

New Year's Challenge 2014

The CAMS New Year's Challenge was delayed from its original date of 07 January 2014 until 04 February 2014 because of a nasty flu bug that was going around. It turned out to be worth the wait as there were eight impressive kits in the Challenge this year.

The NY Challenge is a chance for the members of the club to show off what they have been doing lately as well as a chance to work on their judging skills for the Spring show in May. Many of the kits in the Challenge will find their place on the show tables this year.

First up was Bob McDowell's Japanese Imperial Navy battleship Haruna as it appeared in 1944. Bob is new to the club and the NY Challenge was the first chance to meet him. As with most ship kits, this was built out of the box but Bob definitely impressed those in attendance with his attention to detail on a very complex subject, especially since this was his first major build after a 25 year hiatus from the hobby.



Next up Brian Florian showed off his multiple talents as a builder and painter with his set of WWII American Armour and figures from the board game Flames of War all done in 1/100 scale. Brian has produced a number of incredible kits in the past including his phenomenal Gundam figures, 1/35 WWII German armour. His mastery of the airbrush is seen here in the subtle shading and coloring of these very tiny miniatures



Steve Milberry has been a force in the automotive modelling community for a number of years, winning multiple awards for his modelling skills. This year was no exception. Steve brought in his glue bomb rescued '69 Pontiac Bonneville. Steve has gone beyond just putting parts together and adding paint. His skills are now focused on the accuracy of the models he builds and his scratch building skills go unchallenged in these parts. The Bonneville showed that off in spades, featuring his signature tinted glass, accurate engine plumbing and of course his flawless paint.



Another car modeller showed up next to strut his stuff. Chris Martin brought his MPC 1/25 Chev. Blazer Rescue vehicle. He started with a recently re-issued snap kit and dug into his parts boxes to kit bash this impressive model. The changes and parts are too numerous to mention in this space but he dug into multiple '73 to '87 Chev pick-up kits for wheels, tires, radios, light bars, interior bits and the list goes on and on. He also tested his scratch building skill on the shift levers. Decals came for the Monogram Sherriff Blazer and the kit was finished in Krylon spray paint.



The military modellers were at a premium this year in the challenge but Quintin Taylor definitely but his best foot forward for the military modellers in the club with his 1/35 Canadian LAV. The model was reflective of those used by the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan during their first couple of rotations, before the rear cargo boxes were removed because they interfered with the main gun. The kit featured subtle touches throughout the build in shading and weathering. In addition, Quintin added mesh to the cargo racks and chains for the smoke grenade launchers but otherwise was it was built out of the box. Quintin's deft touch brought out the best in a fine piece of Canadiana.



The automotive modellers took their chance next in front of their peers. Kyle Kerasiotis brought out his 1/25 Revell '06 Dodge Magnum kit for all to see. The kit was built as part of a challenge with his father (the old "I'll show the Old Man how it's done" thing). The kit almost didn't make it to the judges as it was dropped the night before and needed some time in the body and fender shop. Kyle's building skills have grown in leaps and bounds in the last couple years and the Magnum is a fine example of that. The kit is finished in Testor's One Shot Diamond Dust and Raging Red and Wet Coat Clear polished out to near perfection. There are subtle changes to

the body from filling the door handles and accents on the bumpers. The rims are accented to go with the body color and the interior was matched to the body. Overall an excellent build - not as good as the Old Man yet - but he is getting there fast.



Not to be out done, the Old Man (Bob Kerasiotis) stepped up next with his version of the Revell '06 Dodge Magnum. Bob's kit features a custom spoiler, all handles and emblems shaved. The front grill was cut out and replaced with a piece of PE. The body was painted with Testor's small bottle black enamel and One Shot Wet look Clear. Once everything was cured, the body was polished out and waxed to a deep sheen then the tape accents were added. The engine was accented with various shades of Alclad Metalizers and the interior was two toned in black and grey with red accents and a custom flocking mix. The Old Man did snatch one idea from the Young Gun and that was accenting his wheels to match the body. I guess that proves again that old age and treachery beats youth and enthusiasm - this time anyway.



Before I get to the grand finale there were a couple of honorable mentions to go out to Scott Millican and Mike Lewis for bring in their progress kits in for all to have a look.

The winner of the CAMS New Year's Challenge this year was Gordon Barrett with his 1/25 Revell '69 Nova SS. Gordon is one of the original members of CAMS and is a major collector of all things model but has not built a full model in over 25 years.



The idea of the Nova was to replicate a young guy's car from the mid-70s to early 80s. The Nova has been two years in the making and the wait has been well worth it. Gordon started out by removing the scripts, side vents from the body and then the accent lines on the hood, cowl and trunk had a date with the sander.

The body was painted with Valejo primer and purple base coat, then four coats of purple nail polish were applied followed by Testor's One Shot Wet Look Clear. When the paint was well cured it was rubbed out to remove any minor and then polished with "Harley Glaze" until it shone. The chrome on the bumpers was stripped, painted black along with the body chrome and a photo etch grill rounded out the body



Gordon was not done with the kit yet. He was into his parts box for the Crager SS Mags and Mickey Thompson cheater slicks. The engine was completely wired and plumbed and then he decided the kit needed something a little more special to bring the car to the right level and the real fun began.

He started by scratch building an 8 track tape deck for under the dash, and if you have a player you need some tunes, so Gordon scratch built tapes - complete with labels - and scattered them about the seat. And seeing how the single speaker in the dash would not make the music sound right, he also built a set of 6 x 9 speakers for the rear deck. I could go on and on about the details in the build but a picture is worth a thousand words.

Just to top things off and to keep to the theme of the build, there was a pine tree air freshener hanging from the mirror and a period correct case of beer in the back seat!

Gordon's kit wowed his peers and garnered an almost perfect score. Gordon exhibited some exceptional skills, not only in scratch building but also in his ability to take a theme and put all the pieces together into one fantastic replica. Imagine what he would build if he were a builder first and a collector second - the possibilities are endless.

Before I go, a couple guys need to be recognized. First is Scott for the photos of all the entries and the donation of a gift certificate for the winner. A big thank you to Darren Anderson for acting as the tabulator for the Challenge and making sense out of the hen scratches on the judging sheets. And thanks go out to Gordon and Kim Barrett for the donation of the trophy again this year.

This was the third New Year's Challenge for the members of CAMS and things just keep getting better. It's difficult to predict what the Spring Show will bring forth.

The Scribe