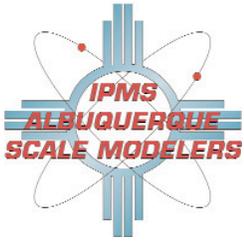


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://www.hobbies-n-stuff.com/asmweb.htm>

March 2005

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS FRANK RANDALL

If you have been reading the IPMS USA website (<http://www.ipmsusa.org>), there is a new article about the "Future of our Hobby," written from another perspective. It does make thought-provoking reading, and raises some important questions about the other side of the coin. I do suggest reading it and making up you own minds about this somewhat thorny topic.

In other news, there are some great articles and online builds, including one by Brian Peck on the 1/32 Frank.

There are going to be some changes in the way that the Raffle is done. We are going to conduct the raffle throughout the evening instead of the last

thing. So I advise you all to get your tickets at the earliest opportunity.



February meeting highlights; above and right: Jim Morley holds the crowd's attention with stories of D-Day; far right: some fast-moving jets on the Display Only table.



Lastly, would anyone like to see a sponsored contest featuring any F-16, any scale? I am considering doing it for the month of December 2005.

## CONTEST CORNER MIKE BLOHM

### February Meeting Report

The February meeting featured a historical presentation by Mr. Jim Morley, who talked about his military service as a radio operator in the U.S. Army in the European Theater of Operations. The membership thoroughly enjoyed his talk, which included accounts of having participated in the D-Day landing on Utah Beach and the Battles of the Bulge and Hurtgen Forest. Pictures of the presentation can be seen on the ASM website. Thanks to everyone who brought in a D-Day model for dis-



play. The February meeting also included Part 2 of the judging workshop, with presentations by Dave Miller and Ken Liotta. Thanks to all members who participated. We will begin “in action” on-the-job training at the March contest.

### **ASM Displays at Hobbies 'N Stuff**

Hobbies 'N Stuff has allowed ASM to use a section of the shop's display cases along the back wall for model displays by the ASM members. Displays could range from a historical theme (*i.e.*, “The USAF in the Korean War” or “Armor of Desert Storm”) or could advertise an upcoming Theme or Sponsored Contest. John Kendrick is the first out of the barrel with a nicely-done display for his March “Gundams” sponsored contest. Please drop by HnS to check it out, and get yourself a Gundam kit and build it! The Gundam display is located immediately below ASM's “What is Scale Modeling?” presentation. Please get with the E-Board if you'd like to put on a display. We'll probably run them 3 – 4 weeks each, depending upon member's interest. This is a great way to show off your collection of single-engined, cantilevered, one-eyed, one-horned, float-equipped whatchamacallits.

### **Contest Guidelines Review**

Since there weren't any contests to report on this month, I wanted to take this opportunity to give a quick review of the ASM Contest Guidelines as we head into the contest season. ASM basically has three kind of contests during the year, which are detailed below:

#### **Theme/Open Points Contests**

- Points awarded count towards Modeler of the Year standings.
- Ribbons (First-Second-Third and Gold-Silver-Bronze) and Best of Show awards in each level presented.
- Max of three models can be entered—can be in any category, or all in one.
- Entries cannot have been awarded points in a previous points contest.
- Only models that meet the “theme” in a theme contest are eligible for the Best of Show award.
- All models are eligible for Best of Show in an Open Contest (no theme).
- Points are awarded as follows: Model Entry: 25 points; First Place: 100 points; Second Place: 75

points; Third Place: 50 Points; In-Theme: 10 points (Theme Contest only); Best of Show: 150 points; People's Choice: 50 points; Work In Progress: 2 points.

- Can enter one Work In Progress per month at any meeting whether there is a contest or not.
- Best of Show winners in each level are eligible for Model of the Year showdown at December meeting.

#### **Special Contests**

- No points awarded towards Modeler of the Year standings.
- Best Overall Entry award (plaque/trophy) and Best Entry in each level presented.
- Entry must be in the theme of the Special Contest to be eligible for these awards.
- Max of five models can be entered.
- Entries can have been entered in previous special contests or theme/open contests.
- Best Overall Entry winners are eligible for Model of the Year showdown at December meeting.

#### **Sponsored Contests**

- No points awarded towards Modeler of the Year standings.
- Criteria, number of entries allowed, and types of awards are at the discretion of the contest sponsor.
- Judging by contest sponsor unless other arrangements made.

#### **People's Choice Award Voting**

Due to the change in meeting start time, we need to institute a new procedure for the People's Choice voting beginning with the March contest. Request that everyone check out the models prior to the beginning of the business part of the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Official judging will begin at 8:00 P.M., with the doors to the adjoining contest room closed off. As soon as the judging is completed, the membership will be given the ballots and allowed into the contest room to pick their favorites. The model entry sheets will have been picked up at that time, but each model will have an identifying number placard next to it—like “J-1” in the Juniors section, “B-1” (model entry number, not the bomber, so pay attention) in the Basics section, etc. Please use these numbers when you're writing down your choices. This will also help elim-

inate confusion when we sometime have similar models entered (“Which P-51 did he vote for?”). We’ll see how this works in March, and will adjust as necessary.

### Upcoming Contests / Events of Interest

**March 4: Open Contest #1.** First 2005 Points Contest. All scales, subjects and eras.

There will also have a **Swap Meet** at the March meeting—bring your plastic goodies!

*Sponsored Contest: “Gundams” hosted by John Kendrick. Best entry awards in each level.*

*Workshop: Figure Painting—Stan Harris*

**April 1: Theme: “Bent Wing Birds, Cats, or From the Animal Kingdom.”** Points contest.

Any Chance-Vought Corsair-I, Grumman “Cat” aircraft (Wildcat, Hellcat, Tomcat, etc.), or subject that fits an “animal name.” All scales and eras. Note that “animals” includes insects and aquatic life. Qualifying animal name examples are: DeHaviland “Mosquito,” submarine “Nautilus,” aircraft carrier “Hornet,” F-15 “Eagle,” and both P-51 and Ford “Mustangs.” “Official nicknames” only; *i.e.*, “Cockroach” (F-117) not applicable, but it does fit under “Nighthawk.” Foreign language animal names are included; *i.e.*, Russian Su-47 (S-37) “Berkut” (Eagle).

*Workshop / Presentation: “Airships”—David Straub*

**May 6: Theme: “World War I”** Points Contest. Any subject or scale, friend or foe, that participated in WW I (all fronts).

*Sponsored Contest: “Micro-Modeling” sponsored by the ASM E-Board. See the website schedule for further details.*

*Workshop: Wet Sanding Finishes—Brian Peck*

## IN-BOX REVIEW

### JAMES GULD

**Combo Kit: 251/1 D & 7.5cm Pak 40 and AFV Club 1/35**

If you’re an armorhead like me, then you probably already know of these kits; but if you don’t follow the PMMS site for updates or build those funny things with wings then I’ll give you my take on it. I still suggest going to the PMMS site (<http://pmms.webace.com.au/newkitnews/newf.htm>) and

### Year 2005 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

<b>7 Jan</b>	<b>SPECIAL CONTEST #1</b> <b>SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY</b>
<b>4 Feb</b>	<b>D-Day Presentation</b> —no contest.
<b>4 Mar</b>	<b>Open Contest</b> —Any kit/scale. <i>*Sponsored Contest: Gundams (John Kendrick) and</i>
	<b>ASM Swap Meet</b>
<b>1 Apr</b>	<b>Bent-wing Birds/Cats/Animals</b> —Any kit, any scale, any era.
<b>6 May</b>	<b>WWI</b> —Any kit, any scale. <i>*Sponsored Contest: Micro-Modeling (ASM E-Board)</i>
<b>3 Jun</b>	<b>SPECIAL CONTEST #2: SOUTHEAST ASIA 1941 - PRESENT</b>
<b>Changed</b>	<i>*Sponsored Contest: Best 1/48-scale Prop; model type TBD (Ken Liotta)</i>
<b>8 Jul</b>	<b>ASM Swap Meet</b> —no contest.
<b>5 Aug</b>	<b>Jets &amp; Prototype Aircraft/Vehicles/Ships</b> —Any kit, any scale. <i>*Sponsored Contest: Night Fighters (Patrick Dick &amp; Jason Clevenger)</i>
<b>9 Sep</b>	<b>Africa/Middle East, 1914 - Present</b> Any kit, any scale, any nation. <i>*Sponsored Contest: Best P-38 (Stan Johnson)</i>
<b>7 Oct</b>	<b>Battles of 1945</b> —Any subject/scale. <i>*Sponsored Contest: 1/35-scale German Armor (Rick Carver &amp; Don Smith)</i> <i>*Sponsored Contest: BabeFest (Larry Horyna)</i>
<b>5 Nov</b>	<b>Open Contest</b> —Any kit, any scale. Plus: <b>One-Hour Modeling Contest</b> <i>*Sponsored Contest: F/A-22 Raptors (Mike Blohm)</i>
<b>2 Dec</b>	<b>SPECIAL CONTEST #3</b> <b>MODELING NEW MEXICO</b> Plus: <b>Model of the Year</b>

checking out the great reviews there.

AFV Club decided to put these two kits together for a limited edition boxing of 3000 kits. I don’t know if they are available from all suppliers but I got mine online.

Let’s start with the horse; or, in this case, the 251/1. I had heard that people were having fitting problems earlier with this kit with a gap at the rear of the hull where the upper and lower hulls come together. I tried dry-fitting some of the parts and couldn’t see any problems, but it’s kind of hard since you really have to assemble the bottom parts of the hull tub to really set the top on and see one way or another. I have heard that the problem was taken care of, so unless you are unlucky and somehow get one of the very early kits then you should be in good shape. This will be the first AFV Club kit for me and with all the new 251 series half-tracks coming out

by both AFV Club and Dragon, I was anxious to get one to see how it looked. I had heard that the kit was good and upon opening the box I wasn't disappointed. I didn't notice any sink marks on the hull sides or rear plate for the doors. Everything seems very crisply molded and flash-free. They give choices for the interior seating for the rear bench seats, either the early style solid cushion or the later wood slates. The front seats are nice and have the springs molded to the backs but, I've heard that Dragon now has the spring backs as a separate item in their kits. The dashboard and Fug 5 radio are nice, but again, Dragon is supposed to now give decals for the dashboard, which would be nice. The onboard tools are nice but could use either a little scratchbuilding help with the hold down handles or you could add aftermarket tool holders from, say, Aber. The running gear is very nice both for the front suspension and for the road wheels and drive sprockets. They provide the early style pattern tracks in the form of rubber band tracks, but these are beautiful and very crisp. They are also made like the real thing with a different number of tracks per side due to the torsion bar suspension. They also provide individual links in the later pattern, but they do have slight mold marks on the inner face and I have read that the links will need to be trimmed to let them work. See the review at the PMMS site for more in-depth details with pictures.

They provide markings for five different vehicles, all of which are on the eastern front.

Now, on to the cart. This is the early version of the Pak 40 and comes with a pre-bent brass gun shield, which is in two halves. They provide the plastic spacers used on the shield, or you could buy the separate brass ones. They also give you an aluminum barrel but the muzzle brake is still a two-piece deal. The tires are rubber for the wheels and even have the Continental markings on them. The gun can be built in either the transport or fire mode, so watch those instructions carefully.

Again everything seems very crisply molded and the reviews I've read say the AFV Club Pak 40 is hands-down better than the Dragon offering. They don't provide any markings for the Pak 40 and I don't recall ever seeing any markings on anti-tank guns, but then again, I haven't started collecting any references on the gun (which are slim, by the way). There are a number of books on the 251 series halftrack and if you go to the PMMS site you'll see a list with pictures. As far as the 7.5cm Pak 40 goes, the best source I know of is

the Nuts & Bolts issue that deals with the Marder III. It is supposed to also cover the gun in detail. On the web I have come across a few sites dealing with the Pak 40:

[http://www.zimmerit.com/main/PagineWeb/photofiles/pak\\_40.htm](http://www.zimmerit.com/main/PagineWeb/photofiles/pak_40.htm)

<http://tanxheaven.com/ljs/pak40/pak40ljs.htm>

<http://tanxheaven.com/pak40/pak40pic.htm>

Happy Modeling!

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## 2006 REGIONAL UPDATE

### JAMES GULD

We have filled most of the positions for the Regional. We still need someone for the Security position. If you would like to help out, please contact either Tom Perea or myself. Here are the people who have joined the team to help run the regional:

Co-Chairman: Tom Perea  
 Co-Chairman: Jim Guld  
 Contest Director/Head Judge: Ken Liotta  
 Registration: Jack Garriss  
 Vending Room: Patrick Dick  
 Seminars: Jack Morris  
 Banquet: Rick Carver  
 Raffle: Frank Randall  
 Trophy Packages: Brian Peck  
 Security: Your name here....

Along with the above-named people, we also have Joe Walters helping out with publications, and Mike Blohm will handle the website info.

I'm asking for help from anyone who has participated in a Regional or National before. I'd like to hear from you as to problems or just your experiences and what to expect. I also would like to hear from anyone with regards to ideas for speakers for the seminars or any ideas in general for the Regional. I can be reached by EMail ([jamesguld@cybermesa.com](mailto:jamesguld@cybermesa.com)) or on the phone: (505) 982-3089 (home) or (505) 474-7447 (work). At home please call before 10:00 P.M. I need by beauty sleep.

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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 prior month.