

New Years Build Challenge 2012

CAMS started 2012 off with a bang. In the fall Gordon Barrett put an idea before the club members to have a New Years build challenge. The idea was two fold: first to have a look at what the guys had been building since the show and second to work on our judging skills for the annual CAMS show in May.

The rules were pretty simple, it had to be a project started since the last show. Completion was not a major factor, which was a good thing as it turned out, as a number of the kits were in progress units.

The kits were judged by everyone based on the criteria used during our shows to identify areas for improvement in the judging. At stake - a Shiny Trophy and more importantly bragging rights. With that said we were ready, and away we went.

First up was Gordon with his VW Trike which was inspiration by a real machine. He took the back half of a 1/25 Revell VW Bug complete with engine, built a new frame, removed the scripts and molded in cloth roof as well as major work removing seams and sink marks. To this he added the 1/25 Harley from the Revell 2000 F-150 HD Truck Kit. The bike went through major modifications to the tank, seat and a 1/4" sectioning of the frame. And then he put them together, and it worked a building feat on its own. It has been a long time since Gordon has sat down and built anything and when compared to the picture, the building skills have not been lost, only resting.



Following Gordon was Dave Hutchison with his /35 scale Steyr 1500A by Tamiya. A 1.5 ton truck built to represent a 15th Panzer Division vehicle of the Afrika Corps in 1942. The kit was built basically out of the box and gave Dave an opportunity to show off his skills with the detailing of the small stuff including scratch building rifle clips and subtle weathering touches.



Next Up was Bob Kerasiotis with his 1/12 scale (Kit Name etc). The kit was an in-progress build, but showed Bob's attention to detail with the plumbed engine. The thing that garnered the most comments from the members was the paint finish of the engine, a combination of Alclad Polished aluminum over different undertones to achieve some depth in the paint. Hopefully this will be done for the May show.



Fantasy Sci/Fi was represented by Brian Florian with his Bandai 1/35 scale FF-X7 "Core Fighter" with figures. Brian was the winner of the Best in Show in 2011 with his Gundam and he kept up the game with these kits. The comments on Brian's fighter focused on the panel detail of the fighter and the fiddly stuff in the cockpit. The figures were not too shabby either.



Our resident eclectic scratch builder was there with his latest creation, Vaughn McPhail showed off his 1/32 build Inspired by the Scheifer book and the Mauve/ Revell 1/48 scale kit. The 1/32 scale scratch build aircraft featured plank on frame construction, the overall shape cut out of 1/16th sheet, formers and ribs glued to it, then thin strips of plastic cut from sheet used to fill in the gaps. The creation is held together with super glue, Canadian Tire spot putty then sanded smooth and primed with Mr. Surfacer 1000 spray can primer. The pilot modified from the 21st Century BF-109 F also painted with Vallejo. Vaughn's scratch built creations never fail to bring on a lot of head scratching and 'how did he do that or "what is that?" comments.



Military builder Bruce Doiron showed his hand next with his impressive Tamiya 1/35 Abrams with mine plow. The kit was in progress and was built out of the box without any aftermarket parts. The base coat had been applied but no weathering yet. From what he has said he is planning to create a diorama with this kit.



Norm Russell another of our original CAMS members showed up with a number of ongoing projects but put his 1/35 Trumpeter German 8.8cm Panzerjagerkanone Pak 43. for all to see. Built out of the box. Using the plastic shield supplied instead of the photoetched ones as well as the metal barrel that also was supplied. Norm used Tamiya paints lightened to scale and washed with various shades of Windsor Newton's. no chawks had been used yet and there was still distressing to be done to the breech. The plans are to set it up in a diorama that hopefully will be ready for the show in May.



Not to be left out the cars guys were there to finish the show Chris Martin was there with his 1/25 Revell 1982 Ford Bronco. Chris cut out the molded-in top, shaved the extra Set of spare tire brackets and replaced the kit tires and the engine. Not being the owner of an airbrush kit showed his rattle can skills with a near flawless paint job.



Closing out the evening was Bill Knox and his Ford Escort WRC kit. Bill displayed his kit as it would have looked parked at the end of the day. Any kind of race car is always a challenge because of the complicated paint and decal work. Bill pretty well nailed this one, the paint was done with masking and the decal application showed that if you know what you are doing and take your time it will work. Bill's touch is evident throughout the build from the base to the small details in the interior.



One of the reasons for this challenge was to hone the judging skills of the members and to see if there was a better, more fair more consistent way to judge all different kits. Models at the CAMS shows are judged not against each other but on there own merit based on the preparation, construction, finishing of the kits as well as the believability factor. We reviewed the scores on all the kits bringing up the points that the members had good or bad and sent it to out tabulators to crunch the numbers and come up with a winner.

When all was said and done the winner of the First CAMS Challenge was Dave Hutchison with his with his /35 scale Steyr 1500A by $\frac{3}{4}$. Congratulations to Dave.

Thanks to all who competed, a good time was had by all at the meeting. Hopefully we'll see the in progress kits finished and on display at the show in May.

Keep on Modelling

The Scribe