

Annual CAMS New Year's Challenge 2017

Well it's time to find out what the members of the club have been doing since last year's show in May. This year, for a change, we actually held the Annual CAMS New Year's Challenge in January instead of the spring. The concept is that each member brings in one kit he has finished or been working on since the show in May and those in attendance pick the kit they think is the best on the table. There is no actual judging but the kits are looked over closely.

Prior to the start of the "judging" we had a look at Brian F's in progress wooden HMS Bounty life raft. It is a Model Shipways 1/16 scale model of the HMS Bounty Launch, famous for being the vessel Captain Bligh and crew were set adrift on by Fletcher Christian and fellow mutineers of the HMS Bounty. Materials include wood strips/dowels, laser cut wood parts, cloth (sails), and brass. Brian has the hull together and was ready to move on to something new. If he gets this done for the show, we could be looking at a best in show model.



This year the "judges" were Bob K, Kyle K, Scott M, Brian F, Darren A, Ryan T, Steve M, and they had four kits to pick from.

First up was Scott's Thunder Model #35001 1/35 Case VAI Tractor. An interesting little kit (little being the key word here). The kit was not completed but Scott had most of the work done and it really stood out.



He had added spark plug wiring, starter and alternator cables, as well as hydraulic lines and a couple of lights and wiring for each. He decided to give it the "well-used" look which consisted of Vallejo Red Brown primer for a base, followed up by various shades of rust. Once dry, he used various Vallejo acrylics to get the rusted look followed up by some serious chipping effects.

The kit wasn't finished, but still looked well enough to challenge. More rust texture is to be added, along with detail painting, filters, mud, dust, etc., to give it the realistic lived in look. We look forward to seeing the finished project at the show in May.

Bob K followed up Scott's tractor with the Lindberg 64 Plymouth Belvedere. It was basically built out of the box as a street sleeper. A 426 Hemi from a mid-60s Mopar kit was kitbashed in place of the kits 426 wedge. Detailed and plumbed, the engine was the centre of the kit.



Interior red on red, with Scale Finished Ebony covered by Testor's Clear and rubbed and waxed out. Scratch built traction bars were added to finish off the kit.

Steve Milberry presented his 70s Chev C-10 pick-up. The kit had been converted from another style pick-up. Steve demonstrated his customizing talents on the chassis and running gear by lowering the frame and box and brought up the floor to give it that low and "in the weeds" look.

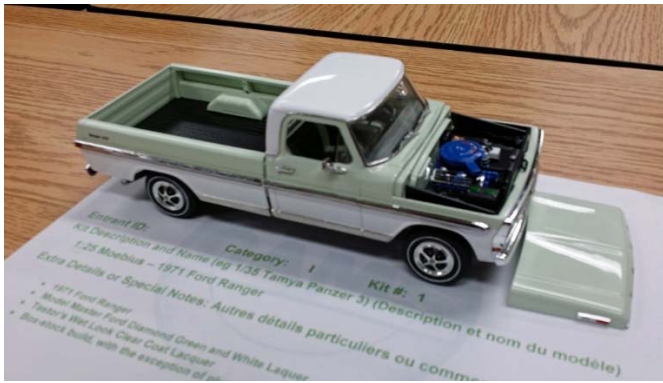


The engine is a fully detailed BB Chev with plumbing and wiring. The truck rides on scale 20' wheels and tires.

As usual Steve's painting talents were applied to the custom mix body color and details on the truck bed and interior. Another job well done.

The final offering for the evening's entertainment came from Darren A. Mobius's new 1971 Ford Ranger was Darren's first Mobius and apparently a thoroughly enjoyable build.

The kit was finished in Ford Diamond Green and White Model Master lacquer. The colour coats were covered with Testor's Wet Look clear coat, and then polished out with Micro Mesh polishing pads.



This was a box-stock build except for plug wires, wire looms and Bare Metal Foil. The bed of the pick-up box was painted with Krylon textured paint, to simulate a spray-on bed-liner.

The build also includes a two-tone interior, brush painted interior wood inserts and stamped whitewall tires and paint detailing throughout the model.

The judging, or should I say the choosing of the best kit in the challenge, took a while and there was a lot of talk back and forth about the merits of all four kits on the table.

Finally, the choice was made by secret ballot and low and behold Darren's Ford won out over Steve's pick-up by a narrow margin.

Darren was awarded the New Year's Challenge Cup by last year's winner - Bob K - along with bragging rights going into the May show and a \$25 gift certificate from Scott M at Elm City Hobbies.

A good time was had by all, and we look forward to next year's challenge.

See you 27 May at the CAMS Show!

The Scribe