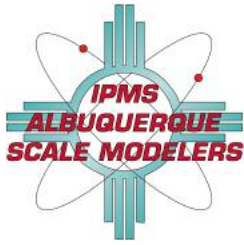


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

April 2008

## PRESIDENTIAL SPEW JAMES GULD

I don't know about you, but the number of models out on the tables impressed me last month. That is the way to start off the contest year. From the looks of it the Intermediate category is going to have some stiff competition. Now let us hope that this trend continues throughout the year. Way to go, people....

I have a few other tidbits I'd like to share. We didn't have a great turnout for the "Constructive Comments" workshop. In fact no one brought in anything to critique. Come on people, don't be shy—we'll go easy on you. I promise. You have my word on that. The check's in the mail.

Our master scratch builder, Dave Straub, plans to have a two-part seminar at his house this summer. The first part will deal with making the master part and the second session will concentrate on molding and casting. We would like to get a sense of how many people plan to attend and will have a sign up sheet at the meetings.

Club Dues. If you didn't attend the last club meeting then you might not have heard of the increase in club dues. They are now \$25.00/yr. for an individual member. The family membership and junior membership has not changed.

One last thing. If you have an article you would like to write for the newsletter please get it to Joe by the 20th of the month. Now get cracking on those models!

## FROM THE JUDGE'S CHAMBERS KEN LIOTTA

Hello my fellow model builders. This is a partial reprint of an article I wrote up two years ago. While some of it is the same ol' thing, I thought that it had enough significant content to reiterate it.

Thank you for placing your trust in me to return as ASM's Contest Director. It is great to be back and I look forward to serving all of my fellow club members to the absolute best of my abilities. It has always been my desire to share with you the enjoyment we all get out of building, talking, trading, and admiring the plastic models that we build. Be it an F6F Hellcat, an SdKfz. 251/9, or an YZR-M1, I look forward to talking models with all of you. And serving on your E-board once again brings me that much closer to the ASM membership.

One significant aspect of ASM is our almost monthly contests. They have become an important feature of our organization. Unfortunately, too many modelers, both outside and inside of the club, have looked upon us as overly contest-driven—and that is not the case. ASM covers a lot of plastic model building ground, from clinics on applying decals, to guest speakers that have actually flown warbirds during World War II. We have swap meets, raffles,



March meeting highlights, left to right: the business meeting in progress; kits donated to the troops; award time





March Best of Show winners, left to right: Tim Wood's MC 202, Gil Johnson's M4A3, and Jim Guld's Steyr



distressed kit auctions, mall shows, etc., etc. Not to mention a fairly substantial web site presence and a colorful and comprehensive monthly newsletter (by the way, many thanks and appreciations go to Joe Walters and Mike Blohm for putting in many hours of their own time to make these two such successes). But yes, we still do host model contests. We meet 12 times a year and of those meetings this year we are hosting eleven monthly contests. I view my job as being responsible to all of you, the membership, to ensure that these contests are conducted in as smooth, complete, enjoyable and fair as absolutely possible. And to make sure the playing field is as evenly presented as possible.

We are now fully three months into 2008 and the model building is in full swing. Our March meeting included the first points bearing contest and many of you have left the gates at a full sprint. The Theme for March was Open. That meant that *all* models were illegible to receive the extra points that go along with the Best of Show awards. We had 25 models entered in March with numerous "display only" and "works in progress" on the tables. Everything was looking top notch and the judges were definitely put to the test looking at some outstanding workmanship.

Since the results of the contest were announced at the March meeting and they are posted on the web site, I won't cover every placing, but I do want to mention the Best of Show winners. In the Basic Division, Gil Johnson's very well built Tamiya M4A3 took the honor along with the People's Choice award too. Tim Wood's super cool build of the 21st Century 1/32-scale Mc.202 won him both the Best of Show and the People's Choice. And James Guld won the Masters Best of Show with his excellent Tamiya 1/35 Steyr.

Since we haven't had any Junior activity yet this year, there are no points posted in Juniors. Gil has a notable lead already in Basic while intermediate is *hotly* contested. El Presidente Jim is leading the charge in Masters with Johnny hot on his tail. All predictions are that this year will be a hot bed of competition for the points leading to Modeler of the Year. Don't miss out on the action and join in on the fun. Whether you enter a model in the contests or simply want to bring them in for display, we are all about the enjoyment of plastic model building and sharing in our craft.

April is a points bearing contest with the theme of "Heroes & The Good Guys." Build the men/women and/or their machines. Fire trucks, TBMs flown by Medal of Honor Re-

ipients, Shirley Muldowney's Championship 1977 Rail, or JFK's PT boat. Any scale, any Nationality, and any era. And a reminder that at April's meeting, Don Smith is sponsoring his Best Corsair contest. The award is a really cool framed piece of artwork. Don't miss out on this one. Go finish your F4U and make the winner work for it. We look forward to seeing all of your wonderful creations. So sling some glue and slap some paint on. Let's see that plastic!

## JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

### JAMES GULD

Not a whole lot to report this month, armor-wise. The two biggest items are the new Stug III G from Cyber-Hobby, which comes with waffle pattern zimmerit. From the pictures it looks good. The other major item is from Armorscale. These guys usually just make aftermarket barrels but have now gotten into resin stuff as well. Go to the PMMS site and check it out.

There are also a number of new reviews up since last month. They review the new Grant tank from Academy along with the new SU-76 kit from Mini-Art. The only other item that caught my eye is some of the new replacement wheel sets from Hussar Productions. They have some nice alternative wheel sets for both the Humber Scout Car and Staghound Armored Car.

Next month I should have more new stuff to report to you, as I'll give you a report from my trip to the AMPS National Convention. I'm not looking forward to the drive but the vendor's room should be a gold mine.

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## NEW CLUB IN TOWN

### RODNEY LIGHTNING

Attention plastic model building junkies: Some of the guys got together and have started up an IPMS chapter on the west side. They will be known as IPMS/Rio Rancho. They have been meeting once every other month at member's homes and have noted April 1st as their official startup date. Anyone is welcome to join in on the fun. The only requirements is that you *must* bring a plastic model along with you each time they meet and you *must* actually work on the model while enjoying the friendship and camaraderie of your



fellow craftsman. Each meeting is accompanied by burning meat, eating mass quantities of chips, soda, and home baked goodies. Each meeting is also conducted while viewing non-stop movies on big screen TVs. Movies closely follow themes, such as Star Wars-a-thon, War movie classics, silly kids show favorites from the club's collective childhood (like Johnny Quest, Thunderbirds, Combat, and Rat Patrol).

What's not allowed at IPMS/Rio Rancho? There is no bickering, no elitism, no exclusion based on model building preference, no name calling (except between brothers), and no intentions of not having *fun*. Remember, it's only a *hobby*!

This year's inaugural E-board is comprised of the following:

President: Huey  
 VP: Dewey  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Louie

**NO CONTEST DIRECTORS ALLOWED**

Fun Police Captain: Bubbles, the spontaneously giggling, snap-together kit builder. Their headquarters phone number is 555-GO-BUILD!

They are interested in having more plastic model builders attend the fun and help them spread good intentions amongst the model building community. Join them next month. Home location to be announced. Movie Theme: The rest of the Classic War Movies that they missed last month. "Kelly's Heroes" is always one of their favorites. See ya there.

## ROAD TRIP! BRIAN PECK

The next ASM road trip info is April 12 – 13 to the Pima Air Museum, and we already have 5 signups so far. We will either caravan out there in everyone's personal cars, use a member's minivan, or chip in and rent a large 15-passenger van, depending on how many sign up. Family members always are welcome to come along. If we rent a large passenger van, you are recommended to bring your own gas mask just in case of an anonymous burrito gas attack. There is a possible arrangement in the works to see the adjacent bone yard at Davis-Monthan AFB, but nothing is confirmed yet.

The next road trip is planned for late spring (Date TBD) to the Denver/Greeley/Colorado Springs area for multiple Hobby Shop raids and a possible stop at the Air Museum in Pueblo. It will be also a 2-day sortie.

The third road trip scheduled for mid-late summer will be to El Paso for a 1-day sortie to go the War Eagle air museum and Hal's Hobby shop.

The last road trip in the mid late summer will be either to Liberal, Kansas, for the Air Museum there as a 2-day sortie or to Amarillo for a 1-day raid at the local hobby shop and

eats. I dare anyone to eat the famous 72-ounce steak at The Big Texan steakhouse, (bring a bag!)

## FIELD TRIP MIKE BLOHM

### USAF Armament Museum

I recently visited the USAF Armament Museum located outside of Eglin AFB in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and took the pictures below (PDF subscribers: more photos on the Bonus Pages!) of the aircraft that are on display outside the museum. A lot of the modern aircraft types are from the Eglin test organizations that became surplus due to force drawdowns in the 1990s. Conditions of the aircraft vary greatly. Some look to be just repainted and some are in very sad condition, particularly the MiG-21 and the Mace missile.



There are 26 aircraft and missiles outside the museum—the standouts include the following. The B-25J (repainted as Jimmy Doolittle's B-25B) used to be part of a memorial display in the town of Valparaiso that commemorated Doolittle Raiders training that took place at Eglin prior to the famous mission in April 1942. The B-17G used to be an active fire bomber—I remember it flying in under its own power while I was stationed here. The EB-47 was the last B-47 flying and was used to support electronic warfare testing at Eglin. The SR-71 is a rare version with a long extended tail boom.



Unfortunately the inside of the museum is currently closed due to work on the air conditioning system and will not be open until the end of April. Fortunately, I do have pictures of the munitions located inside from a previous trip, and those will be included in my "Weaponology—Things Under Wings" talk at the September 2008 ASM meeting.

Click on this web link for more info on the museum:  
<http://www.afarmamentmuseum.com>

## BOOK REVIEW DON SMITH

### Denmark and Norway 1940: Hitler's Boldest Operation

by Douglas C. Dildy

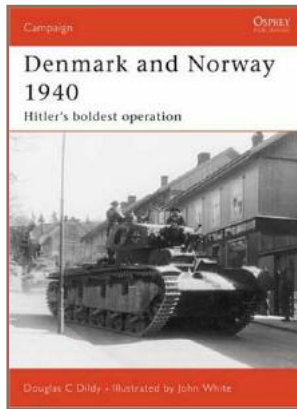
Osprey Publishing Ltd. © 1997 • 96 pages

*I have the pleasure of reviewing a book written by an ASM club member. Sorry about taking so long to get to this one.*

I was interested in this book because I had a college roommate from Norway. He was proud of Norway's resistance but I didn't know the details of Norway's role. Well, what can I say about the Osprey books that I haven't already said? You'll get 96 pages of information, maps, photos, artwork, etc., of the campaign. Dildy gives us a fairly comprehensive book of a subject that isn't well covered elsewhere. I liked it due to it being offbeat from your normal World War II book.

This book is another quick read, how much of a fight could Denmark put up? I liked the fast pace and laid out maps, order of battle and great artwork. I haven't come across all this information in one book. I always wondered about the German NbFz B tanks and how they were used and if they were effective. This is an interesting campaign—it was a rare instance where the Germans got it right when using the combined arms of the Wehrmacht, Kriegsmarine, and Luftwaffe. This would make a great model contest because of the wide subject matter. It has something for everyone: armor, ships and airplanes used by the Germans and the Allies. There would be lots of early war subjects if such contest ever bore fruit.

I would recommend this book for any World War II buff or modeler who is looking for something out of the ordinary. Dildy makes a good point that although the Germans won this campaign and controlled the Norwegian coast, it came at a cost that the Kriegsmarine could not overcome. I can't find any faults with the book although I would have liked a list of the ships that participated. The modeler will find some inspiring and useful photos. I picked up my copy from a club member. Due to the unusual subject matter and how well it is covered I'll have to give it five out of five stars. ★★★★★



## 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** **Heroes & 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*

### Master

James Guld . . . . .	535
John Tate . . . . .	350
Mike Blohm . . . . .	218
Ken Liotta . . . . .	18
Patrick Dick . . . . .	2
Keith Liotta . . . . .	2

### Intermediate

Victor Maestas . . . . .	329
Tim Wood . . . . .	325
Don Blea . . . . .	125
Rick Carver . . . . .	125
Tom Perea . . . . .	125
Frank Randall . . . . .	75

Adrian Montañó . . . . .	75
Jeff Frickstad . . . . .	75
Don Smith . . . . .	12

### Basic

Gil Johnson . . . . .	325
Jeannie Garriss . . . . .	125
John Tribou . . . . .	125

## ASM 2008 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.

## BONUS PAGES!

Mike Blohm provided several photos from his trip to the Air Force Armament Museum. Here are the rest of them!











