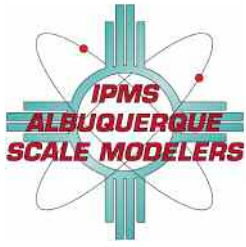


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



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February 2018

THE EAGLE'S VIEW MIKE BLOHM

We had a pretty good turnout of models at December's Moe Blalters "Sci-Fi, Real Space, Science and Fantasy" Special Contest, with eighteen model entries. The Intermediate division had a great set of models, with the Orcs and Martians fighting it out with the Humans and Cylons from *Battlestar Galactica*. Unfortunately for the Humans, the Orcs and Tripod won out.

The February meeting is one of our two "Swap Meets," so bring your old plastic to recycle for new plastic. The March meeting is an "Open" theme

contest. There is an opportunity here to use strategy to try to fill a bunch of squares with one peg, bird, or in this case a model build. For example, a World War I subject from 1918 could be entered in the March Open contest, John Tate's "1918" Sponsored Contest in May, the IPMS/USA Nationals in August (they may have a special WWI award), and the New Mexico State Fair model contest and the ASM "1918" display in September. Sounds like a plan to me.



January Meeting highlights, left to right: Members setting up the contest entries, Mike Blohm's presentation on the ASM field trip to the Nuclear Museum, and the business meeting in progress.



I wanted to mention some model displays that ASM is currently working on. The first is the Nuclear Weapons Heritage Model Display at the Defense Nuclear Weapons School Museum on Kirtland AFB. ASM contributed/loaned them ten models during 2017, and we are trying to revitalize our relationship with that museum with some additional builds. They are looking for any subjects from the Cold War era and current times, not just those involved with nuclear weapons. See the “Model Displays” webpage on the *ASM Website* for additional information and pictures of ASM-built models currently on display. A second model display project just now underway are model builds for several squadrons of the 58th Special Operations Wing (SOW) at Kirtland AFB. That may expand to some additional models—stand by for more information on that. ASM provided loan (see below) of MH-60G

and UH-1N models for a 58 SOW awards ceremony on January 19. Thanks to Victor Maestas for loaning those $\frac{1}{48}$ models, and also to Steve Brodeur for a $\frac{1}{72}$ UH-1D model.

The *ASM Website* has been updated with new 2018 webpages. Selecting the major pages and 2018 “year pages” should take you to other 2018 pages. Please let me know if you find any incorrect links. Past “year pages” will take you to pages involving that same year—selecting Meeting Pics on the 2017 Model Pics page will take you to 2017 Meeting Pics, etc. If you get lost, select “ASM Home” to get back to the Home Page.

To finish up, here is this month’s short story on an American ace. I noticed that I had not yet featured anyone who flew the Hellcat. The Wildcat has received a lot of coverage, but not its younger brother. So to make up for that, I’m going to briefly

cover the top three Hellcat aces who flew with VF-27 (Fighting Squadron 27) on the *USS Princeton* from May to October 1944. These include Lieutenant (Lt) James A. “Red” Shirley (12.5 victories), Lt Carl A. Brown (10.5 victories), and Lt Richard E. Stambook (10 victories). VF-27’s cruise aboard



the *USS Princeton* was cut short by its sinking on October 24, 1944, but in five months the squadron accumulated 134 aerial victories, with 104 occurring on three days. and 64 destroyed on the ground. Further information on these aces, and pictures of models of their aircraft, are included in the [Bonus Pages](#).

VP REPORT

JOSH PALS

By now all of us had time to look over the 2018 contest schedule. While looking over the schedule you may have noticed the contest in September, called "Post-Apocalyptic." This contest was brought up by Chris Kurtze. Several years ago I also had sponsored a similar type of contest. The idea behind this contest is to give modelers a break from the normal kits and subjects they do.

Now, I know trying something different is scary and may lead to the potential downfall of Western civilization! Imagine armor guys building aircraft and vice versa! But stay with me. Every now and then I find it helpful to just try some genre I know little to nothing about. I don't worry if the finished product is "Contest" worthy. I use this as a test bed for some technique I want to try; e.g., hairspray technique, etc. With the pressure of trying to build a nice contest model gone, I instead focus on having fun with the build.

By doing this I have found that the model will turn out far better than I could've imagined and leaves me refreshed to attack a more serious model with some experience on using whatever technique I just experimented with!

The Post-Apocalyptic contest is a great opportunity to let everything go and get back to really having fun with model building! Try some scratch building, kit bashing, parts swapping fun! You're only confined by the limits of your imagination! Just typing "Post-Apocalyptic" into your search engine will bring up thousands of pictures that can help get the ideas and creative juices flowing.

You may have also noticed at the club meetings a black Rubbermaid box with red flaps. That is the "Official" ASM parts box. It is filled with all kinds of leftovers from miscellaneous kits and a great place to scrounge for odd parts to use when doing a model for this type of contest. If you have parts

Year 2018 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for points

- 05 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1:**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
Sponsored Contest: "Frickin' Laser Beams" (Patrick Dick)
- 02 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 02 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 06 Apr** **ASM Clinic Night**—no contest.
- 04 May** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2: TAMIYA VS. HASEGAWA SHOWDOWN.**
Sponsored Contest: "1918" (John Tate)
- 01 Jun** **O Canada!**—Any kit/subject/scale representing a Canadian subject.
Sponsored Contest: "Stormy Weather" (Jack Garriss)
- 06 Jul** **Bare Metal**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Adversaries II" (Mike & Matt Blohm)
- 10 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 07 Sep** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3: POST APOCALYPSE.**
Sponsored Contest: "Global War on Terror (GWOT)" (ASM E-Board)
- 05 Oct** **Middle East Conflict**—Any kit/subject/scale, 1948 – present.
Sponsored Contest: "Get Your Fix—Airfix, That Is" (Gil De La Plain)
- 02 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Blackbirds" (Dave Epstein)
- 07 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #4: PEARL HARBOR.**
Plus 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>

left over from a kit and can't bear to just toss them into the garbage, toss them into the parts box! Leftover decals you won't use? Parts box!

CONTEST UPDATE

JOHN TATE

ASM's January 5 meeting was the kickoff for the contest year with solid entries in Basic, Intermediate and Masters for the Moe Blalters Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Real Space Special contest. Best Basic entry was Aaron Schmiedicke's *TIE Fighter*, Best Intermediate was Henry McHarney's *Space Ark Mega Gargant* and Best Master's was Brian Peck's *Superdog*.



Progress table, there was an interesting build of the Classic Airframes $\frac{1}{48}$ Vampire jet by Ken Liotta, and on the Display table, Ken Piniak brought in the brand new Moebius Models $\frac{1}{144}$ *Discovery One* from *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which is already in the running to be one of the most impressive model kits released this year. Examples shown above.

Patrick Dick's annual Best Frickin' Lasers award went to Aaron Schmiedicke in Basic for his *TIE Fighter*, Logan Carbin for his *War of the Worlds Tripod*, and Mike Blohm for his *F-4X Starfighter*.

In addition to the skill-level winners, there were some other eye-catching models on the table; for example, Steve Brodeur's illuminated Moon Bus from *2001: A Space Odyssey* and Michael O'Brien's *Romulan Bird of Prey*. On the In-

Remember, the February 2 meeting is a swap meet, so bring all those excess kits and half-builts you would like to sell or trade, as well as any in-progress or display models you would like to show. Looking forward to an enjoyable contest year and in case you don't already feel enough pressure with Nationals just six months away, get to work and start building!

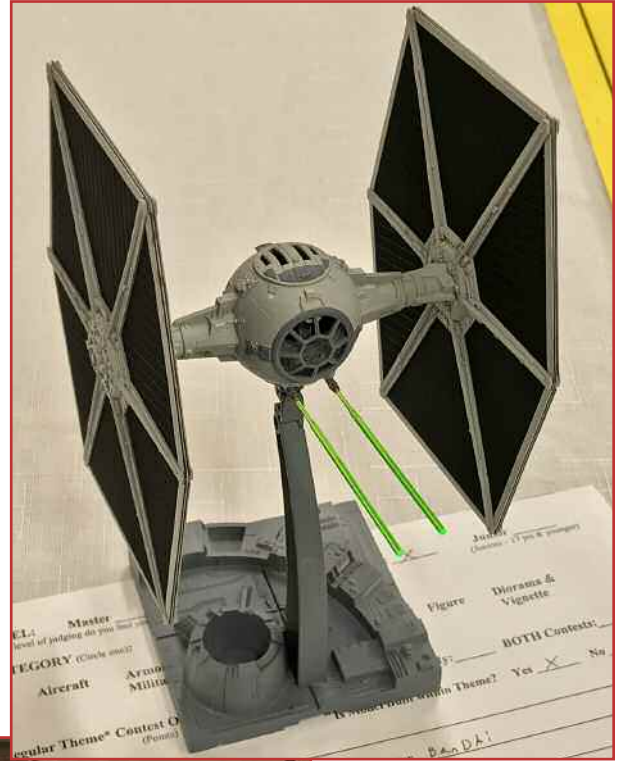
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ASM members are encouraged to submit articles, reviews and other items as appropriate. Contact editor Joe Walters for details and specs. Submission deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month.

BONUS PAGES!

January's Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Realspace contest winners, L – R: Brian Peck's *Superdog* (Masters), Aaron Schmiedicke's *TIE Fighter* (Bassic), and Henry McHarney's *Ork Gargant* (Intermediate). There were no Junior entries.



BONUS PAGES!

THE EAGLE'S VIEW

MIKE BLOHM

Hellcat Aces of VF-27

This article covers the men and models of the top three Hellcat aces of VF-27, including Lieutenant (Lt) James A. "Red" Shirley (12.5 victories), Lt Carl A. Brown (10.5 victories), and Lt Richard E. Stambook (10 victories). VF-27 deployed on the light carrier *USS Princeton* (CVL-23) from May to October 1944 with F6F-3 and -5 Hellcats. The squadron had perhaps the most famously marked Hellcats in the US Navy, totally in violation of official Navy policy, with a distinctive "Hellcat shark mouth" that was designed by three of the VF-27 pilots (Stambook, Brown, and Robert Burnell) during their training at Kahilui Naval Air Station in Hawaii in March - April 1944. During this deployment the squadron scored 136 aerial victories, with the majority occurring on three days. These included thirty aircraft destroyed on June 19 during the "Marianas Turkey Shoot" that involved four Japanese air strikes against Task Force 58. Stambook scored four victories (three Zekes and one Judy) during this action, Shirley scored two (Zekes), and Brown scored one (Tony). On September 21, VF-27 led a carrier aircraft sweep over Manila, where 38 aircraft were downed. In this action Stambook shot down three (two Tonys and one Zeke), Shirley downed 4.5 (3.5 Zekes and one Tony), and Brown downed 2.5 (1.5 Hamps and one Tony). The final big action was on October 24 during the interception of a Japanese formation of eighty aircraft attacking Task Force 38 during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. VF-27 downed 36 aircraft, with five victories each by Shirley (three Tojos, Zeke, and Nick) and Brown (five Zekes). Two other VF-27 pilots also became an "ace in a day" in this battle: Lt (jg) Eugene Townsend and Ensign Tom Conroy. Unfortunately a lone Judy was missed and it dropped



Pilots of VF-27 in front of "Hellcat-Mouthed" F6F-3 at Maui in May 1944 prior to deploying. Shirley is in back row, first from right. Stambook is in back row, fourth from right. Brown is in front row, fifth from right.



Left: Lt Carl Brown landing damaged F6F-5 White 7 on the USS Essex with USS Princeton burning in the background.



Above: Insignia of VF-27 showing "Hellcat" superimposed over F6F cowling

a bomb on the flight deck of the *USS Princeton*, which was gutted by fire and explosions, and sunk by a torpedo from the light cruiser *USS Reno* seven hours later. Nine VF-27 pilots and Hellcats (out of 24) were still airborne when the *Princeton* was hit, and they landed aboard other carriers. Few pictures exist of VF-27's "shark-

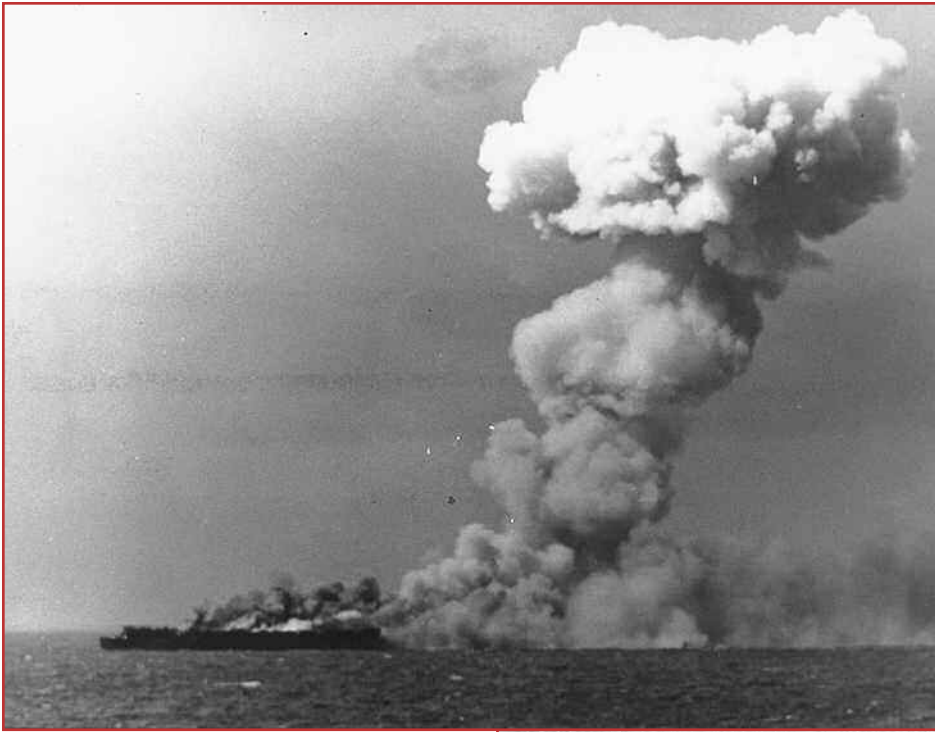
mouthered Hellcats," as they went down with the ship. One famous surviving photo shows a damaged F6F-5 (White 7, with 164 holes) flown by wounded Carl Brown landing on the *USS Essex* while the *Princeton* can be seen burning in the background. White 7—named "Paper Doll"—was actually Ensign Bob Burnell's aircraft. On these new carriers, the Hellcat shark mouths were painted over within a few days. VF-27 was reformed and served aboard the *USS Independence* in July – September 1945. Shirley later commanded VF-82 in 1955 – 56, was promoted to captain in 1962, and retired in 1968. Stambbook served with VBF-98 from November 1944 to September 1945, and then transferred to the



USS Princeton underway in May 1943

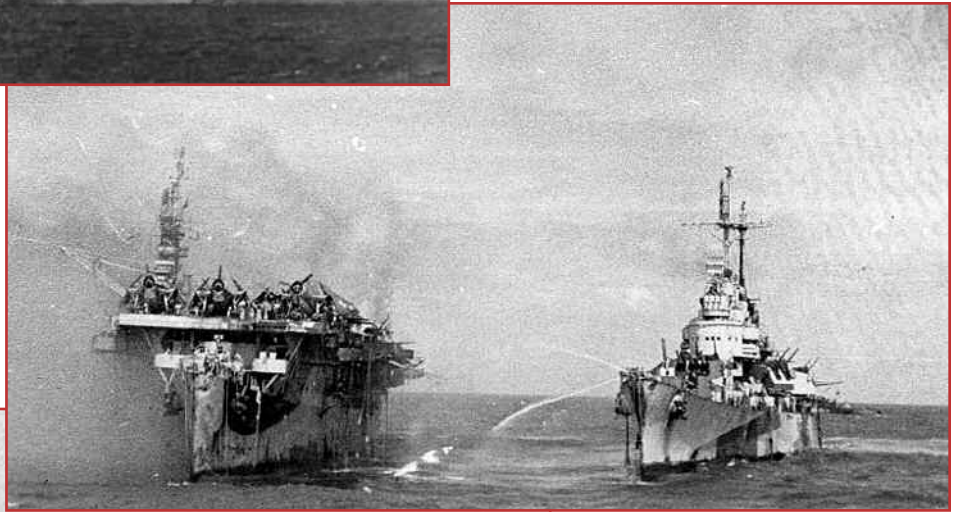
Reserves, serving there until 1959, and became a TWA pilot. Brown served in multiple leadership roles until he retired in the rank of commander in August 1962.

My three VF-27 Hellcat models in the Aces Gallery display at the USAF Academy are a mix of Hasegawa, Italeri, and Revell kits, all in 1/72 scale. Decals are either numbers pieced together from Microscale/Super-



Above: *USS Princeton* burning after the 24 Oct 1944 attack

Right: Bow view of burning *USS Princeton* with *USS Birmingham* alongside



VF-27 Hellcats parked at bow of the burning ship

scale Hellcat sheets or from the kit. Hellcat “White 23” is Shirley’s F6F-3 aircraft. “White 17” is Stambook’s F6F-3 aircraft. These F6F-3s had the tri-color paint scheme of Dark Sea Blue (FS 35042), Intermediate Blue (FS 35189), and Insignia White (FS 37875) on the undersurfaces. “White 9” is Brown’s F6F-5, which was one of six F6F-5 replacement aircraft received by VF-27 prior to the Leyte Gulf campaign. These aircraft were Dark Sea Blue (FS 15042) overall. Note that on these replacement F6F-5s that the eyes did not have the bloodshot streaks included (although the kit decals have them), or the red drops of blood below the corners of the mouth, as they did not show up from a distance and were too hard to paint. All paints used were from Model Master.

Sources

Markings of the Aces—Part 2 U.S. Navy, by Richard Hill

U.S. Navy Fighter Squadrons in World War II, by Barrett Tillman

Hellcat Aces of World War II (Osprey Aircraft of the Aces #10), by Barrett Tillman

Stars and Bars—A Tribute to the American Fighter Ace 1920 – 1973, by Frank Olynyk



Left: Lt James “Red” Shirley

Above and next page: Three views of “White 23” as it appeared on 24 Oct 1944





Above: Lt Carl "Brownie" Brown, Jr.
Below and next page: Three views of "White 9" as it appeared on 24 Oct 1944







Left: Lt Richard Stambook
Below and next page: Three views of "White 17" as it appeared on 24 Oct 1944





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