

**YEARS END  
2006**



## **Another Year has almost past.**

**By Scott McTavish**

Well the year will probably be over by the time many of you read the newsletter. So how well did you do this year for getting those projects completed? How many did you finish? I see a few people have already started their tally's over on the club discussion page. For myself I guess this was another productive year. I managed to maintain my average of 1 per

Month, although that certainly happened in spurts. There was a couple months of inactivity as "life" got in the way for a while. As some what of a dedicated aircraft modeler, I found myself tempted by the dark side many times this year. Yes I built a Tank! And while I hate to admit it, I kind of liked it and didn't need to hide any thing with a tarp. Sad thing is, now I have a stack of the latest Dragon releases next to my couch at home. Damn they sure mold up some nice tanks.

Also along the dark side route I completed a couple "pre-painted snap kits". Yeah, yeah we all know those things are meant for the amateurs but it was a good way to take a break from between the detailed projects. Revell Germany has a newer line of Star Wars kits that literally you snip, click, and display.

Now I certainly don't want it to sound like this was a year of easy kits. Nope I managed to add in several major detailing and painting projects along the way. This was partly due to a nice shiny purchase this spring. Yup I had finally worn out my first airbrush! So a replacement Badger 150 was ordered, and heck while I was at it why not add an Iwata HP-CH and a bunch of tips? Well when it arrived I had to test it out, and why not do some spots along the side of say a 109 or 190. Or better yet do 'em both.

And to finish the year off I have wrapped up my F-15 Aggressor. Had to make that field trip to Nellis just to check out some of the smaller details.

Though the year may be over, some prime building time is ahead of us now that winter has settled into Alberta. I hope that this year has been successful and that you find the time to complete those masterpieces in preparation for our 13th annual model contest in May.

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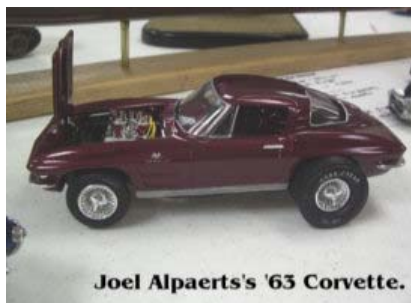
## The Need For Speed!

For the past few years the club has held a contest each December as part of our Christmas meeting. This new tradition was continued in 2006, with the theme of the contest being *"The Need For Speed!"* By way of review, the idea was that each model entered had to somehow be described as fast, whether it had a high speed, was quick into production, was a quick build, whatever, so long as it was fast. And there was an award, in this case a gift certificate from Small Soldier, and of course the coveted Chairman's Cup. The field of entrants this year was very diverse, covering aircraft, armour, autos, ships, and science-fiction. This diversity, plus the usual high quality of the builds, made judging a challenge. Nonetheless, a winner had to be chosen, but first let's look at what else was on the table.

Joel Alpaerts had three models entered this year, all cars, and all Corvettes. Joel used 2 AMT offerings to build a 1957 Pro Stock Vet and a 1963 Corvette street racer, while his 1980 Corvette funny car was made from the Revell kit. All cars featured ignition wiring, additional scratch built details, and some very nice gloss paint.



Joel Alpaerts's '57 Corvette Pro Stock.



Joel Alpaerts's '63 Corvette.



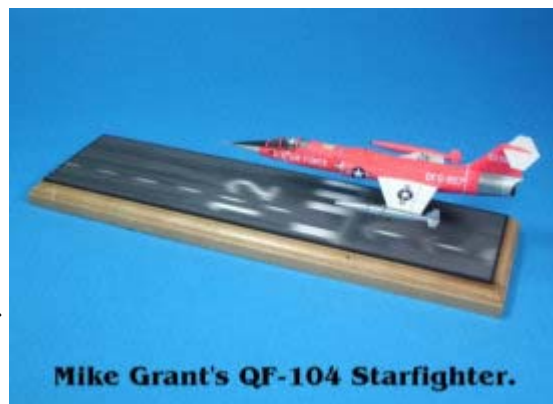
Joel Alpaerts's  
Corvette Funny Car.



Derwin Emro's MiG-21.

Derwin Emro had an Academy 1/48 MiG-21 out this day. His aircraft, dressed in East German markings, was detailed with a Verlinden cockpit and Bergemot decals. As with his other builds, Derwin free-handed the paint scheme, and what job he did.

Mike Grant entered a 1/72 AMT/Esca QF-104 Starfighter. Mike added a pilot figure and Greif lens to an otherwise out of the box build, though he says a lot of filling and sanding were required to depict the aircraft with its gear up. To emphasize the speed of this plane, he mounted it over a runway which was quickly disappearing under the plane's nose. And all of this was done in just 3 weeks.



Mike Grant's QF-104 Starfighter.

Did Flinder Lo have one or two kits out this day? Revell has recently re-released some of their classic kits, and Flinder built a fine looking example of a very fast airplane. Revell's 1/144 scale Boeing SST is shown in both the landing and in-flight mode, and is finished in what would have been launch customer Pan Am's markings.



**Flinder Lo's Boeing SST duo.**

Scott McTavish had 2 models on the competition table. His 1/48 scale Hasegawa F-15 was detailed with a True Details seat, and was then finished in an aggressor paint scheme. This particular aircraft is used to simulate the SU-27 series of fighter. His other more earthbound entry was a Panther G. Scott built this Dragon kit straight out of the box using Mig pigments and MM paints to finish it.



**Scott McTavish's F-15 Aggressor**

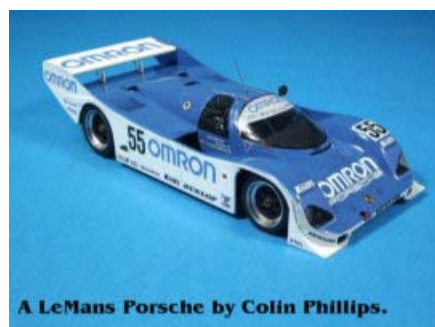


**Scott McTavish's Panther G.**

Colin Phillips came to the club with 3 models to enter in our little contest, each one different from the other. What's a speed contest without a race car, and Colin's Porsche definitely fits the bill. This is the Hasegawa kit, and it took several attempts at colour matching to get the right shade of blue, though it's pretty clear that it was a success. Of course rockets are fast, and Colin's SA-2 looks the part. This model was made from the Trumpeter kit, while his third model would be keeping eye on this SAM. Colin's 1/48 scale Hasegawa F-104 was built straight out of the box and finished in the markings of the German Marineflieger. It even looks fast sitting still.



**Colin Phillips's SA-2 SAM**



**A LeMans Porsche by Colin Phillips.**



**Colin Phillips's F-104G Starfighter.**

Chris Rees enjoys building Gundam figures, and this day he showed up yet another one in hand. He built Bandai's Norasame straight out of the box, saying that it is the fastest actual MS. Not only is it fast, but looks to be packing some serious heat as well.



**Chris Rees's Norasame.**



Father Rees, Gavin, brought the largest aircraft on display. His XB-70 was so big that we had to set up another table for it. Gavin finished this 1/72 scale AMT kit in a hypothetical modern paint scheme, depicting a high



**Gavin Rees's B-70 "Interceptor".**

speed, high altitude interceptor.

**Massimo Santarossa's Petty Charger.**



Massimo Santarossa brought out a speedy entry in the form of a Polar Lights 1974 Richard Petty Dodge Charger. This race car was built out of the box, though he says it was not a simple build. The fit of some of the parts was rather poor and the two tone paint job made for an interesting painting challenge.



**George Spelitz's SU-24MR.**

George Spelitz's entry was a very colourful one. His 1/72 scale Dragon SU-24MR was build mostly out of the box, with the only addition being two resin seats. This Russian built fighter caught the eye of more than one modeler this day.

**Mike Tanguay's Panther A.**



You'd think a tank couldn't be fast, but Michael Tanguay would disagree. His Italeri Panther Ausf. A had many after market additions and scratch build items. Not only did he add tool clamps, fenders, a gun cleaning tube, grills, and cables, but he then weathered it with real mud. Oh, and why is fast? Because it could out run its competition on the Eastern Front.



**Allan Yeats's USS Seawolf.**

Allan Yeats's model was not only fast, but it was the largest model in the competition. His 1/144 scale Trumpeter USS Seawolf SSN was built straight out of the box. Allan then used some brass supports to mount it to a wooden base.

But in the end only one model could be chosen as a winner from this crowd of fine kits. The winner of the

But in the end only one model could be chosen as a winner from this crowd of fine kits. The winner of the *“Need For Speed”* contest was Peter Gilding’s Bell X-1. In a mere three weeks, Peter build this 1/48 scale kit from Eduard. To dress it up somewhat, he used Eduard seat belts, Eagle Strike decals, and replaced the kit pitot tubes. If you look inside, you’ll even see a short length of broom handle. Well done Peter!



And so went the *“Need For Speed”* contest. The level of workmanship in our club has been steadily improving over the years, giving all of us a new standard to aim for. Next year’s build theme hasn’t been announced yet, but one thing is for sure. The models that are going to show on that December day are going to fantastic builds, and I do not envy the person who will be doing the judging.

## Product Review: Sky Models Magazine

By: Trevor McTavish

Last month I purchased a new modeling magazine and thought I’d share some of my thoughts with my fellow RMMCCers.

First the glossy, colourful cover caught my eye and the quality of the photos and use of full-colour continued to impress as I read through the rest of the book. The articles in this issue included a write up on a Hasegawa RAF Phantom, a Trumpeter F4U Corsair and a Hasegawa Bf109G accompanied by a biography of German ace Hans-Joachim Marseille. All were informative and featured impressively built models.

I was impressed when I read the Corsair article, as the author not only talks about where the kit fails, but gives a detailed explanation of how he fixed the problems. Coupled with the photographs and I finished the article thinking, “Hey, I could do that.” It impressed me that the author described how he scratch built certain parts rather than just plugging an aftermarket set into place.

Despite the photos and informative articles this publication does have its shortcomings. Being fluent in English it’s easy to catch typographic errors, especially when the writer isn’t as fluent. Well Sky Models is published in Italy so there are errors. They’re not too distracting but I did find myself catching them when the wrong words were used, or a certain phrase didn’t hold the same meaning. It’s a minor problem and hopefully they’ll employ an english proofreader in the future. The other shortcoming is the list of new products. It’s the curse of being a print media in an era of instant electronic updates. What’s new in print has been on our shelves for months. However some of the aftermarket sets they featured caught my attention and drew me to find out more about their product lines.

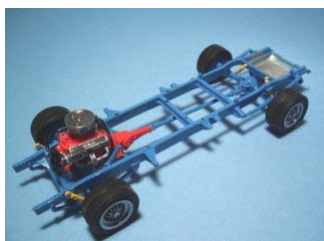
At \$13 per issue these magazines are probably too expensive for a traditional subscription. The quality is there and although the broken English will require the reader to interpret the author’s thoughts it’s not enough to flat-out condemn this publication. If you see an article that catches your attention I recommend you pick it up. I’ll be looking for the next issue, where the Corsair receives its worn South-Pacific paint scheme.



## My PPG Build: By Massimo Santarossa

Earlier this year we had little club competition that we called the *PPG Build*. The idea was that all the members that competed would be given the same model kit to build with the only restriction being they would not be allowed to purchase anything after market for it, the only exceptions being paint, putty and glue. Any kind of additional detailing would have to be done with what each modeler had available from the spares box or what could be scratch built. In the end, we gave out two model kits from AMT/Ertl, a 1932 Ford Coupe and a 1957 Chevy Pickup, and it was the latter that I received.

This was a no holds barred build, and in fact everyone was encouraged to think out of the box (so to speak) and come up with interesting variations on these models. As we all know now, we got some very unique models out of this contest. For my part, I too wanted to jazz up my truck, but I decided to go with a customized look as opposed to the hot rod look. This would necessitate some modifying of the kit, but more importantly it meant that the paint would have to look good.



I built the kit pretty much out of the box, substituting various kit pieces with what had stashed away in my hobby room. The chassis and engine were built up as per the instructions with addition of some spark plug wiring on the latter. In the cab, I replaced the kit's bench seat with a set of bucket seats from an Iveco truck. These seats were further detailed by mounting their head rests in a raised position and closing off their open back sides. I the used chrome Bare Metal Foil to pick out some of the details on the dash.

The only true scratch building I did was when I replaced the kit's tail gate. For this I used the kit part and then re-skinned it with some plastic card to make a smooth tail gate. Some of the other exterior modifications were the replacement of the kit tires and hubs with a set from a '72 Chevy, and the exclusion of a lot of the chrome pieces. As I said above, I was going for a custom look, so I went with very little chrome and I removed all of the Chevy logos.



I felt that the ultimately the finish of this model would be the most important element in achieving the look I was after. The first thing I did was to strip the chrome from the kit parts and repaint them all using Alclad chrome. Other smaller chrome details, such as the window frames and box rails, were picked out with Bare Metal Foil. I used three different shades of Model Master blue on this truck to set off the chassis, interior and exterior from each other. Over a primer coat of silver, I applied the final metallic blue used for the body. This was applied in layers, each one being heavily thinned with lacquer thinner. My thinking at the time was that the lacquer would help "melt" the paint and thus produce a smooth, glossy finish. I lightly sanded between each coat of paint with 3600 grit, and in the end sanded and polished the paint using Novus Plastic Polish to achieve a gloss finish.



With the body painted and the chassis built up I mated the two together. Now that the engine was secure in its compartment, I added some additional plumbing in the form of heater and radiator hoses, some brake lines, and battery cables. Some of the last little details, such as signal lights I painted with Tamiya Clear Orange, were added and the model was done. I make no claim to be an expert when it comes to building car models (actually I make no claim to being an expert on anything), but I think I did pretty fair job of this one. It didn't stand a chance in the contest against a car armed with a 30mm canon, but still it was a fairly good build.

