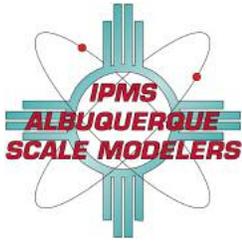


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

March 2011

## PRESIDENTIAL INKLINGS VICTOR MAESTAS

### Suffering

*"Ah, mais il souffre, il souffre..."* This is a French term that's spoken during cycling events, especially long painful hill climbs, by spectators, announcers and even other cyclists. It is an expression of respect for the effort put out by the athlete. It doesn't necessarily matter if the cyclist is leading the race, or if he even has a chance of winning, but the effort and commitment to produce their best possible result has to be acknowledged.

In modeling, you can see people looking at a finished model and mumble a very similar comment. An aircraft that has been completely re-scribed top and bottom, or hundreds of scale hex bolts and rivets replaced on an armor subject, or adding a full strike force of aircraft on the deck of a carrier may not guarantee a good placing in a contest, but is certainly impressive to look at. You know that the person that did this spent countless hours to get the results shown. This model was built for more than just points at the next contest; they must really like the subject, or have some other reason to want to get the best finish possible.

Sometimes a bunch of smaller efforts can also be impressive to see. A car model with a fully appointed interior, a

wired and plumbed engine and even valve stems on the wheels add up to an impressive subject. The same can be said for an aircraft that has all the stores loaded under the wings, brake lines on the landing gear and every maintenance stencil on the airframe on top of a complicated camouflage scheme.

Other times, the results of the effort may not ever be seen by others, but can add to the satisfaction of the builder, and therefore, worth it (for example, fully detailing and painting a radio compartment in an aircraft that can be seen only by looking through a small window or weathering the crew compartment of a tank which will only be seen through a partially opened hatch). Others may not see it, but the builder knows the effort that went into the build and he can say to himself: "I know it's in there, and it's the best I could do."

Sometimes a large effort has a small payoff, but each part adds up to the final impression of the subject. When you see the end result, you can tell the time spent and commitment made to make the best possible model. A simple but well-executed model may place higher in the contests, but putting in the effort to slog through extra details is inspiring to see and garners the respect of those lucky enough to see and appreciate the final product. Each of us has to determine how much "suffering" we are willing to put into our projects, but be sure that those that see them will know the effort involved.



February meeting highlights, L – R: The Swap Meet in session, a junior modeler's interest is engaged, and the business meeting in progress.

## Year 2011 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 07 Jan **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**  
**SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY**
- 04 Feb **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 04 Mar **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 01 Apr *Super Clinic Night*—no contest.
- 06 May **SPECIAL CONTEST #2:**  
**SHINY SHOW RODS**
- 03 Jun **1941**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 08 Jul **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**  
**MORE OR LESS (THAN FOUR WHEELS)**  
*Sponsored Contest: Post-Apocalyptic*  
*(Josh Pals)*
- 05 Aug **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.  
*Nationals Debrief Night—Bring*  
*Models & Trophies!*
- 09 Sep **Mediterranean**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 07 Oct **SPECIAL CONTEST #4**  
**COMMON KITS (SEE WEB SITE)**
- 04 Nov **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
*Sponsored Contest: P-39 (Don Smith)*
- 02 Dec *Sponsored Contest: BMW*  
*(Patrick Dick)*  
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

## BOOK REVIEW

**DON SMITH**

### Armored Thunderbolt: The U.S. Army Sherman in World War II

by Steven Zaloga • Stackpole Books, 2008 • 357 pages

Great book for you treadheads! Don't let the title fool you, every US WWII tank is discussed in this book, although Shermans are the main focus. Steven Zaloga knows what modelers want, and he delivers. The development of the Sherman tank is followed thoroughly. Each Sherman model and variant is discussed in easy reading, heck, even I got through this book in a couple of months.

An interesting theme throughout the book is Zaloga explores and explains the rationale of the Sherman. There was some messed-up thinking going on in the Ordnance Department. The development (or lack thereof) is covered from the beginning thru the Cold War and the Mid-East. Something I learned was the Sherman was the preferred tank in Korea once the

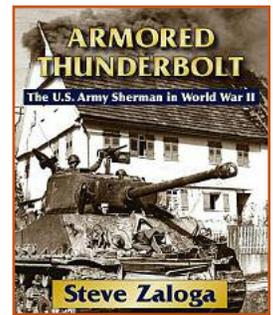
Pershings eliminated the T-34 threat.

Some of this stuff is very tedious but still interesting. What percentage of Shermans was lost to infantry AT weapons vs. direct tank on tank combat in 1944? What was the main cause of Sherman losses in 1944? In 1945? You get the picture.

Overall this book is a reference must for every Allied armor modeler.

It explains the different models, the British variants, the different weapons and, above all, plenty of photos, detailed photos for modelers. Zaloga has included plenty of tables, some drawings and an excellent bibliography. In fact he titles his bibliography as the "Bibliographic Essay." This is the best armor book I've read since "Death Traps."

I give this book five out of five stars. ★★★★★



## CHILI CON II UPDATE

**JAMES GULD**

I would like to keep you up to date about Chile Con II. It is fast approaching, only 3½ months away! That means a lot of work still needs to be done for the show to be a success. One of the biggest issues is selling the trophy packages. Tony Humphries is our POC for this, but I would like everyone in the club to help out. It's really quite simple, buy a trophy package or sell one. You can go to the Chile Con II web page, click on the trophy package info page, and this gives you the info you need (<http://tinyurl.com/cc2trophy>).

"How else can I help out?" you may ask—well, how about volunteering to help run the show? We'll need help with the following jobs; the registration table on Friday and Saturday, with the Make-&-Take, Security, the raffle, taking photos of the winning models so the awards program gets presented in a timely manner, you get the picture yet? We need help! This is our club and our show and it is the responsibility of all of us to make sure it comes off well.

The vendor room is starting to fill up. About ⅓ of the tables are now claimed with a few other possible vendors in the wings (pun intended). The t-shirt design is done and will soon be on the web site along with the contest registration form. Thanks to Ken and Joe for this.

The best way to keep abreast of the show is the web site, and we have Mike Blohm to thank for that.

And one final reminder, keep working on those models for the contest table. We want to see it packed!

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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.