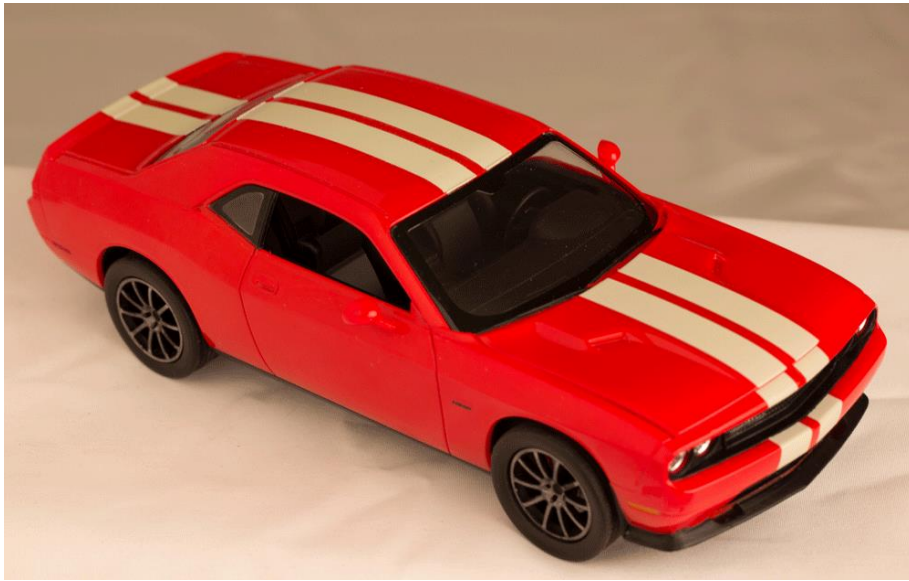


2015 New Year's Challenge

The 18th of February was the date of this year's New Year's Challenge. Quintin T opened up his house to host our yearly event and even supplied some fantastic cinnamon rolls for us weight conscious members. He also offered to take the photos of the participants.

The NY Challenge give the CAMS members a chance to show off what they have been working on since the show way back in May and maybe give a hint of what is heading for the 2016 show. As usual there was good participation and some really well built kits were on the table.

First off Scott M brought in one of the new Revell prepainted 2013 Challengers which was flocked and featured Lamborghini wheels and tires, a NB license plate and detail painting.



We followed that up with Bob K's AMT 67 Mustang fastback. The kit was built pretty much box stock with only ignition wires and flocking added. The color was MM Champagne gold decanted from a rattle can. The original idea was to use this as the base and do a clear red over but the paint came out so well and the color was so sharp that Bob decided to just clear it and polish it out. In addition to the engine detail Bob also added a fair amount of paint detail in the interior and chassis. Another clean build from Bob.



Chris Martin was next up on the block with his version of the old AMT International Scout kit. Chris changed out the wheels and tires, added a six cylinder in place of the kit V8 dug into his parts box for various bits and pieces for the chassis and scratch built a custom bench seat to replace the buckets that came in the box and added an antenna. Chris topped this all off with a two tone paint scheme of Krylon blue and white.



Dave H was the only military modeler to give the challenge a shot this year and to do this he brought out the big guns. Dave built the Mini-Art 1/16 scale Roman Legionnaire. Once he had the body posed the way he wanted he used combinations of artist oils on acrylics. He followed the colors up with heavy washes to bring in the right shading. He again used oils to paint the wood surfaces and created the sword and holder out of foil.

As always Dave put a work of art on the table.



Back to the auto world we go with the Revell '06 Dodge Magnum SRT8 from Darren A. From the comments Darren made this kit turned out to be a real bear to build. The initial paint job on the kit did not meet Darren's standards

Because of some sags and buggers in the paint so like any normal modeler he stripped it. 2 applications of Easy Off and 3 weeks in the purple pond finally produced an almost clean body. Darren took what was left and repainted the kit using Testor's one shot White Lightning under Testor's wet look clear. The body was foiled and polished to Darren's usual high standards and set aside to let the Mike's Speed Shop decals set up. He went to work on the rest of the kit which was built basically box stock with a pint detailed Hemi. The interior features a tricolored grey on grey upholstery toned down with Krylon satin clear for the proper effect. Darren moved into the fearsome world of the airbrush by shooting some Alclad prismatic (color shift) "Maple" (orange to green shift). Even with all the issues he had with this kit Darren produces a fine replica of a slick looking vehicle.



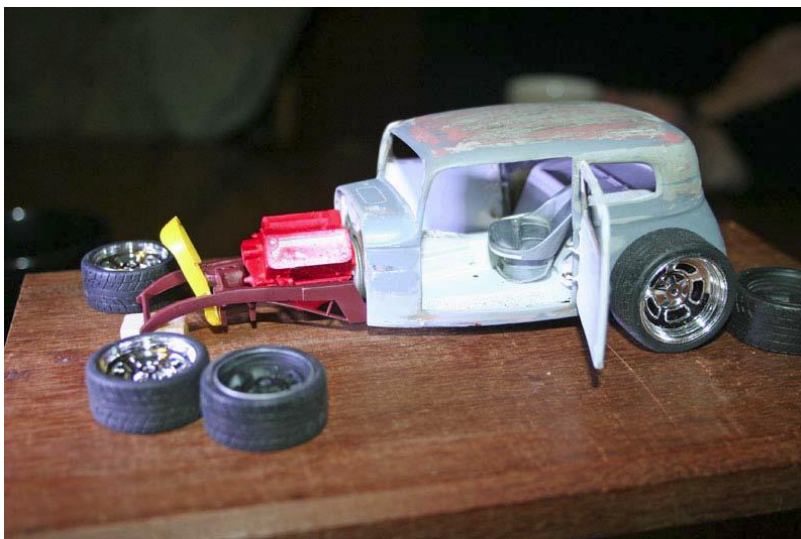
Following hard on the heels of Darren was another of our young builders, Kyle K entered his version of Lindburg's '53 Ford convertible. Kyle decided to try his hand at customizing and let his imagination free on this one. All of the chrome trim and scripts were eliminated, the hood was smoothed, door handles and locks removed and the headlights frenched. Kyle wanted a suede look for his build so he used Krylon semi-gloss black on the body with a white boot. He stayed on the same theme with a semi-gloss red/black interior. This was a combination that made the model pop. To add to the theme he used the kits wide whites and tinted the spokes with Alclad smoke. One of Kyle signature moves is the use of markers to enhance the emblems etc on the kits and this is no exception as he brought out the Ford logo. A convertible is a hard build to pull off and custom work in this scale is also difficult to do right but Kyle found the right balance and produced an outstanding kit, one that draws the eye right to it, a job well done and Kudos to him.



The youngest member of CAMS put his creation up on the table next. Thirteen year old Mack A is one of the most talented young modellers to take part in the Spring Show in a long time. For the NY Challenge Mack put together a stunning Tamiya 1:12 Yamaha XV1000 Virago. Mack built it out of the box but added a lot of paint and of detail along the way. The engine was done with Alclad polished aluminum and he hand painted the gold accents on the wheels to make them stand out. The seams of the two piece fuel tank was filled and the tank painted with Tester's "Flake Red" shot through an airbrush. The tank and side covers were accented with hand painted scripts and graphics. This was Mack's first shot going head to head with the big guys and his kit showed extremely well. Based on Mack's work on all of his kits he will be a force to be reckoned with in the not too distant future.



Now we come to the kit which hands down was the pick of the night. Anyone who read the write up on the "Dirty Thirty" challenge will remember Gordon B's in Progress AMT '32 Vicky Rat Rod . If not this is what was on the table that night.



Well after a 32 year build Gordon finally finished his Rat Rod we'll call the "Beast" and what a build it was. Starting with the body of the Vicky he added opening suicide doors, adding scratch built hinges to open them and chopped the top. That is where the kit ended and the fun began. No less than ten kits donated parts to this build and that does not cover the over 150 scratch built parts made and 25 different colors of paint applied.

The custom drivetrain features an independent rear end from a '73 Corvette, "Z'd" frame from a combination of a '57 Chev, '73 Vette, '29 &'34 Ford plus scratch built parts including metal springs for front suspension, watch

strap pins for front shocks, railroad nuts and bolts. Detail painted Pegasus wheels and spinners covered detail painted disc brakes to bring the Beast to a stop.

The interior keeps with the rat rod theme featuring seats from an "E" type Jag covered with medical tape sitting on paint cans, a '53 Ford pick-up steering wheel and shaft, one of the more interesting features was aluminum foil formed into checker plate for firewall, interior door panels and floor. All this was accented by wrenches for door handles and a file as a shift lever all from the Fujimi garage & tools kit.

The power for the Beast was the hemi from the '53 Studebaker with the double blowers. The engine was detail painted and topped off with an aftermarket distributor and wires and tied to the Vette rad by vinyl hoses. Just for laughs and to go with the mood Gordon mounted a skull on the engine between the belts with red beads for eyes.

The body was the center piece of the Beast as noted in the intro the body was heavily modified. To get the rat rod look Gordon used multiple coats of various colored paint covered with flat black and then stressed to get that old abused look. Galvanized wire screen was used in the More American Grafitti rad shell. The side windows were 35 mm film and the front windshield was from an X-Acto knife case and finally door handles made from wrenches.

When all was said and done the 32 year wait was well worth it. Gordon produced a kit that left all who were there almost speechless and only able to use superlatives to describe what they viewed. Though Gordon is more of a collector than a builder, when he does build he pulls out all the stops. Without a doubt he deserved to come out on top of the 2015 New Year's Challenge, well done.



Thanks goes out to all those who participated in this year's NY Challenge as well as Quintin for hosting us and providing some outstanding pictures. Thanks to all of those who had a look and hope to see you at the Spring Contest and Show in May.

The Scribe