

# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

September 2009

## MEETING NOTE

Our scheduled guest speaker for this month's meeting, Richard Desing, has had to cancel for the time being. We hope we can reschedule his appearance in the near future! Meanwhile, we have tentatively scheduled our own Dave Straub for a presentation on the recent Nationals, so be there anyway!

## IPMS NATIONALS STEVE STRONACH

The 2009 Nationals was very well attended with 1,015 registrants bringing 2,525 models. Two ASM members brought home awards from the 2009 IPMS Nationals at Columbus, Ohio.

**Dave Miller** took **2nd Place** with his Panzer Jaeger 1 in Military Vehicle Open Top with Interior.

**Dave Straub** received a **Premier** award for his Loire seaplane in  $\frac{1}{48}$  Small Single Engine Aircraft Foreign, a **2nd Place** for his China Clipper (in war paint) in  $\frac{1}{44}$  Airliners, and a **1st Place** for his sinister black L48 Dirigible in Large Scratchbuilt.

The hosting club had a member who was a graphic designer so, they had beautiful T-shirts. For the awards ceremony they hired a graphics company to make sure their slide show went off with minimal glitches. The Aras Papas and Bill Bevins show was back after a too long hiatus. All was as it should be. Even the banquet food was good.

August meeting highlights, left to right: Frank Randall and Brian Peck run a clinic; the business meeting in progress.

As you may know the 2010 Nationals will be held in Phoenix, Arizona; what's new is the 2011 Nationals will be held in Omaha, Nebraska.

## FROM THE JUDGE'S CHAMBERS KEN LIOTTA

### That State of the Union as it Relates to ASM's Contests

We are now eight months into 2009 and model building has been full steam ahead. Many of these models have appeared on the contest tables where things have become quite competitive. Our total entry numbers throughout the year so far has hovered between 11 and 26 (averaging 19 model entries per night) for each month, with the Intermediate and Masters levels flip-flopping between which has more entries. We always want to encourage our Juniors and Basic builders to build more and bring your models in. They can either be placed on the Display Only table or they can be entered in the contest where they will be evaluated on their building merits only and not against the other models present. The E-board would be more than happy to offer any suggestions for corrections or improvements for the Juniors and Basic builders, but only if they wish to get that kind of input.

Our July meeting theme was "Armored Cars" and we had a significant number of models built to theme that were entered.

Likewise, our August meeting theme of " $\frac{1}{48}$  Single Engine Props" also had a significant number of models built to theme.





Best of Show winners from August, left to right: Frank Randall's *Bf-109 K-4*, Jeanne Garriss's "*Spike*" *Styracosaurus Dinosaur*, Patrick Wood's *1903 Wright Flyer*, and Victor Maestas's *F6F-5 Blue Angels*.

What this has led to is a noted shift in the Modeler-of-the-Year points standings for the top three places in Intermediate Level and some jockeying around of the Masters points positions as well.

In Juniors, Sean Hayes is maintaining the lead in points. However, Chelsea Perea has been turning in some fabulous Juniors model work and is only 200 points behind Sean. And then this Patrick Wood guy shows up in August with an outstanding model that earned a Gold Ribbon, People's Choice, and Best of Show. The Juniors work has been superb this year and we look forward to seeing more finished models from all of the Juniors. In Basic, Gregg Hayes continues to lead the points, but is not completely out of range of other Basic builders. As with the Juniors, we all look forward to seeing more of your builds. In Intermediate, Adrian Montañó, Frank Randall, and Tony Humphries have been swapping places with Tony squeaking out ahead of Frank by *only* 20 points and Adrian close on Frank's heels! Up in Masters, Victor Maestas still leads over James Guld by 327 points with Mike Blohm and myself going at it with Ham and Tongs battling for third place with *only* one point between us. And then brother Keith is nipping at my heels where he is only 155 points trailing. Yaa-whoooo. The most recent points standings are posted elsewhere in the newsletter and on the ASM web site.

September's meeting is another points contest, with the theme of "Sharkmouths." Any scale, any genre, any era subject that was marked with a "Shark-like" mouth decoration. Typically, Flying Tigers P-40s are representative of this. While there may be various interpretations of what is considered a "Sharkmouth," at our Aug meeting, I stated that Sharkmouths with other animals painted around it (*i.e.*, a B-25 with a Sharkmouth painted on a bat's head) did not meet our theme intent. The same definition would be applied to a Sherman tank with a Sharkmouth on it that had a Tiger's head painted around it. This leaves hundreds of other vehicles that do meet the Sharkmouth intended definition for modelers to choose from. And if Sharkmouths isn't enough to whet your building appetite, we also have Frank Randall's sponsored "Hellcat" contest in September (and yes, the famous Hellcats with the Shark-like mouths will qualify for the Sharkmouth contest). By the time you read this, you will most likely already have chosen and are well on your way to finishing your fabulous works and we all look forward to seeing them.

## KIT REVIEW

### TIM WOOD

#### Revell 1/72 Gato Class Submarine

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, thrust the United States into the Second World War. As history has shown,

the Japanese made one of the most daring attacks in modern warfare.

However, by not destroying the aircraft carriers of the US Navy during the attack and sinking the battleships in a harbor

instead of the open ocean, they committed one of the largest blunders in military history as well. Most people do not know that during the attack the Japanese also failed to destroy the submarines and their support facilities in Pearl Harbor. In fact, the fuel and ammunition dumps for the subs were unscathed during the attack. This mistake was just as costly although less visible and would have severe consequences to the Japanese war effort and home islands.

Immediately after the attack, the US Navy submarine force was given orders for unrestricted warfare, which meant anything that flew an ensign of the Japanese empire was a target, a doctrine that broke the London Naval Treaty of 1930, which outlined the rules of engagement for submariners. Initial patrols proved to have mixed results with many targets escaping even though the crews were positive that the torpedoes were aimed and fired properly. The navy later determined through interviews with the submarine captains and tests conducted by naval ordinance that the torpedoes were running deeper than what they were set at and had faulty detonators. It wasn't until 1943 that the torpedo problems were mostly resolved. After these technical difficulties were overcome, claims of destroyed enemy shipping soared. American submarines also performed rescue duties of pilots and sailors as well as reconnaissance and screening duties for naval task forces. The navy's submarine force accounted for approximately two percent of the manpower of the navy during the war, but submariners claimed more than fifty percent of the final tally of Japanese military and merchant shipping sunk. Many historians agree that the ability to deprive the Japanese of food, oil, and other raw materials helped to shorten the war. During the war the Navy lost 52 submarines with more than 3500 casualties.

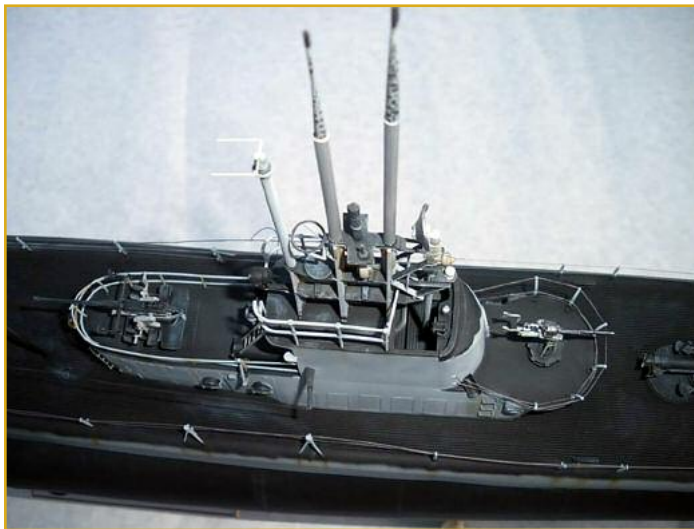
The submarines available to the US Navy at the outset of WWII were of early design and structure, but each successive class built upon the strengths of prior classes and almost all boats regardless of age were pressed into service. The Gato class submarines built upon the strengths of the Tambor/Gar class boats. These boats were the first practical fleet boats able to range over the entirety of the Pacific Ocean. The Balao/Tench class were virtually identical to the Gato class boats, but had thicker steel for their hulls which allowed greater diving depths and advanced electronics and other systems as they became available. Gato/Balao/Tench class boats served from 1942 until the early seventies with the United States Navy and many served with foreign navies well beyond their expected lives.

The 1/72 Revell model of the Gato class submarine was released in 2006 and was a follow up to their very successful 1/72-scale U-Boat. Before building, the modeler may want to locate a suitable place for

the beast to be displayed, (I jokingly told my wife that it was going on the mantle in the living room when completed or maybe just a permanent fixture in the tub, she was unamused). You might also clean off your work bench and even have an alternate place to put it while working on it (if I had a dollar for everything I knocked down with it...).

Upon receiving the box I was amazed at the size of the kit only to realize that the hull is divided into three parts! Test fitting the hull pieces together revealed an overall length of 52 inches. Panel lines are of the raised type and you will lose some to construction, so be prepared to stretch some sprue to replace these. During my research of US submarines I came to understand that almost no two boats were the same. Some had a single row of limber holes like the kit, but most had many rows and sizes of limber holes as well as deck guns and fittings. To make matters worse for the modeler, most boats were changed in gun and sail configuration as the war progressed and it was up to individual captains to request the changes as they saw fit! The ship I modeled was the USS Cobia, which is currently on display at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, as wartime pictures showed that this boat is the closest to what is offered in the kit without major “plastic surgery” or expensive after-market parts.

Construction begins with the basic hull, bow and aft planes as well as the rudder and propellers. It was in step four that I made the decision to make a pressure hull from a disposable plastic cup to cover the bow plane pivots, as these will be highly visible through the large forward vent holes. Once the hull is complete, the next steps involve building the deck and sail (conning tower). Many deck parts must be pre-painted as the sail is going together, or it will be difficult to paint and weather these pieces later.



Further into the instructions are the tower and guns with radar assemblies which are very well detailed as are the 4-inch, 40mm and 20mm guns. Revell includes pre-bent metal ladder rungs, which are a nice touch and add scale realism to the model, although I wish they had included a photoetch radar screen, as the plastic one is somewhat crude.

The last steps include adding all the stanchions and deck fittings to the sub. For the handrails, I used a metallic thread that I found at a sewing shop, which I felt gave a good representation of the cable that is run through the stanchions. I painted the sub in a two-tone gray and black scheme which was apparently known as the “light gray job.” I used Testors acrylics for the paint and artist oils for the weathering and rust on the sub. There were no decals applied, as I wanted to model the sub as if it were on patrol—the Navy kept markings off of the submarine fleet to maintain their camouflage and stealth while in combat.

## Year 2009 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 9 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**  
**SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY**
- 6 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 6 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 3 Apr** **3 or More Engines**—any kit/subject/scale/era.
- 1 May** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**  
**THIRD WORLD**—Army, Navy, Air Force, etc. No Warsaw Pact, no NATO.
- 12 Jun** **Italiano**—Any kit/scale/subject/era built or operated in or from Italy.
- 10 Jul** **Armored Cars**—Any scale, era, manufacturer.
- 7 Aug** **1/48 Single-engine Props**—Any kit/scale/subject/era
- 11 Sep** **Sharkmouths**—Plane, Tank, Car, Truck, etc. Any kit/subject/scale.  
*Sponsored Contest: “Best Hellcat F6F” (Frank Randall)*
- 2 Oct** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**  
**BEST COMPETITION RACER OR ATHLETE FIGURE)**  
*Sponsored Contest: “Best Porsche” (Patrick Dick)*
- 6 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
*Sponsored Contest: “Best Vietnam Subject ‘64 – ‘75” (Tim Wood)*
- 4 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #4**  
**XYZ PROTOTYPES**  
*Sponsored Contest: Best Mirage III, IV, V, 2000 or Variant (Rick Carver)*  
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

Revell’s Gato submarine was a pleasure to build; even though it is unwieldy to handle, it can be built by modelers basic to advanced. If you have an interest in US Naval subjects I would highly recommend this kit! Just make sure you have a place to display it... “Honey, about that mantle idea...”.

More photos are on the web site (<http://tinyurl.com/asmarticles>).

## ASM MODEL DISPLAY AT THE NEW MEXICO VETERANS’ MEMORIAL MIKE BLOHM

ASM’s World War II Model Display has been resurrected at the New Mexico Veteran’s Memorial and Museum. The display covers WWII in the Pacific and China-Burma-India (CBI) Theaters from 1941 through 1943, including the Pearl Harbor Attack, Flying Tigers operations in China, Wake Island, Doolittle’s Tokyo Raiders, the Battles of Coral Sea and Midway, and the Guadalcanal Island and New Guinea Campaigns. The initial setup was on August 8, 2009. Additional 1/2-scale models and some new posters, maps, pics and signage were set up on August 19 and 20. The display is located to the left as you come in the front entrance, just past the door to the library. One picture is included with this article. Many

more pictures are on the ASM web site (<http://tinyurl.com/asmvets>).

Due to the limited shelf space, the display will take place in four parts: Pacific and CBI Theaters Parts 1 and 2; and European and Mediterranean Theaters Parts 1 and 2. The duration of each part is yet to be determined. Because of the shelf depth and unusual configuration, it was decided to add hanging 1/2-scale models of larger aircraft types, such as a Doolittle Raiders' B-25. Some hanging models are set up in "dog-fighting" and "dive bombing" poses. Aircraft models actually sitting on the shelves are all 1/48-scale—the P-38 is the largest aircraft the shelves will accommodate. An "invasion" vignette consisting of 1/2-scale landing craft and vehicles was added to give the display more of a "joint operations" flavor. Additional "ship" representation is provided by Dave Miller's excellent USS Ward destroyer and Japanese midget submarine model at Pearl Harbor. More multi-engine 1/2-scale aircraft models (PBY, Betty, A-20, B-17, etc.) will be added as they become available. The Veterans' Memorial is looking into getting additional shelves, which hopefully can be used for the next version of the display.



the current display: Fred Franceschi (6), John Tate (5), Don MacBryde (2), Juan Benitez (2), Dave Miller (2), Larry Horyna (1), Dave Boehning (1), and Matt (1), Ray (4) and Mike Blohm (15).

The New Mexico Veterans' Memorial and Museum is located at 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE, just north of the intersection of Louisiana Blvd and Gibson Blvd. The hours are Friday through Monday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. with no entry fee. More information on the Memorial is available online (<http://www.nmvetsmemorial.org>)

Here's some background info for new ASM members who don't know the history of this display. The WWII display grew out of a previous ASM project supporting the USAF 50th Anniversary, celebrated in 1997 - 1998, which had simultaneous ASM displays at the National Atomic Museum and two locations on Kirtland Air Force Base. These displays were predominantly in 1/2 scale. After the closeout of the USAF-50 displays, the ASM WWII display was setup at the National Atomic Museum, and was predominantly in 1/48 scale. The WWII display moved to the museum's Old Town Albuquerque location when they moved off Kirtland AFB. The display was discontinued at the Atomic Museum on January 31, 2009, due to the museum's move to their new venue and a lack of display space at that site. Thanks again to all ASM members who loaned models for the WWII display—which had approximately 80 models included—and for making it such a great success for twelve years.

More information on the former ASM display at the National Atomic Museum is on the web site (<http://tinyurl.com/asmatomic>).

There are currently 39 models in the display as follows:

- 18 models in 1/48 scale (17 aircraft & 1 figure).
- 19 models in 1/2 scale (14 aircraft, 2 landing craft, 2 vehicles, and 1 figure).
- 2 models in 1/350 scale (ship and midget sub)—mounted on one base.

Thanks to the following people for their model's participation in

### Master

Victor Maestas . . . . .	1397
James Guld . . . . .	1070
Mike Blohm . . . . .	498
Ken Liotta . . . . .	497
Keith Liotta . . . . .	342
Dave Miller . . . . .	275
Brian Peck . . . . .	252
Glenn Bingham . . . . .	202
Mike McNichols . . . . .	129
Don McBryde . . . . .	95
Patrick Dick . . . . .	8

### Intermediate

Tony Humphries . . . . .	1369
Frank Randall . . . . .	1349
Adrian Montañó . . . . .	842
Gil Johnson . . . . .	585
Rick Carver . . . . .	545
Ken Piniak . . . . .	452
Jack Garriss . . . . .	270
Josh Pals . . . . .	147
Don Smith . . . . .	147
Tom Perea . . . . .	6
Danny Williamson . . . . .	4
Jeff Frickstad . . . . .	2

### Basic

Gregg Hayes . . . . .	1322
Jeannie Garriss . . . . .	685
Gordon Pegue . . . . .	2

### Junior

Sean Hayes . . . . .	650
Chelsea Perea . . . . .	450
Patrick Wood . . . . .	325
Caroline Smith . . . . .	275
Marie Smith . . . . .	275

## ASM 2009 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.