

New Years Build Challenge 2013

This year Bill and Adele Knox hosted CAMS for the second annual New Years Challenge. In attendance Bob Kerasiotis, Bill Knox, Gordon Barrett, Mike Brideau, Dave Hutchison, Scott Millican, Mike Lewis, Chris Martin, Bruce Doiron, Brian Florian, Darren Anderson and Mack Anderson our first Junior entrant.

Before the serious stuff began we were treated to a spread of goodies in the kitchen, just the thing for a bunch of guys who spend most of their hobby time on their butts, but it was good and definitely appreciated. We took some time to chew the fat, ogle the trophies donated by Gordon and Kim Barrett and check out the kits on the table.



With everyone fed and coffees in hand it was time to get down to some serious business.

First up was Scott M's 1/25 scale Revell #88 '76Chev Laguna Daryl Waltrip NASCAR stock car. The kit was built out of the box with aftermarket decals. The paint was Tamiya white clear coated with Future Clear Wax.

The tires were kit bashed and the lettering hand painted. The decal application and paint was almost flawless.

Up next was Gordon B with his 1/25 Revell 1982 'Vette affectionately known as the Glue Bomb. The kit was built as a replica of the first model that Gordon had ever built way back in the beginning.



Scott's '76 Laguna

The kit was built as a teaching tool to show what not to do and what to look for when judging. The kit featured all the classic first time builders marks.

There were injector pin marks, flash, glue finger marks on the glass, peeling decals, parts that were twisted off the spurs, the classic make it fit technique (check out the steering wheel). That is the one where if the part won't go into the hole add more glue and push harder until it either breaks or goes in and of course no paint.

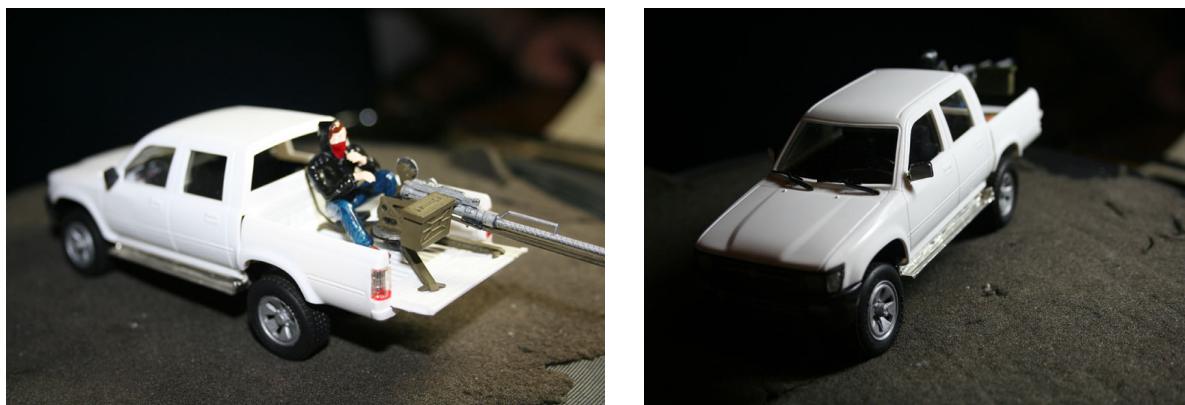
Kudos to Gordon for his timely teaching aid, it was tough for him to forget everything he has learned since the beginning.



Gordon's 82 Vette "Glue Bomb" Training Aid

Our 2012 Junior winner, Mack A, followed with his 1/35 Ming Toyota Pickup. At 11 years old he is an excellent builder. Mack builds mostly cars but this was his first "military" type model, figurer, weapon and the first time using photo etch parts. The truck was painted with Tamiya white and Model Master clear.

Mack is a meticulous builder and his attention to detail was evident in a clean build. The military and figure builders were there with compliments and suggestions and tips he could use to improve his skills. In the end he said he was thinking of trying out the dark side again by building a tank. If his past builds are any indications it should be a stunner.



Mack's Toyota Pick-up

Bob K was next up on the hot seat. This year Bob brought his 1/25 Revell 66 Malibu Wagon. The kit was basically built out of the box and featured a custom two tone paint scheme of Testor's decanted yellow and Humbrol metallic black. All of the chrome was stripped and redone in Alclad Chrome. The engine was plumbed and wired. The interior had a two tone grey and black finish. Bare metal foil was used for trim and aluminum tubing for the exhaust tips. Bob used chart tape for the striping, a first for him, but the results speak for themselves and can be expected on other kits.



Bob's '66 Malibu Wagon



Darren's '71 Challenger T/A

Following Bob was Darren A with his 1/25 Revell 71 Challenger. Darren won The Best Automotive with his Anglia at the 2012 show and the Challenger T/A showed that that was not a mistake. The car featured fully plumbed engine along with the aftermarket PE set for the scripts and details. For paint Darren used Plumb Crazy from a rattle can with black interior. Even though the body was painted out in the garage the finish is almost flawless being finished off with polishing compound. Once Darren fires up his new airbrush and get a polishing kit the sky is the limit.

Mike L was the last to have his kit reviewed. Mike presented a 1/72 Ka-29 Helix done in Russian Navy livery. The kit was built mainly out of the box from a Zvezda kit that he has been working on for the better part of a year. Some of the modifications included extending the landing gear, replacing the pitot tube with a couple of MV clear lenses for under the nose landing lights. Mike kitbashed the pilot figures and assorted PE for the rear view mirrors. The paint scheme was inspired from the Tiger-stripe markings for a Czech gunship which he modified to fit the Helix. The aircraft was painted using Model Master Enamels over masks created by Mike to fit the smaller Helix. All of this was weathered and shaded to perfection using a number of different techniques. Once it was all together to Mike's satisfaction, he displayed it in flight over a carrier deck cutout provided by Olimp Resins which complements the kit very nicely. This is easily the best model Mike has ever produced and his attention to detail shows in every area,



Mike Lewis's Helix Ka-29

When all was done and the smoke had cleared it was time to add up the scores and announce the winners. In addition to the trophies, Elm City Hobbies donated gift certificated to the winners. 11 Year old Mack Anderson won the Junior Trophy for his Toyota and with the tips and comments he received I can't wait to see what he is bringing to the CAMS 25th Anniversary show in May .



The Adult Award went to Mike Lewis for his stunning Helix Ka-29. It was hands down the best model this year and he has put the members of the club on notice that his next kit will be better still, I guess we had better get to work polishing up our building skills.

Though the number of entries may have been down in this years New Years Challenge, the quality of the builds presented were top notch. It was nice to have a Junior join us this year and I think he came away with some extra confidence and valuable lessons he can put into his upcoming builds.

A special thanks goes out to Gordon and Kim for donating the trophies, Scott for the gift certificates and, of course, Bill and Adele for their hospitality.

If the kits entered in the New Years Challenge are any example of what is going to be presented at the CAMS 25th Anniversary show I look forward to being there and hope that you the reader will be there also.

Remember as always share the hobby.

~ The Scribe