – Short Take Off But Assisted Recovery (think of Ski Jump with enough deck space for an arrested by wire landing)

STOVL – Short Take Off Vertical Landing (think of may have ski jump or not, either way only enough deck for short take off)

COMING UP IN APRIL TWO SHOWS two weeks apart OUGHTA BE GOOD ROAD TRIPS

This is the OFFICIAL flyer, too !



PETALUMA
April 11, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 4:00



**WINE COUNTRY
MODEL EXPO**

Petaluma Community Center
3250 N. McDowell Blvd.
Petaluma, CA 94954

- **Exhibition-Style Display**
All of each modeller's works displayed together
- **“Juried Evaluation”**
Using open system based on a standard of excellence
- **Free Seminars & Presentations**
Featuring nationally recognized modellers and historians
- **\$20 Entry - Unlimited Models**
One entry fee - bring as many models as you'd like

Preregister for Fast Packet Pickup
Preregistration closes midnight April 6
REGISTER NOW:
www.winecountrymodelexpo.com



THE DATE's OFFICIAL

This Flyer is not



Saturday April 25 2026

Calling All Model Car Enthusiasts!

As passionate builders and lifelong fans of the scale modeling hobby, we're excited to invite you to a brand-new gathering that picks up where NNL West left off—celebrating creativity, craftsmanship, and community. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, we invite you to join us for a gathering that celebrates detail, style, and shared passion. Bring your builds, share your stories, and connect with fellow artists who appreciate the beauty of the art. Let's showcase our work, inspire each other, and keep the model car scene thriving!

<https://www.leftcoastscaleclassic.com/>

Unofficial Flyer courtesy MIRANDCO

All information deemed reliable but not complete

Ventura County Fairgrounds

at Seaside Park

Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 West Harbor Boulevard
Ventura, CA 93001

NEARLY 21,000 Square Feet of exhibit hall all within walking distance of historic downtown Ventura.



AND IF GOING TO SO CAL on 4/25 Not Your Cup Of Modelling Tea...

Gundam Build Social Saturday 4/25 San Francisco.

1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

1:00PM-5:00PM

Join the community in building the popular Japanese mecha models! Gundam models allow individuals to showcase their craftsmanship and attention to detail creating miniature works of art! Whether you are a seasoned builder or a newcomer to the world of Gundam, this event promises to be a fun and enriching opportunity to connect with like-minded enthusiasts.

\$5 registration fee. Register Here: [Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California](#)



FIRST OPENER for MAY and here's Official Flyer to PROVE IT

BEST OF THE WEST



Saturday May 2nd, 2026

Orleans Hotel Casino Las Vegas, Nevada

Show Brought to you by IPMS Las Vegas, Las Vegas Model Car Club,

Vegas Armor Modelers Preservation Society, and Gunpla Builders United

Lots of Vendor Tables, 52 Contest Categories, IPMS Judging criteria

Special Judging rules: No Touching Models, No Flashlights, No optical devices and or Mirrors, No Sweeps.

Contest & Show Admission (CASH ONLY)

Doors open 9:00 am, Judging noon, awards 3:30 pm, close 5:00 pm

Adult Model Entry \$15 for first 2 models, \$2 for each additional model Juniors (under 17) FREE (unlimited entries)

Special Awards to be announced at a later date.

General Show Admission

(Non-contest attendees) \$5 each Adult & Family Children under 12, Active Military & First Responders are FREE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Www.ipmslv.org for contest forms. Or email ipmslv@aol.com

Orleans # 702-365-7111 Room Code IPME26C Coordinator Jay Bergeon 702-861-9050 ipmslvraffle@yahoo.com

IPMS SilverWings PRESENTS

SilverCon 2026

CONTEST THEME: HEAVY METAL

Best us of Natural Metal Finish

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Registration: 9am - 12pm

Judging begins: 12pm



VENDOR CONTACT: JERALD CLEMENT\$ 916-346-4419
or BIGJER009@GMAIL.COM

ADULT (18+) \$12 FIRST 2 ENTRIES, \$3 EA ADDITIONAL ENTRY

JUNIOR (7-17) \$4 FIRST 2 ENTRIES, \$1 EA ADDITIONAL ENTRY

KIDS (6 & UNDER) FREE

2 RAFFLES

50+ CATEGORIES

TOWN & COUNTRY LUTHERAN CHURCH

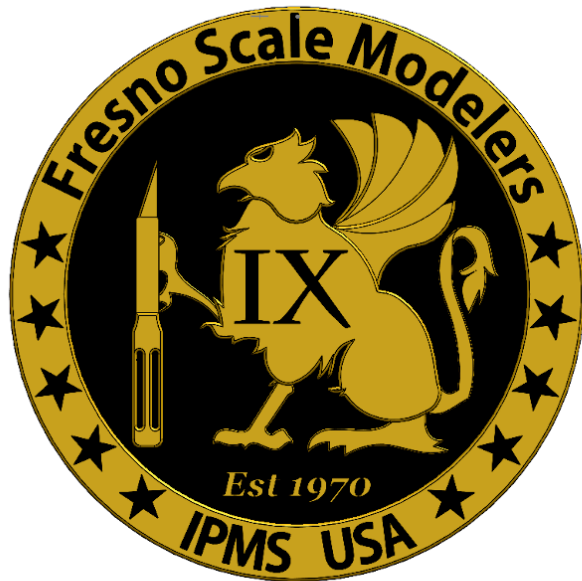
4049 Marconi Ave
Sacramento, CA 95821

<https://www.sacramento-model-club.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ipmssilverwings>



AND THIS ONE IS NOW ON THE OFFICIAL IPMS USA CALENDAR so there! GO ERNIE GEE and FSM !!!



IPMS FRESNO

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

CASTLE 

AIR MUSEUM OPEN COCKPIT
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MODEL CONTEST

@ THE ATWATER COMMUNITY CENTER

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD

2026

THEMES: USA 250TH ANNIVERSARY
CASTLE AIR MUSEUM /AFB SUBJECT
BEST CRAPPY MODEL

PLEASE SCAN QR CODE FOR
FURTHER DETAILS

<https://ipmsusa.org/event/fresno-scale-modelers-castle-air-museum-memorial-day-weekend-contest>

Coming Up NEXT

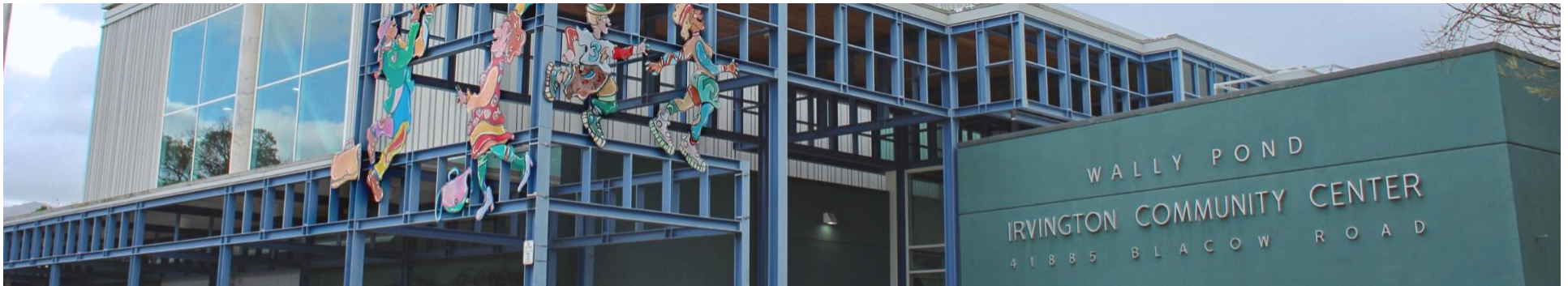
The Next Hornets Nest Night Is **APRIL 10 2026**

REMINDER – WE WILL BE AT OUR OLD MEET VENUE in FREMONT

Thanks to our Treasurer/VP Dave Parks and a long time Club member this great news:

We will begin meeting at 7:30 PM and end by 1030 PM, that is a surety. In rest of these months of 2026 we are using this site for Model Talk & Club business to discuss, thanks to two Saints.

IRVINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER, 41885 Blacow Road, Fremont CA



Located across street from Irvington High School Corner of GreenPark Dr & Blacow Rd

PLUS IN A FUTURE NEXT EDITION

WE MAY SEE NEW MATERIAL OF WHAT WENT ON AT THE APRIL EXPO or APRIL 2026 HORNETS NEST *STAY TUNED*

ALONG WITH COVERAGE OF *MORE NEWS OF OUR HOSTING A TRI CITY EIGHTEEN* LATER THIS YEAR

Reminder : <http://fremonthornets.yolasite.com/> Just three little pages.

Mick Burton, madman at large – DAZE61283@mypacks.net

(sole fool responsible for bad content or rude comment here) “ Come for the models *Stay for the Sarcasm* “

