

of these models? If you own them, or you know someone who does, please contact me." It might be fun to find out who owns a horse you did X-number of years ago.

And folks, if you've bought a horse by someone who you know or you think might be in the Customizer's Club, and you're thinking of boycotting them or any remakers, think again. What will a boycott lead to? More bitterness between people. Don't you think there's enough of that in this hobby already?

Most of us are involved in model horse showing because we think it's fun and relaxing. For me, and probably for a lot of other people, it's becoming increasingly less so. Please, for all our sakes, let's have a little more consideration for each other.

...And there you have it. This can of worms all began at last year's BreyerFest in Lexington, where several hobbyists expressed concern at ads and club rules they had read that allowed remakers to show work they no longer owned. The solution at that time seemed very simple, and still does: ask the owner's permission. If the owner was to deny permission—a possibility, with the concern that overexposure will damage a horse's "show life"—then the question always remained for the remaker: "Which did you want more at one time—the money, or the horse?"

I apologize to any Customizer's Club members who took the article as a personal attack. The intent here was *not* to persecute members of this club (there are several of these kinds of clubs, and the original article did not name a single one of them). The intent was to let the members know that they should always ask the owners permission. However, a Customizer's Club member took the column personally and wrote to defend her showing models without owners' permission.

Based on that club member's letter, it is easy to see how people outside the club got the impression that all members were engaging

in these practices. And that's why I opened the floor, folks—so all sides could be heard. That's not a "witch-hunt"—that's an open forum. And that's why I donated two columns to your letters—because in the letters that ran last time, no one had yet known what everyone else had to say. This issue, we all understand each other far better, and can approach the issue with understanding, rather than with paranoia and anger.

There will always be people who seemingly want to feel that they're being victimized, no matter how much carefully a comment is worded so that no one will take it as a personal affront. (Of course, there's also that old adage "If the shoe fits, wear it.") There will also be people who respond with a hand grenade where a feather would do. And then there are a few folks having tantrums to avoid answering the issue at hand. My question, from the very beginning, has simply been that if you want to show a model you do not own, *why not ask?* If you already ask for permission, that's wonderful...but instead of being indignant, why not put the energy into asking those that *don't* to clean up their act?

As long as people are given the opportunity to show someone else's property without permission, *someone* will take advantage of it...and, currently, some people are. The solution is easy, and will spare us all a lot of hard feelings: If you are allowing hobbyists to show something they don't own, without the owner's permission, *change the rule. Require written permission from the owner.* And let the hobby public know of your goodwill gesture.

This way, owners will be confident and content, remakers won't be embarrassed by the actions of other artists or feel like suspects themselves, customizers and customers will enjoy a better working relationship...and remakers can enjoy the challenge of creating better and better future works, rather than resting on models they have done, and sold, in the past.

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