



Newsletter

The
Winners
Circle

That '70s Show!



Mike Turco's 1975 Ferrari 312T

by Tommy Kortman

PHOTOS BY
THE AUTHOR

'Gentlemen start your engines!' Most of us have heard those most famous words in motor racing. For last month's theme winner, they must have struck a chord. Relatively new member Mike Turco won the July 2011 Theme contest with a wonderful rendition of a fabulous Ferrari Formula 1 race car.

July's theme, "That 70's show" saw a wonderful turnout of 14 models on the table. Considering that the entire meeting turnout was a little more than 20 members, we had a phenomenal proportion ratio putting something on the theme table. OUTSTANDING!!

Mike Turco has been with DVSM for a little less than a year now. He came to us as primarily a plane builder, but after joining the club, Mike decided that he'd like to try his hand at building some cars. What you saw on the table last month was Mike's third

attempt. I'd say he's picked up the discipline pretty well, wouldn't you?

Mike says he started building models as a kid (like most of us) around the age of eight or ten. He built for a few years and then took an extended break (again, like a few of us) from the hobby for approx. 20+ years; when he built a Testor's SR71 black bird and a Revell Shuttle with launch pad. He says he fell out of it again until he spied an old kit from his childhood on eBay about 5 or 6 years ago. Since that time Mike estimates his collection has grown to a little over 100 kits. (Wow, talk about similarities. It's spooky.)

Mike does have a couple of other hobbies like riding motorcycles, astronomy and restoring old chemistry set kits.

Mike's winning model is a 1/12 scale model of a 1975 Ferrari 312T Formula 1 race car. The kit was produced by Tamiya originally about 35 years

ago, and has been re-released a couple of times. Mike built the kit mostly out of the box with only the addition of some aftermarket decals and some details from Accu Stion. He also used ribbon for the seatbelts, and the intake screens were sourced from e-bay. Mike says that the build took him a little over 50 hours, and that while the kit was engineered very well, the trademark

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NEXT MEETING August 5

- **Theme Contest: Asian Night OR "Godzilla's Revenge"**
- **Roundtable: Build Night 2: Bring Tools and a Project**

Presidents' Corner *by Bob Doebley & Tommy Kortman*

Hello Fellow Styrene Junkies!

Hope everyone had a good 4th of July weekend. Unfortunately, I did not make the meeting last month and want to thank Tommy K for running the meeting. I was told about 20 members showed up on a Holiday weekend. That was a good turnout.



Good turnout for a July meeting!

On Saturday July 30th, Tommy K, John Goschke and I went to a car show at the Simeone Foundation. It was put on by the same guys that do the Hot Rod Hoe Down. The weather was hot, just like the cars. The turnout was low but there were some very interesting cars. This was John's first visit to the museum. I believe that John had a great time and will probably return to the museum in the future. ("For sure!" JG)

At this month's meeting we will discuss the up-coming Jersey Con club display. The show is only two and a half months away.

Breaking News!!!!

Vince Buonfiglio had an unfortunate accident and broke his knee cap last week. He is doing fine but is in a lot of pain. If you get a chance, please give Vince a call.

That is all I have for this month so here's Tommy!

Thanks Bob.

Well gee thanks Bob! Not much to work with there. Anyway, yes we did have a pretty good

turnout last month. It was also a good month for the theme table. We had 14 entrees for the contest. Voting was pretty tough last time what with all the quality work on the table. Congrats to all you guys for stepping up and really making the theme contest work. I'm not sure if what they say about "competition improving the brand" is true or not, but the stuff being put out on the theme table just keeps getting better and better. Bravo amigos!!

And speaking about last month's contest; Mike Turco was the July winner. Mike brought a 1/12 Tamiya 1975 Ferrari 312T Formula 1 car to the meeting. It was very well executed. You can read more about Mike and his Ferrari elsewhere in this fine literary masterpiece. Also remember to check out the points table to get a full run-down on the points. To briefly summarize, Paul Kopczynski has got a 4 point lead over John Goschke, Lou Isern, and Dave Anderson with 16 points to their 12. Behind John, Lou, and Dave, is Greg Hogg with 11 points and Lou Ursino and myself with 10. Will Paul be able to pull away to an easy victory, or will someone in the pack be able to make a run at him down the stretch? Either way it should be an interesting run the November.

Godzilla's Revenge 2

August's theme is Asian night, or Godzilla's Revenge 2. Either way the theme is open to all Asian subjects. This would include Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, The Philippines, Thailand..etc. This is usually a very good contest turnout night, so good luck to everyone. ■

DVSM on the web

Check out Joe Vattilana's "El Corvette" Corvette Coupe-Pickup Conversion at dvsm.org



AUGUST EVENTS

August 13: Simeone Foundation Museum: *Kustoms, Cruisers and Classics. Car Show* at the Museum.
• <http://hotrodhoedown.com/main.htm>

August 13: Battleship NJ; *WWII Victory Weekend Encampment* • http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org/news_events/index.php#426

August 17: Atlantic City; *Thunder over the Boardwalk!* The Atlantic City Air Show featuring the Thunderbirds. • <http://www.atlanticcitynj.com/acairshow.aspx>

August 20: Fort Mifflin on the Delaware *Pirate Day*; 10am - 4pm. Please check the website for more info • <http://www.fortmifflin.us/index.html>

August 26-28: Macungie Pa: *Wheels of Time Street Rod Show* • <http://www.wheelsofetime.org/jamboree/>

August 27: Fort Mifflin on the Delaware *Reenactor's Flea Market*; 10am - 4pm. Please check the website for more details. • <http://www.fortmifflin.us/index.html>

July Display Highlights

Photos by Tommy Kortman



Douglas B-18, 1/72 vacuform by Howard Rifkin



"Hidden in Plain Sight," 1/48, by Vince Buonfiglio



"Hidden in Plain Sight," 1/48, by Vince Buonfiglio

Monthly Theme Contests

Every month we will have an open contest for the monthly themes. Members will vote for the best Theme model of the month. A personalized award plaque will be made by Mike Napoleon and presented at the following meeting.

JANUARY: Winner - GREG HOGG

Lost in the 50's

FEBRUARY: Winner - PAUL KOPCZYNSKI

Speed Weeks

MARCH: Winner - LOU URSINO

World War II

APRIL: Winner - LOU ISERN

Dead and Gone

MAY: Winner - LOU ISERN

Low & Slow

JUNE: Best of Show - BOB CICCONI

Gold, Silver & Bronze Contest

JULY: Winner - MIKE TURCO

That '70's Show

AUGUST

Godzilla's Revenge

SEPTEMBER

Euro-trash

OCTOBER

Never Had It, Never Will

NOVEMBER

Failures & Misfits

DECEMBER (NO THEME)

Favorite Five Contest

July Display Highlights

Photos by Tommy Kortman



Dodge Truck for Group Display, 1/72, by Joe Leonetti



Dodge Ambulance for Group Display, 1/72, by Bob Cicconi



Plymouth AAR 'Cuda, 1/25, by Jason Rothgeb



Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero, 1/72, by Paul Tomczek



Convair B-58 Hustler, 1/240, by Mike Turco



Audace, circa 1942, 1/700, by Bob Cicconi

July Display Highlights

Photos by Tommy Kortman



"Steam Punk" hand gun, 1/1, by Mike Napoleon



F9F Panther, 1/48 and (below) DC-6 fire bomber, 1/72, by David Anderson



2011 Theme Contest Point Standings to Date

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	June	July	Totals
Kopczynski, Paul	2	5	4		2	3	16
Goschke, John	2	4		3	3		12
Isern, Lou				5	5	2	12
Anderson, Dave	2	2	3	2		3	12
Hogg, Greg	5	1	1	3	1		11
Ursino, Lou		1	5	4			10
Kortman, Tommy	4	3	1	1		1	10
Rifkin, Howard	4	1		1	2	1	9
Tomczek, Paul				3	4	1	8
Turco, Mike	2		1			5	8
Cicconi, Bob		3	1		3		7
Sandone, Nick		3	1		2		6
Leonetti, Joe	3		1		1	1	6
Napoleon, Mike	2	1				3	6
Senner, Don	1	1	1	1		1	5
Vattilana, Joe	1			1	1	2	5
Makin, Jamie						4	4
Goerke, Doug	1	1	1				3
Borowsky, Wayne			2				2
Wootson, Tony				2			2
Buonfiglio, Vince						2	2
Stark, John		1					1
Ivey, Tony			1				1
Rothgeb, Jason						1	1

Monthly points are awarded as such: Each person who enters a model into the theme receives 1 pt. 1st place = 4+1, 2nd = 3+1, 3rd = 2+1

Mike Turco's Ferrari 312T

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Ferrari spaghetti bowl headers were the toughest part of the build. The car is painted with Tamiya Lacquer spray. It has not been clear coated.

The Ferrari that Mike chose to model, the 312T, was developed toward the end of the 1974 season as it became apparent that problems with the handling of the then current car's chassis could not be solved, and a radical re-design was required.

The new car was constructed with aluminum panels over a tubular steel spaceframe, which was typical in F1 at the time. This car, however, featured a large number of new design features, the most interesting of which was the transverse-mounted gearbox - the T in the car's name stood for *Trasversale*. The gearbox design allowed it to be positioned ahead of the rear axle, in order to give a low polar moment of inertia. Centering the weight makes cornering easier. The gearbox was directly bolted on a 485 horsepower version of the flat 12 engine. Although slightly heavier than the Cosworth engine, the 12 cylinder unit out powered its British counterpart by at least 20 horsepower.

The suspension was also significantly different from that of the 312B3, and the front of the chassis was much narrower. The handling of the car was found to be inherently neutral, not suffering from the persistent understeer which plagued the 312B3. Niki Lauda tested the car extensively during the off season, ready for a full on championship challenge.

The first 312T was completed in the autumn of 1974, and unveiled to the press in Modena after the end of the 1974 season. However, the team used the old 312B3 at the first two races of the 1975 season, and it was not until the South African Grand Prix the 312T received its race debut. The car's performance at its debut race was disappointing, with Clay Regazzoni's car being set up incorrectly, and Niki Lauda's suffering from a lack of power. A subsequent test of Lauda's engine proved that there was a technical problem.

The 312T was tested alongside the 312B3 at Fiorano, proving conclusively that the newer car was faster, and indeed it went on to win its next race, the non-championship International Trophy race, with Lauda at the wheel. In the world championship, after the slow start to the season in which Brabham, Tyrrell and McLaren put up strong competition, Lauda won 4 out of 5 races mid season before snatching the title at Monza by finishing third, whilst Clay Regazzoni's win in that race secured Ferrari its first constructors' championship since Surtee's in 1964. Lauda went on to win the US Grand Prix at season's end, confirming Ferrari's superiority in 1975.

The 1975 season proved to be a start of a very good couple of years for Ferrari, with subsequent versions of the 312 T winning many races and titles. Lauda was on his way to the title in 1976, when he was badly burned in a Nürburgring accident. In 1977 he set things straight and scored another driver's title for the team, as did Jodi Scheckter in 1979. Scheckter's title would be the last driver's title for the Scuderia for over 20 years.



The Formula 1 technical regulations were changed for the 1976 season from the Spanish Grand Prix in May, the tall air boxes which had become popular would be banned. The rules therefore allowed Ferrari to continue to use the 312T for the opening 3 races of the 1976 season (Lauda won the first two and Regazzoni the third), before the introduction of its successor, a revised version called the 312T2. A total of five 312T chassis were used in races (chassis numbers: 018,021,022,023,024). The car's final world championship race was at the 1976 United States Grand Prix West.

Well, I hope you have enjoyed this look at Mike Turco's July theme winning model, but that's all for now, so until next time...CIAO!!! (That's Italian for those of you who don't habla) ■

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