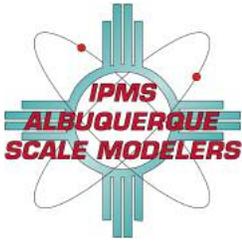


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

December 2007

PREZ NOTES KEN LIOTTA

Amazing! 2007 is almost over. The year has flashed by at warp 9.75, and ASM members have experienced a host of accomplishments and fortunes. Winners of the 2006 Region X Chapter of the Year; survival of the dreaded IPMS chapter splinter effect; and proud recipients of over a dozen awards from the 2007 IPMS Nationals, one of which was the coveted Best Aircraft award (good job, Dave!). We unfortunately lost a few top-notch modelers, but gained a handful of new and aspiring members. Some members that lost their way have come back to the light with welcoming open arms. After all is said and done, one common bond keeps the club together: our passion for plastic. The enjoyment we all crave, seek out, and partake in—building plastic models.

I have had the pleasure of serving the club's best interests as the 2007 President. I am anxiously looking forward to continuing to serve the club in 2008 as your Contest Director once again. With many years under my belt in this role as well as Head Judge and Contest Coordinator, I plan to bring my usual fair and balanced administration, direction, and judging of your contests throughout the next year. ASM also has the good fortune once again of having a new E-board filled with decades worth of the same fair and balanced experience. In case you missed it, our October nominations were uncontested and your '08 Executive Board was voted in as:

President:	James Guld
Vice-President:	Tom Perea
Secretary/Treasurer:	Frank Randall
Contest Director:	Ken Liotta
Pro Tem:	Patrick Dick
Pro Tem:	Brian Peck
Pro Tem:	Tim Wood

Webmaster: Mike Blohm (appointed)
Newsletter Editor: Joe Walters (appointed)

These members all possess the experience and passion to provide you with the best plastic model club experience possible. But their success will rely on your open communication with all of them to help determine what it is that you most desire from this club. We all look forward to another year of sharing great plastic modeling amongst our fellow enthusiasts. As soon as you finish reading this newsletter, *go build a model!* Cheers.

THE NEW PREZ'S LETTER JAMES GULD

So you miss one meeting and end up as the new president. I wonder what would happen if I missed two—would I become the Pope?

I look forward to the coming year not only as your new president but also because we recently bought our first house, something that I thought wouldn't happen in my lifetime when I lived back in NY. Well, at least not without winning Lotto.

So who is this new president and why should I give a [darn!] what he has to say? Well, I am an armor modeler and diorama builder who is always looking to better my skills as a modeler. Now for the second part of the question: When I got back into modeling five years ago, I knew I would dive into the deep end and go all out in the hobby (more like an obsession). That's just my makeup. Now, I do realize that not everyone is like this and that some poor souls like to just build for fun. What we all have in common is building models, even if that includes planes. So what I would like to see is everyone build something. I don't care what it is, just build it. Let's see some stuff on those tables, people!

Continuing this theme of "get it done," we will be



November's Best of Show winners, clockwise from left: Dan Blea's Zero, Victor Maestas's F-14, and Dave Straub's Nationals-winning NC-4.



having a series of workshops this year to help encourage you to build more and try out different techniques. Don't be afraid to try something new and make mistakes. Knowing what doesn't work for you is just as important as knowing what does. Now you don't have to practice on that new \$120 kit. Try it out on something old, "off the shelf," or pick up one of those "Pro Built" models off "Evil-Bay" to practice on.

That is about it. I am always open to new ideas on what you would like to get out of the club and you can call or EMail me up to 9:00 P.M.

O'Hare, "Indian Joe" Harold J. Bauer, and Marion Carl.

This book is well thought out in layout and is enjoyable to read. You are not going to read endless verse on how the Wildcat evolved from the Grumman biplanes and the attributes of each model biplane, etc. etc. The book gives a quick rundown on the different models of Wildcats and some of the strengths and weaknesses. For instance, you'll learn why the -3 was considered to be better than the -4 in combat.

What I liked about this book was how it went through each major battle in chronological order and discussed the Wildcat's role in each battle. Don't expect a whole chapter to tell you the difference between the models -3 and -3a—this book reads fast.

I would recommend this book for any Wildcat fan or student of the Pacific Theatre. There are many interesting photos, stories and helpful appendices. It is a well-written quick read, and I can't find any faults with the book. I have read a couple of other books on the Wildcat and I would say by far this is the best. As I said, I picked up my copy at Borders for \$19.95 (before I applied my coupon discount). Now if I can only lay my hands on a copy of Tillman's Corsair book... I'll have to give this five out of five stars. ★★★★★

BOOK REVIEW DON SMITH

Wildcat: The F4F in WWII

by Barrett Tillman

Naval Institute Press, 1990 (2nd edition) • 223 pages
I've been on vacation as the unofficial ASM Book Reviewer. A long summer with 2- and 4-year-old girls will keep you pretty busy.

All right, this isn't a new book, as it has been around for 17 years. It is a very good book, worth a look, and still is selling on the Borders bookshelf. I've always been fascinated by the F4F and how it held the Japanese Zeros at bay during the first year of World War II. I'm amazed by the stories of pilots Joe Foss, "Butch"

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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.