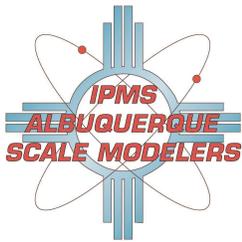


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



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

March 2006

MEETING LOCATION!

Remember, this month only, we're meeting at the **MCM Elegante Hotel**, site of the upcoming Chile Con Regional! It's at 2020 Menaul NE, just east of the intersection of University and Menaul, and right next to Little Anita's. See you there Friday the 3rd!

PRESIDENT'S CROSSHAIRS PATRICK DICK

One of my goals this year as President is to increase the membership of the club. As I mentioned in the January meeting, I have challenged each of the members of the E-Board to recruit at least one new member this year. I would also like to extend that challenge to the entire club. I know this is a tall order, but there are quite a few modelers out there that would like to join a club to learn more about the craft and history in general—we just have to find them.

We discussed a couple of different recruiting strategies at the January meeting. The first one was to do another Mall Show, and this time we are going to engage the crowd by having a "People's Choice Award" to get them to be active instead of passive participants in the show. This gets the people involved in looking at the models and asking questions. We need to have a large participation in this show in hopes of getting a respectable number of new members. Also, this will be an excellent opportunity to promote "Chile Con." So please, if you have the time and/or models you would like to put on display, please contact anyone on the E-Board to get involved with the show. The second idea is to have "Make & Takes" at the hobby shops. Jim Guld is currently working with the Hobby Lobby in

Santa Fe to set one up for early April (see his article below). Other ideas have been to work with schools and Boy Scouts to introduce the hobby to the younger generation.

I am going to discuss this further at the March meeting so, if anyone has other ideas about recruiting new members, please join the discussion.

I have printed up about 200 ASM "business cards" for everyone to hand out at any opportunity that presents itself. These cards have the ASM logo on the front and the meeting time and place with Jim Guld's and my EMail addresses on the back. There is also a stack of the cards at Hobbies 'N Stuff that can be given out to anyone buying plastic models.

MAKE-&TAKE JAMES GULD

The Albuquerque Scale Modelers will be hosting a Make-&Take program at Hobby Lobby in Santa Fe on Saturday, April 1, from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. The Make-&Take program is set up by IPMS/USA as a way to introduce the hobby to younger modelers and reintroduce it to older modelers. Participants will be given a model to build and shown the various model making tools and techniques. Limit one model per person. On hand will be model makers from our club that have won awards at the national level of competition. Along with the clinic will we also have some models on display and will answer your entire model making questions. Best of all, it's free!

For details and directions, see James Guld at the meeting; he can also be contacted using the information at the end of the newsletter.

FYI

JAMES GULD

FYI: New Mexico Museum of Military History

A new museum is possibly in the works in Rio Rancho. The plan calls for an 80,000sf space: 35,000 for exhibits, 30,000 for conservation and restoration, and the remainder for classrooms, meeting rooms and offices.

You can help by letting your elected representatives know that you want this museum and watch for news of the “\$1 a Vet” campaign. For more information, please contact the following non-profit organizations:

New Mexico Museum of Military History
(505) 345-0037

Museum Development Associates (505) 466-3480

KIT REVIEW

JOHN TATE

British Universal Carrier Mk. II

Tamiya 1/48th Armor Kit (MM No. 16)

The Universal Carrier Mk. II was one version in a family of light, tracked personnel carriers common on British and Commonwealth armies during the Second World War. Tamiya’s recent 1/48th-scale kit is the newest tooling of this important WWII armored vehicle and a delight to build.

Tamiya’s model represents a Universal Carrier Mk. II, used by Allied forces during the latter half of WWII in the European and Mediterranean theaters. The Universal Carrier was designed to transport motorized infantry support units, known as Motor Battalions, for the British Army and thus saw much action with armored brigades in Northern Europe.

Assembly of the kit is straightforward with few problems. The normal seam-and-gap issues arise, but are minor and easily handled with small amounts of putty or CA glue. Fit is generally good. I found the kit’s biggest drawback to be the mold line running around the interior and circumference of the pre-molded track-and-bogey assemblies. It is difficult to remove and the modeler must be careful not to cause damage to adjacent parts during cleanup. However, I



commend Tamiya for molding the track-and-bogey units in single pieces, rather than having the tracks molded as separate links or vinyl bands.

Marking schemes and decals are provided for four British vehicles, three from Northern Europe in 1944/45 and one from Tunisia in 1943. All are overall dark green, although paint shades varied considerably. I chose the Tunisia scheme because of the striking red-and-white ID flashes.

Overall, I enjoyed building this little model, which in 1/48th scale fits comfortably on a dollar bill. Given the choice of subject matter, I would expect Tamiya to soon release a Churchill, Cromwell, or Firefly tank in 1/48th scale to provide some fire support for those Motor Battalions. I recommend this kit to all modelers interested in WWII British subjects and especially those wishing to try Tamiya’s new line of 1/48th-scale armor kits.

JIM’S SPRUES & REVIEWS

JAMES GULD

While sitting down to write last month’s column, I had two ideas of what to write about. You all saw one and the other was supposed to be for this month. Well guess what—I forgot to write it down and it went out of my head. So I decided—well, actually, my wife Stacy suggested—that I write about how I got into model making and how it makes me feel. So here goes.

Like many of you, I built kits as a kid and into my teen years. I even managed to continue into my early 20s when on winter/summer break from college. I then stopped for about seven years, and at the time I lived in

New York City and had my own model making shop for architectural models and advertising props, etc. Through a mutual friend, I made a large window display diorama for a trendy southwest-style restaurant. Fate, maybe? I traded my services for food, since I like to eat. It was a good deal because they made killer margaritas and mean shrimp ceviche. After that, I didn’t really do much model-wise for fun. I guess it was like a “busman’s holiday” for me. Too much of it at work had taken away the urge to build tanks. Well, fast-forward to 2002, a year after moving to Santa Fe, and while talking to my brother-in-law (also a fine model maker in his own right) he was telling me about how the hobby has grown in recent years. He told me about a number of model-

making websites and I had to check them out, so, lo and behold, the bug bit me big-time. That fall I picked up a few kits and did a diorama for the Bataan Museum here in Santa Fe. It was through the museum that I found out about ASM.

The thing that I love the most is that it makes me feel exactly like I did when I was younger and just building for the first time. I don't know of anything else in my life that makes me feel this way. No matter how bad a day is at work, I can usually come home and relax by putting on my optivisor and picking up some minute piece of photo-etch for a model. Now that may sound crazy to most, but hey—whatever floats your boat!

Now please go build something for Chile Con.

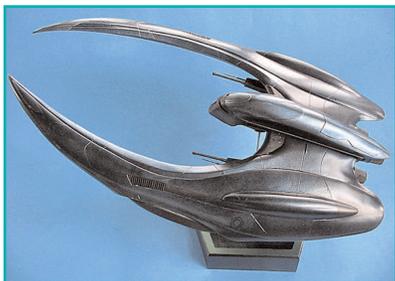
SCI-FI KIT EXPLOSION

JOE WALTERS

(or “Joe Needs to Fill a Couple of Pages”)

Enthusiasts of science fiction modeling have certainly noticed that there have been many new kits made available over the last few years—notably several Star Trek kits from Polar Lights and Bandai, as well as recent reissues of old AMT kits and some new Star Wars subjects—but those who only monitor the major manufacturers are missing out on the overwhelming number of new subjects and conversions out there!

Many smaller manufacturers and “garage”-type sources are offering a staggering number of sci-fi spacecraft subjects, and not just from Trek!



There are many copies—but can you find a way to make that red light go back and forth on this kit?

Another outfit called simply “Alliance” offers the new Galactica itself, along with many other subjects, mostly Trek-related, including several shuttlecraft types, the Delta Flyer, and even Khan’s DY-100 Botany Bay (in scale with the new Polar Lights Enterprise model).



Captain Proton would certainly approve of this Delta Flyer kit.

A small outfit called Howling Wolf, for example, offers craft from the new Battlestar Galactica series (Cylon Raider and Cylon Base Ship) as well as the “Alkesh” craft from the popular *Stargate: SG1*.

Howling Wolf and Alliance sell their products through combined sales websites like Federation Models and Starship Modeler; all websites mentioned in this article are listed at the end.

Comet Miniatures offers an 18” *Discovery* from *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and an in-scale *Leonov* from *2010*, as well as subjects from *Firefox*, *Mad Max*, *Space: 1999*, and others.



I’m sorry, Dave. I’m afraid I can’t build that.

Skyhook Models offers subjects from several sci-fi films and series, including the Planet Express from *Futurama*, the Martian War Machine from George Pal’s *War of the Worlds*, and many more.



Good news, everyone! Planet Express is ready to deliver.

Starcraft Models (also sells through the sites mentioned above) offers a number of Trek kits in scale with AMT’s Enterprise-D, so you can build an entire

Starfleet in scale, including several ship classes not offered by the majors. They also offer a kit of the *Protector* from *Galaxy Quest*!

Warp Models, a UK outfit that also sells thru commercial websites, offers numerous *Babylon 5* subjects (including the White Star, Shadow destroyer, and two different Earth Alliance warships), several *Space: 1999* kits, *Stargate* subjects



Looking for one of these? Never give up, never surrender!

(including the stargate itself and Death Gliders), and several Trek subjects including a detailed Borg Cube, conversion kits to alter standard AMT kits to variant classes, and more.



With this kit, you can send tiny objects to destinations across the galaxy...

Also selling thru the conglomerate websites, Gizmotron offers another *B5* White Star model, as well as several Star Trek variant ship classes. Planet V also sells a *Babylon 5* kit, the ubiquitous Earth Alliance Shuttle.

Of course, anyone building any sci-fi subject should always *start* by looking at the CultTVMan website. This site collects vast quantities of reference data for virtually any imaginable sci-fi subject, and even includes an online hobbyshop offering many of the subjects mentioned above.

More than just spaceship kits are out there—after-market products exist for sci-fi kits just as they do for other subjects. For instance, the recent Polar Lights Star Trek Refit Enterprise kit can already be enhanced with lighting kits, structural bracing armatures, stencils for making the hull patterns, and more. Interiors, fighter cockpits, conversion parts, figures (many of them recognizably based on known actors—one of them actually sells an Adam West replacement head for the old Aurora Batman figure!) and many other add-ons are available for many kits and subjects. Look around!

Notice that we haven't even touched on things like decals, "accurizing" replacement parts, figures, props, electronic sound and light kits, and other sci-fi items, but they are out there in vast numbers and can be found the same way as these kits.

Quality of these kits varies, of course, as does size, scale and accuracy. Buyer beware! Do some research if in doubt—someone out there has built this kit, and can offer some critique and details from experience!

And *Your Favorite Local Hobby Shop* can certainly order most if not all of these kits for your convenience.

Contacts

Websites mentioned in this article, and a few others, in no particular order:

Federation Models	http://www.federationmodels.com
Starship Modeler	http://www.starshipmodeler.com
Comet Miniatures	http://www.comet-miniatures.com
Skyhook Models	http://www.skyhookmodels.com

CultTVMan	http://www.culttvman.com
Don's Light & Magic	http://www.dlmparts.com
JBot Decals	http://www.jbot.ca
Lunar Models	http://www.lunarmodelsonline.com
Realspace Models	http://www.realspacemodels.com
Voodoo FX (lighting)	http://www.voodoofx.com

Year 2006 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

6 Jan	SPECIAL CONTEST #1 SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
3 Feb	ASM Swap Meet —no contest.
3 Mar	Open Contest —Any kit/scale.
7 Apr	Best Kitai (WWII Japan air forces)
28 Apr	Flying Boats, Amphibians, and Hulls <i>Workshop: Brush painting (John Tate)</i>
2 Jun	SPECIAL CONTEST #2 THE BEST TWO-FER <i>Workshop: Photo-etch (TBA)</i> <i>Resin Casting (TBA)</i>
7 Jul	Italian Wonders (any era/scale/subject) <i>Workshop: Weathering (TBA)</i> <i>Workshop: Zimmerit (TBA)</i>
4 Aug	ASM Swap Meet —no contest
8 Sep	Armies of the 1900s <i>Workshop: Figure painting (TBA)</i>
6 Oct	Eastern Europe 1950 - 1990 <i>Sponsored Contest: Babefest (Ken Liotta)</i> <i>Workshop: Homemade tools (show & tell)</i> <i>Workshop: Attaching "itty-bitty" pieces (TBA)</i>
3 Nov	Open Contest —Any kit/scale. <i>Sponsored Contest: "F-teen" (Ken Liotta, Keith Liotta, Brian Peck, Frank Randall)</i>
1 Dec	SPECIAL CONTEST #3 BEST ZERO Plus <i>Model of the Year</i> 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.