



# Newsletter



**The  
Winners  
Circle**

## Built for Speed!

PHOTOS BY JOHN GOSCHKE

### Paul Kopczynski's F-104 Starfighter



**S**PEED: The dictionary defines it as “The act or state of moving swiftly”, or as “the magnitude of a velocity irrespective of direction”. This months theme contest winner clearly fits that definition. Paul Kopczynski's Lockheed F104-G Starfighter is an excellent model of one of the fastest fighters ever built. A product of Kelly Johnson's infamous “Skunk Works”, the Starfighter was the first fighter capable of sustained flight at speeds above Mach2. (That's twice the speed of sound or approx. 1523 mph.) Development of the F104 began in December of 1951 after “Kelly” Johnson returned from a trip to Korea where he interview fighter pilots about what they wanted in a fighter. The first prototype flew in March of 1954. The F104 served the USAF from 1958 to 1969 and saw service in Viet Nam. It continued on with Air National Guard units until being phased out in 1975, but it continued service with NASA until 1998. The F104 was also used be allied countries around the world including Japan, Germany, and Italy. Italy actually continued to use the F104 until May of 2004. That's some 46 years since its introduction.

**The F-104** features an unusual trap-  
*continued on page 4*

#### NEXT MEETING March 4

- **THEME CONTEST**  
“World War II”  
Subjects from 1940-'45.
- **ROUNDTABLE**  
“Avoid Groundwork  
Goof-ups & Foliage  
F@#k-ups”  
Seminar with Jim Rosado

# Presidents' Corner *by Bob Doebley & Tommy Kortman*

## Hello Fellow Styrene Junkies!

**W**e had another excellent turnout for the February meeting. So far the weather gods have been looking kindly on us with decent weather on the first Friday of the month for our meetings. I have cabin fever and cannot wait for spring to arrive. March is here the contest season is starting.

**We had a visitor** at the February meeting, Ira Weissman from the MITI Camden Youth Aviation Program, He is looking for support from DVSM to do a make it and take it program with his Youth Aviation Program. If you would like to help out with the make it take it please contact Tony Wootson will be the club contact for this program.

**Joe Leonetti** is co-coordinating our club display project for the upcoming Jersey-Con in October from the emails I see going around it looks like we are going to have an awesome Nascar Display. We are also doing a 1/72 scale armor display. Joe will have information on both displays at the meeting.



*Members gather after the February business meeting for the first Build Night.*

**After the business meeting** we had our first build night. We had six members bring models to work on and they had a good time working on them and sharing their building methods. I was thinking about having another build night in April when we invite the BSA to our meeting to show them what we do modeling.

**We have invited** the Tank Crew to visit

our March meeting and Jim Rosado will be doing a clinic on "How to avoid ground-work goof-ups and foliage f@#k-ups".

**Dues reminders:** if you have not paid your due please see Joe Vat.

That's all for now! *Bob D* ■

## Heerre's Tommy!

**W**ell sports fans, spring is almost here. Spring is a time when thoughts turn toward the great outdoors. The weather will be getting warmer, spring training has begun, The Daytona 500 has been run, and by the time you read this the 60th season of NHRA drag racing will be underway. Yup, the season of speed is here. And with that convoluted segue, let's get into last month's theme contest. Last month's theme was all about speed and we had a fantastic 13 examples of quickness on the table last month. That was another great turnout. We had cars and aircraft and even armor represented. Racing ahead to the finish line first was Paul Kopczynski's wonderful 1/32 F104-G Starfighter. Check out the story on Paul's plane elsewhere in this issue.

**While we're on the subject** of the winners story, I just want to make a request to future winners that I'll be needing to talk with each of you after the contests so I can get some additional information for these stories. I'll be looking for information on the build (ie; paint used, aftermarket items used, modifications or scratchbuilding involved, how long was the build, etc.) I will also want some background on you as well; such as why you built this model, why do you build what you do? (planes, cars, armor, etc), and things like that. I think that this "Winner's Circle" can be a pretty good thing for the club, so please bear with me as it will be a work in progress until I can get all the little details worked out into a final workable template.

**Now, let's get to this month's** theme. This month we will be celebrating the "Greatest Generation," with the theme, "WWII, 1940-1945." That's right

any subject representing something from those 6 years (inclusive) will be eligible. There is plenty of subject matter to choose from, so I hope there will be another good showing. Oh, let me clarify one small thing. The model for this month's theme just needs to be associated with the years '40-'45 to count. If you want to bring a '41 Willy's gasser it would be OK since the original car was built in '41. So a P-51 race plane would also be cool, for the same reason. As usual, if you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at kortmatr@comcast.net.

**Tied for fifth place** with 3 points apiece is Joe Leonetti, Nick Sandone, Mike Napoleon, and Bob Cicconi. Just ahead of them in 4th all by himself with 4 points is Dave Anderson. In third, also all by himself with 5 points is Howard Rifkin. There is another tie for second. With 6 points each are John Goschke, and last year's champ, Greg Hogg. And...at the top of the heap with 7 points is...wait for it... another tie. This time Tommy Kortman (yours truly) and locked in a desperate struggle with last month's winner; our resident ace, Paul Kopczynski. Looks like I'd better finish my coupe before Friday. Good luck to all of the modelers who enter.

**On a different note.** By the time you read this, the 9th(?) annual Big Sit will be a pleasant memory. For those of you who don't know, The Big Sit is a gathering of the area's car building clubs(families) Each year on the last Sat of Feb, we all gather at Mainline Hobbies to just sit around, eat pizza, look at what each other has built over the winter, and tell lies. It is not a contest, just modelers shaking off the cabin fever and getting ready for the upcoming contest season. Please note that while this is predominately a "car" event, all models and modelers are welcome. (including you guys who build those cute little boats...LOL). Here is a link to some photos I shot of this years event. <http://public.fotki.com/El-Tanque/the-big-sit/big-sit-2011/page3.html>

## Now let's see if there is anything going on this month:

**Now until May 22:** The Franklin institute has an exhibit on Leonardo DiVinci's inventions. This exhibit features 1:1 3-D models of his ideas. Here's a link to the museum. <http://www.fi.edu/leonardo/?gclid=CPDah6flqKcCFQ975Qod82UqAA>

**Mar. 20: MASSCAR** 23rd annual model exhibition. Holiday Inn in Taunton Mass. <http://www.masscar.com/>

**Mar. 25 & 26: TRICON 2011** – Region 4 Regional convention. Hosted by the Three Rivers/Pittsburgh Chapter, and being held at the Holiday Inn-Pittsburgh Int'l Airport. Check out the IPMS website for more info. <http://tricon.tripms.org/>

**Mar. 25-26-27: Northeast Rod & Custom Car Show.** Greater Phila. Expo Center – Oaks Pa. <http://www.northeastcustomcarshow.com/>

**Apr. 2: Mosquito-con XX.** Wayne NJ PAL building. Hosted by the Central NJ IPMS chapter. <http://njipms.org/>

**Apr 16: NNL EAST #25.** Wayne NJ PAL building. Hosted by the Tri-State Model car club. <http://nnleast.com/contents.html>

**Well, that's all for now.** If anybody knows of anything else going on, please let me, Uncle Bobby, or John Goschke know so we can get the info out there. See you all on Friday, NOW GO BUILD SOMETHING!! ■

## (Urgently) Needed: Del Val Members to Conduct Seminars!

*A Plea from Tony Wootson*

**H**ello, I need your help. We are about to enter the third month of this year, and I have absolutely no seminars scheduled for May, onward. I'm looking for volunteers who are willing to step forward and share some of the wealth of modeling knowledge (which I know you-all have).

**For April,** I'm planning on revisiting my Basic Seam Filling Seminar, (if the Boy Scouts end up visiting us then). However, for the remainder of this year – May, July, August, September, October and November – the ole' Modeling Seminar-Cupboard is quite bare.

**You may feel** that you don't have much to offer the Del Val-masses, with respect to advanced building or painting techniques, or modeling tricks. Or, you may feel that the modeling knowledge which you have to offer isn't enough to fill a seminar time-slot.

**Well, I'm here to tell you,** Brothers (& Sisters) of the Styrene & Resin, that each and every one of you have something to share with your fellow Builders-of-the-Plastic.

**Look deep** (into your modeling-soul), and see what Insightful, modeling-gems

you have stashed away there. Then, bring them out (into the Light), and SHARE them with your people!

(..I'm going to start singing "This Little Light of Mine" here, if I don't get any volunteers soon...)

**Ok, back to me being serious** here. You all really DO have some modeling knowledge to share with the rest of us. Also, your building and painting techniques may not be all that advanced. However, they STILL will be quite helpful to others, if most (or some or even 1 other member) doesn't know about them.

**If enough of you** come forward, I'm thinking of setting up some sort of "Mini-Modeling-Seminar" during the course of this year. The program would be organized as a round-robin discussion, with each person (who is sharing their building or painting tips or techniques) taking around five-10 minutes to talk.

**In addition** to the discussion portion, it would be helpful for some sort of hands-on demonstration to coincide with the talk, in order to supplementing whatever is being shared.

## 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**

World War II

**APRIL**

Dead and Gone

**MAY**

Low & Slow

**JUNE (NO THEME)**

Gold, Silver & Bronze Contest

**JULY**

That '70's Show

**AUGUST**

Godzilla's Revenge II

**SEPTEMBER**

Euro-trash

**OCTOBER**

Never had it, never will

**NOVEMBER**

Failures & Misfits

**DECEMBER (NO THEME)**

Favorite Five Contest

**Anyway,** if anyone is interested in participating in one of these "Mini-Modeling-Seminars," or if anyone is interested in conducting one of the more traditional Del Val Seminars, please, Please, PLEASE get in touch with me! (You can either send me an email message, or track me down at our next meeting).

**Thanks in advance,** and Happy Modeling! Tony ■

# February Meeting Highlights

Photos by John Goschke



Dave Anderson; High Bank at Talladega, 1/24



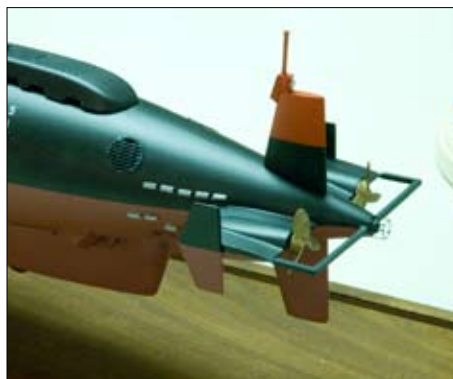
Bob Cicconi; Itsukushima, 1/700



Doug Goerke; F-80 Shooting Star, 1/72



Don Senner; Jungle Jim Vega Funny Car, 1/25



Keith Bender; NR-1 Naval Research Vessel, 1/72



Joe Vatillana; Westland Wessex HAS-3 to HAR-2 Conversion, in-prog., 1/48



Lou Ursino; Churchill Mk-III, 1/35



Lou Ursino; British Sherman, 1/35



Chris Swach; Chrysler Sherman, 1/48, in-prog.

## Paul Kopczyński's F-104 Stafighter

*from page 1*

ezoidal shaped wing and a stabilator (horizontal tail surface) mounted high atop the vertical tail fin. While these were great for high speed flight, they made for very tricky landings. The high tail forced another unique feature on the F104; a downward firing ejector seat. Yup, you read that correctly. If the pilot had to eject from the aircraft, he was shot out the bottom of the plane. As you might have surmised, they were not real good for a low level ejection.

**Paul's wonderful model** represents a "G" model that was used by the Navy of West Germany. (Remember, they were 2 separate countries at that time.) The kit is from Hasagawa and is 1/32 scale. Paul added a resin seat and scratch-built details to the cockpit. The Baltic Gray paint is from Humbrol that Paul applied with an airbrush. Paul also scratch-built the pylons for the fuel drop tanks, while the drop tanks themselves came from his parts box. When I asked Paul how long the build took he told me that he had started the kit several years ago, but once he got it restarted, it only took him about a month to finish.

**To say Paul** is an aviation enthusiast would probably be an understatement. Paul is a member of the Commemorative Air Force and the wing historian for the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol. I think he drink JP-8 (That's jet fuel folks). If you have any kind of question regarding aircraft, Paul can probably answer it for you. He builds predominantly in 1/32 scale and his creations are something to see. God only knows where he stores them all. I'm not sure if they are still there, but a one time you could see some of Paul's wonderful planes hanging from the ceilings of some of the area hobby shops.

**Congratulations Paul!** We can't wait to see more of your work. ■



Bob Cicconi; Stutz Blackhawk, 1/32



Dan Golembiewski; Breeching Seaview resin base casting



Keith Jones; '61 Ranchero custom, 1/25



Lou Isern; 1958 Pontiac Bonneville, 1/25



Unlabeled half-track diorama



Tommy Kortman; Jaegermeister Porsche



Nick Sandone; Ford F-150 "Lightning," 1/25



Howard Rifkin; North American B-45 Tornado, 1/72



John Stark; '69 Camaro Funny Car, 1/25, in-prog.

# Modeler Man Cave: TOUR OF JOE VATTILANA'S MODEL WORKSHOP

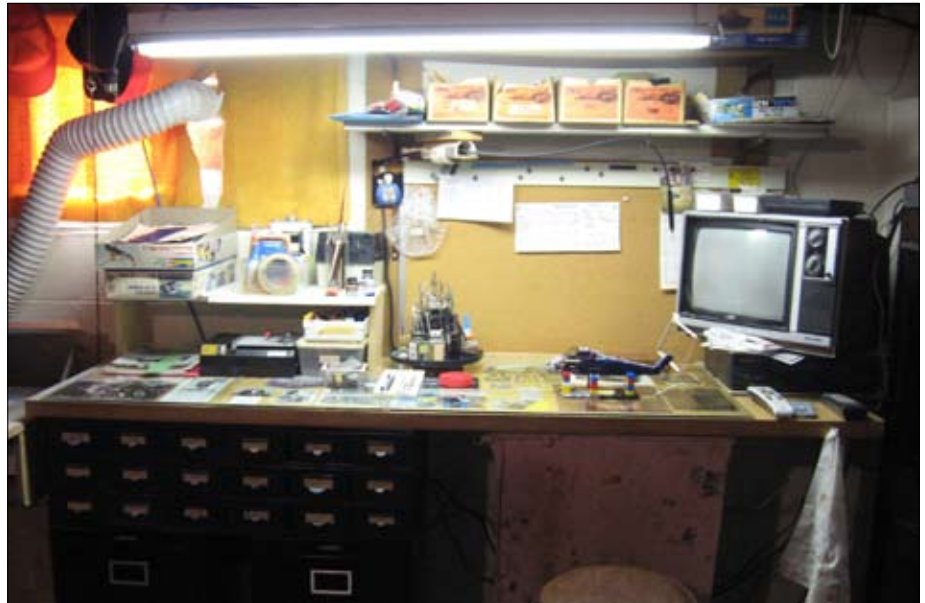
by Joe Vattilana, photos by the author

**I**n addition to reading articles about models, I also enjoy looking at what other modelers' workbenches look like. I thought I'd give you a "tour" of my work area, what my strategy was in creating it, and the results. I'm hoping that I may give you some ideas, but more importantly, perhaps you can also submit a "tour" of your work shop for the newsletter.

**I have a full basement**, so I have the luxury of creating a large work area. The workbench needed to be bar stool height, a glass work surface, sufficient area to spread out, and an airbrush booth. The counter top is made from a door. I also made a hanger for my Dremel tool that is suspended from the shelf above the work bench. Tools are organized on a tool caddy from Micro Mark. The "tool parts" bin under the table to the left holds my paints and lots of spare parts (wheels, figure parts, etc.). Although convenient, the disadvantage of putting the paints in this kind of drawer is that you have to take each bottle out to see what the color is. Under the parts bin are two filing cabinets than hold magazines and reference materials. The height of the cabinet plus the parts bin proves the correct height for me to work.

**My airbrush set up** is located to the left of my work bench. I made the spray booth out of a range hood (turned upside down) and I mounted a particle board counter. Note that I cut the back of the board and hinged it so the fan draws the fumes away from me and up the exhaust. I have the compressor mounted to the side of the storage cabinet (which is an old bathroom cabinet) while the airbrush is stored on the desk lamp. One problem with this arrangement is the holder cannot hold the airbrush with a paint cup attached if I had to delay spray painting something. The light and compressor are wired into the range hood.

**The cabinet below the airbrush** unit stores pictures, spray paints, decals, and plastic strips, etc. I opened up the top



*Joe's well-lit work bench is made from a door, mounted on top of storage bins and files cabinets at bar-stool height. Work surface is glass. Track-mounted fluorescent lighting can be left or right to light the airbrush area or workbench.*



*Joe's spray booth is made from a kitchen range hood turned upside down to pull dust and fumes down and away from the work. Cabinet below provides additional storage.*

part of the cabinet front by cutting the area above the cabinet doors and attaching them with hinges so it opens upward.

**To provide lighting** to both the work bench and airbrush area was problematic, so I bought a sliding door unit and mounted a four foot fluorescent light to it. Although you may not be able to see it, I can slide the lamp easily from

one end of the bench to the other. There is sufficient wiring for this movement.

In sum, this is my area, which I'm always trying to find ways to make more efficient. One disadvantage of it being in the basement is dust. Perhaps one day it may be relocated to the first floor. I hope you find some techniques in this review. ■

# Join IPMS/USA

**Why?** The International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA, of which Delaware Valley Scale Modelers is a chapter, finances the insurance required for our monthly meetings and for model contests around the country, and offers a make and take program for young modelers. Encourage the enjoyment of modeling in all its forms: aircraft, armor, cars, ships, fantasy, figures, military or civilian, beginner or advanced, join IPMS/USA! "By Modelers, For Modelers"

**What do I give?** Adult, 1 year: \$25. Adult, 2 years: \$49. Adult, 3 years: \$73. Junior (under 18 years), \$12. Family, 1 year: \$30 (adult + \$5).

**What do I get?** A membership card with your IPMS number that entitles you to enter the IPMS/USA National Contest, plus the magazine, IPMS/USA Journal, six issues per year, featuring great models and building techniques, kit and book reviews, and activities, plus access to members-only content on ipmusa.org.

**How?** Clip and mail the coupon in the DVSM Newsletter or the IPMS/USA brochure, see our IPMS contact, Joe Vattilana, at the next DVSM meeting, or join online at ipmsusa.org. ■



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