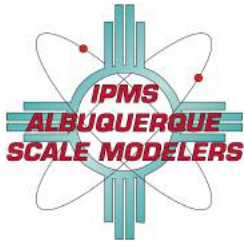


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

February 2010

PRESIDENT'S SPIEL TOM PEREA

Economic Woes

This bad economy has hurt everyone in its own individual way, but what really hurts is when our hobbies take a hit. We all get into hobbies so that we can have an escape from the realities of hard or depressing times. We take up these hobbies to escape stress, not to create more. It is unfortunate and depressing to know that everything costs more and our paychecks are not growing or, in some cases, are nonexistent.

The club is in a current state of monetary depression, but that does not mean that we need to be depressed about it. When the need is at its greatest I believe sane rational decisions can be made. When we present and are open about the problem, solutions present them-

selves, or in some cases people step forward to lend some aid. In the case of Bobby, of Hobby Proz, he has done just that. When Bobby offered to pay for half the year's rent, I was totally floored and elated at the same time, but what Bobby is offering is not a long-term solution to the club's financial woes. His help could not have come at a more opportune time, and I am appreciative beyond words, but we need to take advantage of this time he has provided us so that we can come up with some solutions to keep our club running strong.

I believe our fall on hard times is not an opportunity to point fingers or look for a scapegoat. It is a time to unite and remain focused on keeping people comfortable in the knowledge that we will prevail.

January highlights, left to right: members look over the model entries before the meeting starts; Rick Carver presents Brian Peck with his award for Best Mirage, and the business meeting in progress.





Best of Show winners from January, left to right: Josh Pals's overall winning *TIE Fighter*; Mike McNichols's *Purple Dragon*; Brian Peck's winning entry in the *Mirage* Sponsored Contest, *Mirage IIICJ*; and Aleya Montano's *Dinosaur and Caveman*.



The E-Board is not solely responsible for saving the club, because every paying member has a vested interest in ASM; therefore I am relying on ASM members as a whole to come up with suggestions. There are no bad ideas, just ideas that are never realized. There are ideas that are going to be used such as eBay, t-shirt sales, and our twice-a-year big item raffles.

We are all feeling the stress, but we need to not take it out on each other. Our common bond is building and talking scale models. I am not the solution to all the club's problems, but I am a tool and a person who is in a position to keep everyone focused and united. This is my goal.

Your diligent servant,
Tom

CONTEST UPDATE

JOHN TATE

Albuquerque Scale Modelers held its annual "Sci-Fi / Real Space / Fantasy" kickoff special contest on Friday, January 8, 2010, with entries in Junior, Intermediate, and Masters skill levels. Creativity and imagination have been hallmarks of this contest since its inception in the late 1990s, and this contest had a number of stand-out entries. Contest results were as follows:

- Junior Best of Show: "Dinosaur with Caveman" by

Aleya Montano

- Intermediate Best of Show: TIE Fighter (½ Fine Molds kit) by Josh Pals
- Masters Best of Show: Purple Dragon by Mike McNichols

Newsletter Editor Joe Walters created colorful, themed winners' certificates for the above categories, and a special "Best of Show—All Skill levels" acrylic trophy was awarded to Josh Pals's exceptional TIE Fighter. However, mention should also be made of other eye-catching contest entries, such as John Pattison's stunning, large-scale "Alien" figure, Josh Pals's imaginative "Mars Face," Victor Maestas's carefully-crafted "Red Baron" hot rod, and Ray Ayles's "Spock" vignette (well done base!).

The night's Sponsored Contest was hosted by Rick Carver—the eagerly-awaited "Mirage" contest, with the winner receiving a weekend at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. For the past several months, many of ASM's foremost aircraft modelers delved into the world of Mirage fighter jets and spent many grueling hours poring through references and wrestling with plastic, resin, and photoetch in an effort to capture the essence of this elusive French beauty.

In the end, long-time ASM member Brian Peck rose to the top with his elegant, natural-metal Eduard ¼₈ Mirage IIICJ. Well done, Brian! And kudos to Rick Carver for creating and sponsoring this contest—only

ASM's fabled 1998 "Hasegawa P-47" competition garnered this much interest and participation from the club's top modelers, and Rick's contest will likely go down in club history as one of our most memorable contests.

Next month (February) is the club's annual Swap Meet, followed by the March 5th, 2010, open contest, our first points contest of the year. Modelers should also remember that the IPMS Nationals is looming ahead, a mere seven months away, and those considering a trip to Phoenix should be planning model projects and potential entries. But whatever your modeling interests, there are opportunities for all to build and participate in ASM contests throughout the year. Take a chance, peel off that shrinkwrap, and start a kit today!

FIELD TRIP REPORT MIKE BLOHM

Air Force Armament Museum The Inside Look

I wrote a field trip report in March 2008 on the Air Force Armament Museum, but that report covered only the outside aircraft and weapons displays because the inside of the museum was under renovation and closed to the public. This report gives you an "Inside Look" at the inside displays as of January 2010. The March 2008 report is available for download on the web site (http://abqscalemodelers.com/asm_field_trips.htm).

The museum has four aircraft on the main floor: F-105D Thunderchief, P-47N Thunderbolt, P-51D Mustang, and F-80 Starfire. Suspended from the ceiling are multiple types of missiles, rockets, drones, and bombs, including a JB-2 Loon (V-1) and a bomb-carrying BQM-34 Firebee drone. Throughout the ground floor are multiple types of weapons, including a replica of the Fat Man nuclear bomb. There is a large grouping of bombs clustered around the F-105D which includes most of the laser-guided bomb family and a

very interesting display of the air-delivered sensors used along the Ho Chi Minh Trail during the Vietnam War.



There are cockpit simulators for both the F-15 Eagle and A-10 Thunderbolt. Note that time slows down when you sit in the A-10 simulator, so check your watch.

There is a nice display on the American prisoner of war experience. There is a real Airborne Battlefield

Year 2010 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 08 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
Sponsored Contest: Best Mirage III, IV, V, 2000 or Variant (Rick Carver)
- 05 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 05 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 02 Apr** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**
GOLDEN AGE MONOGRAM—Any Monogram kit from 1945 thru 1980.
- 07 May** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: Oddball Subjects (Jim Guld)
- 04 Jun** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**
PANZER IV SPECIAL CONTEST
Sponsored Contest: 9th US Air Force (Don Smith)
- 09 Jul** Sponsored Contest: FemCon (Josh Pals)
Sponsored Contest: Tamiya Spitfire (Hobby Proz & Brian Peck)
- 13 Aug** Nationals Debrief Night—Bring Models & Trophies!
- 10 Sep** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 01 Oct** **SPECIAL CONTEST #4**
BLITZKRIEG! (APR - JUN 1940)
- 05 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 03 Dec** Sponsored Contest: Mercedes-Daimler-Benz (Patrick Dick)
Plus Model of the Year competition!





Command and Control Center module off one side door that you can walk into. The other side of the building has a “Weapons Vault” with lots of aerial machine guns, cannons, and Gatling guns, with lots of cutaways of the weapons and the munitions. There are also a lot of ground weapons—machine guns, bazookas, etc. Movies are shown in a small theater covering the history of weapons development and testing at Eglin AFB.

The second floor is a wraparound balcony that depicts aerial weapons development from World War I through current times. A lot of the weapons have cut-aways and informative descriptions depicting how they were designed.

A few notes to update my previous report: The outside displays are getting repainted and are in better shape than in 2008. The MiG-21 and Mace have been redone and look good. Unfortunately, they have not yet gotten to their F-4D. They have added an HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter, with that type’s retirement from the USAF.

The Air Force Armament Museum is located just outside of Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and is highly recommended if you are passing through Northwest Florida. Lots of good stuff for modelers. Plan on at least half a day to see both the outside and inside exhibits. Entry is free. More info on the museum is available online via the museum’s web site (<http://www.afarmamentmuseum.com>).

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SCI-FI UPDATE JOE WALTERS

By Grabthar’s Hammer! After all these years, Pegasus Hobbies has at last come out with an “official” kit of the NSEA Protector from the movie *Galaxy Quest*. Pegasus has supposedly re-created the Protector from original design data and the studio model; this appears to



be shipping now. Keep your eye out! Oh, and is there a spare beryllium sphere onboard? No, there is no spare. But if you need to enhance your *Quest* experience further, there is a second kit containing models of the hand weapon and communicator from the movie. Just don’t make your mom wait for you to take out the trash.



Has anyone seen any info concerning model kits based on the movie *Avatar*? There were lots of interesting potential hardware subjects in there, not to mention figure and diorama possibilities. And, just like the film, all such models would be in 3-D!

The annual StarFest sci-fi convention in Denver is approaching once again, and this excellent show always has a huge turnout at their Model Competition, not to mention availability of many unusual sci-fi models and accessories always available in the Dealers’ Room. The show takes place April 16 – 18 this year,



and is again at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. This hotel is adjacent to I-25 at the very south end of Denver, which makes for a very convenient drive for us Albuquerque attendees! Anyone interested should monitor their web site (<http://www.starland.com>) for details as they become available.

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.