

Capital Area Modellers Society – Members Profile

Gordon Barrett

Gordon is one of the Baby Boomer generation born in Fredericton in 1960. spent his early years living in the house that his Great Grandfather and Grandfather built in 1906 and where his Mother still lives. Gordon, his wife Kim, their quarter horse Rambo, and cocker spaniel Lilly-May (do anything) now live just outside Fredericton. Like many of us Boomers, Gordon wishes he was 19 again knowing what he knows now. He graduated from the University of New Brunswick in 1996 with a degree in Engineering and became a welding engineer through correspondence and currently works as a Project Engineer at DYNEX Manufacturing Ltd. Gordon was one of the original members of CAMS and took part in our first show. He had not built a kit for almost 20 years before coming back to CAMS and the hobby in 2009. During that time he built up an extensive collection of kits and accessories that left this Scribe speechless. The Scribe sat down with Gordon in his model room and though distracted by what was around him managed to talk to Gordon about models and modeling.

What inspired you to start building and continue building?

When I was 12, my father scratch-built from wood, a model of the blockhouse at Fort Howe in Saint John. The only reference material we had was a post card! It was scaled to match the little plastic solders that used to be free in King Cole tea. He did this at the end of our dining room table with my brother and I watching with great interest and helping (?) when we could. I still have the blockhouse and trophy (a stick glued to an oak base and varnished) we won at the father-son scout hobby show in 1973.

When did you first start modeling?

I started building in the early 1970s with an interest in cars and trucks. I also started collecting a little during that time.

What was the first kit you remember building?

Johan Pinto Funny Car; I still have the body as well as a complete unassembled kit I found many years later.

Where do you do your building?

I have a model room that I built in the loft over my garage. The only thing I am missing is a spray booth and that is in progress as we speak (from aluminum checker plate). Not only is it my model shop, it is also where I display my model collection.

What is the latest build?

I'm working on the 2010 Pony Car Concept (Firebird) for CAMS 2010, and a 1/8 scale Iron Man figure.

What was the last kit you completed?

My last finished kit was the 33 Willys drag car (still have in pieces) for the 1st CAMS Show.

What was your favorite build?

I think that would have been the AMT drag truck kits of the early 80's – Bandag Bandit and Super Boss.

I notice that many of your kits have been opened, do you plan on building them?

I'd love to build many of the kits but that probably won't happen. Part of my enjoyment in the hobby is collecting stuff that I may remember as a kid. As a car guy many kits are of cars that I like the look of or the design of. I like to open the kits and just look through them and see how they are designed, how much detail is in the kit and plan what I would do if I ever built the kit.

What do you like most about building?

I would have to say the planning part, to take the kit and figure how to put it together to make it stand out, what parts to use, what to add, and figuring out how to scratch build things not in the box, like the nose of my 2010 Firebird conversion.

What do you like least about building?

Painting would probably be my least favorite part of building.

What models would you like to see reissued?

I would like to see the quality big scale, 1/8 or 1/12 Tamiya, Entex, Pocher. There are a number of 1/12 Lancia Stratous variants that were made by some Japanese companies that I would love to have. I would also like to see some of the old Jo-Han kits reissued, particularly the funny cars. These kits were great with as much detailing as we have today in some of the newer releases.

What is your greatest achievement in modeling?

That would have to be not gluing my fingers together.....yet.

With everything you have here in your collection, is there a Holy Grail?

The Pocher 1/8 Mercedes-Benz 540K, one of the most beautiful cars ever made and a fantastic model kit with over 2,700 parts in plastic, steel, brass, nickel, rubber, leather and so on.

If you could have one new kit issued what would it be?

An easy question to answer. As someone who likes the big scale kits (1/16 or larger) a 1/12 or 1/8 New Corvette! This kit must be super detailed like the Trumpeter GT-40, not simplified like the big scale Monogram and Lindenberg kits.

One final question, as one of the original members of CAMS, what do you feel would help the club grow?

I think the future of CAMS lies in the hands of the kids. The show and the website are great tools to try and bring the kids, young and old alike, back into the hobby. The media coverage we have received this year has been helpful as well. When you build a kit and the finished product is sitting there on the table in front of you, you can see the fruits of your labour. You can look at it and say I did that! This can't be done with a video game.