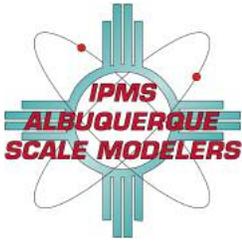


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

March 2008

A FEW WORDS FROM THE GRAND POOBAH JAMES GULD

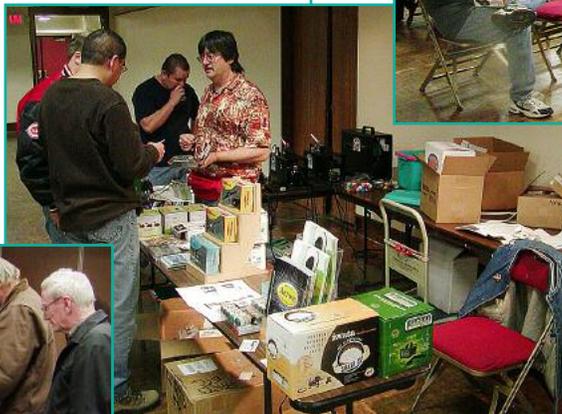
Well, it is almost spring and that means the Nuremberg Model Show has come and gone, but there were a few surprises for us armor guys: early Brit armor A-13 Cruiser tank, later A-30 Challenger, Crusader AA MKIII with Bofors gun, and a few other gems. Looks like the credit card will get a good workout this upcoming year.

It also means it is time to send out the kits we collected for the troops. If you still want to donate, please bring them to the March meeting before we ship them out.

And, last but not least, it means the start of our contest season. I am hoping to see those tables full, boys and girls. You have had all winter to build something, so don't give me some lame excuse about why you didn't bring something, like "My dog ate my model." That ain't gonna fly with me. Now go build something!

HOBBIES & STUFF CONTEST TOM PEREA

I just found out that Hobbies 'N Stuff is going to have a model building contest on March 29 (Saturday). They will be having separate categories to judge; *e.g.*, armor, planes, ships, figures... They will be awarding first through third trophies. Each person who wins a first-place prize in their respective categories will be receiving a \$25 gift card, but only for the first-place winners. Any one person can enter with no limits on entries, but only one gift card per person—they want to spread it around. The one exception will be for the Best in Show, which will receive a \$25 gift card as well.



February meeting highlights, left to right: Don Smith greets eager customers at his table during the swap meet; Coloradan Tom Grossman attended and held a very successful and popular display for Iwata airbrushes and other products; the business meeting in session.

This is the only way one person can come out of the contest with \$50 in gift cards. They will fill me in on the dead line for entries, which is to say when we can start bringing in our models and what time they will be starting their judging. More information to follow.

CENTENNIAL RAFFLE

TOM GROSSMAN

To: Centennial IPMS Execs and Members and all R10 IPMS members

From: Tom Grossman, Centennial IPMS Chairman of Special Projects.

February 19, 2008

Re: Dragon Kettenkrad Raffle

Greetings Fellow Modelers!

I am pleased to announce a Special Raffle by Centennial IPMS to benefit the upcoming Pikes Peak Model Expo to be held in June at the Weisbrod Air Museum in Pueblo.

What: Dragon #75001 1/2 Sd.Kfz.2 Kleines Kettenkrad, SRP \$109.95

Tickets: \$5 each

When: Drawing to take place March 26 at Centennial's monthly meeting. *Need not be present to win.*

All monies go straight into the PPMX fund.

Anyone interested in purchasing a ticket can contact me at tomtag@pcisys.net or 719-531-7346. You can also contact any other Centennial Exec.

All out-of-town requests must arrive by March 19 to help ensure delivery of your ticket.

Winner to be announced thru the Region 10 contact list.

Don't wait! Get your ticket today!

JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

JAMES GULD

So, what's new for you treadheads? Well, there's a ton of new stuff.

Dragon has a new JagdPanther G and a Flakpanzer 38t. I haven't seen either in person yet but there are reviews of the JagdPanther at the PMMS and of the Flakpanzer at Missing-Lynx in the Time on Target area in the discussion groups.

Academy announced a Grant to go along with the earlier Lee. Hopefully the bogeys will be the correct height, unlike the Lee. They did fix them for the M7 Priest kit.

Italeri has a slew of new listing for 2008: Sd. Kfz. 140 Flakpanzer 38 Gepard, Staghound AA, Horse-drawn Breda 20, Crusader III AA MK. I, DUKW British Royal Army, Kfz. 305 tank wagen, 1/4-Ton 4X4 Utility truck, Carro Armato L6 PRM Edition, LVT-(A) 2 "Saipan," Sd. Kfz. VI Tiger Ausf. E (with photoetched parts), Sd. Kfz. 179 BergePanther (with photoetched parts), Sd. Kfz. V Panther Ausf. D (with photoetched parts) and a Bedford QL with 6 Pdr. AT gun.

SKP has announced a British A30 Challenger tank. There are some particle sprue shots up at PMMS.

Alpine released a couple of new figures of 12SS HJ.

Formations jut came out with a replacement DV hull for the M4A2 Sherman, along with a late High Bustle turret.

Aber just came out with U.S. 30-cal barrels such that you don't have to roll the perforated sleeve.

Voyager seems to have also entered the fray with their rendition of a U.S. 50-cal barrel.

Italeri has their version of the Staghound armored car.

Up next is Hussar's resin replacement wheels for the new Humber Scout car kit. They have a couple of different style tread patterns available. They also plan to do some for the Staghound and for the Studebaker 2½ ton truck. I also spotted stowage for both the Humber and Staghound by Blast and by Legend Productions. There is also a book out on the Staghound by Service Publications. It covers the Staghound in Canadian service. You can find reviews at the PMMS web site for all of the above (<http://www.perthmilitarymodelling.com>).

I recently got for Christmas a CD from Easy One Productions on the DUKW 2½-ton truck. It is the tech manual put on a CD. Now I always prefer a book to a CD, but for the price it is a good compromise. Easy One Productions has a number of different CDs available and I also have one for the M36B1 and B2 tank destroyers (their site address is <http://www.easy1productions.com>).

Oh, my aching credit card...

BOOK REVIEW

DON SMITH

The Jolly Rogers: The Story of Tom Blackburn and Navy Fighting Squadron VF-17

by Tom Blackburn with Eric Hammel

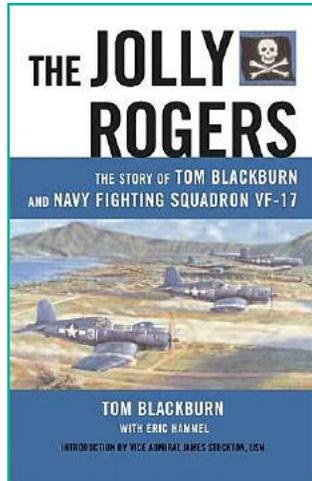
Zenith Press, 1998 (1st edition) • 270 pages

I'm reviewing a book that keeps in theme with next month's sponsored F4U Corsair contest. Get those gull-wing birds ready; remember, anything goes as long as it's an F4U.

I didn't think I would like this book so I sent it to my Dad, he's an old sailor. He liked it enough he sent back for me to review. It is a good book worth a look if you're interested in the Pacific Theatre and dogfighting. Tom Blackburn's cocky pilots were castoffs from other units. Together they worked out to become the top Navy fighting squadron during VF-17's short time in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville area of the South Pacific. The fighting was brutal and the attrition rates high. VF-17 would've been wiped out by attrition if they didn't develop new tactics.

This book is a quick read. I tired a little of Blackburn's bragging, but hey, he earned the right. From a modeler's perspective it was interesting that they started out flying F4U-1's and by the time they reached combat they had F4U-1a's. If you have a Tamiya F4U-1/2 model, you will notice that there are markings for a VF-17 F4U-1 with four kills; what gives? You can also read about putting a bomb rack on the Corsair and why you have to be careful about showing an early Corsair with a bomb rack. I think somebody noted that Tamiya made the mistake of putting a bomb rack on the wrong plane. Now go build those F4U's for next month.

I would recommend this book for any Corsair or Naval Aviation fan or student of the Pacific Theatre. There are some interesting photos and a few maps, but the appendix does not show the



final number of planes shot down by VF-17's pilots (by the way, the Tamiya kit with the markings for four kills is for a pilot who had shot down four Japanese planes at Guadalcanal while flying F4F's; the actual F4U-1 with the four kill markings did not see any combat and the pilot left VF-17 as soon as he finished the first tour).

I can't find many faults with the book. I liked it. I picked up my copy at Borders for \$17.95 before I applied my coupon discount. I'll have to give it four out of five stars. ★★★★★

YOU MIGHT BE A MODELING ADDICT IF... (STOLEN & ADAPTED FROM THE INTERNET)

- You walk into your favorite hobby shop, and the employees immediately call you by name and say, "Hi, we'll get the boss for you."
- You've ever plunked down half your paycheck for equipment in your favorite scale, and then wondered what it would be like to model in a different scale.
- You've ever sold a perfectly good kit, only because the new superdetailed one you just bought makes the old one look bland.
- You really agonize over decisions like, "Should I buy flowers for my wife, or that new photoetch set?"
- You talk about your favorite scale with the zeal and fervor of an evangelist promoting his religion.
- You honestly feel that, if your wife buys a new video tape, that entitles you to buy a new kit, and a new outfit for her means a new airbrush for you. Fair is fair.
- You've actually gotten into a heated debate over whether "Tamiya" is pronounced "ta-MEE-ya" or "TA-mi-ya."
- You spend more on your models in a year than some third-world nations spend on the real thing.
- The latest issue of *Finescale Modeler* arrives on the same day as your federal tax refund check, and you open the magazine first.
- The latest issue of *Finescale Modeler* arrives on the same day as your *state* tax refund check, and the only reason you open the check first is so you'll know how much you can afford to spend

as you read the ads in the magazine.

- You lobby to reorganize your IPMS chapter as a not-for-profit museum in a vain attempt to write off some of your hobby expenses as a charitable deduction and possibly receive a tax refund check one day.
- You've ever bought a kit you had no use for, just because it looked so nice, and then bought more just like it, so it wouldn't look out of place.
- You've ever been tempted to send flame EMail to someone whose only wrongdoing was outbidding you for that special kit on eBay.
- Your spouse gives you a some old newspapers, some super glue, and a bottle of Future for your birthday, and you're speechless with joy.
- You've ever suggested that your wife's ceramic Christmas village needs some Panzers running through it.
- Someone says he's finished their model, and you sadly shake your head and say they've missed the point of the entire hobby.
- You look forward to the latest announcements from your favorite kit maker with more enthusiasm than a six-year-old looks forward to Christmas.
- You never miss a chance to try and interest your children in your hobby, even teenagers in a "cars" stage.
- You've ever told yourself, "Never again will I try to apply photoetch while working over a shag rug," or you rip same out to install indoor/outdoor flat carpet over the padding in your den.
- You've visited a hobby shop on a busy day, and wound up answering detailed questions for other customers before you shop.
- You justify the money you spent at a Regional as "just doing my part to improve the nation's economy."
- Your spouse gives you something expensive but

inappropriate, like that giant Trumpeter A-10, when you only model Luftwaffe, and you build it to avoid hurting her feelings, but the whole time, you're squirming inside.

- You've ever tried to justify bringing home a new model on the grounds that its your wife's favorite color or matches your shoes.
- Your family has ever eaten in the den because the kitchen table was buried in decals, tools, and detail parts for your latest project.

Year 2008 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 4 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
- 1 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 7 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 4 Apr** **The Good Guys**—men, women, or machines, any kit/subject/scale/era.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Corsair" (Don Smith)
- 2 May** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**
PHABULOUS PHANTOM'S PHIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
Sponsored Contest: "American MiG Killers" (Brian Peck)
- 6 Jun** **Eastern Front**—Aircraft, Armor, Figures (any kit/scale/subject).
Sponsored Contest: "Best D-Day Subject" (ASM E-Board)
- 11 Jul** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 1 Aug** **The Zoo**—Mustangs, Panthers, Cougars, etc.; any kit/subject/scale.
- 12 Sep** **The Pacific**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 3 Oct** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**
ASM's BEST P-47, 10TH ANNIVERSARY
- 7 Nov** **World War I, 90 Years**—Any WWI kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "WWI Aces" (Mike Blohm)
- 5 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #4**
TAG-TEAM MODEL
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

Yellow highlights indicate changes /additions

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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.