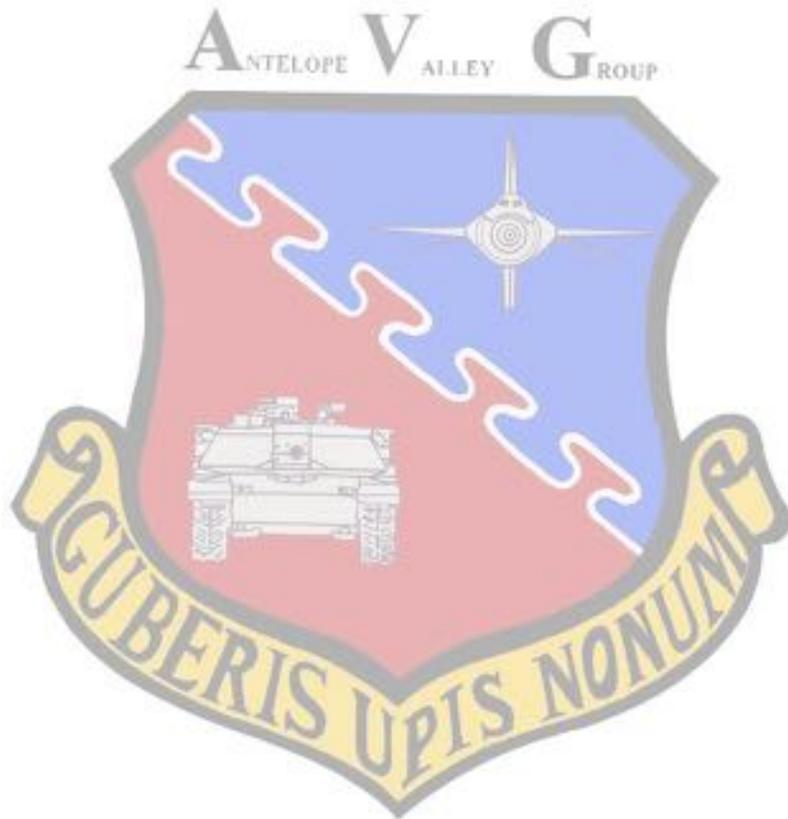


# The Smoking Hole

A Publication of the Antelope Valley Group IPMS

**Volume 27, Number 2**



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## Club News and Business

FEBRUARY PHYSICAL MEETING 1:00 - 4:00 pm FEBRUARY 19, AT ADMINISTRATIVE AMATURE MATT'S HOUSE, PALMDALE (address will be in an e-mail).

### January Meeting General Meeting Notes:

We had another good meeting at Prez Bill's house. Bit of discussion on a permanent meeting location and the Desert Classic date, plus the usual show-and-tell

### Latest Club Status

Getting closer on a permanent meeting place. Couple of options are Desert Christian and St. Serra in West Palmdale. Perhaps, with luck, we will have our new location for next month's meeting

### February Meeting

Meanwhile, we're still playing 'musical meeting place'. Jay and Bill have been kind enough to host our last 2 meetings, and now it's my turn. Meeting will be at my West Palmdale residence (not far from Bill and Jay's) We'll have our 2<sup>nd</sup> postponed in-house contest, "Here Kitty, Kitty". Hope to see you all!

### "Here Kitty, Kitty" In-house Contest

Better late than never, right? Yes it's finally time for our 2<sup>nd</sup> long postponed in-house contest, "Here Kitty, Kitty". Here's da rules (in case you've forgotten – I have...): Build something with a cat theme. Something with a cat name (a Grumman Panther, a Mercury Cougar, the USS Tigerfish, etc.), or something with cat markings (a Tiger Meet jet, or the Korean War M48 with the cat head markings come to mind).

### 2022 Desert Classic

After a 2-year hiatus, we're hoping the pandemic will have eased to the point that we can once again hold our annual contest. We've settled on 29 October, which de-conflicts us with Fresno the week before and Phoenix the following week. Venue is unknown at this point, could be the college again, perhaps somewhere else.

### January Physical Meeting

New Prez Bill hosted the meeting at his lovely home in West Palmdale. Got to see Bill's modeling area and his great collection of aviation items. Had about 8 members in attendance and there were some great builds displayed:

Rich R. had several of his space builds, several of which we haven't seen in person since COVID.



The impressive Glencoe Jupiter C



A real oldie: the Hawk Explorer



RealSpace Mercury Little Joe



The Von Braun "Rocket Retriever". This is the Glencoe re-pop

Mike S. always has cool builds:



This is Mike's 1/35<sup>th</sup> Tamiya T-55A in Ethiopian colors. It took Mike 30 hours to construct and he used aftermarket Takom tracks and Star decals. Paint is Vallejo and Tamiya, and he weathered the tank with Mig Ammo products and Pan pastels. He had to widen the rear drive sprocket to fit the Takom tracks., and he says his research showed that Ethiopian T-55's tend to have fewer stowage boxes.



Here's a fun one! Mike built the 1/35<sup>th</sup> Tamiya T-72 as the Tamerline Corporation tank from the 2008 John Cusack/Marisa Tomei satire, "War, Inc.". He spent 45 hours (half of that in research). He sourced the fragmentation shield from the Zvezda T-72B, and the advertising signs are made from cardstock and printer paper. Paint is Vallejo and Tamiya, weathered with Mig Ammo and Pan pastels. Mike says: "War, Inc.' was filmed in Bulgaria, so I researched as much as I could on Bulgarian T-72's. The movie only shows the tank in 4 short scenes, and never from the left side. Brand images, "Popeye's", "Golden Palace" and "Nakheel Mall" were found online. The rest were made using different fonts to match the movie." An interesting note: Mike's sister is an architect who helped design Dubai's Nakheel Mall. It's located on an artificial palm-tree shaped island.

Niilo had his build of the 1/72 Revell F-4E



It took Niilo 60 hours over about a month to build. He didn't use any aftermarket and paints are Testors and Tamiya, with black and red Sharpie for detail. Niilo writes: " The F-4E is known as the "Gunfighter" version of the F-4 series because a 20mm M-61 cannon, capable of 6,000 shots-per-minute, is mounted under the nose as requested by Phantom pilots for a close-in weapon.

The F-4E has an updated version of the J-79 with the -19 rating, which provided more thrust. An improved APQ-120 radar was also installed. The F-4E has been purchased by air forces around the world, including Japan, Israel, Iran, Turkey and Greece.

This kit is the 1976 version and produced a lot of attention to be required because of its age. Sprues were brittle and pieces required sanding to insure a better fit. Decals were terrible and split on application. The build was challenging, but was fun even with all the issues that were encountered. Don not buy this kit of you don't have a lot of patients.

Veep Rowdy had more of his exquisitely painted miniatures



I really like this interpretation of the "Nautilus"

**2022 Meeting Schedule (Tentative)**

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
15 Jan	Physical meeting at Prez Bill K's house, Palmdale 1 – pm			
19 Feb	Physical meeting at Admin Amateur Matt's house, Palmdale 1 – 4 pm			
19 Mar				
16 Apr				
21 May				
18 June				
16 July				
20 Aug				
17 Sept				
15 Oct				
29 Oct	2022 Desert Classic			
19 Nov	2023 Club Officer Nominations			
17 Dec	2023 Club Officer Elections, Gift Exchange			

**The Tool Crib**

Nothing new this month. Will have something interesting next month

## Kit Reviews

*Trumpeter 1/35<sup>th</sup> 3M24 Club-K in 20-foot container with Kh-35UE*

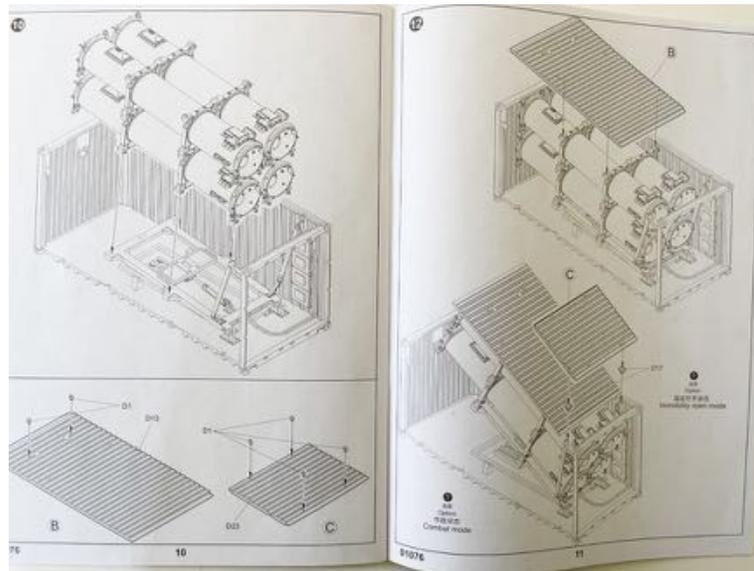
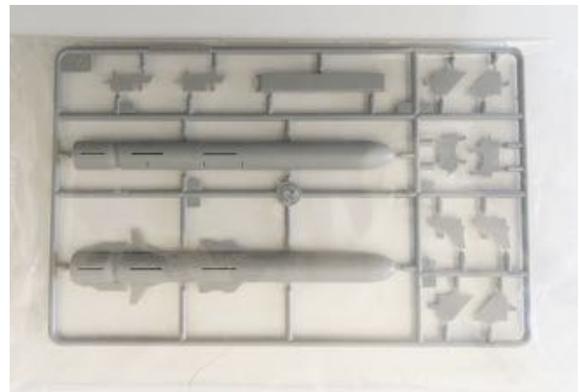
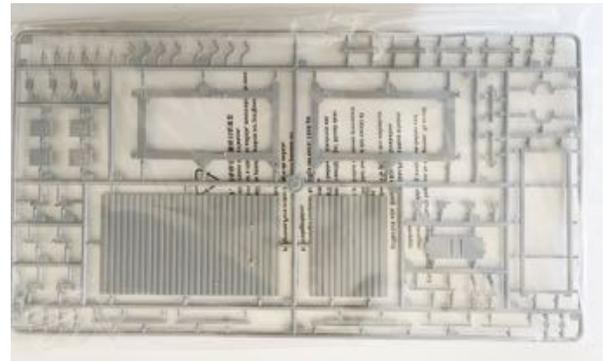


Miriam Webster defines “Asymmetric Warfare” as: “warfare that is between opposing forces which differ greatly in military power and that typically involves the use of unconventional weapons and tactics”

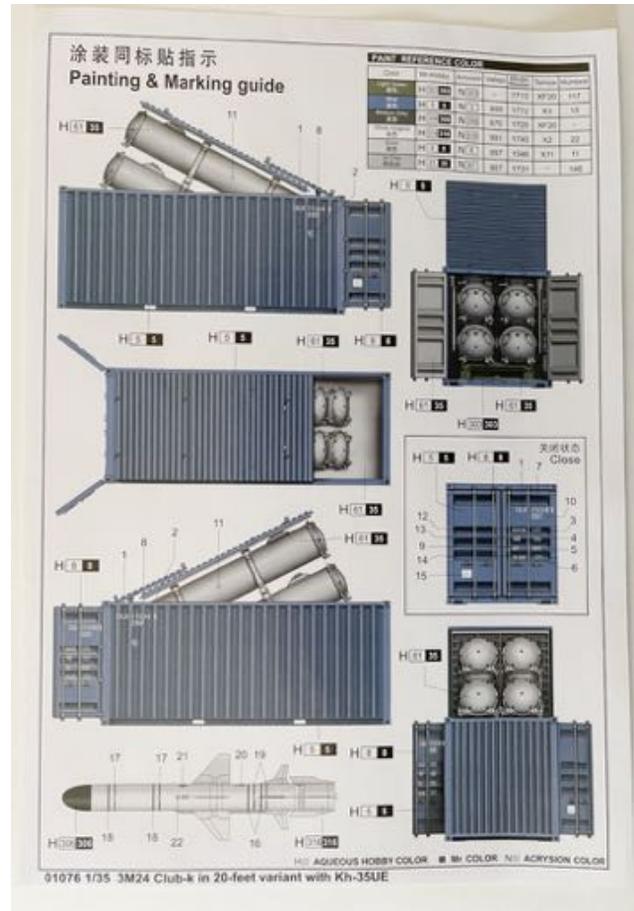
Asymmetric warfare has been around since the beginning of time (think David and Goliath). More recent examples are the American Revolutionaries, the French Resistance, the Viet Cong and insurgencies in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. But a major component of asymmetric warfare is unconventional weaponry. You might think of the ‘technicals’ (commercial trucks or pick-ups fitted with all sorts of re-purposed artillery) of the Middle East and Africa or IED’s (Improvised Explosive Devices), or, recently, hobbyist drones carrying explosives. But another type of asymmetric weapon is the clandestine or disguised weapon – one that is not what it first appears to be. Several countries have developed “containerized” missile systems. An entire missile launching system is concealed in a standard ISO shipping container. Appearing to be a standard container, it can be hidden among regular containers in a shipping yard or on a ship or placed on a rail car or truck. It would be very difficult to detect and target such a weapon.

Russia has developed the “Club-K” series of containerized anti-ship missile systems. Such a system could, for example, be concealed on a container ship near a naval port and attack capital naval vessels entering or leaving port. One system, housed in a 40-ft container, employs 4 3M54 Kaliber cruise missiles. The Kaliber is a turbojet powered winged cruise missile, very similar to a Tomahawk. The newer 3M24 uses a 20-ft container and has 4 of the more advanced Kh-35UE missile. The Kh-35UE has a turbofan engine and terminal homing guidance and is similar to an Exocet or SLAM missile. The Russians are not known to use these containerized missiles, but some have been exported, mostly to Asia

The Yatai Electric Appliance Co., Ltd (better known as Trumpeter and Hobby Boss to us modelers) has recently released kits of both the 3M54 and 3M24 versions of the Club-K. Unlike their aircraft kits (which I approach with caution) I really like “Trumpy-Boss” armor kits. They are usually well-engineered, fit well, don’t have an excessive number of parts, and mostly don’t suffer from the major gaffes of their aircraft kits. Plus they produce some very unusual subjects, including many surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missile systems, which are some of my favorite armor subjects. This kit is odd-ball enough I had to get one.



The kit consists of 220 light gray parts, with a small sheet of photo-etch and some thin vinyl tubing for wiring. Two of the sprues are shared with Trumpeter's standard 20-ft container kit, but there are 5 new sprues with parts for the missile system. Some of the molding is quite impressive – the missile tubes are one-piece cylinders with no seam. A single KH-35UE missile is included to display with the container. I suppose it could also be mounted in one of the tubes (which have separate hatches, but it would be a shame to hide it). The model can be built closed up in transport mode or with everything deployed for “combat” mode.

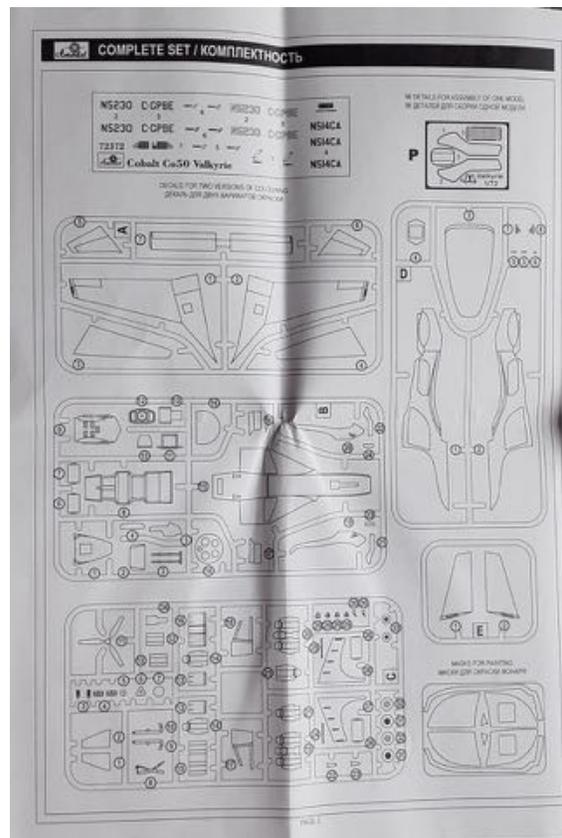


The small photo-etch sheet has some handles for the missile tubes and some hinge retainers. The small decal sheet consists mostly of markings for the missile, with some general container markings. There is only one color scheme, the blue display unit from the Russian Army Expo military equipment show (I have also seen photos of a maroon-painted display unit). It would be fun to paint one up as a ‘stealth’ unit in commercial container markings. There are 1/32 – 1/35<sup>th</sup> shipping company container decals available, and I plan to do that with my kit

Unfortunately Trumpeter kits have been going up in price and this kit is no exception. Retail is \$70, but it can be had for much less if you search around (I got mine for around \$40 on sale from Sprue Brothers). It looks like a fun, quick build without a ton of parts of an unusual subject.

Amodel 1/72 Cobalt Co50 Valkyrie

John S. has an in-box preview of a really unusual light aircraft, the Cobalt Valkyrie



**Cobalt Co50 Valkyrie**

Manufacturer: Amodel

Scale: 1/72

Kit #: 72372

Price: \$35.00

Decals: Two options

Reviewer: John Summerford

Notes:

**History**

Courtesy of Wikipedia

The Cobalt Co50 Valkyrie is a single-engine, four to five-seat homebuilt aircraft, arranged in a canard, pusher configuration. A light aircraft intended for private ownership, it was initially developed by Cobalt Aircraft of San Francisco, California, but the company ceased operations in July 2018 and the design is now being developed by the Centauri Aircraft Company.

The composite design incorporates retractable landing gear, a pusher engine configuration, a canard, twin vertical stabilizers and automatic airbrakes. A ballistic parachute is provided as an option. Kit production is planned to be carried out in the United States.

As of 2020, two airframes have been certified.

At a quick glance, the Valkyrie looks like an upsized Rutan VariEze with similar wing planform and canard. Wingspan of Valkyrie is 30 ft (9.1 m) versus the VariEze's 22 ft 2.5 in (6.77 m).

Seating capacity is five versus two respectively. I'm not sure, but I think the middle passenger will be squeezed by his seatmates.

**The Kit**

A photo of Valkyrie parked on the tarmac and insert photos providing different views adorns the box lid. A yellow triangle in the lower left corner proclaims "Only 500pcs". I thought that was referring to a jigsaw puzzle, but it has been suggested to me that it means that Amodel produced 500 copies. The instructions note that kit is based on "short-run technology and only for experienced modelers"

Indeed, the four gray sprues look similar in style to those of a Dora Wings kit. Some flash is present and detail is suitable for the scale. Interestingly, the fuselage halves are clear and the canopy is a separate piece. It's hard to see, but there are two windows on each side aft of the canopy for the rear seat occupants. A small fret of photo-etch, vinyl masks, and decals complete the kit. Total parts count is 96, including a six-piece boarding ladder.

Assembly starts with the cockpit and it, plus a rear bulkhead is trapped in the fuselage halves in step 4. The next six steps build the wings and mating them to the fuselage. Landing gear and prop sub-assemblies follow. In step 14, the instructions do not call attention to a choice that has to be made. If one wishes to pose the canopy closed, the coming piece B1 should be glued in place as shown. Step 15 adds the underside bits, followed by step 16 that calls for adding the fins and closed canopy. The next four steps illustrate how to install the canopy open, again without highlighting this as an option.

A closed canopy would make painting much easier because masking an exposed cockpit is a challenge. Two options for paint schemes are printed on a separate sheet. Option one is a trendy gloss black plane with white lettering and option two is aluminum paint with black lettering. Or,

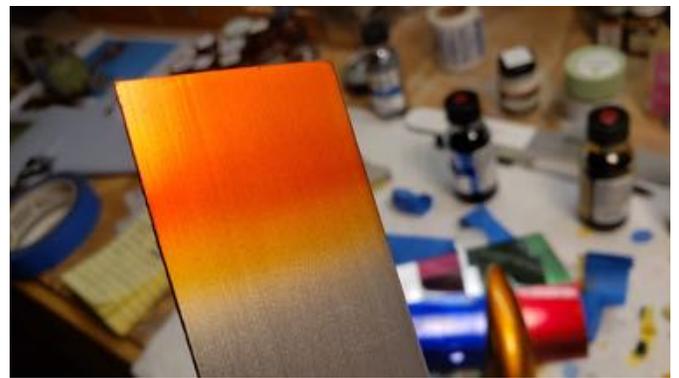
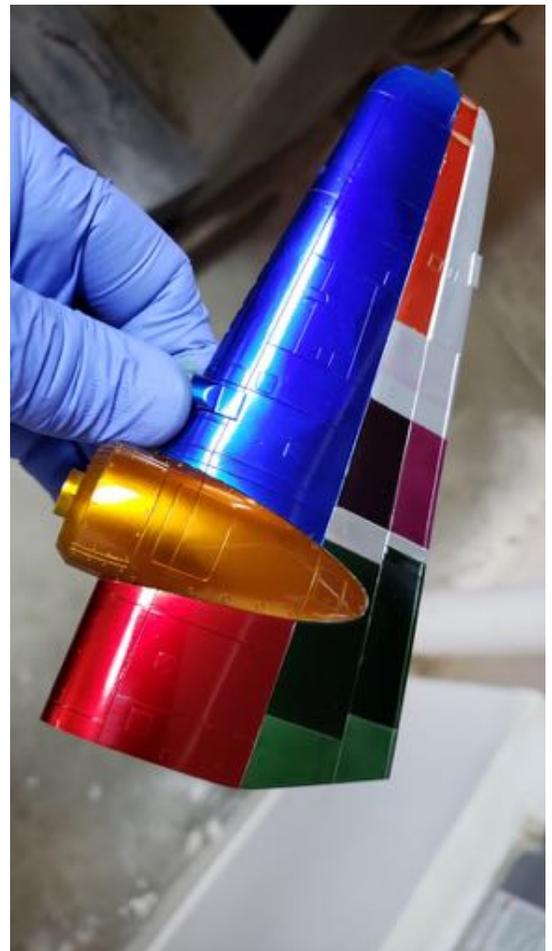
one could think of this as a blank canvas and do a “Luft 2022” and let one’s imagination run wild.

**Conclusion**

The parts layout looks sensible and the build sequence is conventional, so this looks like a good short run kit that will probably take patience to assemble and should result in an interesting model.

**Club Demos**

Prez Bill did some experimenting with Alclad candy colors paint:



While waiting for putty to cure on my Mosquito build, I decided to explore the behavior of some Alclad transparent candy colors I'd purchased at Burbank Hobbies a while back. I think I'm a closet car builder wannabe because when these paints caught my eye, I thought they would be great for a hot rod model. I purchased basic red, blue, and yellow because you can make most any other color from these three, but there are twelve colors available. I also grabbed a bottle of Alclad's "Bright Silver Candy Base". All are lacquers, of course.

The only sizeable piece of bare plastic I had to experiment with was a Tamiya 1/48<sup>th</sup> Beaufighter wing. I acquired that kit years ago, but could never get motivated to build it, mostly because it just isn't an attractive airplane (IMO), so it's been a paint mule ever since. I love Alclad because it's ready to go right out of the bottle, easy to apply, and dries fast, but I wasn't going to be particular in this case, so I skipped the black base and just sprayed the silver onto the plastic. I then began to spray the colors, starting with red, then blue, then yellow, then I tried mixing some colors to make green, orange, and purple. When you first apply the colors over the silver, they are lighter than the final shade, but you have to keep going to achieve even coverage and enough color to yield a gloss finish. The end product can be rather dark, but to lighten the purple and green panels I just added some Testors Gloss Coat clear and more lacquer thinner. It worked quite well, I think.

I began to imagine some of the unintended uses for these transparent colors, so I sprayed some of the yellow over a fuselage painted light gray. The result was a dirt color (weathering?). I sprayed some of the green over a brown and tan camo pattern from a previous experiment, also with interesting results. I even sprayed orange over a scrap piece of real aluminum. It stuck like glue. Try as you might, you cannot rub it off, but use a rag with lacquer thinner and it's gone.

These colors can be sprayed in a fine pattern, with lots of control, easily building up layers. They do not run, and when dry, they are mask proof. They are also very tough and can be polished with NOVUS, or probably whatever you have to eliminate any orange peel that may be present. You can really bear down on it without affecting the color shade, but if you spray carefully (and I wasn't that careful) you will be rewarded with a high gloss surface right from the gun.

I love this stuff, and hope I get around to building a car where the colors should look fantastic. I believe there are also a lot of unintended uses for these transparent paints, like weathering, shadows, who knows. Ideas will probably start coming to you once you start using them. Hope you enjoy the pictures. Color is cool. Enjoy.

## Member Show and Tell, 25<sup>th</sup> COVID Edition

John S. is as prolific as usual, with a couple new builds. First is the Amodel Cobalt Co50 Valkyrie he previewed in the Reviews section:



John says: Here's my recently completed AModel kit of the Cobalt Valkyrie in 72nd scale.

Cobalt was a bay area company that was bought out by the Centauri Aircraft Company. The Valkyrie is a four to five-seat homebuilt aircraft. As of 2020, two airframes have been certified.

The kit is definitely a short-run affair with lots of test fitting and filling/sanding required. I spent somewhere around 17 hours on it.

John also finished the 1/48<sup>th</sup> Dora Wings Lockheed Vega "Winnie Mae"



John writes: This is one of my bucket-list builds. The Dora Wings 48th scale kit is not accurate to the real Winnie Mae, The kit has five windows on each side, when there should be one in the door and another under the right wing. I spent a fair amount of time filling and sanding around the kit windows. The light blue scallops on the cowl and spats had to be painted on before the trim decals.. I glued a copy of the decal sheet onto some frisket paper to create the masks. I simulated the fuselage stripes with 1mm tape to identify where the scallops fall on the cowl. This was the most challenging kit from

Dora Wings that I've built. Even though I skipped a lot of the interior, I spent nearly 40 hours on this project.

Stephen has finished a 1/48<sup>th</sup> F-117. This is the well-known Tamiya kit.



“Just finished this for a friend. His wife recently retired. She worked in LO shops for most of the aerospace companies out there. The F-117 is the only airplane she worked on that she didn't have a model of.

Tamiya F-117, went together pretty well. I mounted the stand in the panel that would blow out for the tail hook if needed. Hataka Orange line lacquer and MiG ultra matt clear. The decals sucked. The GBU-12 is from the spares bin.”

Mike O. has another of his weathering masterpieces, this time a Moebius 1965 Ford pick-up, built as a farm truck:



Jim P. has been having fun building the re-issues of the old Aurora monster kits. He did "Frankie", and recently finished this Wolfman. Man, he looks the way I feel when I can't telework and they make me go into work...



## Calendar

3/26/2022	Silicon Valley Classic VII	Napredak Hall Inc. 770 Montague Expy San Jose, CA
6/25/2022	SilverCon 2022	Town and Country Lutheran Church 4049 Marconi Ave. Sacramento, CA
7/20-23/2022	IPMS/USA National Convention	La Vista Conference Center 12520 Wesport Parkway La Vista, NE
10/8/2022	IPMS Reno "High Rollers" 21 <sup>st</sup> Invitational Contest	Reno Elk's Lodge #597 597 Kumle Ln Reno, NV
10/1/2022	OrangeCon	TBD
10/22/2022	Fresno Scale Modelers Fall Contest	TBD