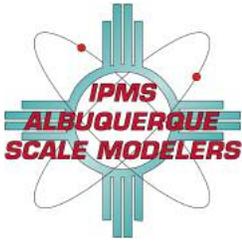


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://www.hobbies-n-stuff.com/ASM-Stuff/asmweb.htm> December 2006

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS JAMES GULD

Build more models, build more models, build more models...

Just use this as your personal mantra and we'll see more stuff on the tables next year. It can be OOB or full-blown with all the resin and photoetch that you can think of, or somewhere in between. Just build it. Be it planes, armor, or whatever you like. If it's plastic, we want to see it finished or in the build-up stage. You don't have to build 20 kits a year (unless you're John Tate); build however many you feel comfortable doing in a year. Just build. Oh, and try and have fun doing it.

## FROM THE JUDGE'S CHAMBERS KEN LIOTTA

The year of model building seems to be coming to an end soon for 2006. The good news is that with the Thanksgiving holiday behind us and Christmas around the corner, we get a day or two extra on some weekends. You can get a few extra chores around the house done, complete a few honey-

dos, and then sit down to a few extra hours of model building. I know that is what I plan to do. And I hope all of you

will too. And when you are getting ready to come to the next club meeting, bring in your latest project. Whether



November's Best-of-Show winners, from top: Logan Carbin's Fw-190; Victor Maestas's KV-1; David Boehning's P-47D; and Rick Carver's armored Woody



## Albuquerque Scale Modelers • Best of 2006 (candidates for Model of the Year)

Date	Scale	Manufacturer	Subject	Builder
<b>JUNIORS</b>				
Jan 6	1/500	Polar Lights	Godzilla	Margaret Ornelar
Mar 3	1/35	Revell	Velociraptors	Ryan Sharp
Apr 28	1/100	Multiple	Gundam Diorama	Taylor Liotta
Jul 7	1/32	Revell	Ferrari	Jeannie Garriss
Sep 8	1/72	Dragon	M2A3 Bradley	Logan Carbin
Oct 6	1/72	Revell	Ka-52	Logan Carbin
Nov 3	1/48	Tamiya	Fw-190A-3	Logan Carbin
<b>BASIC</b>				
Mar 3	1/24	Revell	Hummer	Tim Estes
Apr 4	1/32	Hasegawa	Ki-84	Tim Estes
Apr 28	1/35	Tamiya	Amphibious Jeep	Wayne Sprong
Jul 7	1/35	Tamiya	PzKpfw II	Wayne Sprong
Sep 8	1/35	Tamiya	PzKpfw III M	Gil Johnson
Oct 6	1/35	Tamiya	"In the Field"	Wayne Sprong
Nov 3	1/35	Trumpeter	KV-1 1942	Victor Maestas
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>				
Jan 6	1/6	Garage Resin Kit	Aries	John Pattison
Mar 3	1/100	Bandai	RX-78G Gundam	John Kendrick
Apr 4	1/48	Nichimo	Ki-43-I	John Kendrick
Apr 28	1/72	Dragon/Revell	"Special Delivery"	John Kendrick
Jul 7	1/35	Various	"Italian Roach Coach"	Rick Carver
Sep 8	1/35	Tamiya	PzKpfw III	Kyle Garber
Oct 6	1/35	Tamiya	T-55	Rick Carver
Nov 3	1/24	AMT	Armored Woody	Rick Carver
<b>MASTERS</b>				
Jan 6	25mm	Unknown	Dragon	Mike McNichols
Mar 3	1/48	Tamiya	P-47D	Mike Franklin
Apr 4	1/48	Tamiya	Ki-46	Juan Benitez
Apr 28	1/62	Scratchbuilt	S.39	Dave Straub
Jun 2	1/72	MPM	DC-2	John Tate
Jul 7	1/24	Tamiya	Enzo Ferrari	Don MacBryde
Sep 8	1/35	AFV	M3A3 Stuart	John Tate
Oct 6	1/35	Tamiya	GAZ-67B Jeep	John Tate
Nov 3	1/48	Tamiya	P-47D	David Boehning

it is just started, half built, or completed, we want to see what all of you are working on these days. In fact, bring your travel kit too and maybe even trim a few more pieces. We have plenty of table space available for those that want to build during the meeting.

As for December's "Model of the Year" contest, I have looked through this year's contests and have com-

plied a list of every "Best of Show" model that is eligible (see chart above). All of the modelers listed will need to have their model at December's meeting in order for the model to be judged. We can't compare it to all of the others if the model is not there.

We will also be announcing the official results of the "Modeler of the Year" at December's meeting. I look

forward to seeing all of you there with all of the wonderful models that you have, are, and will be building.

## JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

### JAMES GULD

Where to start... I've picked up a bunch of new stuff this past month.

For Axis armor, I added to the stash the Dragon Tiger P premium edition kit and the Elephant kit. Both now include more than the previous regular release along with aluminum gun barrels, magic tracks, and, in the case of the Tiger P, a corrected turret. In the Elephant kit they also give you the option of the later style rear entry access door.

In the Allied camp, I picked up Dragon's new M4A2 Tarawa kit and the M2/M2A1 halftrack. The halftrack is one of their new "Smart Kits" which means it doesn't have as much photoetch as some of their other new kits, but uses the slide mold technology as much as possible. After looking through the box and hearing about the kit on Missing-Lynx, I came across only a couple minor items. The front wheels have a noticeable weighted bulge to them. The real tires don't do that even aired down (though it might be useful to use as a flat tire). The only other minor issues are that the tie-down loops are molded on and the spring clips that hold the side hood doors down are a little flat looking. It probably would have been better to have them as separate pieces. The only other detail is the rear spring for the bogie units. The very early M2s didn't use these springs and some of the M2s used in Tunisia didn't have these springs or had a field-modified single spring. The later M2s had the double coil spring like the kit. So look carefully at your references if you're building a particular vehicle, or don't mind me and just build it (see VP's Report). The .30 & .50 Cals are beautifully done, probably the best out there now until the new Tasca .50 Cal comes out. This looks like a really sweet kit and I'm looking forward to the M3 kit and whatever else they come up with on the halftrack chassis.

The M4A2 Tarawa kit is also very nice. They have an all-new 75mm gun low bustle turret and M4A2 hull with the welded hoods. It also comes with very detailed hatches with separate spring details and on the photoetch sheet they provide foundry-casting symbols. Very cool indeed. I plan on trying to make a mold of these so I can add them to my other Shermans (a lot easier than trying to do it out of stretched styrene). The only minor flaw was the tracks—they put them on a card in the kit, and it caused some of the end connectors to be bent over. Dragon says that they will replace tracks for people at no cost. I have already taken mine

### Year 2006 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for "Modeler of the Year" Points

- 6 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**  
**SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY**
- 3 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 3 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/scale.
- 7 Apr** **Best Kitai** (WWII Japan air forces)
- 28 Apr** **Flying Boats, Amphibians, & Hulls**  
Workshop: *Brush painting (John Tate)*
- 2 Jun** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**  
**THE BEST TWO-FER**  
Workshop: *Photo-etch (TBA)*  
*Resin Casting (TBA)*
- 7 Jul** **Italian Wonders** (any era/scale/subj.)  
Sponsored Contest: *Fighters of the Fifties (Stan Johnson)*  
Workshop: *Weathering (TBA)*  
Workshop: *Zimmerit (TBA)*
- 4 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest
- 8 Sep** **Armies of the 1900s**  
Workshop: *Figure painting (TBA)*  
Sponsored Contest: *Best Viet Nam Subject (Tim Estes)*
- 6 Oct** **Eastern Europe 1950 - 1990**  
Sponsored Contest: *Babefest (Ken Liotta)*  
Workshop: *Homemade tools (show & tell)*  
Workshop: *Attaching "itty-bitty" pieces (TBA)*
- 3 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/scale.  
Sponsored Contest: *"F-teen" (Ken Liotta, Keith Liotta, Brian Peck, Frank Randall)*
- 1 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**  
**BEST ZERO**  
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

off the card and let them lay flat in the box, and will hit them with the hair dryer to get them to behave. The tracks are made of DS vinyl; it is some sort of mix of styrene and vinyl, but it glues together with regular liquid cement and the detail on them is excellent. I've been bitten by the Sherman bug and plan on sponsoring a special contest next year for Best Sherman Tank (any scale, era, or country that used them). So with the entire new Dragon kits out there start planning on building one.

## FOAM

### JAMES GULD

I have picked up some high-density urethane foam, similar to Balsa Foam. It is in 12lb density and I have the following sizes available:

3/8" \$5.00/sq.ft

1/2" \$5.50/sq.ft

3/4" \$6.00/sq.ft

I have them in sheet sizes, 2x4 is the largest. I am selling them by the square foot but if you need a piece cut, that isn't a problem. I have a table saw. If interested either call me (982-3089) or contact me by EMail (jamesguld@pngltd.com).

---

## CALLOUT FOR TREADHEADS

### JAMES GULD

I am planning on starting an AMPS chapter in the southwest. What's AMPS, you ask? It is the Armor Modeling Preservation Society. Here is a link to their web site:

<http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/default.aspx>

The major difference between them and IPMS is that they judge their contests based on Gold, Silver, and Bronze, and can award more than one Gold, Silver, or Bronze award to models at a contest. This will be completely separate from ASM, and I want to stress that I want to leave the politics at the door. It's about armor modeling and nothing else... You don't have to join the national AMPS organization to be a member, and whatever dues we'll have only are to cover the costs of where it is we'll meet. If you're interested either give me a call (982-3089) or an EMail (jamesguld@pngltd.com).

---

## BOOK REVIEW

### DON SMITH

#### Monte Cassino

The Hardest-Fought Battle of World War II

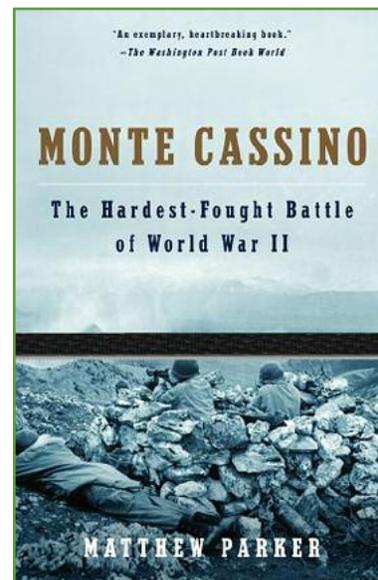
by Matthew Parker  
Anchor Books, 2005

This month's book is about the battle of Monte Cassino on the Gustav Line in Italy during the winter and spring of 1943 - 44. The battle was pretty brutal and Matthew Parker does a pretty good job describing

the account from the view point of the soldiers on the front line. In typical English fashion, Mr. Parker describes the heroic efforts of the Allied divisions and down-playing the American contribution. Needless to say it's hard to fault him when the American general was the great Mark Clark.

The book covers the four battles that were fought to take the medieval monastery of Monte Cassino and the town below it. The battles were pretty bloody and the results were gruesome, Parker spares no details about the rotting bodies, so be warned. The battles include the slaughter of the US 36th "Texan" Infantry Division at the Rapido River to the final taking of the monastery by the Polish Carpathian Division some months later. The diversity of troops from all over the world is pretty interesting. The monastery was not used by the German troops until the Allies bombed it into ruins and made an ideal fortress. The German 1st Paratroop Division then occupied it and the town of Casino and took a bloody toll on the Allies.

The soft-cover book has some nice maps and photos and retails for \$15.00; I picked up a copy at Borders. If you were wanting to do some figure models and di-



oramas of this era and theatre then this is your book, although you'll have to use your imagination because there are not many photos. There were relatively few armored vehicles used due to the inhospitable terrain. I bought the Osprey book covering the same battle and wish I had it while reading this book due to Osprey's typical fine map details, artwork, and photos. The personal accounts used in Parker's book were very interesting and well done. I'll give it a rating of 4 out of 5 stars. ★★★★★

---

## CONTACT INFO

President:	Patrick Dick	890-4368	mcclanahandick@worldnet.att.net
Vice President:	James Guld	982-3089	jamesguld@cybermesa.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Frank Randall	299-3760	fcr40@aol.com
Contest Director:	Ken Liotta	323-7614	ThePlasticMaster@comcast.net
Members Pro-Tem:	Keith Liotta	888-3396	YeeeLiotta@aol.com
	Tom Perea	897-4778	tkperea@comcast.net
	Tim Wood	897-1889	planedreamin@hotmail.com
Webmaster:	Mike Blohm	823-9404	BlohmM@aol.com
Newsletter Editor:	Joe Walters	821-3751	jwalters22@comcast.net

---

ASM members are encouraged to submit articles, reviews and other items as appropriate. Contact editor Joe Walters for details and specs. Submission deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month.