

ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

February 2013

PRESIDENTIAL SPIEL TONY HUMPHRIES

And so we come to February—the annual swap meet, where men are men and kits are nervous. Yes, that’s “kits,” not sheep. You’re thinking of Wales (or possibly France). The swap meet is (usually) an orgy of commerce that explodes upon a shocked and unsuspecting world. A frenzy of buying and selling, amid scenes not seen since the fall of the Roman Empire. Or perhaps Black Friday outside of Best Buy, anyway, and with the added advantage of not having to camp outside on the sidewalk in the freezing cold for five days beforehand like a complete pillock. It’s a glorious occasion where even the most reticent of our members surf high on the smell of plastic and the promise of a bargain. Where the weak are trampled underfoot and competitors are tossed around like confetti. Well, I’m sure you get the idea...

This is of course a chance to snap up more kits at a modest price as you plan your build schedule in line with both

the club contest schedule (hint, hint) and with an eye on the upcoming Nationals in Colorado, no doubt. We have mentioned that recently, right? Good. Just checking. Yes, the annual swap meet is a great chance to clear some storage space and to pick up some plastic at a reasonable price and perhaps even find a rarity or two amid the plethora of boxes. Granted, you’re probably not going to find a plastic Picasso (although I’ve seen some pretty ugly and unrealistic kits in my time) but all kinds of kits with all sorts of pedigree in a multitude of scales will be available, I’m sure. Although hopefully nothing quite as bad as that bloody DML Valentine kit that was reviewed last month: garlic, holy water, bell, book, and candle will be on hand just in case that thing shows up anywhere—and just in case there is a comedian out there who wants to bring one of those along, remember that all members of the E-board will have their standard ASM-issue oriental disemboweling cutlasses with them and

January meeting highlights, below L – R: Members checking out the models; Aleya Montaño receives her Modeler of the Year plaque; and the business meeting in progress.





January's Best-of-Show winners, left to right: Steve Usted's Space: 1999 *Eagle*, Josh Pals's *Alpha Centauri Saucer*, and Matt Blohm's *Y-Wing Blue Leader*. There were no Junior entries.

they're *very* sharp. We're not afraid to use them either—there *are* limits, after all.

Anyway, putting all threats of violent and potentially extremely amusing retribution aside, if after this commercial extravaganza you do still happen to have any kits left over and really don't want to go back home and face the wife with an armful of kits again (she already has plans for that shelf space and she'll probably be waiting at the door with the rolling pin in her hand and you don't want to go there again, surely?), please consider passing them on to John Tate, our esteemed master of the eBay sales who will be very grateful to receive anything that you can spare... unless it's that DML Valentine kit again, obviously.

So, go ahead. Buy. Sell. Frolic. Be happy, and if you do have anything to donate to the cause, we thank you for your generosity. It's tax-deductible you know! Well, it was worth a try...

PRODUCT REVIEW

KEN PINIAK

FineScale Modeler 25-Year Collection DVD

If you are like me, you have a big stash of back issues of *FineScale Modeler* magazine, full of articles and how-to



tips to help you out with that special model you want to build. Well, now you can throw those away, because FSM has put 25 years' worth of back issues, from the first issue in 1982 all the way through 2007, on a two-disk DVD-ROM set.

You need a computer to run this (PC or Mac) with a DVD drive. There is a lot of material here, as they have literally reproduced every page of every issue, ads and all.

Year 2013 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for points

- 04 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
Sponsored Contest: "Frickin' Laser Beams" (Patrick Dick)
Sponsored Contest: "Rolls Royce" (Patrick Dick)
- 01 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 01 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Revell 1/48 Ventura" (E-Board)
- 05 Apr** **More Than One Radial Engine**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Famous Motorsports Vehicles—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Sci-Fi Spaceship" (Don Smith)
- 03 May** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**
SINGLE IN-LINE ENGINED AIRCRAFT
Sponsored Contest: "Revell 1/32 He-219" (Hobby Proz) **tentative**
- 07 Jun** **Cold War**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Cherche la Femme—Female-named subject, any kit/subject/scale.
- 12 Jul** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "North African Armor" (James Guld, Tony Humphries)
- 02 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 13 Sep** **On the Water**—Anything waterborne, any kit/subject/scale.
Beyond Babe Artwork—Any subject with non-pinup nose art.
Sponsored Contest: "TBA" (Gil De La Plain)
- 04 Oct** **Axis of WWII**—Any subject excluding Germany and Japan.
Go Figure—Any humanoid figure.
Sponsored Contest: "Big" (Brian Peck)
- 01 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Danny Roberts / Best P-38" (Mike Blohm, John Tate)
- 06 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**
JET POWER
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

Navigating the search system can be a little tricky, they include an insert with installation instructions and helpful tips to make things go a little easier. Once you get the hang of it, searching goes pretty well, and you can find all kinds of stuff. After spending hours looking for a specific article with no luck in my pile, I tried it in the DVD and it took about five minutes to find it and open it up. That sold me.

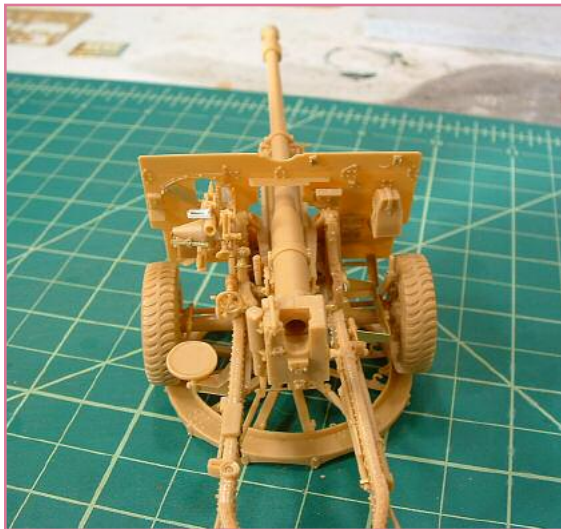
The DVD set sells for \$99.95, and can be purchased directly from Finescale's web site (<http://finescale.com>). At first I thought that the price was a little high, until I realized that today this is just the price of a nice aircraft model. I think it is well worth the price.

JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

JAMES GULD

Bronco 17/25 lber

As promised, I'm back with my build review of the Bronco 17/25 lber "Pheasant" anti-tank gun in 1/35. A little background on the gun: It was the new 17lber anti-tank gun mounted on the 25lber carriage. When the Germans introduced the Tiger I in Tunisia in late 1942, the British countered with the Pheasant. That was the code name for the gun. The 17lber carriage



wasn't in production yet, so they had to cobble together the 17lber with the carriage from the 25lber field gun. A little over 100 were made and shipped to Tunisia in February 1943.

I had read different accounts as to how long they were used on the battlefield. Some say on into Sicily and the early part of mainland Italy and others just Sicily.

FRED'S FOTO FILE

FRED FRANCESCHI

Flight in an SNJ

In 1979 (I think), I happened to be walking around at one of the smaller airports in the southern Los Angeles area. For some reason, the Hawthorn Airport comes to mind. I'm not sure though, and a glance at Google Earth didn't show any T-6s there now. I have enough of a problem remembering what I did yesterday, let alone what happened over thirty years ago. You young folks can laugh, but your turn will come.

Anyway, somehow I was able to get a ride in an SNJ. For the uneducated masses, that's a Navy T-6. I was in the back seat, under strict orders not to touch anything. And I didn't. We took off and flew west over the Pacific Ocean in formation with another SNJ. I was in the one with the wingtip visible in some of the photos, and I took pictures of the other aircraft.

For those of you who are current or ex Army, Navy or Air Force flight crew, this would be a non-event. But for me, whose experience was in antiaircraft, tanks, and later a rear echelon guy, this was really exciting.

The two aircraft took off in loose formation heading east, then turned and flew over the ocean (I figured this out by assuming that the sun was shining on the South side of the planes). When



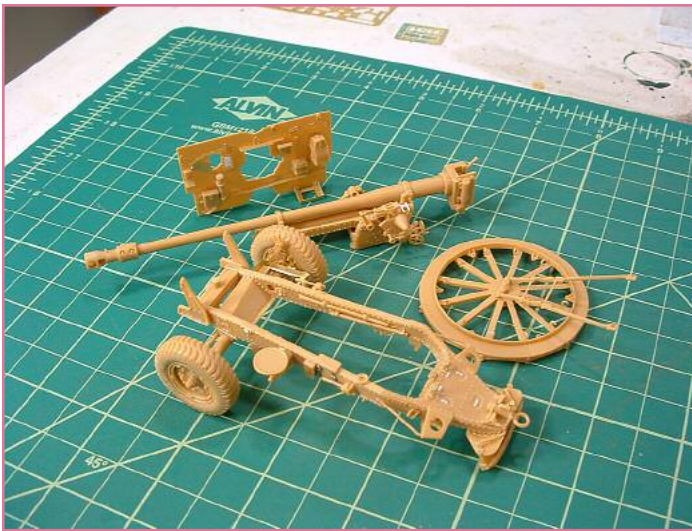
we were over the ocean the planes separated a bit, and I remember that my pilot did a couple of loops. It was fun and, since there was positive gravity, my stomach remained intact.

It was a really neat experience, and I'm very glad that the pilot gave me this "ride."

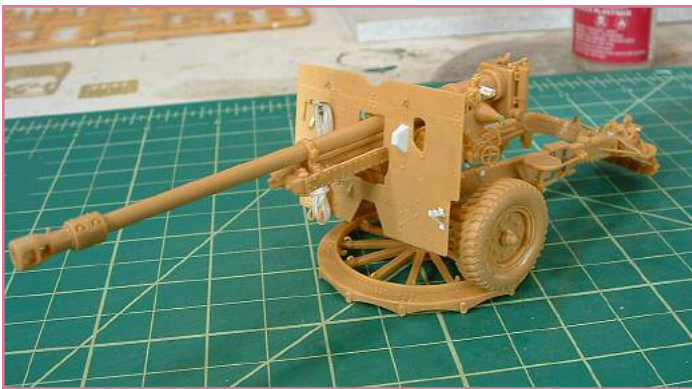


[Editor's note: All of Fred's SNJ photos, larger and in full resolution, may be found in the Bonus Pages! -JW]

This is my sixth Bronco build. For those of you not familiar with Bronco, they have been around for about ten years. They make some interesting subjects, at least for me, of British armor from WWII. Their kits have gotten better over the years but have also climbed in parts count and in photoetch used. They have a number of small sub-assem-



blies to make up a detailed piece whereas Tamiya would make the same part out of one or two pieces. The details are there but you have to be very careful removing parts from the sprues and not losing them to the carpet monster. On this build I did end up losing two small photoetch pieces, which I then had to remake out of styrene; IMHO, a few of the photoetch pieces really could have been done in plastic, seeing as how they have a number of super finely-detailed small parts on the sprues. What's wrong with a few more? I would prefer plastic over photoetch as it's easier to deal with.



Overall the fit of the kit is very good. I only had a couple of areas that needed minor sanding to get a good fit. I did have problems with the box protrusion on the front of the gun shield. They provided it as photoetch, but it was

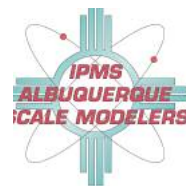
slightly too large to fit into the opening. I decided to just use the photoetch parts as a template and made the pieces out of .010 styrene and cut them to fit the opening. I also had to make one of the mounts for the aiming stakes out of styrene as I broke the photoetch piece when trying to bend it into its shape. The instruction sheet has gotten better as compared to some of their earlier kits but the assembly sequences are still poor. They will have you often put together a lot of fiddly little bits on a sub-assembly, and then when you try and put the assembly together, you end up knocking half the bits off. So you need to really go through the instruction sheet well and figure out your build sequences.

The quality of the moldings are outstanding with only the finest of mold seam lines to clean up. As I mentioned earlier, the engineering of the kit is complex but it does have some nice features such as a working breech, gun recoil, and working elevation along with rolling wheels. I ended up gluing most of these except for the working wheels. That will make painting the tires easier. I have left mine in four major sub-assemblies; the carriage ring, the carriage, the gun, and the shield. I also left off a few small boxes, which go into racks on the carriage and backside of the shield.

I will be displaying this on a simple base possibly with crew figures, set in Tunisia, so keep an eye out on the WIP table.

So on a scale of 1 – 10 I would give this kit an 8.5. It's not for the beginning modeler or those with a phobia of photoetch. It would be nice if the manufacturers gave the option of photoetch or plastic for some of the detail parts. A review of the regular 17lber anti-tank gun kit can be found PMMS's web site (<http://tinyurl.com/asm1302>).

[Editor's note: All of Jim's photos, larger and in full resolution, may be found in the Bonus Pages! -JW]



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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!

FRED FRANCESCHI

Here are all of Fred's SNJ photos.









BONUS PAGES!

JAMES GULD

Jim supplied all these photos of his Bronco 17/25 lber "Pheasant" anti-tank gun.

