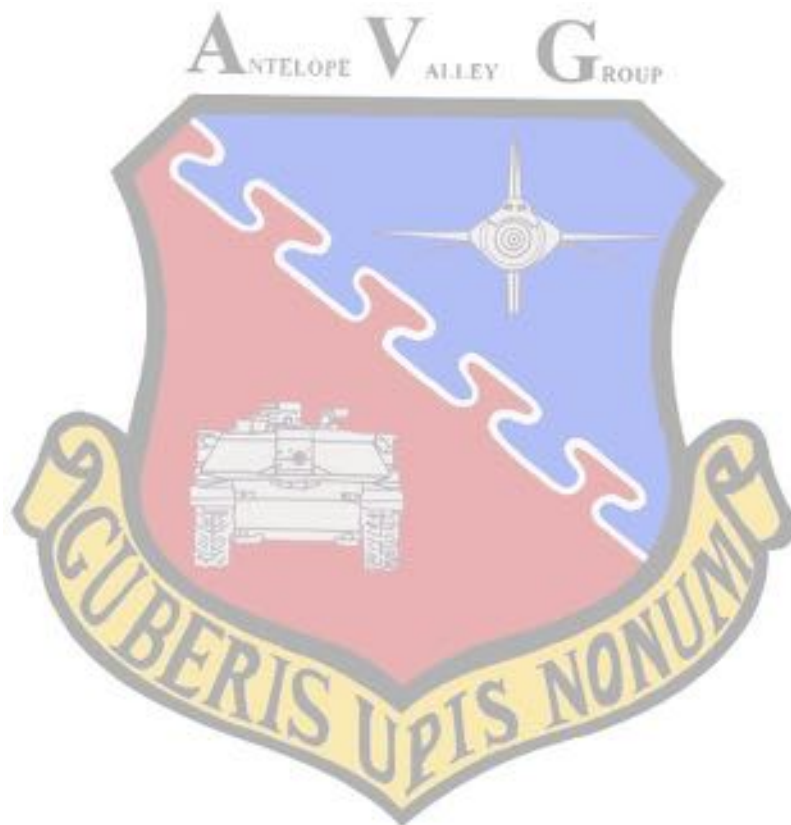


# The Smoking Hole

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**Volume 28, Number 2**



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## **Club News and Business**

**FEBRUARY MEETING 1:00 - 4:00 pm FEBRUARY 18, AT DESERT  
CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL, LANCASTER**

### January Meeting General Meeting Notes:

The January meeting was mostly devoted to starting the planning for club activity the new year and begin the contest planning.

### February Meeting

We're back to our regular meeting date this month

We have more contest planning to do. I will present the recommendations from the contest lessons learned, and we need to decide on categories. As we are hosting the Regional, we will up the number of categories to 45. Jim passed out the category list from our last regional. Hopefully, everyone has had a chance to review the handout and will be prepared to discuss.

Finally, Jay announced he will not be able to support the June meeting at the school, so we will need to decide how handle the June meeting.

### Dues Reminder

Just a reminder if you didn't pay last month, please try to this month. Still \$36 for the year. Nillo will accept cash or check.

### 2023 In-house Contests

We will have our usual complement of in-house contests for 2023. Subjects are:

"Navy Blue" (March meeting). Any Navy subject or any item painted blue. Note, the Navy subject MUST be blue (no gray)

"Hollywood" (July meeting). Build a subject from movie or TV.

"Honoring David Newman" (October meeting). Build something in David's favorite scale, 1/144th or a kit produced by David (Muroc Models or Newman R&D)

### January Meeting

January is the time to begin the business of the new year. We started contest planning. First discussion was on a contest theme. We decided on "Lights, Camera, Action" – anything with a movie theme We began discussion of categories. Jim A. handed out a copy of our last Regional flyer and we started to discuss the slate of categories. No final decisions were made and the membership was requested to review the flyer and be prepared to finalize the categories at the next meeting.

As Jay is the only one with access to the school, we discussed backup plans if Jay is not able to support on short notice. Due to difficulties obtaining a substitute venue in a short time frame, we decided we would just delay our regular meeting by one week (from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday to the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday).

A number of members brought models to display.

Luis brought his 1/48<sup>th</sup> Tamiya F4U-1D Corsair



The only aftermarket Luis used was Eduard seatbelts. Excellent build of a very nice kit.

Mike O. had a 1/24<sup>th</sup> Revell Jaguar XKE roadster. This is a new tool from Revell Germany



Mike wired the engine and used adhesive felt to represent the carpet.

Stephen had 2 models, a 1/48<sup>th</sup> Tamiya Fw-190D-9 and a 1/48<sup>th</sup> Italeri A-20G Havoc.



For the Fw-190, Stephen used Quinta 3-D decals for the cockpit and Aeromaster decals. Paint is Hataka Orange Line. About the build, he says: "Kit went together well. I really like using the 3D printed cockpit decals. It was looking food until I used MIG Ultra Matt varnish. Some of the decals didn't look very good after."

The A-20 is an Italeri re-release of a kit originally produced by AMT. Stephen used quite a bit of aftermarket; engines, cowls and gun barrels from Quickboost, True Details wheels, a Yahu instrument panel and Kits World decals. Paint is Model Master and Hataka Orange Line. He comments: "Kit went together well. The landing gear is very fragile. I had to use Testors Window Maker for the side windows in the aft fuselage. The kit parts were too small for the openings. Purchased on 'The Graveyard' with all of the aftermarket stuff less the decals."

Bob V. showed his HO-scale (1/87<sup>th</sup>) 1950 Dodge Circus Sound Truck.



This model is entirely scratchbuilt and was amazing. Bob told us there is actually a society that specialize in building circus miniatures.

Bob D. brought an spectacular dio of an arc-welding scene complete with light and sound



Bob's detailed write-up is later in the newsletter



Niilo brought another Jurassic classic, a 1/72<sup>nd</sup> MPC Northrop P-61 Black Widow. MPC used to re-box Airfix kits, and this kit is indeed an Airfix kit.



Niilo invested 60 hours over 4 months for construction, and he says it's still not done, as it needs decals. He painted the model with Testors and Tamiya paints, and the only aftermarket is red pinstripe tape. Niilo tells us: The Black Widow was the first U.S. aircraft to be designed as a night fighter and was the standard front-line night fighter in all campaigns by the end of WW II. It was heavily-armed with 4 0.50 turret-mounted machine guns and 4 20mm fuselage-mounted cannons. It was powered by 2 two-stage, two-speed mechanical supercharge Pratt & Whitney R-2800-25 double wasp engines. It carried a crew of 3, a radar operator in the aft cabin, the gunner seated behind the pilot in the forward cabin. Both the radar operator and the gunner could operate the turret guns using the General Electric GE2CFR12A3 gyroscopic fire control computer and the aiming control/gyroscopic collimator sight assemblies attached to their seats. The build was challenging because there were no instructions with the used kit purchased. It was truly a puzzle to assemble. Decals were old and presented numerous problems. The red pin stripes at eh wing/fuselage interface was used to cover up part gaps. Fun build even with the challenges. If you desire to build it, I would recommend getting the instructions on-line, if not provided, to minimize frustration

Robert displayed his 2 Academy 1/35<sup>th</sup> M3 Stuart tanks.



The first one he'd previously displayed and had been practicing perfecting his weathering techniques, while the second was a new-build with aftermarket metal gun barrels.

Mike S. had a couple to display, the 1/32 Pegasus T2 Aerial Hunter Killer (from *Terminator*) and a really fun take on Tom Daniel's "Rommel's Rod"



The Hunter Killer only took 2 hours to construct and Mike used no aftermarket. Paint is Rustoleum Aluminum, with washes of Citadel Acrylics. About the model, Mike says: "Before I rejoined IMPS (the AVG chapter), I didn't know about Sprue Brothers or Megahobby, so I got my models and supplies from Squadron and stores in Ridgecrest. I built this about 15 years ago. I also have the HK Tank."

Mike converted the Monogram "Rommel's Rod" to "Santa's ATV". He added model railroad and toy figures, Pegasus Hobbies front rims and antlers from a toy reindeer. Paint is Duplicolor automotive paint, Tamiya rattle-can, and AK Interactive Chrome, with Vallejo and Citadel paint for the figures and details. He also used Sakura 'Microline' permanent fine-line marker pens on the figures and box of coal. Mike tells us: "AK Chrome went on without primer. After prime coat, automotive paint (Ford Forrest Green) was sprayed on. After masking, the single coat of Tamiya Italian Red gave an unexpected shade of red I really liked, so I didn't mess with it."

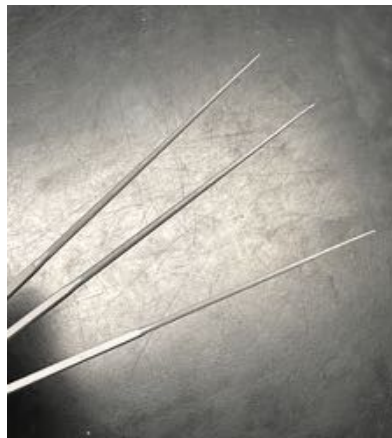


## 2023 Meeting Schedule

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
28 Jan	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
18 Feb	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm.			
18 Mar	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm.			
15 Apr	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
20 May	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm.			
TBD June	Meeting location TBD, 1 – 4pm.			
15 July	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
19 Aug	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm.			
16 Sept	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
21 Oct	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm			
28 October	Desert Classic XIV			
18 Nov	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm, 2024 Club Officer Nominations			
16 Dec	Meeting at Desert Christian High School, Lancaster, 1 – 4pm , 2024 Club Officer Elections, Gift Exchange			

## The Tool Crib

### *Escapement Files*



Jim A. showed some escapement files he recently purchased. Also known as watchmaker's files, escapement files are generally finer and smaller than traditional hobby files and are used in precision work. They also tend to have finer teeth and remove less material at a time. They are graded from Grade 0 (coarsest) to 10 finest. Jim had grades 4 through 8. These files are precision instruments with corresponding price – Jim's examples were about \$25 each on Amazon. A quick web search disclosed prices from \$15 to around \$50, with the finer files being higher-priced.

### **Kit Reviews**

None this month.

### **Club Demos**

None this month.



## **Member Show and Tell, 38<sup>th</sup> COVID Edition**

Here's Bob's write-up on his awesome welding diorama:

### **SIMULATED WELDING ACTION FOR DIORAMA**

Bob De Francisco

I purchased an electronic kit in 2016 called "The Ultimate Welder" by Bakatronics LLC. This is a company that makes electronic kits for the railroad hobby industry. The BK202 Ultimate Welder simulates the arc welding process for a railroad diorama.

The kit comes with all the electronic components to assemble and hook up to your layout. The heart of the kit is the programmable IC Chip that contains the software. The sequence is as follows: The system starts by flashing a very bright white led along with a red led that represents the hot metal in the welding arc. Three other leds feed fiber optic filaments which attach to the walls and floor of the diorama to resemble the sparks given off while welding. After a predetermined time, the arc led and the spark leds stop and the red glow led continues then starts to dim as the hot iron cools and loses its heat. While all this is happening, the main chip also send a welding sound to a 2 watt mono amplifier to drive a small speaker. With the flashing lights and the sound it makes for a very real representation of a welding sequence.

I put this diorama together as a proof of concept to practice with fiber optics as this was my first time working with fiber optic elements. It was good practice because optic cable is not very flexible. I used black hot melt glue to keep the environment as dark as possible to get maximum flash from the leds. Fiber optic filaments can take some heat but it will bend as it is exposed the hot glue.

The circuit boards were too large for the small diorama so they had to be place in another box and cabled to the display box.

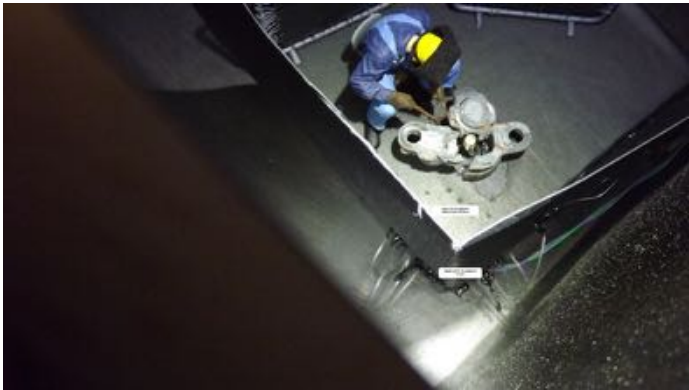
Ultimately, I want to install this kit in a truck garage diorama I am designing.



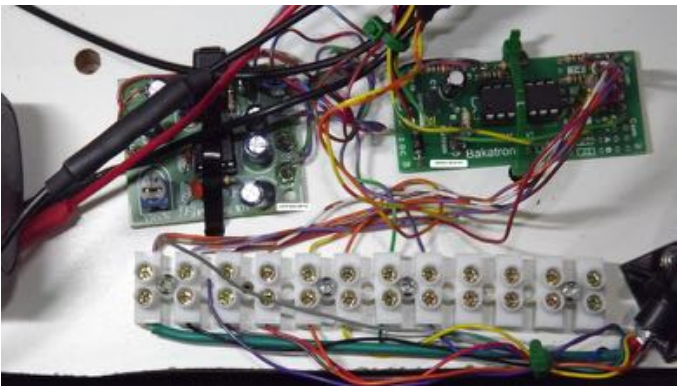
“Welding” in action



Top View



Fiber Optics



Electronics

## Calendar

2/26/2023	Modelfest Contest and Swap Meet	Seaside park (Ventura City. fairgrounds) 10 Harbor Blvd. Ventura, CA
3/19/2023	Kit Collectors Swap Meet	UFCW Union Hall 8530 Stanton Ave. Buena Park, CA
4/23/2023	Herb Deeks' Floats, Rolls & Flys	Doubletree by Hilton 7000 Beach Blvd. Buena Park, CA
5/20/2023	Return of the Scale Model Show	Fundemonium Expressway Center, 579 Rohnert Park Expressway Rohnert Park, CA
6/3/2023	San Diego Model Contest and Swap Meet	San Diego Air & Space Annex at Gillespie Field 335 Kenney Street El Cajon, CA
8/19/2023	Best of the West 2023	Orleans Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, NV
10/28/2023	Desert Classic XIV (Region 8 Regional)	Desert Christian High School 44662 15th St W. Lancaster, CA