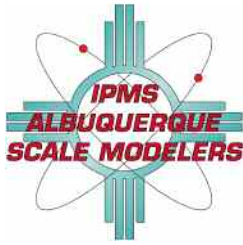


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

February 2016

THE FEZ SEZ TONY HUMPHRIES

Well, here we are in February once again. Doesn't time fly? Why, it seems like only yesterday... February is traditionally known for a couple of things, such as being a bit short and a fictitious non-holiday cynically created by the greetings card, flower, and chocolate industries to boost their business (corporations making stuff up? Who'd have thought it?!?). But it is also known for the legendary ASM Swap Meet, where people bring boxes and boxes of kits that they haven't gotten around to building yet and sell them for (hopefully) very reasonable prices to other modelers who are going to put them in the garage and never build them either. It's well worth attending, though, so bring some cash with you to February's meeting and you can at least cheer up someone else's spouse by freeing up valuable room in their garage or closets. You can also bask in the glow of a bargain or a deal well made, and who doesn't



like a deal after all? We'll try and keep the business part of our meeting as short as possible, in the now traditional manner, so that we don't interrupt the cut and thrust of styrene based commerce (*a.k.a.* the feeding frenzy) or limit your opportunity to haggle ("Okay, big-nose, let's haggle. Twenty Shekels for this?!? You must be mad..." etc.).

Moving swiftly on, a number of you will have received a notification from the new IPMS leadership that a laptop with a significant amount of membership information on it has gone missing in transit recently from one official to another. This did cause me to sigh wearily once again, when I read it—I work in Information Security and am still seeing this kind of thing happening in both the private and public sector, despite widespread information campaigns and, in some cases, serious fines levied by



Government agencies such as the OCR for non-compliance (although that won't apply here, of course). All laptops with any personally identifiable information on them should have their hard drives fully encrypted, and not doing so in this day and age is a major lapse—especially when shipping the laptop from one location to another. I have spoken to

January Meeting highlights: Modeler of the Year and Model of the Year plaques on display, and members checking out this month's contest entries.



IPMS leadership about this and it turns out that this laptop was not encrypted after all—just password protected, which these days is trivial to get around if you have possession of the device. Fortunately, the data contained only names, addresses, and phone numbers of IPMS members, some of whom are deceased anyway. No credit card or other financial data was included, which will be a relief, particularly for those who renew their membership online or have purchased other goods or services from IPMS via the web—you probably aren't going to need to monitor your credit as a direct result of this incident, although it is probably a good practice to do this routinely anyway. Also, laptops that are stolen are usually wiped and sold on quickly for a few quick bucks, so it's likely that the perpetrator hasn't even looked at what is on the drive. We have probably all dodged a bullet there, as a result.

It is worth stating that IPMS leadership are aware that this was a potentially serious own-goal, however, and I believe that they will take steps in the future to ensure that this doesn't happen again and to prevent any more serious security issues from arising. To their credit, they appear to have jumped on this issue, albeit after the horse has bolted this time around. This led me ask myself: if I were a hacker, would I try and gain access to IPMS financial records and credit-card info, and how hard would it be? Well, it probably wouldn't come up on my radar, to be honest, but if it did, then I have a suspicion that it would be easier than we would all like. So let's hope that leadership are indeed taking this seriously. Just because you're not an obvious target doesn't mean that someone isn't going to hit you. Security by obscurity is not a reliable safeguard these days, if it ever really was.

Looking on the bright side, though, at least we won't be open to blackmail as members of the Ashley Madison adultery website were last year, unless you have either been keeping your hobby a secret from your wife (or significant other) or you consider your involvement in this hobby to be an embarrassing secret. Hopefully, neither of those are actually the case, and both do seem somewhat unlikely, although having seen some of those who show up at IPMS National conventions, perhaps adopting a fake mustache and a pair of Groucho Marx glasses wouldn't be such a bad idea!

Anyway, having wholeheartedly adopted the role of the pot calling the kettle black, and also having gotten that off my chest, let's move on to the rest of the content of this month's newsletter. So, without further ado—over to you, gentlemen...

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MIKE BLOHM

I hope everyone was able to spend some time over the holidays having some fun building models. There were a lot of great models at the January Sci-Fi, Real Space, Science, and Fantasy contest, and Joe Walters and I did have a hard time narrowing down our favorites. There was a lot of creativity involved in some of them. The winners were:

Best Basic Entry:

Jeannie Garriss, *General Grievous*

Best Intermediate Air, Space, and Sea Entry:

Michael O'Brien, *USS Excelsior*

Year 2016 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for points

- 08 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1:**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
Sponsored Contest: "Frickin' Laser Beams" (Patrick Dick)
- 05 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 04 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 01 Apr** **Rescue Me!**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 06 May** **Anniversaries**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 03 Jun** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2: US PRESIDENTS**
Sponsored Contest: "Northrop Grumman" (Patrick Dick)
- 08 Jul** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 05 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 02 Sep** **Captured!**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Gil's Pick" (Gil De La Plain)
- 07 Oct** **Empire of the Sun—Japan**—Any kit/subject/scale from the World Wars
Sponsored Contest: "Hawker Aircraft" (John Tate)
Sponsored Contest: "Nuclear Heritage Model Display" (Defense Nuclear Weapons School Museum)
- 04 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Big 'Uns" (Tim Wood)
- 02 Dec** *Model of the Year* competition!

Note: The most complete and up-to-date details on the contests, as well as detailed rules, as always, are on the ASM Website:

<http://tinyurl.com/asmsched>

Best Intermediate Land and Figures Entry:

Michael Clagett, *Martian War Machine*

Best Masters Entry (selected by Joe):

Mike Blohm, *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*

It is looking like we are going to do a Make & Take event in March that will involve almost forty Cub Scouts, so we will be looking for some ASM members to help out with that. We'd like to have one ASM person at each table with about five Scouts to help guide them through their model assembling. Stay tuned for more info on that.

As far as local contests go, the CoMMiES are hosting CoMMiESFest 2016 on April 16 in Golden, Colorado. The theme is "Mutual of CoMMiES Wild Kingdom." Additional info is posted on the ASM Website and available at the official CoMMiESFest website (<http://www.commiesfest.com>).



STEAMPUNK!

JERRY LITTLE

“Steampunk” means a lot of different things to different people, but the one thing we can agree on is that the word is *cool!* Most enthusiasts consider Steampunk as a subgenre of science fiction; however, there is a much greater diversity to the steampunk genre in that it often includes fantasy and historical fiction. One of the most important, if not the most important, aspect of Steampunk is the aesthetically pleasing nature that is created in its artistic designs. Two fundamental elements are 19th-century Victorian style that combines modern technology fused with industrial steam-powered machinery and the hybrid nature of the alternative history in storytelling.

The word “steampunk” wasn’t used much until the 1980s. Even though elements of steampunk were around much earlier, like many things, the name came about by “accident” in a letter-to-the-editor where a science fiction author recommended they call his group of writers “steam-punks.” This was a play on the already-used term cyberpunk.

Since the artistic value plays the largest role, probably more important than the technology, most of our modern references to steampunk visuals go back to Disney (is this Walt Disney the man or the company—maybe a little clarity?). The 1954 film *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* and the submarine *Nautilus* provided most of the cues for what we see as Steampunk design today. The design was based on Disney artist Harper Goff’s work. Goff was also credited with work in the initial development of Army camouflage and the Navy’s work on “dazzle”-type camouflage of ships. Goff also created another iconic submarine design, the *Proteus* from the movie *Fantastic Voyage*. His work was a balance between visual aesthetics and use.

Given the growing popularity of the genre, I thought it would be a cool contest for the Albuquerque Scale Modelers and decided to host a sponsored contest last December. Since there really is no rule in what constitutes a steampunk entry other than it loosely has to follow the idea of industrial modernism... I was open to all entries. We had a great turnout for the club and we weren’t disappointed in the entries.

FRED’S FOTO FILE

FRED FRANCESCHI

1950s – 1960s Airshows

These are some more photos from airshows at military bases during the 1950s and 60s. What was state of the art aircraft technology then is now mostly ancient history and largely forgotten.



A B-47 bomber. This photo, and the other color photos in this Foto File segment, were taken at an airshow at Edwards AFB in May 1960. The fluorescent red paint precludes this plane from being assigned to a Strategic Air Command unit, so it was being used for testing. Notice that the main landing gear is in the fuselage and it has “trainer wheels” extending from the inner jet engine pods. An XB-26H Marauder named the “Middle River Stump Jumper” was used in 1945 to test this landing gear concept.



This is an Air Force B-52 with a jet engine powered missile under the wing. I don’t know what the missile is, but it looks interesting.



A Northrop T-38 Talon. It sure is a beautiful airplane. And Joe Walters noticed that this T-38, unlike the production T-38s, does not have a pitot tube extending from the nose.

[Editor’s note: The full text of Fred’s article and several more airshow photos (larger and in higher resolution) can be found in the [Bonus Pages](#). -JW]

Considering the theme, it was mandatory to have at least one *Nautilus* entry. Interestingly enough, there were three *Nautilus*es entered. Two were what many consider “Disney *Nautilus*es” of Captain Nemo fame, and the other was a very obscure resin and white metal kit from a company called BCI. Steve Brodeur displayed the classic Disney *Nautilus* in 1/240 scale. Mike Clagett also entered a solid resin version of the Nemo *Nautilus* designed by Scott Brodeen. Although the BCI *Nautilus* was said to be based on the Jules Verne book, it is a striking fish-like departure from the Disney style we are used to. That is what caught my eye!



Mike Clagett did a great job on the BCI *Nautilus*. He finished it with a copper-clad look that highlighted some of the features, like the contra-rotating annular propellers and the hull-forming conning tower. The model included the four stacks that are so prominent in the Jules Vern book. Mike also included the always-needed large barbed and raked spar for those times when ramming was in order! His *Nautilus* captured the award for Best H₂O Machine!

The entries weren't limited to “under”-the-surface machines; we also had a few “over”-the-surface machines as well. Mike Blohm entered a neat model that we all know called the “Flap Jack.” While not strictly Steampunk, it was quirky in the spirit of the competition. Mike also had a scratchbuilt Airship Atlantis that combined elements of multiple modes of transportation into a really cool “above”-the-surface flying machine! Unfortunately, Mike's Atlantis ended up in the “What if” category of “What if I had finished it in time to enter in last month's contest!” He did have it ready for ASM's annual Sci-Fi contest in January. Mike Clagett also had a paper-craft

model of Count Leonard “Never call me Lenny” Von Falconski's Crimson Destructor (X-Wing Bi-plane) displayed in flight.



What really stood out was Robert Henderson's scratchbuilt *Flying Steamboat*. Robert did an awesome job building what was a cross between a turn of the century hot air balloon and Leonardo De Vinci's mechanical paddle boat. Richard's *Paddle Wheel Balloon* was my pick for Best Aerial Machine!

Congratulations to both Mike Clagett and Richard Henderson on their excellent models and imaginations in Steampunk!

[Editor's note: More photographs of Steampunk contest entries are in the [Bonus Pages](#). -JW]

IN THE BONUS PAGES! JOE WALTERS

In this month's [Bonus Pages](#):

- Photos of the January contest winners
- The full text and photos of Fred's Foto File
- Some special additional material for Fred's Foto File
- Jerry Little's photos of January's Steampunk contest
- Mike Blohm's report on the 2016 Albuquerque Comic Con

CHILE CON
COMING IN 2017!

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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!

THE FINER POINTS

JERRY LITTLE

If the January club contest is any indication of what lies ahead for ASM in 2016, we surely won't be disappointed in the year! January is our traditional contest month where we focus our attention on many "otherworldly" activities; whether it's real or fantasy, it's the final frontier for Space, Sci-Fi, and Fantasy. The Annual "Moe Blalters" special contest is in honor of our longtime ASM Just Staff and Sci-Fi & Fantasy enthusiasts, Joe Walters and Mike Blohm, and is open to any subject, any scale, within theme. Additionally, we've become accustomed to looking at all manner of things with lasers on them in Patrick Dick's sponsored "Frickin' Laser Beams" contest. The two themes go hand in hand and the tables were full of great examples.

In the **Masters** category, Victor Maestas's B-Wing fighter was selected as the winner for the category. With the recent release of the seventh episode of *Star Wars*, you'd expect at least one or two *Star Wars* models on the table. Victor did a "throw back," in that there were no B-wings in the new movie, but when you consider the history of the movie franchise; the B-wing has a solid place in rebel history.

Intermediate had a slightly different breakout than the other categories this month. The table was full of interesting and well-done models. Because of the types of models entered, we went as far as to break out the category by land and air. Partap Davis's AT-ST walker was selected as Best Land entry. The model was well done and an excellent example of type of model from the *Star Wars* canon. The "All Terrain Scout Transport" (AT-ST) was known by the Rebels as a "chicken walker" because of its awkward walking style and because they couldn't fly, and they got their butts kicked in the Battle for Endor by a bunch of little Ewoks.

For Best Air, Michael O'Brian provided us with an outstanding example from the other, albeit first "Star" series space adventure, *USS Excelsior* (NCC-2000, later NCC-21445) of *Star Trek* fame. The model demonstrated the excellent use of decals to achieve the overall mottling effect, commonly referred to as "Aztec" patterns seen on most of the Federation *Star Trek* ships. The *Excelsior* was the prototype ship in the "Excelsior" class and was called "The Great Experiment" because of the use of the transwarp drive, which spurred the infamous analogy by Mr. Scott; "...and if my grandmother had wheels, she'd be a wagon."

Finally, in **Basic**, Jeannie Garriss displayed huge model of General Grievous made from the LEGO kit. The model stands over a foot tall, complete with multiple lightsabers (4). Jeannie's model showed Grievous's imposing stature as the Supreme Commander of the Droid Army of the Confederacy of Independent Systems. While Grievous was originally a humanoid, he was giving cybernetic implants to make him more combat effective. He was particular to the lightsaber in combat and was made for hunting Jedi. He was so particular to the lightsaber, he collected them from fallen Jedi that he killed. Jeannie's model prominently displayed Grievous's multiple lightsabers.

Finally, what Sci-Fi contest would be complete without some Frickin' Laser Beams? Patrick Dick scoured the multiple models on the tables to find the best representation of the use of lasers. Not necessarily the best use of lasers mind you, but maybe the coolest use. Patrick chose Partap Davis's AT-ST walker as the best of the best laser subjects. The AT-STs have twin chin-mounted laser cannons used primarily against troops. Apparently they can be driven by Wookiees.

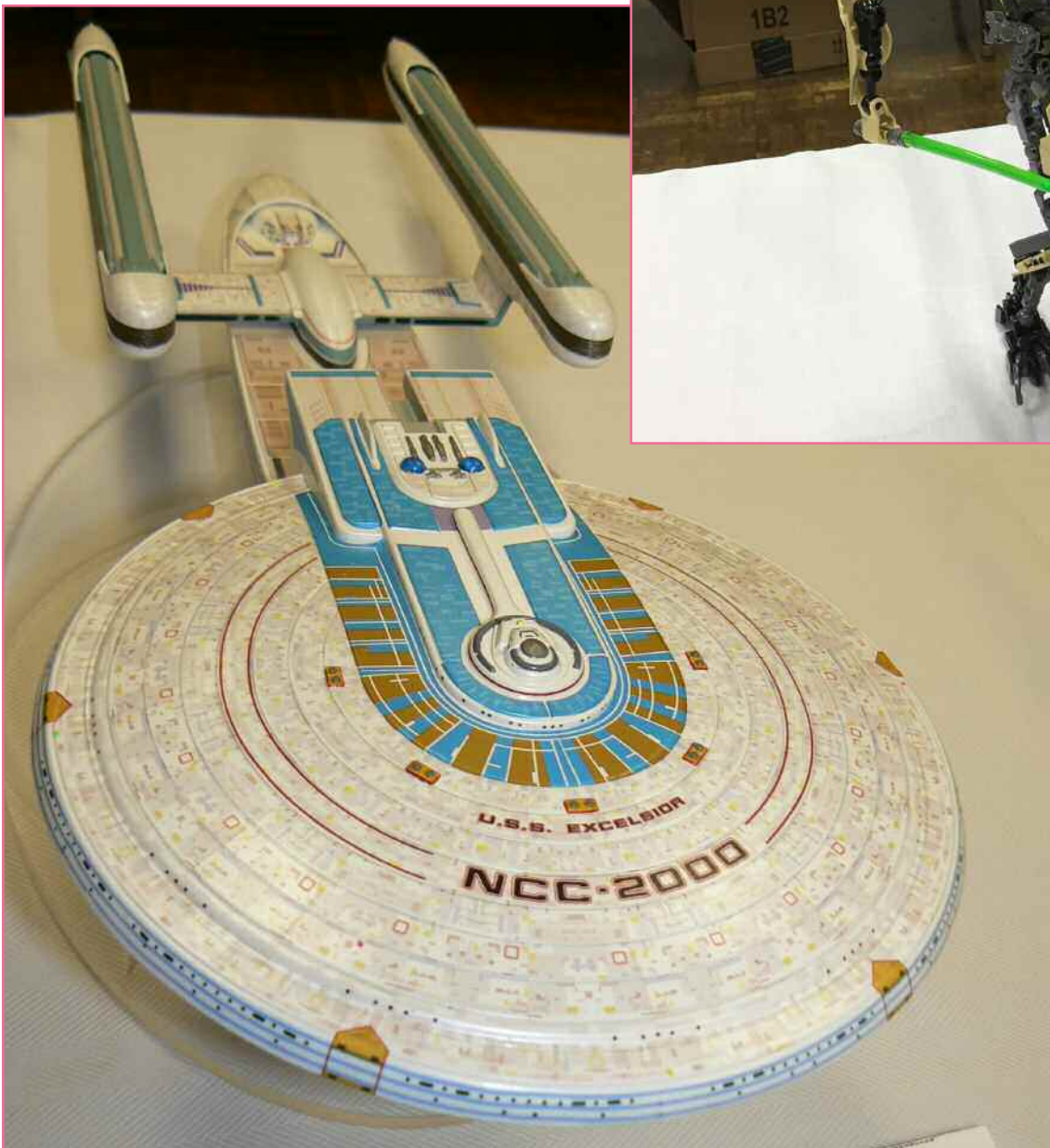
The Final Point

Something to think about as the year progresses, last year's Modeler of the Year points contest was really close in the Masters and Intermediate categories. So close, in fact, that the difference between first and second could have been made by the number of Works in Progress (WiP) models at each of the meetings. Unlike the formal contest entries, WiP points are available at any meeting. Although January was a "non-points" Special contest, there was still an opportunity to pick up 6 points for Modeler of the Year. Each WiP is awarded 2 points with a max of 3 displayed (6 pts total). If you do the math, that could mean a modeler could earn over 60 points for just displaying models we are working on!

BONUS PAGES!

JANUARY CONTEST WINNERS

Right: Jeannie Garriss's *General Grievous* figure (Basic). Below: Michael O'Brien's *USS Excelsior* (Intermediate, Air/Space/Sea).



Rught: Partap Davis's AT-ST (Intermediate, Land). Below: Victor Maestas's B-Wing Fighter (Masters). There were no junior entries.

Partap's AT-ST also won the Best Frickin' Laser Beam contest.

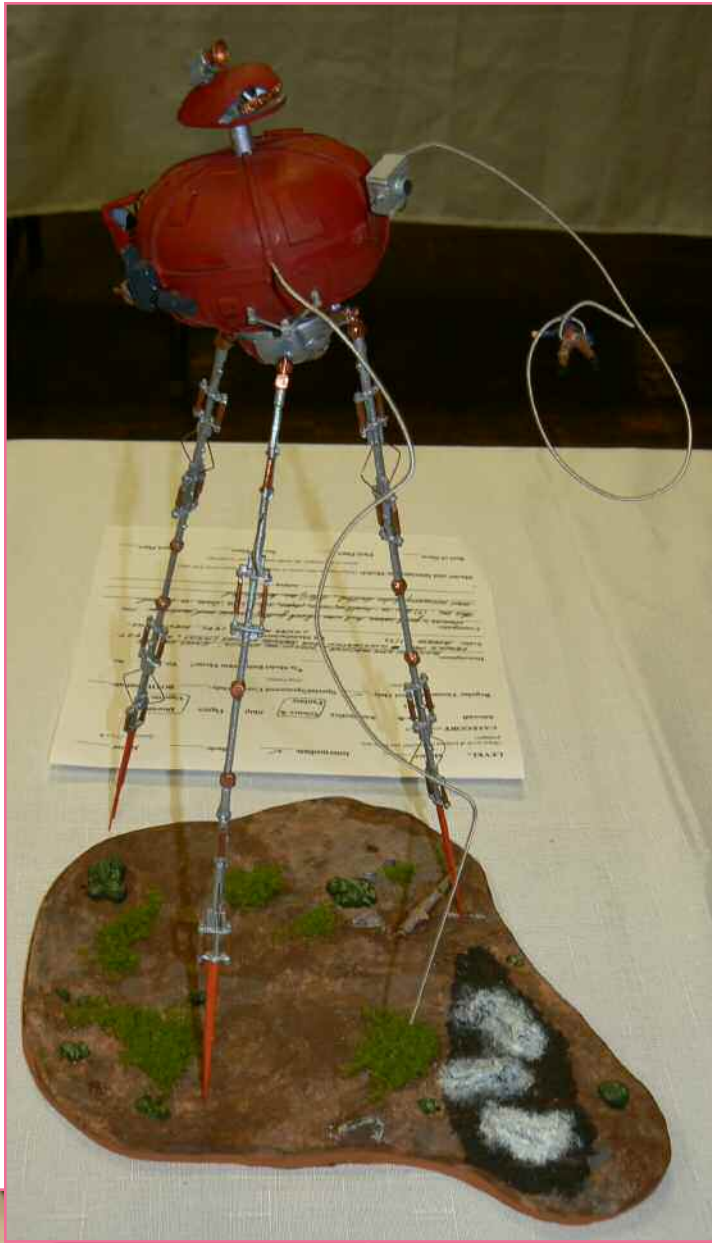
Bottom: Some 2015 plaque recipients, L – R: Ken Piniak, Model of the Year and Modeler of the Year, Intermediate; Joshua Kinman, Model of the Year and Modeler of the Year, Junior; and Brian Peck, Model of the Year, Masters.



Mike Blohm & Joe Walters made their picks for the eponymous “Moe Blalters” contest.

Left: Jeannie Garriss’s *General Grievous* figure (Basic). Below: Michael O’Brien’s *USS Excelsior* (Intermediate, Air/Space/Sea). There were no junior entries.





Left: Michael Clagett's *War of the Worlds Martian War Machine* (Intermediate, Land). Below: Mike Blohm's *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers* (Masters). Note: Mike recused himself from the Masters judging, as he had two entries.



BONUS PAGES! FRED'S FOTO FILE FRED FRANCESCHI

1950s - 1960s Airshows

These are some more photos from airshows at military bases during the 1950s. What was state of the art aircraft technology then is now mostly ancient history and largely forgotten.



It took me a while to figure out that this is a Regulus II cruise missile, designed to be launched from submarines. Designated the SSM-N-9, the first flight was in May, 1956, and the program was cancelled in November, 1958, as the cruise missile technology changed. It was powered by the GE J79 jet engine. Later, some of the Regulus IIs were used by the Air Force as supersonic targets for BOMARC surface to air missiles. There are still three Regulus IIs in museums. I probably took this photo in 1958 at an airshow at Miramar NAS, in San Diego.



A B-47 bomber. The photo, and the other color photos in this Foto File segment, were taken at an airshow at Edwards AFB in May 1960. The fluorescent red paint precludes this plane from being assigned to a Strategic Air Command unit, so it was being used for testing. Notice that the main landing gear is in the fuselage and it has "trainer wheels" extending from the inner jet engine pods. An XB-26H Marauder named the "Middle River Stump Jumper" was used in 1945 to test this landing gear concept.



This is an Air Force B-52 with a jet engine powered missile under the wing. I don't know what the missile is, but it looks interesting.





Below: This is the same B-52 with the missile, but I thought that the arc of the wing droop was interesting, so I took this photo to show the wing's flexibility.





A Northrop T-38 Talon. It sure is a beautiful airplane. And Joe Walters noticed that this T-38, unlike the production T-38s, does not have a pitot boom extending from the nose.



A T-38 Talon. I can tell from the large lettering on the nose of the plane. Ha! The tail number appears to be 91192.



Air-to-air missiles on the wingtips of the second prototype YF-5A (Or is it already the F-5A?). The first prototype YF-5A was 94987, this airplane is 94988.

FRED'S FOTO FILE ADDENDUM

In the April 2015 Foto File, I wrote about military airplanes that were painted in the wrong markings and added, "...and the military vehicle people sometimes do similar things. I suspect that somewhere is a guy trying to put a quad 50 mount on a Willys jeep, if it hasn't already been done."

Well, I was talking to a retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant a few days ago and during the Viet Nam war he was involved with perimeter defense of an airstrip in the combat area. He said that they put any weapons they could get on their jeeps. They filled the tires with a heavy foam and added outriggers when necessary to stabilize the vehicles. He attempted to get some 50-caliber quad mounts to put on his jeeps, but was unsuccessful at obtaining them through normal (or other) channels. But somewhere there may have been jeeps that were modified to take the 50-caliber quad mounts. And someday a photo may show up.

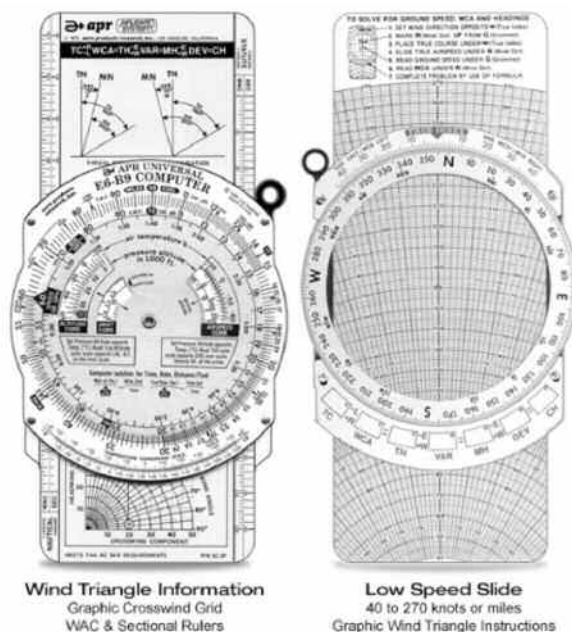
BONUS PAGES!

FRED'S FOTO FILE FEATURE: STAR TREK COMMENTARY

FRED FRANCESCHI

Editor's note: How this came about. Okay, first off, there's this fellow named Fred Horky, who maintains a service whereby modeling newsletter editors send him PDF files of their issues, and he forwards them to everyone on his email list. Quite a few newsletters go out to quite a few people!

Fred almost always attaches commentary to his mailings, and in a recent one mentioned a device well known to pilots—at least, pilots who trained during a certain timeframe! The device is the E6-B Flight Computer, essentially a very complicated-looking circular slide rule, but an essential device for flight planning. And the complexity is mainly in the design—its use was straightforward and far simpler than it might appear at first glance.



Fred provided the above photo, and wondered whether the device was fading into the obscurity of ancient history. Well, I couldn't resist sending Fred this publicity photo (below), one that has always amused pilots familiar with a certain science-fiction television series from the 1960s. Obviously, the producers were seeking a low-cost futuristic-looking prop for Mr. Spock to hold!



"Let's see... if the solar wind is 342 mark 7 at 1500kph, and the Enterprise is at 218 mark 3 traveling at Warp Factor four..."

Mr. Horky then ran that photo in the commentary he provided with the forwarding of our January newsletter and said this:

...and just yesterday, Joe sent photographic evidence that the lowly E6-B Flight Data Computer, that I remember so well from flying behind those big fans called “propellers” all those years ago, and that I had thought had been relegated to the dustbin of aviation history, is alive and well *and will remain so!*

The picture proves that the classic E6-B will be used during the five-year span from the years 2265 to 2270, when First Officer Spock will serve in USS *Enterprise* (NCC-1701) under the command of Captain James T. Kirk. (How am I so sure? It’s right there in black and white in Spock’s online biography, and we all know that everything from the internet is true, right?) <http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0001439/bio>

Well, this inspired our own Fred Franceschi to submit the following, and he asked me to point out that two of the cast members from that series (namely William Shatner and James Doohan) were themselves Canadian, and their characters, Kirk and Scotty respectively, would therefore likely have used this device instead of the E6-B.

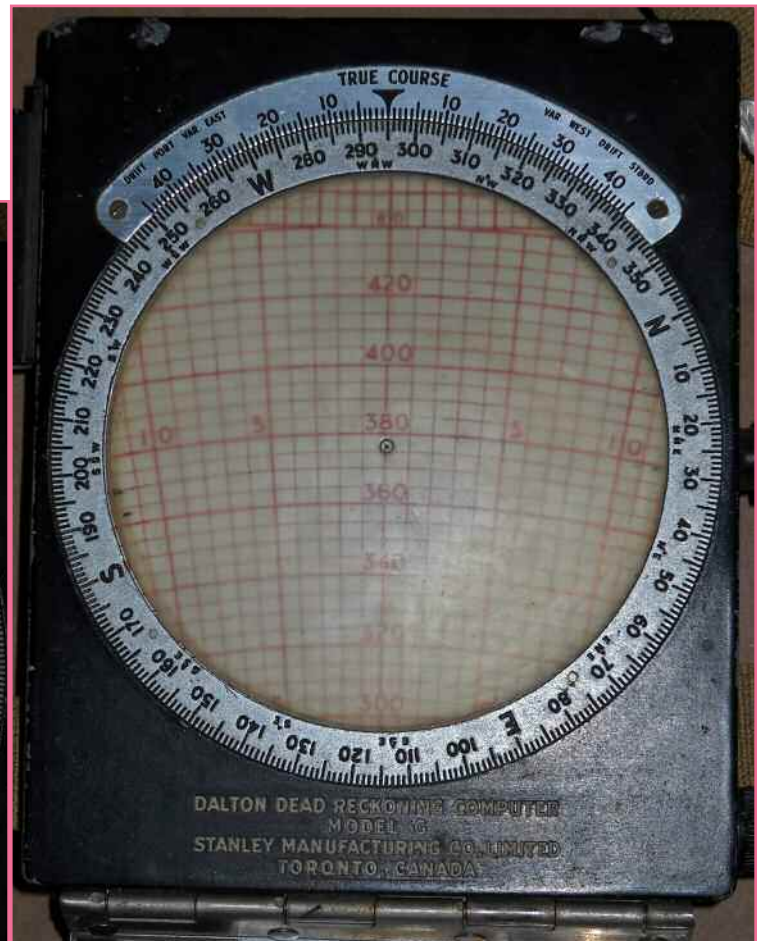
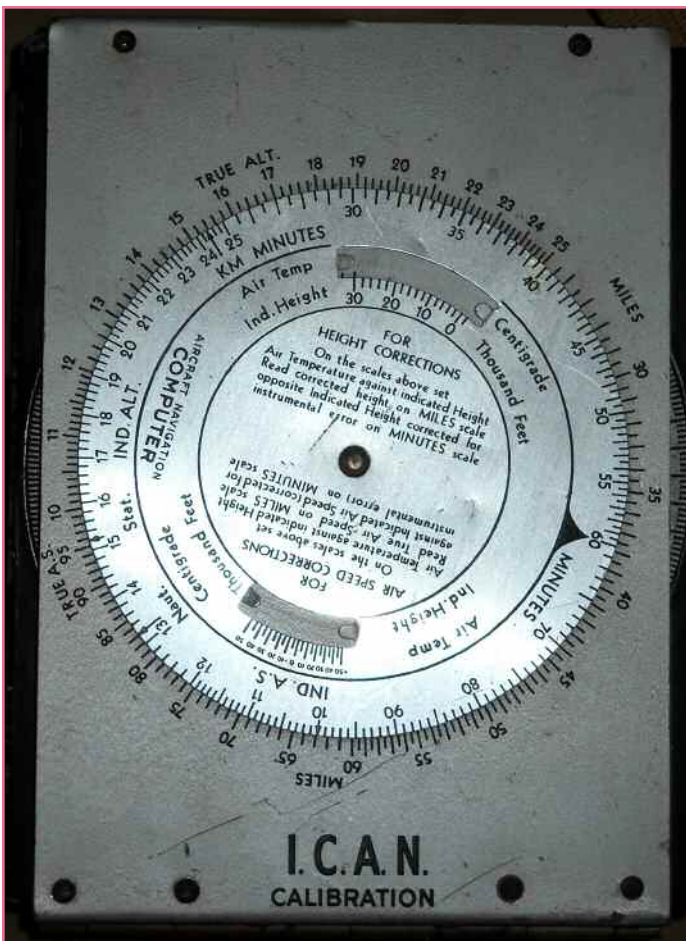
Over to you, Fred...

-JW

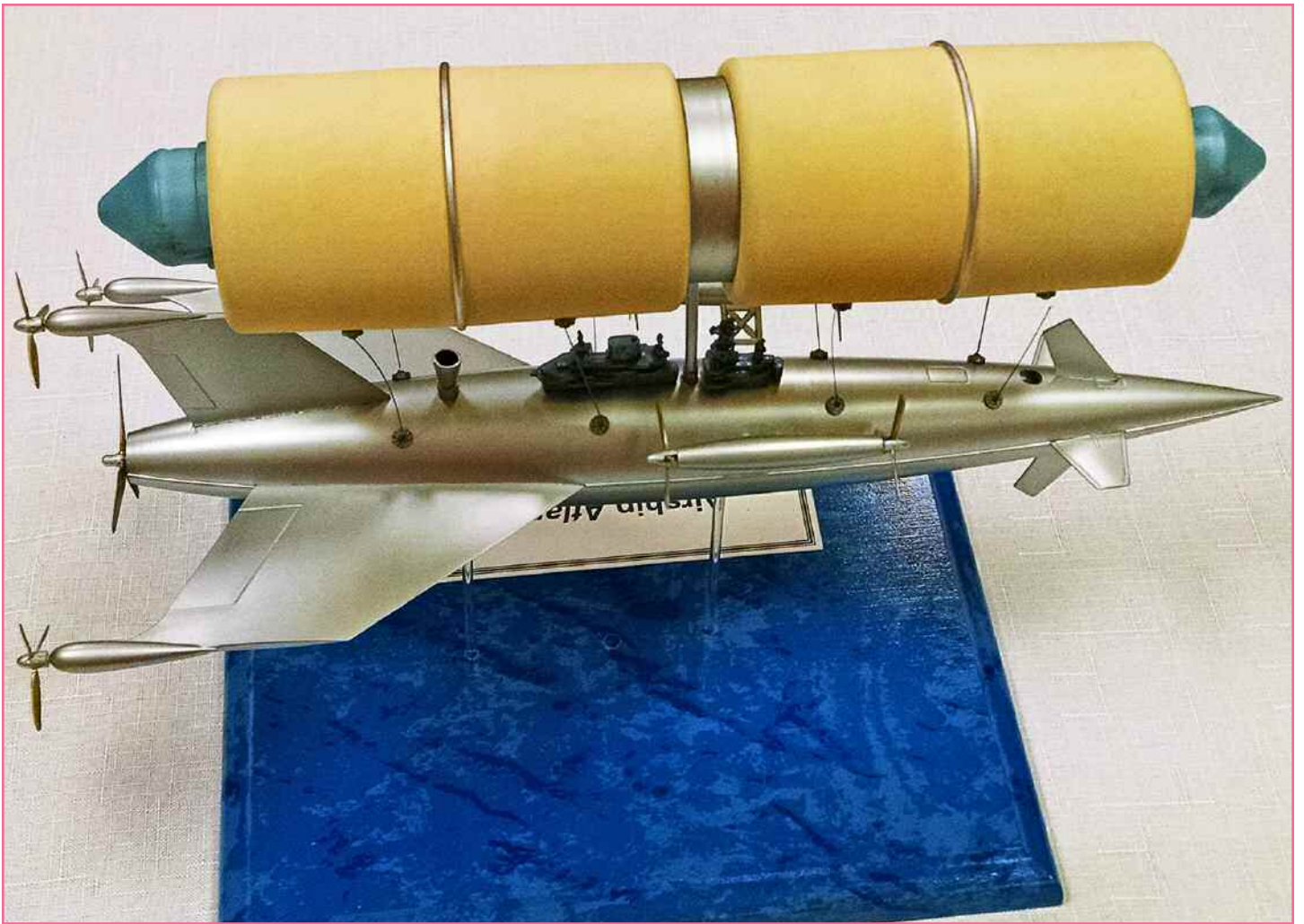
It is well known to the Star Trek community that Mr. Spock used an E6-B Computer. What is not as well known is that the Canadian members of the Starship Enterprise used a much more sophisticated navigational instrument called the Dalton Dead Reckoning Computer, Model G.

The knob at the lower right of the device moved the warp speed indicator faster or slower and the knob at the center right rotated the directional positioning indicator to account for intergalactic drift.

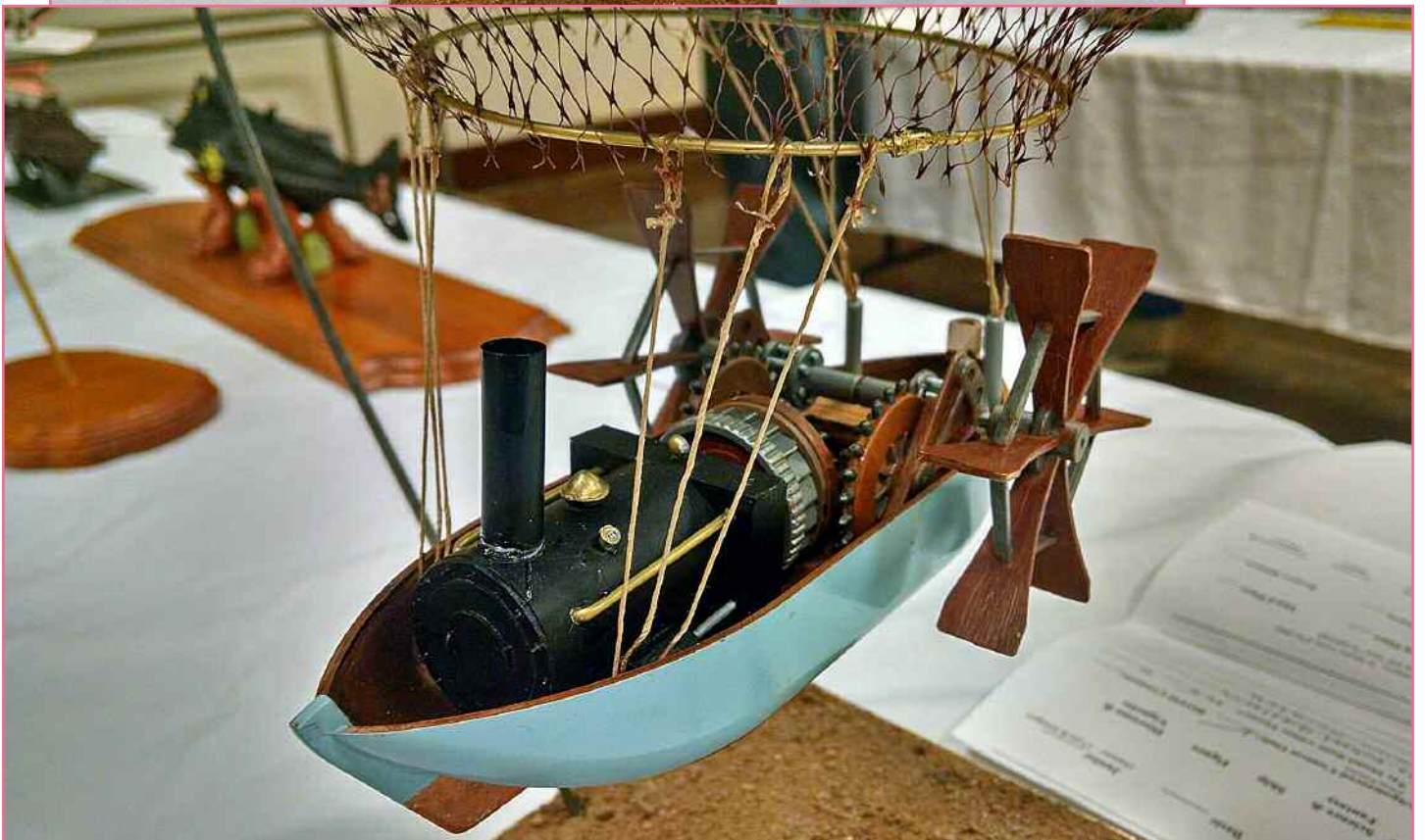
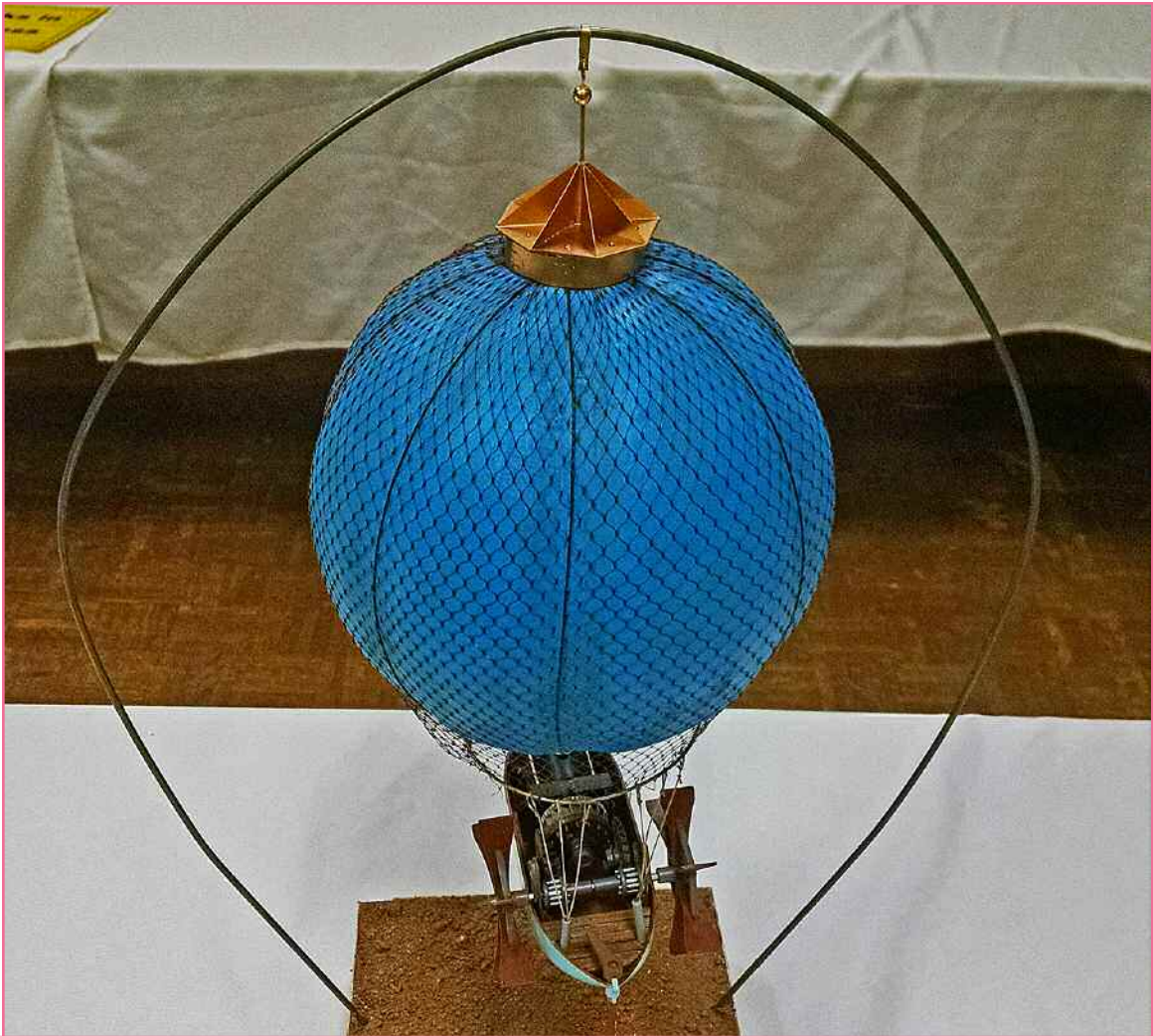
I was able to locate one of these devices at an Army Surplus store in about 1955, an amazing reverse time-warp feat.

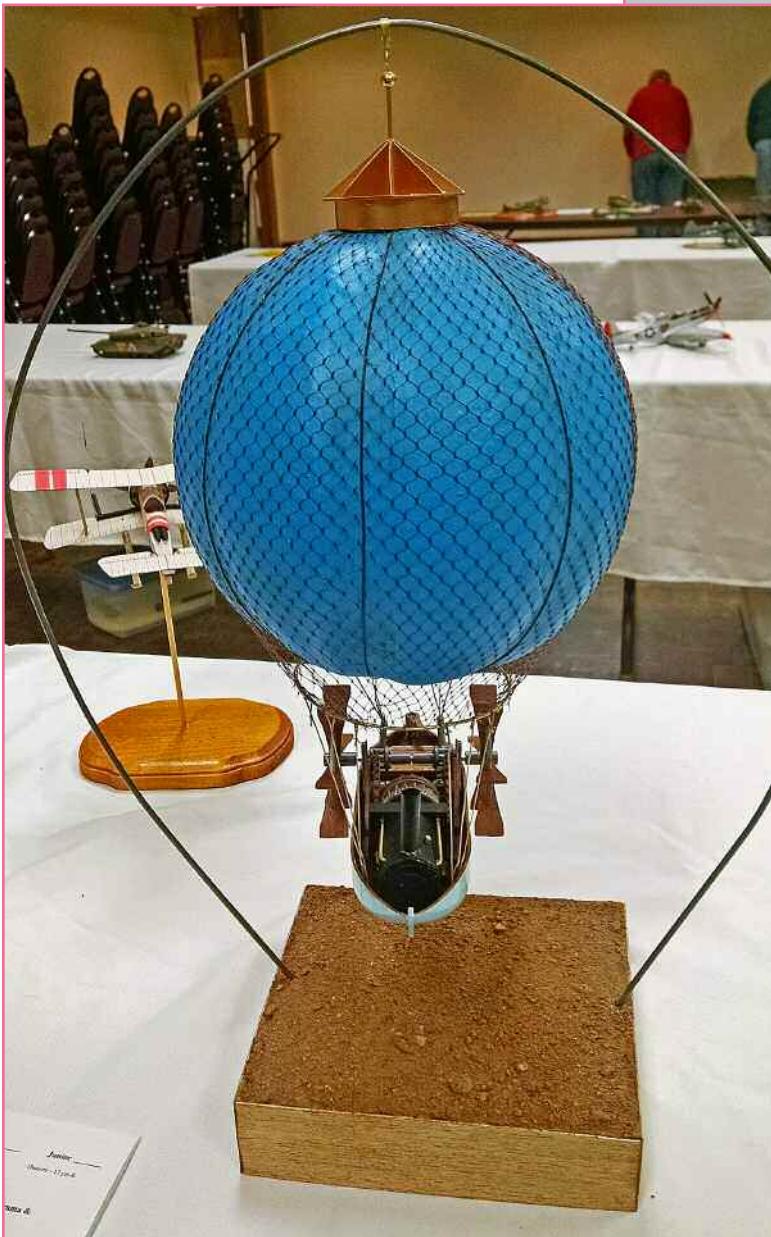


[Another editor’s note: according to wikipedia, Naval Lt. Philip Dalton was the inventor of both the E6-B and this device. -JW]







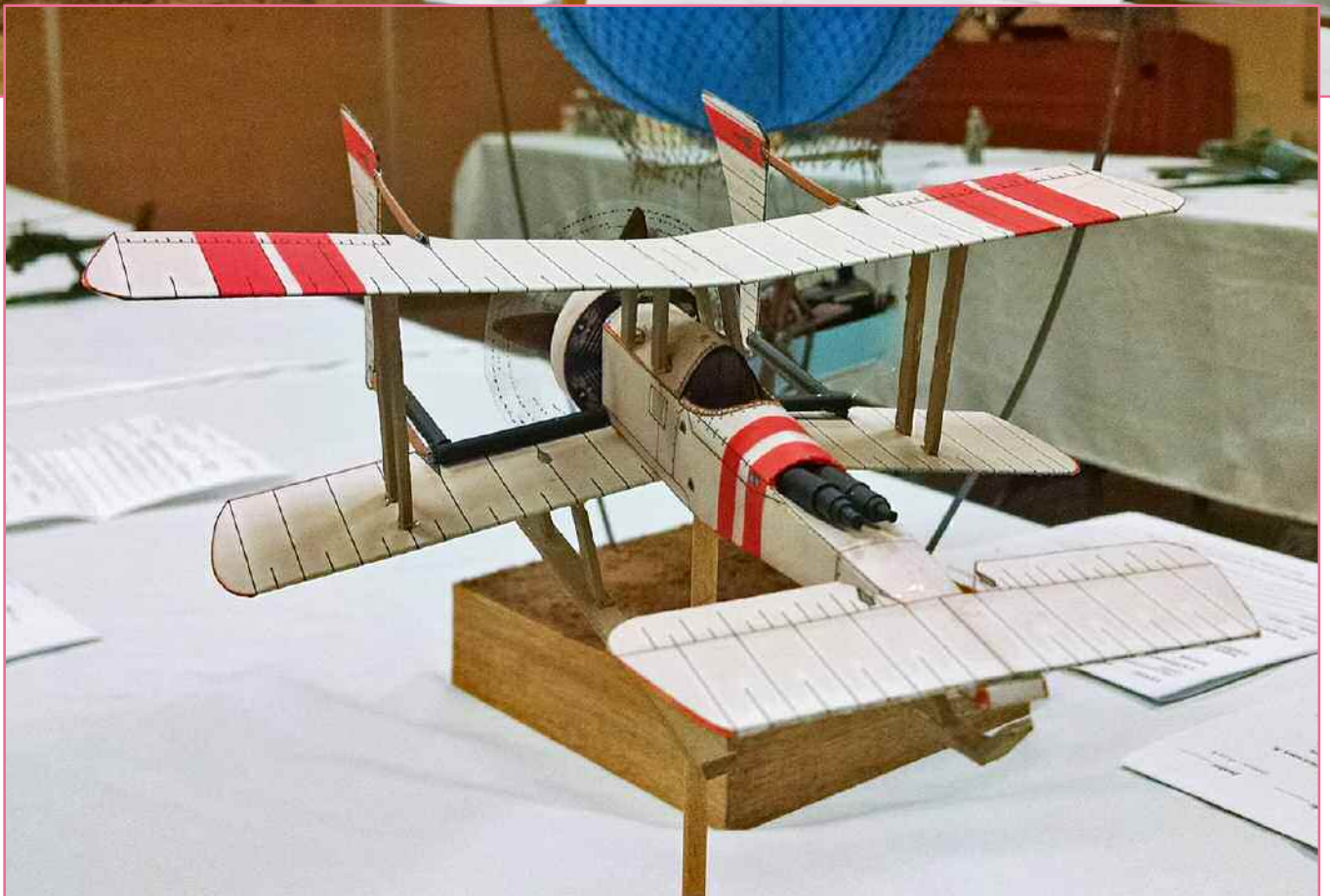
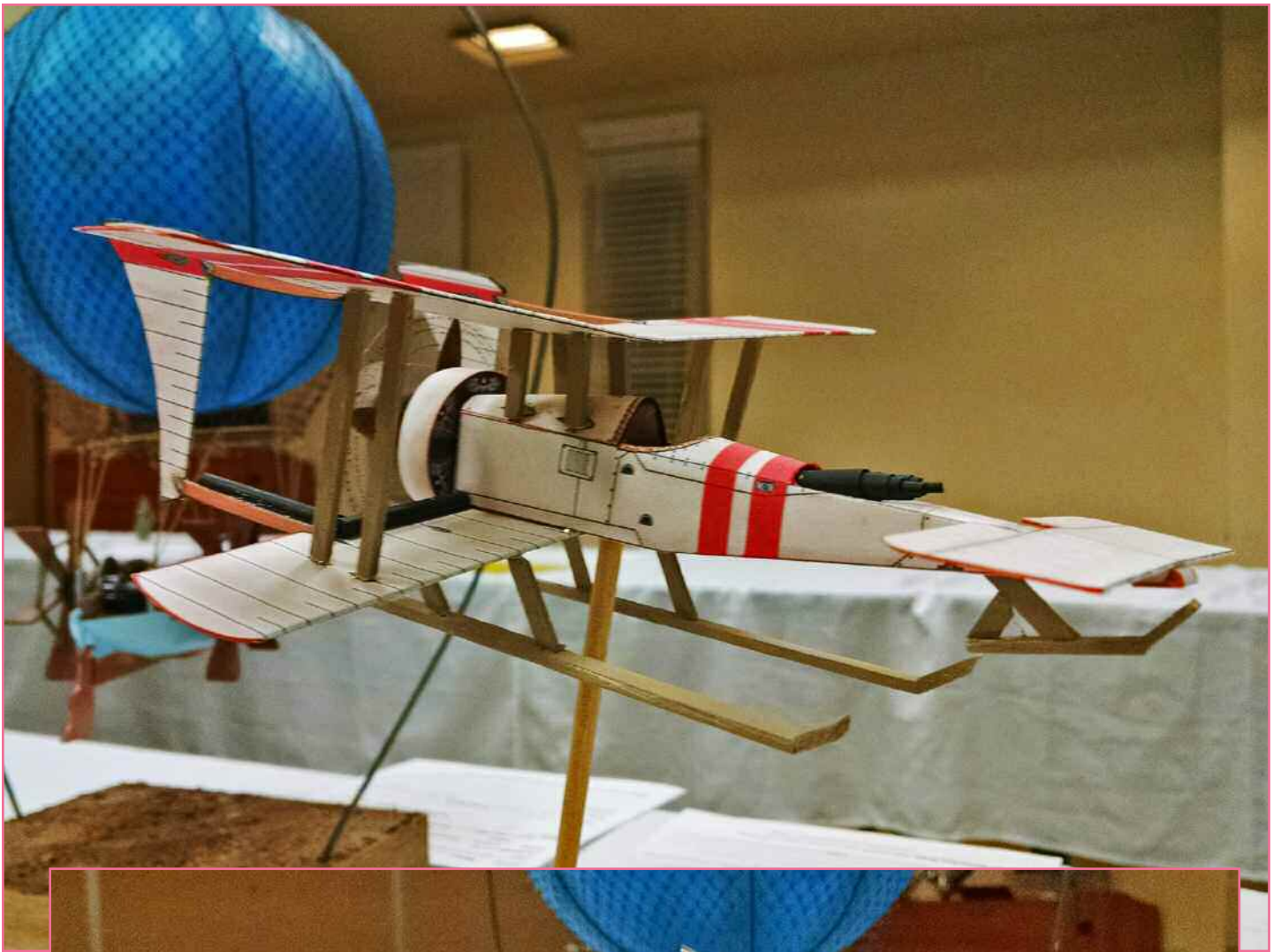


















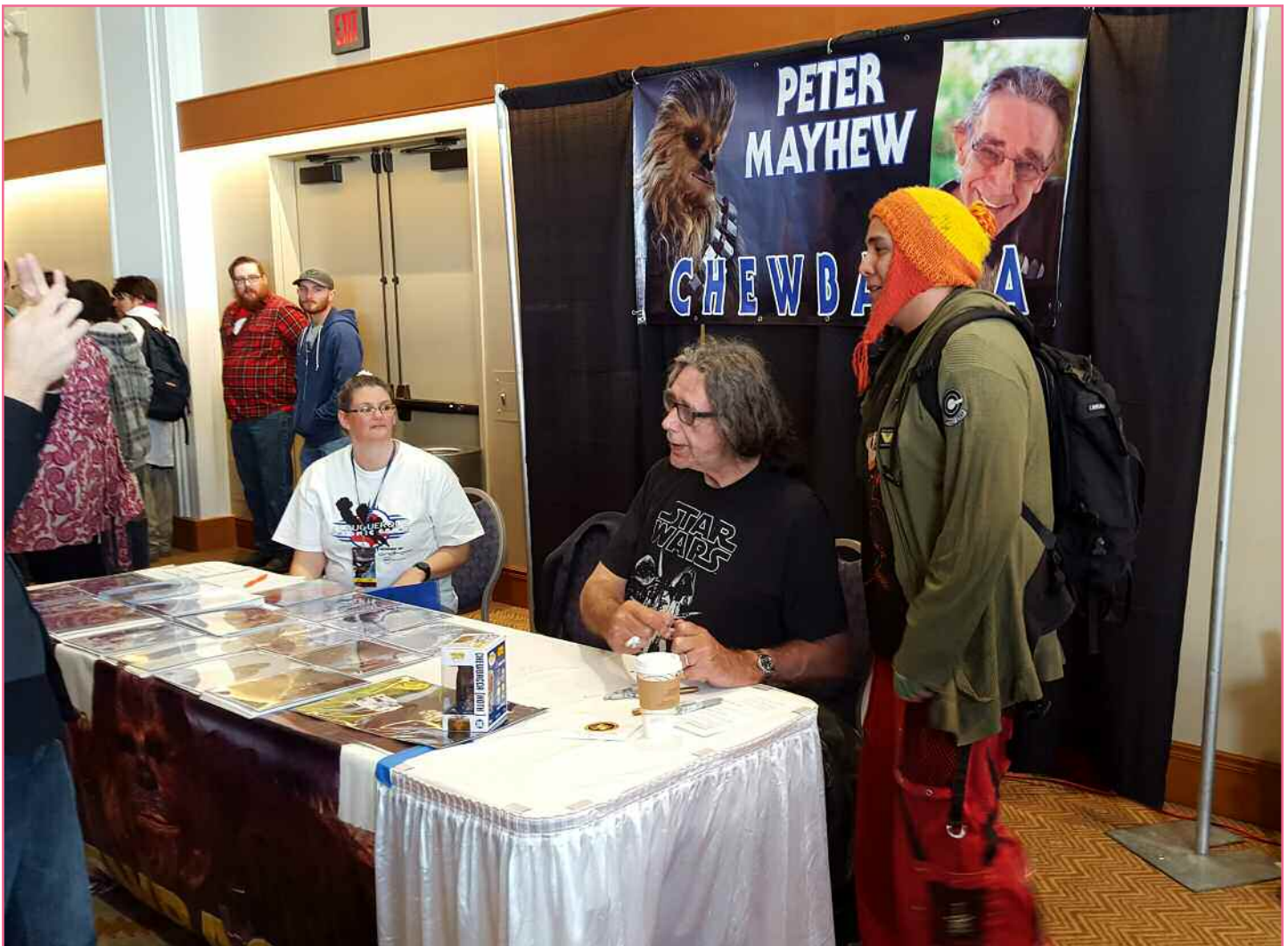
BONUS PAGES!

FIELD TRIP: ALBUQUERQUE COMIC CON 2016

MIKE BLOHM

This trip report covers a visit to the Albuquerque Comic Con 2016 convention that took place on January 8 – 10, 2016, at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Guests of note included Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca in *Star Wars*), Nichelle Nichols (Uhura in *Star Trek*), Michael Dorn (Worf in *Star Trek: the Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine*), Ron Perlman (*Hellboy*, *Pacific Rim*, *Blade 2*, *Alien Resurrection*, *Sons of Anarchy*), Gil Gerard (*Buck Rogers*), Jason David Frank (Green Ranger in *Power Rangers*), and a lot of voice actors from anime shows/movies. Matt and I sat in on the presentations by Michael Dorn and Peter Mayhew, and those were pretty entertaining. The discussion on who now inherits the Millennium Falcon was pretty good. Comic artists at the convention included Chad Hardin, Matt Wagner, Mike Zeck, and Neal Adams.

The vendors were spread across several rooms and there were a variety of items to be seen and purchased, including comic books. There were even some model kits available, mostly science fiction types. As usual, lots of the attendees were dressed in comic book, anime, and movie costumes, and there were some from the new movie *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. As usual, attending Albuquerque Comic Con was a fun time. Pictures of the vendor rooms and the costumed attendees are included below.











Above: Lord Vader can be a snappy dresser! Below: Marvel's Quicksilver, in a mercurial mood.





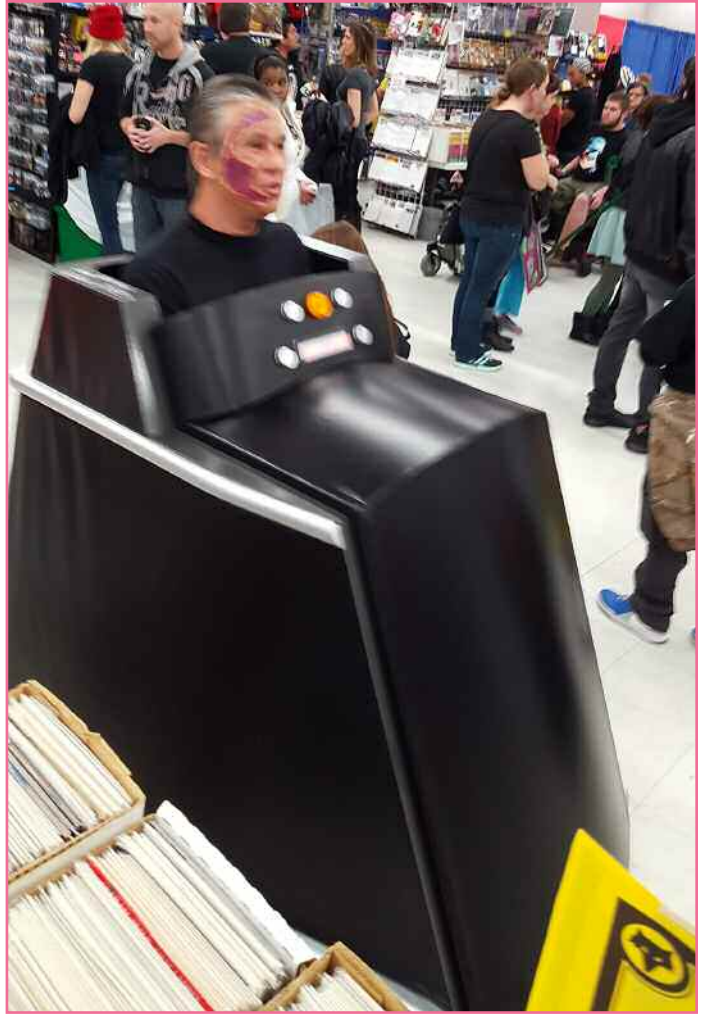
Left: Kylo Ren and friend.
Below: Arthur! Arthur the moth! Where's his blue companion?





Clockwise from upper left:
Predatory shopping in the
dealer room; a Sith Lord
guards a water fountain;
and Jango Fett Unchained!
Looks like he's been
busy...





BONUS PAGES!

STARSHIP ENTERPRISE RESTORATION UPDATE

JOE WALTERS

The Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum's restoration of the filming model of the original starship *Enterprise* from *Star Trek* is continuing. On the NASM blog, a new report was posted in late January, providing a status update and many high-resolution photos.



The restoration is on schedule for completion in time for the model to go on display on July 1. The restoration is extensive, and those involved are attending to excruciating detail. According to the blog:

“Our goal is to stabilize the model and return it to its appearance from August of 1967, during the filming of the episode *The Trouble with Tribbles*, which marked the last known modification of the ship during the production of *Star Trek*.

The model appeared in all 79 episodes of the original series, and was donated to the Smithsonian in 1974. It will go back on public display in the *Boeing Milestones of Flight Hall* this year, in time for the Museum's 40th birthday in July and the 50th anniversary of *Star Trek* in September.”

But that's not all! X-ray analysis of the entire structure was carried out, and various types of spectroscopy/spectrometry and other analyses are being performed to identify not only the detailed nature of the metals, plastics, and other materials involved (even the original adhesives!), but also the composition and correct color of

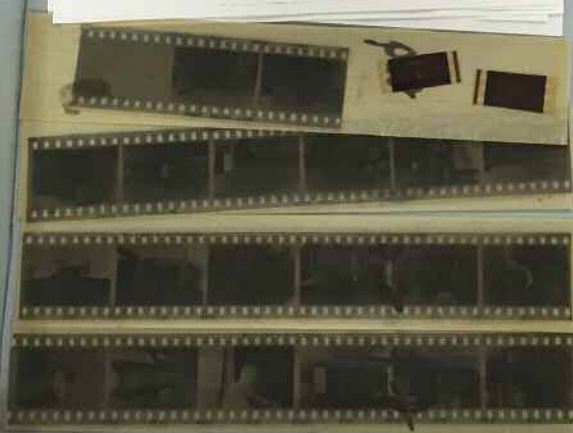
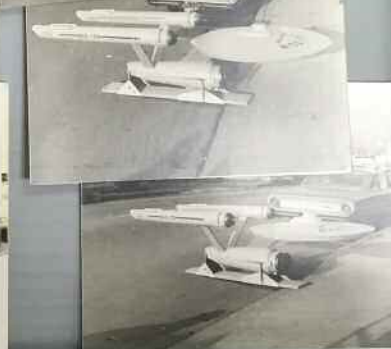
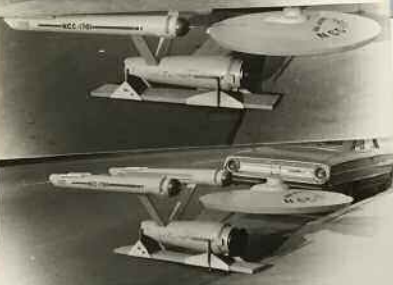


Above: A conservator conducts X-ray fluorescence spectrometry to determine the metal alloy used to construct the port nacelle.

Next page: A collage of original photographs from various sources.



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the paint used on the hull! The exact precise shade of gray used on most of the model is unknown; it was not recorded by the model's makers, and it is largely believed they simply grabbed a convenient can of light gray they had lying about and used that, not dreaming that modelers would be frantic to learn this color fifty years later!

On the blog you can find some amazing images of this process, including a slide show of a cross section of various layers of paint and other materials under analysis:

“We don't have to speculate about the original grey color... our examinations have revealed a large section of original, first pilot-episode grey hidden and protected under the saucer bolt cover, and... analysis confirmed our findings.”

Naturally, in the comments section attached to this blog post, the very *first* comment was from a modeler beseeching them to reveal that color! Other such requests followed, and a representative responded:

“We can't wait to share more information about the original colors, but we've got a bit more analysis to conduct. So stay tuned...”

Oh, and as for that ages-long argument over whether the “grid” lines included on the old 18” AMT model were really on the original, check this out:



This is the saucer section, photographed in infrared light. The lines are clearly visible here, these are *pencil* markings, later painted over (though they can be seen to show through in some images from the series), and may have been used mainly as guidelines for the builders—note how the large NCC-1701 text is aligned to the grid line above it perfectly. Nonetheless: *the grid exists*.

There are many more photos, some in very high resolution, on the blog page. There are also some details about what is being restored to original status, and what is being “updated” with more current technology. For example, the blinky lights in the forward ends of the warp nacelles were originally Christmas lights and a motorized shield rotating in front of them; this is going to be replaced by an LED-based system. Many commenters complained about this apparent blasphemy, but they don't seem to be considering the practical considerations of running those motors continuously day after day... if they can make the LEDs look “right,” that should be an acceptable and understandable compromise. And they are rebuilding one of the motorized mechanisms to make sure they know precisely what they're trying to simulate.

The blog may be accessed by clicking here:

<http://blog.nasm.si.edu/conservation/uss-enterprise-conservation-begins>

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9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

REGISTRATION	9:00AM-12:00PM
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DEMOS	10:00AM-5:00PM
Judging	1:00-5PM
AWARDS PRESENTATION	6:00PM

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Well, you all finally did it, you drove us to a zoo level of crazy. Let's see what kind of animals you can be. Show us those Rav4s, Cascavals, Svärdfisken, & Wren! Show us your Sluchka and we'll show you ours!

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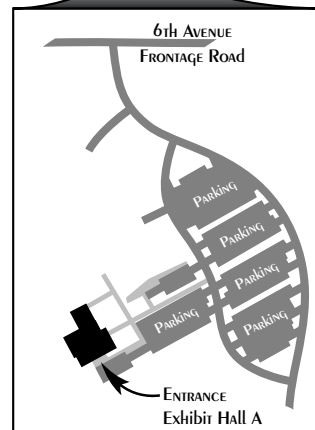
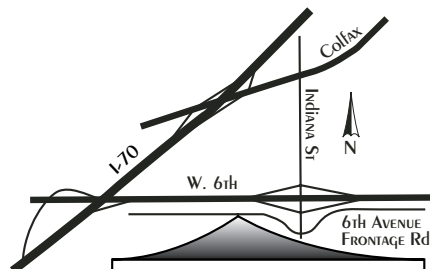
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