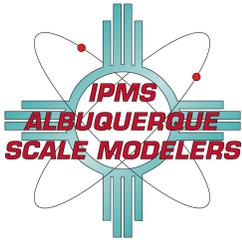


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com> ←NEW!

February 2007

## PREZ NOTES KEN LIOTTA

Hello my fellow plastic model building enthusiasts. I am grateful for getting an opportunity to serve as this year's club President. Having served several years as the club Contest Chairman, it was then, and it still is, my interest to serve the membership as their representative. It is my interest to ensure to the best of my abilities that all members have an excellent time while attending all club functions. One night a month, you all leave the real world of careers, paying the bills, and providing the basic needs for your families in order to enjoy an evening of plastic modeling that is free from hassles and worries. And it is the E-board's goal to make that as enjoyable as possible. If you have any desires, suggestions, or concerns about how to enjoy these evenings better, please, let one of the board members know about it so that we can make the evenings even better.

2006 ended with more than just a flurry of snow, and the first month of 2007 is quickly slipping by with additional weather events. I hope

that you have all been taking advantage of it when indoors and applying your craft to the plastic. Believe it or not, I have actually been working on not just one, but three "half-builts." I had started them a few years ago and then set them aside having become more interested in finishing a contest model or two. I'll have them at the March meeting for a little "show-and-tell." And on that note, I hope to generate a little inspiration for the rest of the membership to look back at your "half-builts" and get them back to the workbench to finish them up. Whether they are contest models or just "fun" models, give it a shot. And then I would ask that you bring them to the next club meeting to join in some "show-and-tell" of your own. I would hope that all of the membership can join in on this little ritual so that we can begin the new year with that cool plastic modeling camaraderie that has made this club so great.

I would also like the membership to join me in welcoming the newest club member to step up to board service as the Contest Chairman, David Boehning. Dave has been with the club for several years and has been continuously improving his modeling skills to the Master level. While he is



January meeting highlights, L - R: The Table-O'-Gundams; attendees check out models.





January's Best-of-Show winners, clockwise from left: Kelly Brown's *Planet of the Apes* figure; Mike McNichols's *dragon* figure; Jeanne Garriss's *Naboo Fighter*; and Victor Maestas's *X-15*.



still a little new to the task of directing the contests, he has taken the bull by the horns and I am confident that you will all be pleased with his performance. Welcome aboard, David!

As a reminder, February's meeting is a swap meet night. There are no contests but we will have a brief business meeting before the plastic and your green start-a-flyin'. Display models and works-in-progress are still welcome and tables will be set aside for that. So, go look through your closets and garages for those models that have been collecting too much of your house dust and bring them to the meeting to sell to a fellow modeler so that they can add their dust to them. There should be plenty of goodies for all. See ya there.

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## JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

### JAMES GULD

What's on tap for this month? Well, how about book and CD reviews... I'll have to admit it—I'm a reference junkie. So when last month's Squadron supplement came in and it had some great deals on armor books, well, I just couldn't resist. First up is "Italian Armored Vehicles of WWII." Not that I even have a single Italian subject on my pile, but

this might spur me onto the Italeri AS 42 Sahariana or one of those deathtrap medium tanks. The book is only 64 pages, but covers markings, units, and vehicle types. It is a great starting point for Idy armor.

Next up is the Armor PhotoGallery book on the Achilles M-10 tank destroyer with the 17lber. I had earlier bought their book on the M4A2 and it was good so since this title was on sale I picked it up also. Well I'm not disappointed. Great shots of the interior and exterior details along with scale drawings in both 1/48 and 1/35 scale. They even have a series of wartime photos at the end of the book.

The third book is from Squadron, "US Armored Cars in Action." I picked it up mostly for an M-20 that I have but, since the M-8 is basically the same, the shots inside are well worth the price. It also covers medium and heavy armored cars, which the US didn't use during the war, but our English-speaking friends did find use for.

The last two are also from Squadron, in their Walkaround series. The first is on US tank destroyers and the second on the M2/M3 halftracks. Both do a pretty good job of showing details both inside and outside the subjects.

The last review is of the CD for the M36 tank destroyer. It is basically the tech manual plus some

shots of restored vehicles. This came from Easy 1 Productions. I will have to say I do prefer books to the CD format. It's just easier to navigate a book than the CD, especially when using it to work on models. I'm still happy I picked it up, though.

So now its time to put these new references to work. Now get back to that bench and build something.

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## BOOK REVIEW

### DON SMITH

#### Cutthroats

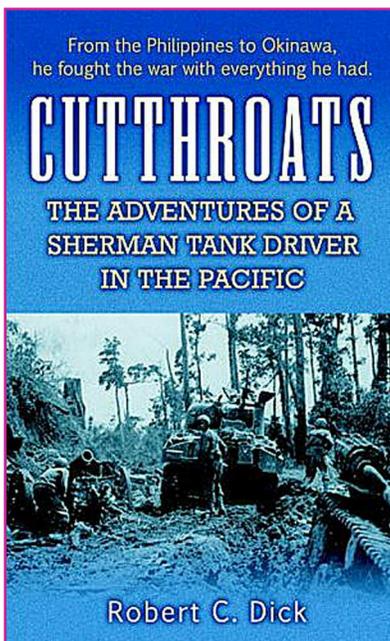
*The Adventures of a Sherman Tank Driver  
in the Pacific*

By Robert C. Dick; Presidio Press, 2006

*I'm going to the Pacific Theatre for this month's book review. I had to read this after hearing there will be a sponsored Best Sherman contest this year. Thanks -Don Smith*

This is a very interesting book about the Leyte and Okinawa campaigns from a tank driver's point of view. Robert Dick is a National Guardsman from California who gives up his Sergeant's stripes in the infantry to become a private in armor. He is assigned to the 763rd Tank Battalion, attached to the 96th Infantry Division. The book is divided into eight parts and 56 chapters, but is only 247 pages long—go figure. Dick's book is fast, entertaining and easy to read.

Like all personal account books, the first one-fourth to one-third of the book tells about pre-war, boot camp and training. Dick talks about the nuances of operating, fighting with, and living in a Sherman tank. There are interesting stories about running over decomposed Japanese soldiers and then having to sleep under the tank that night, and how to relieve one's self while on patrol. A



couple of interesting tidbits of information I learned was how highly regarded the Japanese 47mm antitank gun was, and that the US hospital in Guam was the largest in the world at that time. There very few photos in the book and these are very small.

I liked the book just because I've become interested in Shermans lately and would recommend this book to Shermanolics. Don't expect detailed descriptions of the campaigns, all Dick talks about are his personal stories. The book is paperback and I picked up a copy at Borders for about \$7.00. I'll give it a rating of four out of five stars. ★★★★★

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## TV SERIES REVIEW

### MIKE BLOHM

#### Dogfights

on The History Channel

This is an unusual review in that it is about a TV show. *Dogfights* is an hour-long series on The History Channel, airing on Friday nights. There are usually reruns during the week on Wednesday nights.

*Dogfights* is absolutely terrific. Modelers will especially appreciate the show because you get a dose of history, some of which you may not have heard before; an introduction to basic fighter maneuvers and air combat tactics; and the aircraft and ships are depicted (unbelievably) in accurate colors and markings. Yes, I did say "ships." Ship-to-ship combat is included in the series as well as air-to-air combat.

Each episode covers a specific theme and includes several different notable dogfight engagements that fit the theme. A short history of the aircraft involved is given, including a comparison of strengths and weaknesses. The show "Zero Killers" was F6F Hellcats versus A6M Zeros and featured engagements by Robert Duncan, Hamilton McWhorter, and Alexander Vraciu. The show "Air Ambush" covered Operation Bolo in Viet Nam where F-4 Phantoms masqueraded as F-105 Thunderchiefs to lure the MiG-21s into combat. Robin Olds planned and led Operation Bolo, and the show featured his engagements from both World War II in the P-38 and in Bolo itself.

What makes *Dogfights* really unique is that com-



Left: A screen cap from History Channel's web site featuring an image gallery from *Dogfights*.

puter animations are used to show how the aerial engagements were fought, interspersed with narration from the actual participants—a lot of “there I was...” When the actual participants are no longer with us, a historian fills in with the story. The action will often stop while the narrator diagrams the fight with who is where, and what the options might be—should he climb, dive, break left or break right? This is followed by what really occurred, for better or worse.

Season one had eight shows, including four from World War II, one from Korea, and three from Viet Nam. Season two is now underway and those shows have been great too.

Highly recommended viewing, which I think you'll enjoy. And as a true nit-picker model builder, I did notice a few markings that weren't quite entirely correct...

For further details go to the History Channel website, source of the above image and more (<http://www.history.com/minisites/dogfights>).

### Year 2007 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 5 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**  
**SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY**
- 2 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 2 Mar** **Armor**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 6 Apr** **No Points Contest**
- 4 May** **Ships**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
Sponsored Contest: “Best Modern US Aircraft Carrier” (Keith Liotta)
- 1 Jun** **No Points Contest**
- 13 Jul** **Automotive** (any era/scale/subj.)  
**Date Change!** Sponsored Contest: “Best Mustang” (auto or aircraft) (Mark Soppet)
- 3 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest
- 7 Sep** **Figures**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 5 Oct** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**  
**BEST SMALL-SCALE MODEL**
- 2 Nov** **Aircraft**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
Sponsored Contest: “Best Folded-Wing Aircraft” (Ken Liotta)
- 7 Dec** **No Points Contest**  
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

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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.