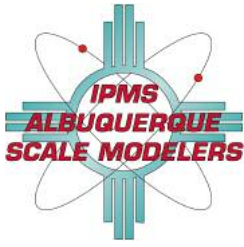


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

July 2008

## SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE CHANGE

On our originally scheduled meeting date of September 12, the Continuing Ed center is totally booked, so we're moving the September meeting back to Friday, September 5. Mark those calendars! Build those September models a little faster!

## JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS JAMES GULD

So what's new in the world of armor related goodies, you ask? Well, read on, you treadheads.

There haven't been any earth-shattering new releases, just a number of minor releases like wheel sets and figures.

There have been some more announcements of upcoming kits, like the Dragon M4A1 DV Sherman in English service, and they have also released the M4A2 75mm



June meeting highlights, left to right: the business meeting in progress; James Guld delivers a clinic on using photoetch.

gun turret late kit as a Marine tank (but it could also be used as a lend-lease tank).

Speaking of Marine tanks, this past weekend I picked up a cool new book from Squadron. It's called "Tank Warfare on Iwo Jima." Lots of cool pictures of Jarhead tanks. Good inspiration for the Pacific contest coming up.

Continuing along with the Pacific theme, Master Box has announced a couple of figure sets—one with Marines on Tarawa, and one with them in hand-to-hand with Japanese soldiers. Master Box did this same theme before with Germans and Russians on the Eastern Front. Nice in-action stuff for either full-blown dioramas or vignettes.

Other new interesting figure releases come from Dragon. They have some US tank riders, a couple of sets of Soviet infantry-related sets, and a set of Italian infantry in North Africa.

Moving onto tanks they have announced another Tiger II but this one is from 505 Heavy Tank Battalion with the charging knight symbol and with the Zimmerit removed around the symbol. They also have a Panzer II C as a smart kit. So it looks like the early war stuff is still popular. Nice to see this kit.

Just remember, you can visit the PMMS site for all your armor related info.

## DAVE STRAUB DEMO GLENN BINGHAM

On June 15, a scratchbuilding demonstration was held by Master Model Builder Dave Straub in his home



June Best of Show winners, left to right: Gil Johnson's T-34/76; Victor Maestas's IL-2 Srumovik, and John Tate's KV-1B. Once again, there were no junior entries.

garage workshop. In attendance were James Guld, Ed Johnson, Dave Miller, Fred Franceschi, Josh Pals, and Glenn Bingham.

Dave stressed the importance of gathering the necessary drawings and documentation before you start a project. He demonstrated how to cut out and shape a master part, such as a fuselage, from jellutong wood or basswood. He then shaped and sanded the part (basic features/details to be added later).

Dave showed the casting forms he had used in building his IPMS National award-winning NC-4 flying boat. He then demonstrated how to splash-cast the upper and lower fuselage bodies, which eventually could be joined to make the finished fuselage.

Dave showed his many techniques, tools, and modeling materials. Afterward, all viewed his living room display case filled with his many award-winning models, and were left in awe.

A very pleasant and informative afternoon. Thank you, Dave.

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## PIKE'S PEAK MODEL EXPO SHOW

JAMES GULD

This past month, Rick Carver and I drove up to the Pike's Peak Model Expo put on by Centennial Modelers at the Weisbrod Aircraft Museum. We also ran into Glenn Bingham at the show (so that's why you weren't at the last meeting, Glenn!).

There were 47 modelers and 234 models entered. It seemed to be about the same size as last year's show as far as turnout is concerned. What were nicer were the registration process and the awards. For the regular 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards, they went with CD-ROMs that contain high-resolution pictures of the planes at the museum. For the Best-Ofs, they had nice glass awards along with framed pieces that included

coins or money from the period. I thought that they did a great job on the awards. Nice change from the regular medals you're used to from a one-day show.

Rick took pictures so if you want to see some models you'll have to bug him.

The quality of the work was pretty good, especially in 1/32 scale aircraft, 1/48 props, and on the Modern Armor table.

There was a lot more Sci-Fi stuff there compared to last year, but the number of armor subjects seemed to be down a bit. There is even some scuttlebutt that they want to host next year's Regional, and with the way gas prices keep going, the closer the better. So hats off to Centennial for a good show!

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## FIELD TRIP REPORT MIKE BLOHM

### National Museum of the US Air Force

This Field Trip Report covers two different visits I recently made to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio, in April and May 2008.

A more detailed version of this report is posted on





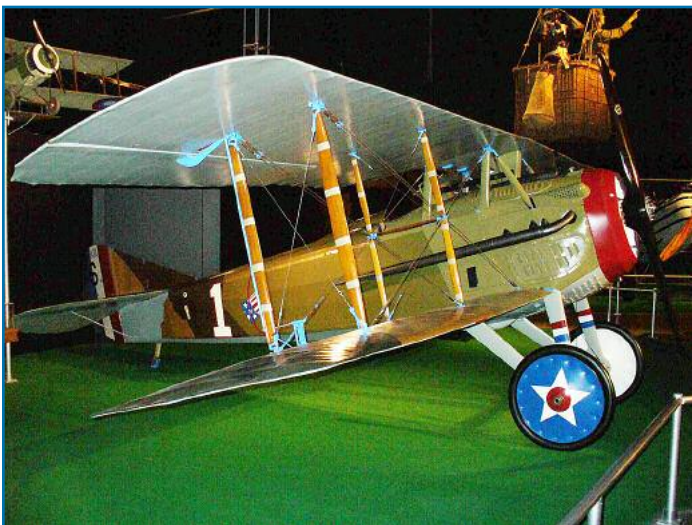


the ASM web site ([http://abqscalemodelers.com/asm\\_field\\_trips.htm](http://abqscalemodelers.com/asm_field_trips.htm))

The museum has recently added a new hangar and a tall circular building to house its missile and space display. The collection was rearranged to make the new hangar into a “Cold War” Gallery. The post-1945 prototypes and test-related aircraft (X and Y-types) previously displayed in the museum’s main hangars have now been moved into one of two hangars located over on Wright-Patterson AFB and are not available to the public except via a separate tour.



New items in the Early Years Gallery included a SPAD XIII in Eddie Rickenbacker’s markings and a Fokker Dr I suspended from the ceiling. There is a Hawker Hurricane in Eagle Squadron markings and a clever diorama



ma of a BT-14 trainer in a less-than-graceful nosed-over position.



New items in the Air Power Gallery (World War II) include a P-47D Razorback Thunderbolt in the markings of Colonel Neel Kearby, a Medal of Honor winner with 22 aerial victories in the Southwest Pacific. This display included the tail fin and a .50 caliber machine gun recovered from the crash site of Kearby’s actual *Fiery Ginger IV* in New Guinea. Other new aircraft

**Year 2008 Contest Quick Reference Chart**  
 Titles in **blue** indicate contests for “Modeler of the Year” Points

<b>4 Jan</b>	<b>SPECIAL CONTEST #1</b> <b>SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY</b>
<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>ASM Swap Meet</b> —no contest.
<b>7 Mar</b>	<b>Open Contest</b> —Any kit/subject/scale.
<b>4 Apr</b>	<b>Heroes &amp; The Good Guys</b> —men, women, or machines, any kit/subject/scale/era. <i>Sponsored Contest: “Best Corsair” (Don Smith)</i>
<b>2 May</b>	<b>SPECIAL CONTEST #2</b> <b>PHABULOUS PHANTOM’S PHIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY</b> <i>Sponsored Contest: “American MiG Killers” (Brian Peck)</i>
<b>6 Jun</b>	<b>Eastern Front</b> —Aircraft, Armor, Figures (any kit/scale/subject). <i>Sponsored Contest: “Best D-Day Subject” (ASM E-Board)</i>
<b>11 Jul</b>	<b>Open Contest</b> —Any kit/subject/scale.
<b>1 Aug</b>	<b>The Zoo</b> —Mustangs, Panthers, Cougars, etc.; any kit/subject/scale.
<b>5 Sep</b>	<b>The Pacific</b> —Any kit/subject/scale.
<b>3 Oct</b>	<b>SPECIAL CONTEST #3</b> <b>ASM’S BEST P-47, 10TH ANNIVERSARY</b>
<b>7 Nov</b>	<b>World War I, 90 Years</b> —Any WWI kit/subject/scale. <i>Sponsored Contest: “WWI Aces” (Mike Blohm)</i>
<b>5 Dec</b>	<b>SPECIAL CONTEST #4</b> <b>TAG-TEAM MODEL</b> Plus <i>Model of the Year</i> competition!

include a newly-restored Kawanishi N1K2-J Shiden-Kai (George) displayed near “Bockscar.”

The center section of the Modern Flight Gallery (Korea and Southeast Asia) now has an F-22A Raptor. This is the third F-22A built and was used in developmental testing at Edwards AFB, but it is displayed in Langley AFB markings. Also new is a Boeing “Bird of Prey” test prototype unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)—very cool looking.



The new Cold War Gallery has a MiG-29A, a test B-2, and three recently restored cruise missiles: Mace, Matador, and a Snark.

The new Missile Gallery building is attached to the east wall of the Cold War gallery, and this includes a balcony where you can get an excellent look out over the display—unfortunately the only place in the museum where you can do that.

The Missile and Space Gallery has six newly-restored missiles: Jupiter, Thor, Titan I, Titan II, Thor Agena A, and a Peacekeeper. The Gallery’s wraparound balcony

allows a good look at the missiles, but it is still difficult to take pictures of them from any aspect due to their height.

The two on-base hangars contain the Research and Development (R&D) Gallery and the Presidential Aircraft Gallery. The R&D aircraft are quite impressive but they are jam-packed like sardines around the center-point B-70 Valkyrie, leaving little room to get between them and making photography difficult. Aircraft of note include the RQ-3A Dark Star UAV, Piper PA48 Enforcer (turboprop P-51), YF-12A and D-21B Drone, YF-22 Raptor, XGAM-63 Rascal, and an X-10 Navaho. If you have an extra hour, taking the bus over to see the R&D Gallery is recommended, especially if you are a fan of “X-aircraft.”

Very highly recommended to visit if you happen to be near Dayton. Plan on at least a full day if you are a fast walker. Bring lots of extra memory cards or film for your camera, and a ton of money or credit cards for the gift shop, as they have a most excellent book section. More information is available at the museum’s web site (<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil>).

## BONUS PAGES!

Members who receive the electronic edition of this newsletter will note two additional pages comprising a Kit Review by Tim Wood of the 21st Century kit of the Macchi C.202. Tim submitted this review as a PDF file, which does not lend itself to being reformatted into someone else’s layout, so it is presented here exactly as submitted. Thanks, Tim!

### Master

John Tate . . . . .	901
James Guld . . . . .	871
Mike Blohm . . . . .	292
Mike Franklin . . . . .	160
Ken Liotta . . . . .	159
Patrick Dick . . . . .	87
Brian Peck . . . . .	50
Mike McNichols . . . . .	25
Dave Miller . . . . .	25
Keith Liotta . . . . .	2

### Intermediate

Victor Maestas . . . . .	649
Tim Wood . . . . .	325
Frank Randall . . . . .	320
Rick Carver . . . . .	250
Josh Pals . . . . .	200
Don Blea . . . . .	125
Adrian Montañó . . . . .	110
Don Smith . . . . .	103
Tom Perea . . . . .	102
Jeff Frickstad . . . . .	75

Jack Garriss . . . . .	25
Danny Williamson . . . . .	2

### Basic

Gil Johnson . . . . .	660
Matt Blohm . . . . .	125
Jeannie Garriss . . . . .	125
John Tribou . . . . .	125

## ASM 2008 MODELER-OF-THE-YEAR POINTS

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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.





## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Macchi C.202 By Tim Wood

In a time where all costs are rising, including models, it was refreshing to find a \$10.00 kit at my local Wal-Mart. When I first purchased it, I didn't know who *21<sup>st</sup> Century* was but after some research found that this was the company that produces pre-built model airplanes and tanks. Upon opening the box I was surprised to see plastic that looked more like resin castings than styrene, which is normally associated with models. The model details were good but not up to mainstream model manufacturers. However, the decal sheet was phenomenal. In all honesty, I admittedly did not know much about Italian WWII aircraft and was never that interested prior to this build, but the color schemes and seemingly easy build intrigued me. So, let's begin.

Step 1 would have the builder put the cockpit together but upon initial trial fitting of the fuselage and wings I found that the lugs to hold the parts together prevented them from fitting tightly so I ground them off with my Dremel tool. After I completed that step I had to fill the large holes where the screws fit together. I melted some sprue and filled the holes then sanded smooth and finished it off with a layer of superglue, sanding smooth once again. The builder has to decide if he or she wants to include the working features of the model such as landing gear, propeller and canopy because they will have to complete some scratch building if they don't. Once the initial prep work was complete the rest of the model went together like any other.

The wheels of the kit were woefully undersized so I pirated some from my parts box. I was able to compare wheels from the Pacific Coast Models 1/32 Macchi 202 thanks to fellow ASM'er Kyle Garber, but found that those wheels were WAY too big to fit in the stock landing gear without significant modification or using the PCM landing gear. The wheels that I was able to source from my spare parts box were also too large. I also had to grind the plastic from the landing gear as well as cut down the actual wheels in order to ensure a good fit.

After the basic airframe was complete I checked for seams and other flaws and primed the model. This is where the model really became interesting as there are three different schemes to choose from. One with tan base and green smoke rings, the other with tan base and green patches and the last scheme of overall olive green. I chose the tan base with green patches in an effort to further develop my airbrushing skills. I used my Iwata airbrush and experimented with different mixes of paint to improve my modeling skills. I was able to airbrush the camouflage freehand after much trial and error, but I was satisfied with the results. The decals were placed using Micro Set/Sol and left to dry. After a few days I sealed the finish and weathered the airframe. The last bits were added and the model was complete.

The *21<sup>st</sup> Century* lines of kits are basic, yet satisfying model kits. I was able to practice some modeling skills and try new techniques but not feel bad about screwing up an expensive kit. Are these kits Nationals quality? My answer would be no, but if you are looking for a kit that you can practice some new techniques on without feeling guilty or if a modeler wants to go all out and add aftermarket and scratch building to a kit then pick up one of these and have fun!

