



Next Meeting: Friday, June 2

OUR ANNUAL JUDGED CONTEST will be the big event at our June meeting. Entries will be judged for overall workmanship and quality of detail and finish and awarded either Merit, Bronze, Silver or Gold, or not, depending on the judge's assessment. Models receiving Gold awards are eligible for the Best-in-Show award, to be awarded by vote of the judges. The contest is open to any DVSM member whose dues are paid for 2006. You may enter up to three pieces. Plan to arrive around 7:30 so that the judges can begin their work as early as possible. ■

May Meeting Displays

SOME TERRIFIC WORK WAS ON DISPLAY AT OUR MAY MEETING... Bob Cicconi; Imperial Japanese Navy light cruiser "Jintsu" and destroyer "Minegumo". **Ed Isnardi;** AMT 1/25 '51 Chevy stock car, Pinto modified stock car (both in progress), also a resin '48 Ford sedan, to be built as a modified stock car. **Keith Jones;** Monogram "Big T" 1/8 scale "rat rod" (in progress). **Paul Kopczynski;** Monogram 1/48 A-10, 1/48 F-8 Crusader, and F-105G Thunderchief. **Charlie Lockard;** Hasegawa A-4C Skyhawk (Argentine Air Force), and AMT 1/48 Douglas A-20 (Royal Australian Air Force). **Jason Rothgeb;** 1986 IMSA Mustang and 1969 COPO Camaro (both in progress). **Lou Ursino;** Tamiya 1/35 "Dragon Wagon" tank transporter, DMIL 1/35 M1A1 Abrams (OIF), Italeri 1/35 M4A1(76) Sherman (in progress) plus 1/35 DML M4A1 Sherman. **Drew Volz;** AMT Drad Starfighters. **Joe Volz;** Revell/Germany 1/72 F-16CJ Viper, Hasegawa 1/48 McDonnell Phantom FGR.2 (Royal Air Force), Revell/Germany 1/72 F-16 MLU (Belgian Air Force). **Claire Wootson;** Aurora Godzilla (in progress). **Tony Wootson;** AMT/ERTL "Jupiter 2" from "Lost in Space" movie, Monogram 1/72 "Babylon 5" Starfury, and two Hasegawa 1/72 Saab Viggens. ■

May Business Meeting Reported by Tony Wootson

We had several guests visiting with us. Joe Leonetti was visiting for the first time. He brought a nice Sherman diorama with him, along with 1/48 Messerschmitt 109E and Mitsubishi A6M5 Zero.

Keith Bender was also visiting for the first time. Keith had a nice Grumman Hellcat along with a USS Indianapolis on display. Both visitors were invited to come back next month displaying a different model in order to become members.

The MFCA Show was taking place during the weekend at the Valley Forge Convention Center. In John's words, "It is a phenomenal miniature figure show. We have a table the representing our club. If you could come out and sit down for maybe a few minutes or an hour or two and pass out flyers and fly the flag for

DVSM and IPMS that would be great.” John, Charlie Lockard, Tommy Kortman and Tony were to be there manning the table.

Members were advised that admission for both days of the show was \$10.00. “It may seem pricey, but you won’t see the level of quality workmanship anywhere else. And the stuff that’s for sale in the vendors room is mind blowing!”

It was announced that Vince Buonfiglio was in the Frankford Hospital, Toresdale Division for heart trouble. Members were reminded to keep him in their prayer and best wishes. We trust that he’s made a good recovery.

Tony Wootson reminded the membership to make sure the hobby shops that they frequent have a supply of our club’s flyers. The flyers can still be downloaded for printing from our website.

Treasurer Joe Vattilana reminded those who have not already paid their club dues for the year to please do so or they would not be permitted to participate in the June contest.

Members were reminded that the (Gold/Silver/Bronze) Contest takes place at our June meeting. It is a judged contest. Have 2 to 3 pieces for the contest – 3 max, to make it easier on the judges who have to tally up the judging sheets. But, by all means please enter. It’s always a good time. If you would like to judge, please see Contest Chairman Joe Volz. And if you want to learn about judging, you are welcomed to assist the judges. ■

PACM Announcements Reported by Bob Doebley

HELLO EVERYONE, hope everyone is enjoying this great weather we are having.

On Saturday May 13th members went to the Mid-Atlantic NNL held by the MAMAS club.

Everyone had a good time. A few of us went the Baltimore Fire museum a couple of blocks away.

The following members had their models photographed by Scale Auto and Model Cars magazines. Nick Sandone; ’06 Mustang and Nissan, Mike Napoleon; Jawbreaker dragster, ’38 International truck, ’41 Chevy tire truck and Playground diorama, Bill Garner; ’58 Thunderbird convertible. Tommy Kortman; ’29 Ford P/U and Boot Hill Express. If I missed some one let me know and I will post it.

Congratulations to Mike Napoleon for winning the Authur Henriques Memorial Awards Trucks Light Commercial with his 38 International truck and Nick Sandone for winning Street machine with his 06 Mustang.

On Saturday August 12th the Philly club along with the Jersey Shore Model Car Club will be displaying models and having a make it and take it at the New Hope Car Show. If you would like to help out with the make it and take please contact Greg Hogg.

The June meeting is our ANNUAL GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE CONTEST!!!! (The Contest is open to DVSM members only. Bring up to three models for entry.) ■

The D.M.Z. Opinion by “El’ Tanque”

WELL, IT’S BEEN A LITTLE WHILE since I’ve had anything to write about. It’s been a pretty mellow time. Not much to go off on.

HOWEVER...That has all changed now. As some of you are aware, I have recently entered into a project to help a poor soul expand his mind and use his imagination. Now this misguided individual has spent his

entire modeling career building nothing but factory stock automobiles.

Not that there's anything wrong with that. Factory or replica stock definitely has its place in the hobby. (The kiddie table?) In fact it takes a lot of work to research the correct colors and finishes to do a piece properly. Certain items must be scratch built to produce some rare option, or you have to go the resin route to build that '34 Hupmobile the plastic manufacturers won't touch because they would only sell 3 of them.

Yup, that is a lot of tedious, mind numbing, research to build a car...or truck exactly the way it rolled off of the assembly line. Or as my good buddy Dave Coppalino says, "as GOD intended." Well if as you say God intended only factory stock automobiles, then let me introduce you to...

The DARK SIDE!!

That's right children follow me down the path of damnation to the unadulterated, sleazy nether regions of automotive mayhem. It's time to...DANCE WITH THE DEVIL!!!!

This is a world where nothing is sacred. Where any piece of plastic, or sheet metal for that matter, is fair game and nothing is safe from the Dremel. (modeling's version of the smoke wrench). I will show you that while the factory piece is a good starting point to let your imagination run wild and create a unique automobile. It's too late to turn back now! I already have your soul!!!(insert maniacal laughter here)

First I'd like to start out by clarifying my definition of what a custom car is.

Using the broadest definition, a custom car or truck (Look, from here on out I am only going to use the word car. You know that trucks are included.) is any vehicle that has been altered from the way it left the dealership. Using this definition, that would include changing wheels and tires, tinting windows, upgrading stereos...etc. Granted some of this is a mild change, but you are still modifying the car from its original state. I will define original state as to how the car left the dealership, not the factory. As you all know, some dealers are famous for creating some bad ass rides. (ie. Yenko, Baldwin, etc).

Now, there are all kinds of custom cars, and people seem to try to group them into cliques.

You have Hot Rods, Rat Rods, Street Rods, Pro-Street, Pro-touring, Retro-mods, Street Machines, Tuners, Lowriders, Kustoms and probably a few others that I can't think of.

You probably noticed the word Kustom above. No, this is not a mistake. This is where the controversy as to what a custom car is comes from. The word KUSTOM is generally accepted to have been coined around 1950-51 by a pair of brothers in California that would go on to become, arguably, the most famous car builders in the world, George and Sam Barris. This term was used to describe the process of altering a car so as to not only disguise its origin, but to improve and glamorize it as well. To this end a lot of pieces from current upscale cars were modified and added to lower cost models. Such as putting Caddy grilles into just about everything at the time, or the addition of Buick side trim to Bob Hirohata's Merc. A lot of major sheet metal surgery was also performed on some of these rides. Some of these procedures included chopping, sectioning, frenching, tunneling, nosing, decking...etc. The Kustom car term has come to define any vehicle from '49 to the dawn of the muscle car era that has major body modifications. Hopefully this clears up any confusion regarding what I think a custom cars is or is not. NUFF SAID!

With that nasty mess out of the way, I am going to impart some inspiration from the "Open Book of Knowledge" and educate some of you as to what some of the customizing term mean.

For those of you who think you can still be saved, stop reading now. By continuing and partaking of this forbid-

den knowledge you will have condemned your soul to eternal damnation. THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!!

- **Chopping the top:** Reducing the height of the roof by removing a section of the “A”, “B”, and “C” pillars where applicable. The glass also has to be modified.
- **Channeling:** Dropping the body over the frame to reduce the height of the body with respect to the ground. This is usually accomplished by removing the floor, moving upward, and reattaching it to the body.
- **Decked:** Removing all of the chrome and emblems from a car's trunk, aka. Deck lid, filling in the remaining mounting holes and refinishing the panel.
- **Nosed:** The same technique as above, only it is done to the hood of the car.
- **Frenching:** This is the filling of factory seams or the removal of bezels in order to achieve a seamless one piece look.
- **Pancaking:** This involves narrowing or shortening the shape of the hood. This is usually done when the fenders are reshaped. The resulting hood shape is usually flat.
- **Sectioning:** The removal of a horizontal strip of metal from the central point of the car to reduce the overall height of the car.
- **Shaving:** The removal of all trim from the sides of a car to achieve a more streamlined look. This could also include the removal of external door handles and rain gutters.
- **Tunneling:** The act of recessing head and tail lights into the body. This can also be done with license plate and antennas.
- **Z'ing:** When a frame is cut and rewelded to allow the center of the frame (at the floor pans) to be lowered to the ground. This effectively lowers the car while leaving the suspension geometry and interior headroom untouched. This cannot be done to a unibody vehicle.

That's enough for now. Just a little taste. We can't go and give you all of the goodies now can we? Just enough to get you hooked. (insert more maniacal laughter here.)

So until next time kiddies, remember, anyone can restore a car, but it takes a real man to cut one up. (insert still more maniacal laughter here.)

This is El' Tanque signing off....or maybe it should be....

EL' DIABLO!! See Ya.....(insert yet even more maniacal laughter here.) ■

Coming Events

World War II Weekend

- *June 2-4*

Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum at Reading Regional Airport, Reading, PA.
For info, visit: www.maam.org/maamwwii.html.

Chiller Theatre Expo

- *June 2-4*

Sheraton Meadowlands, Route 3 East, East Rutherford, NJ
Friday - 6 - 11 p.m., Saturday - 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.,
Sunday - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For info, visit: www.chillerttheatre.com/

Air Fest 2006

- *June 17-18*

Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) Willow Grove. With the upcoming closure of the base, this very well may be the final airshow held there. The U.S. Airforce Thunderbirds will perform. The NAS JRB Willow Grove is located on Route 611 (Easton Road) in Willow Grove, PA. For info, visit: www.willowgroveairshows.com/history.htm.

IPMS/USA National Convention

- *August 2-5, 2006*

Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri Midway
For info, www.ipmsusa2006.org

PennCon 2006

- *September 30*

Hosted by the Central Pennsylvania IPMS at Temple Baptist Church, York, PA.
(<http://www.cenpennipms.com/cpipms/index.htm>)

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