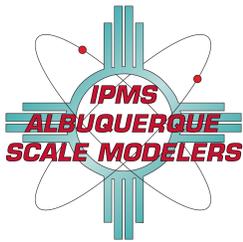


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com> ←NEW!

March 2007

## PREZ NOTES

**KEN LIOTTA**

Over the past year and a half, we have drifted towards the concerns of managing a model club and hosting a Regional contest. We hit a few bumps along the way but we seem to have adjusted. The Regional was not just a contest, but an extraordinary event. And the club should take great pride in that accomplishment.

Now, it is time to rekindle the passion that has drawn all of us to this unique hobby. I have long pondered this challenge and at our last two E-board meetings, following the suggestion of a fellow club member, I asked each board member to look through their existing models and find the oldest surviving built model from their earliest years of modeling and bring it to the March meeting for a little walk down memory lane. I invite every club member to do the same. With some persuasion and a little enthusiasm we might just stir up a few modelers' "there-I-was" stories. I hope to share that with as many of the club's modelers as possible.

Remember that Revell 1/72 A-20C Havoc with the unusual camouflage on the box top? Or those old MPC 1/72 reissues of Airfix kits that included psychedelic decals, a chrome tree of accessories, and those multi-pose clear stands? Brings back a few cool memories. What kit did you always want as a kid, but never got? And there in lies the beauty of eBay. But that is another article.

If you still have one of those old kits, pull it out and bring it to the club meeting. And don't forget to bring your snippers, X-acto knife, and an emery board so that you can start cutting the parts off of the trees and cleaning them up for gluing. When you're done reading the newsletter, go find your oldest surviving built model and one of those old unbuilt kits and have them ready to bring to the meeting. See you there.

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

**JAMES GULD**

I just wanted to remind everyone to bring in a kit or supplies for the package that we will send off to the troops in the beginning of March. Thanks.

Also, don't forget to work on those Shermans for my April Best Sherman contest.

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## JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

**JAMES GULD**

This month I thought I would talk about something different: safety in modeling.

I work as a custom furniture maker, mainly in steel, but also incorporate other materials like wood, stone, etc. Last December, I was working on a piece at my shop and it was a very cold day and I decided not to open up my back door where I have my exhaust fan located and was doing some finish sanding on some metal chairs. Well, you guessed it. I got a small piece of metal dust in one of my eyes that didn't come out with eyewash. After a visit to the emergency room and to the eye doctor for antibiotics for my eye, I thought I would write about safety.

We often don't think about it or take a short cut like I did on that cold day. Well, it's just not worth it. I'm generally very good about wearing safety gear at the shop and now even more so. Now how does this relate to model making? Well, think about where you spray and what you spray. Good ventilation is a must. I personally use a 3M 1/2-mask respirator with filters for inorganic materials along with having the exhaust fan running at my shop when I paint. I usually prime my models with enamel spray paint and finish them off in acrylics. For the acrylics I usually don't wear the mask

and just have the fan on which works fine.

There is an easy test for this. Just get a tissue and pick your nose. If you see paint residue then put the mask on. Besides painting you should be wearing a respirator when working with resin if you're doing a lot of dry sanding. Now, if you do wet sanding you'll be okay. If you're using a table saw or doing any sort of cutting or grinding with a Dremel motor tool, then I would suggest some sort of eye protection.

I just wanted to pass this on. I was lucky back in December, so think safety first.

## BOOK REVIEW

### DON SMITH

#### Operation Cobra 1944

*Breakout from Normandy*

By Steven J. Zaloga • Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2001

*I wasn't going to review Osprey books. I found glaring inaccuracies in the first Osprey book I read— Pearl Harbor 1941. Since then I found the Osprey books are a quick and dirty way to learn about a particular battle that interests me. —D. Smith*

What can I say? This is a typical Osprey Campaign series book; lots of maps, artwork and interesting photos about Operation Cobra packed into 96 pages. Despite the fact this is an English book company there are no disparaging remarks about Patton's bad teeth and DeGaul's pigheadedness. Nor does it talk about the great job Montgomery did holding down the German Panzer Divisions around Caen. What you get is a concise history of Operation Cobra. Just the ticket if you're pressed for time.

In short, Operation Cobra was the battle to get the allies out of the Normandy hedgerows and into a more open area where they could use their numerical advantage in armor to race to Germany. The campaign started in July 1944 in Normandy and ended in August when Paris was liberated. During this time the Germans

were never successful in getting off a counterattack against the American spearhead. George S. Patton was brought off the bench and given the U.S. Third Army to command. He takes off and the rest is history. One of the things I learned was he might have sealed off the Falaise pocket but was redirected away by General Omar Bradley. I also learned that Culin hedgerow cutters were not as widely used as legend suggests.

I liked the book and found full of helpful photos for the modeler. I've been working on a diorama of the 2nd Armor Division with troops in camouflaged uniforms and an M-5 with the Culin hedgerow cutter. I had doubts this would be accurate but the photos prove I'm on the right track. Don't expect detailed personal accounts of the campaign, this book is very broad. There is also an informative reading list at the back of the book. The book is softbound and I picked up a copy at Borders for about \$19.00. I'll give it a rating of four out of five stars. ★★★★★

#### Year 2007 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

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