

9 years of
Warbirds

TWBN

The Warbird Newsletter 4/08



Team Scale winner at the 2008 Top Gun Scale Invitational event was Graeme Mears and pilot David Shulman with this impressive USAF Thunderbirds F-16.

In this issue

Happy Birthday!
Top Gun Highlights
Coming Events

Tech Note
Torpedo Los!
Graeme Mears' F-16

Well, holy cow! Can you believe it? This issue of the Warbird Newsletter starts our 9th year! I can't believe how quickly the time has gone by! I would like to start off the April issue by thanking all of you who have continued to support the effort and I hope that we can all enjoy another 9 years or more, as there is a never ending

supply of great looking and flying warbirds out there to report on! So let's get to it shall we?

Top Gun 2008

The April issue is a little late coming out as I have had a crazy travel schedule. First was Toledo, then the RCX show in Pomona, CA and then

just last weekend the 2008 Top Gun Scale Invitational. As a matter of fact, I am writing this issue at the Orlando airport waiting for my ride back home. Anyway I wanted to share some of the photos I took this weekend and give you the winners. I don't have all the facts yet, and will include a complete winner's chart in the next issue of the

Coming Events

May 14 - 17, 2008

Joe Nall Giant Scale Fly In
Greenville, SC
Contact: Mike Gregory
(864) 297-1201
www.joenall.com

June 21, 2008

Warbirds over Long Island
Eastport, NY
Contact: Michael Gross
(631) 281-7633
mikeyg@optonline.net
liskyhawks.org

July 10 - 13, 2008

Warbirds over Delaware
Lums Pond St. Park
Newark, DE
Online registration
www.delawarerc.org/warbirds

September 27, 2008

**CCRCC 7th Annual
Big Biplane Bash**
Farmington, CT
Contact: Gerry Yarrish
(860) 354-6273
www.ccrclub.org

September 26, 27 & 28

Warbirds over the Rockies
Contact: Brian O'Meara
bomeara@omearaford.com
www.warbirdsovertherockies.com

newsletter.

As of this moment, I know that the winner of Top Gun is Dave Hayes (Master Class) with his Thrush crop-duster Target. Greg Hahn won in Expert with his D-18 twin and First Place in Team went to Graeme Mears and pilot David Shulman, with their USAF Thunderbirds F-16. Dean DiGiorgio with his Me-109 won in Pro-Am/Pro. And First Place in the Pro-Am/Am cate-

Our good friend David Wigley showed up at top Gun with his beautiful Westland Wyvern and snatched up a Special Recognition for Technical Achievement award!



Winner in Expert was Greg Hahn with is impressive Beech D-18!



2nd place in Team was Mike Selby with his award winning A-10 Warthog. The ground attach plane was flown by Raymond Johns.



An impressive BVM F-100D flown by Gerardo Diaz in Pro Am/Pro. Powered by a JetCat Titan turbine.



Steve Thomas flew this Yak 11 in Pro/Am Am Power comes from a 3W 85 twin.



Above Tom Smith's Skyraider lands after another round. Tom flew in the Expert Class. Below: This A-4 Skyhawk was flown by Wolfgang Kluehr in Pro/Am Pro.



Torpedo Los!

It's rare to get a good shot of a model dropping its stores, but at Top Gun, I was extremely lucky to get two such shots! One of Dave Wigley's Wyvern dropping its torpedo and another of Dave Foster's Jill dropping its load. I had a few other blurry ones but these were up close and personal! Oh I love my Nikon DX-1!

gory was John Boyko and his Pitts S1-S target.

Tech Note

I included a photo of David Wigley with his Westland Wyvern as he flew his impressive British warbird to a respectable 6th place in Designer Scale the first time he entered his new aircraft.

The Wyvern was the subject of a construction article in the May 2008 issue of MAN and I am working with Dave on a couple more articles dealing with his retractable landing gear and the Wyvern's power system. Stayed Tuned!

Graeme's F-16

So a good way to end this

issue of the Warbird Newsletter is to tell you the inside story on one of the Top Gun entries, namely Graeme Mears and his F-16 Falcon. I spoke with Graeme and he told me that while building the F-16 he got in contact with the Thunderbirds' 1998 commander Col. Brian T. Bishop and through him the rest of the USAF Thunderbird aerobatic team. As shown here, the entire Air Force ground crew and demonstration team got a chance to check out Graeme's work. Needless to say, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to check out incredibly accurate documentation as well as develop some great public relations for both the Air Force and for Scale modeling in general.

Graeme built the Thunderbird using a custom Penninx kit and landing gear set. The model is powered by a AMT Olympus turbine and has a 80 inch span and is 115 inches long. The 1/5-scale Falcon is equipped with a Futaba 14MZ 2.4Ghz radio system and weighs in at 49 pounds. On the outside, the F-16 was awesome. Everything from rivet and screws to brake lines and speed brakes was duplicated. There were even static wands on the trailing edges of the control surfaces.

Even in the cockpit, the detail was amazing. Graeme made his own plugs and rubber molds to create more than 160 scale details to fill out the front office. Graeme's pilot, David Shulman, was also in top form and he did an amazing job flying the Falcon. In fact, when it was all over, there was only 0.854 of a



Graeme Mears' F-16 and the USAF Thunderbirds

point separating First place from Second place finisher Mike Selby (A-10) in Team. So you know that it is the degree of piloting skill that makes all the difference at this level of competition. That and a really good Static score. (There was

less than 1/2 point between the F-16 and Mike's A-10 Warthog.

So that wraps up the April issue. We celebrate our 9th anniversary and Top Gun turns 20 this month! Good stuff all around!

Special Awards

Masters High Static (97.33)
Gerardo Galvez Stearman

Expert High Static (97.33)
Richard Crapp Swordfish

Team High Static (99.667)
Michael Selby A-10

Best Civilian Aircraft
Wayne Siewert Porsche Mooney

Best Civilian Aircraft (Runner Up)
Steve Sauger Stinson Tri-Motor

Best Military Aircraft
Mike Selby A-10 Warthog

Best Military (Runner up)
Roy Vaillencourt Hawker Typhoon

Best Biplane
Richard Crapp Swordfish

Best Pre WW2 Aircraft
Rich Feroldi Albatros

Best Jet
Mike Selby A-10

Best Pro-Am Entry
Brian O'Meara Hawker Sea Fury

Engineering Excellence
Dave Wigley Westland Wyvern

Best Cockpit Interior
Mike Selby A-10 Warthog

Charlie Chambers Craftsmanship Award
Octavio DePaula PT-19

Grey Eagle Award
Sam Snyder

Top Gun Hussies Top Buns Award
Ali Machinchy

Special Recognition Awards
Sam Snyder Avro Vulcan
Gerardo Galvez Stearman
Walt Fletcher Fokker Dr.1 Triplane
Justin Sands MiG-15

Critics Choice Award
Mike Selby A-10 Warthog

Critics Choice (Runner-up)
Mark Frankel T-34 Mentor

FLIGHT AWARDS
Best 4 Stroke Performance
Danny Corozza Laser 200

Best 2 Stroke Performance
David Foster Nakajima B6N2 Jill

Best Gas Performance
Greg Hahn Beech D-18 Engines

Best Multi Performance
Dennis Crooks P-38

Best Jet Performance
Ray Johns A-10 Warthog

Best Total Flight Score
Dave Johnson Albatros

2008 Top Gun Winner's List

Masters Class

1 David Hayes	Rockwell Thrush
2 David Johnson	Albatros D5A
3 David Ribbe	MiG-15
4 Roy Vaillancourt	Hawker Typhoon
5 Rich Feroldi	Albatros D.V
6 David Wigley	Westland Wyvern
7 Bud Roane	Sopwith Pup
8 Stephen Sauger	Stinson Tri-Motor
9 Gerardo Galvez	Stearman PT-17
10 Al Kretz	Stormovik

Expert Class

1 Greg Hahn	Beech D-18
2 Dennis Crooks	P-38 Lightning
3 Jack Diaz	F-86F
4 Bob Violet	F-86F
5 Mike Barbee	Waco YMF-5
6 Dustin Buescher	F-86
7 Steve Unze	F-4 Phantom
8 Tom Smith	A2H Skyraider
9 Justin Sands	MiG-15
10 Rod Snyder	L-39

Team Class

1 Graeme Mears/David Shulman	F-16C
2 Mike Selby/Raymond Johns	A-10
3 Wayne Siewert/Scott Russell	Mooney
4 Olen Rutherford/Howard Davidson	Beech D-18
5 Dale Arvin/Jeremy Arvin	SNJ-5
6 Bob Gonzalez/Frank Noll	Waco YMF-5
7 Mark Frankel/Dave/Malchione Jr.	Beech T-34
8 Gerry Kerr/Jim Hiller	F-86F
9 Octavio Depaula/Eduardo Esteves	PT-19
10 Sam Snyder/Steven Ellzey	Avro Vulcan

Pro-Am/Pro Class

1 Dino Digiorgio	Me-109G
2 Brian O'Meara	Hawker Sea Fury
3 David Payne	B-17G
4 Jason Shulman	F-16C
5 Marco Benincasa	P-47
6 Ray Labonte	Tucano EMB-312
7 Jason Somes	F9F Cougar
8 Gerardo Diaz	F-100D
9 Andreas Gietz	F4U-1D
10 Thomas Singer	Tucano EMB-312

Pro-Am/Am Class

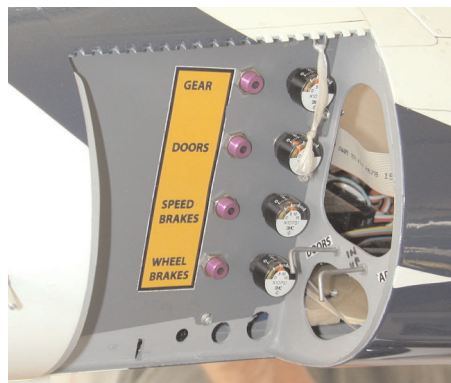
1 John Boyko	Pitts S1-S
2 Danny Corozza	Laser 200
3 Dave McQueeney	F8F-2 Bearcat
4 Billy Thompson	Sopwith Pup
5 Vince Veltri	A6M5C Zero
6 Eric Karl	F9F Panther
7 Steve Thomas	Yak 11
8 Elvis Bunnell	Beech T-34
9 Pudat Supwatanakul	F-84G
10 Michael Stern	F-100D

I hope you all enjoyed it. Stay tuned, we have lots more to share next time. And remember, if you have a new project on the boards, please send me a few pix and some words so we can share it with the rest of the Warbird Newsletter readers!

Fly Safe!

Gerry

Details from Graeme Mears' Thunderbird F-16 Falcon cockpit and under the side access hatch.



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