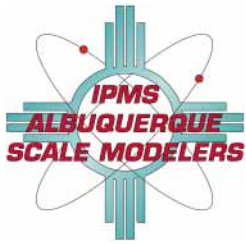


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<https://abqscalemodelers.com>

February 2020

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN JOHN TATE

What were the greatest war movies ever made? *Gallipoli*? *Tora! Tora! Tora!*? *Das Boot*? *Saving Private Ryan*? You can add a new film to that list—*1917*, produced, directed and co-written by Sam Mendes, whose own grandfather was a Great War veteran. Coming in at two hours, it depicts a perilous journey by a couple of WWI Tommies on an impossible mission through No Man's Land and beyond, utilizing a one-shot constant filming technique that

puts the audience right in the middle of the action.

As a modeler, I was struck by the filmmakers' attention to detail—from uniform kit to a disabled Mark I tank to a distant flight of Sopwith Camels, everything was dead-on accurate. Clearly, it was important to everyone in the film to get this one right, and it shows. Combined with a great story that has plenty of action and suspense, this is a movie well worth seeing.



It is difficult to find anything to criticize about the film but if I were so inclined it would be the depiction of the

Germans, who displayed generally villainous behavior throughout—it seems there was still a bit of a Great War grudge against the Hun. In reality, most of the WWI German soldiery were little different from their English and French opponents, young conscripts caught up in an insane war, and no more and no less barbaric than anyone else, although they were occupying by force land that did



January Meeting highlights, top to bottom: members checking out model entries, and the business meeting in progress.





not belong to them, a point driven home by the film.

If you get a chance, catch this film while it's still in theaters so you can get a glimpse of what that this grim war actually might have been like. Given its financial success and groundbreaking new film technique, I hope *1917* is a harbinger of more historical war movies of this caliber in the future.



IN THE BONUS PAGES!

In this month's **Bonus Pages**:

- Photos of last month's contest winners
- A build report on Jackie Cochrane's *Seversky*

- Racer by Mark Vaughn
- Results of Challenge Builds and recent Super Raffles by Mike Blohm
- And more!

Year 2020 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for points

- 03 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1:**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
Sponsored Contest: "Frickin' Laser Beams" (Patrick Dick)
- 07 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest
- 06 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale
Sponsored Contest: "Civil Air" (David Epstein)
- 03 Apr** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2: HURRICANES**
- 01 May** **The Desert**—Any kit/subject/scale
- 05 Jun** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3: KOREAN WAR**
- 10 Jul** **Two or Three**—Any scale, era, subject known for having two or three...
Sponsored Contest: "Subject TBD" (Mike & Matt Blohm)
- 07 Aug** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale
Sponsored Contest: "Rotary Wing/VTOL" (Scott Jaworsky)
- 04 Sep** **SPECIAL CONTEST #4: BATTLE OF BRITAIN**
Sponsored Contest: "Subject TBD" (Brian Peck)
- 02 Oct** **Competition Vehicles**—Any kit/subject/scale
Sponsored Contest: "Best Paint Scheme" (Ken Liotta)
- 06 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale
Sponsored Contest: "Disney" (Patrick Dick)
- 04 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>

CONTACT INFO

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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 now ten days prior to the next meeting (that's a Tuesday). Items I receive by Tuesday night will be in the newsletter, and items received after that will be in the following issue.**

BONUS PAGES!

JANUARY CONTEST WINNERS

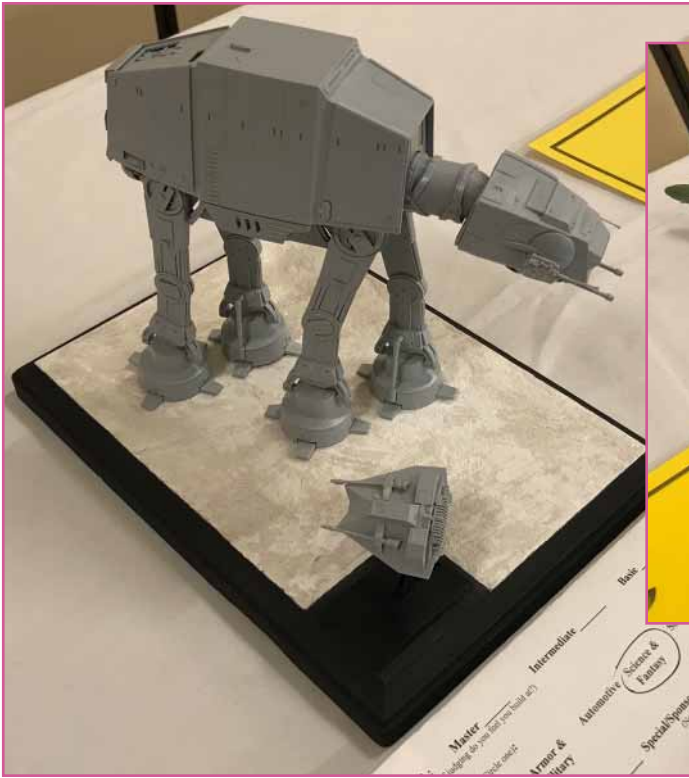
Winners of January's "Sci-Fi, Realspace, Science, & Fantasy" Special Contest. Photos by Frank Randall & Joe Walters. This page, top to bottom: AJ Tate's *Star Wars* AT-AT (Junior); Mark Vaughn's *Visible Alien* (Basic); and Steve Brodeur's *Star Wars* *Blockade Runner* (Masters).



This page, top to bottom: Charles Petrilli's *13th MS Team Commander* (Intermediate, non-Star Wars) and Jim Dedina's *"Red Jammer" Y-Wing Diorama* (Intermediate, Star Wars), which also won the Sponsored "Frickin' Laser Beams" contest.



Winners of the "Just Staff" favorite picks award, left to right: AJ Tate's *Star Wars AT-AT* (Junior); David Paul's *Space Battleship Yamato vs. Gamelon Cruisers* from *Star Blazers* (Basic); Jim Medina's "Stalking the Prey" *Boba Fett* figure (Intermediate); and Jerry Little's *Mandalorian and Baby Yoda* (Masters). Photos by Frank Randall & Joe Walters.



BONUS PAGES! RECENT RESULTS MIKE BLOHM

Results of the E-Board Challenge Build and the ASM Super Raffle

There were two additional events at the December 6 ASM meeting besides the “75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge” Special Contest and the “2019 ASM Model of the Year Showdown.” These included the E-Board Challenge Build and the ASM Super Raffle.

To compete in the E-Board Challenge Build, ASM members had to enter at least one model, in theme, at every points and special contest in 2019 starting at the March Open points contest. At the December 2019 meeting those members that met the requirements would have their names put into a “hat” and a winner would be drawn for a gift card at Hobby Proz. The members who did meet the requirements were Scott Jaworski, Mike Blohm, Frank Randall, John Tate, and Tony Humphries. Brian Peck pulled the winning name from the bucket, which was Scott Jaworski.



Scott won a \$100 gift card from the E-Board. Hobby Proz did contribute \$20 gift cards to the other four contenders. A big “thank you” to Hobby Proz for that!

The Super Raffle involved three large scale kits auctioned off separately at the December 6 meeting. These kits included: in automotive, the Revell/Germany 1/16-scale Porsche 356; in aircraft, the Hobby Boss 1/32-scale B-24J Liberator; and in armor, the Trumpeter 1/35-scale Smerch.



Tickets were bought in separate kit categories at \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Frank Randall and Josh Pals picked the tickets from the bucket.



The winner of the B-24J was Dave Vickers.



The winner of the Smerch was Jim Medina.



Finally, the winner of the Porsche was Tim Wood.



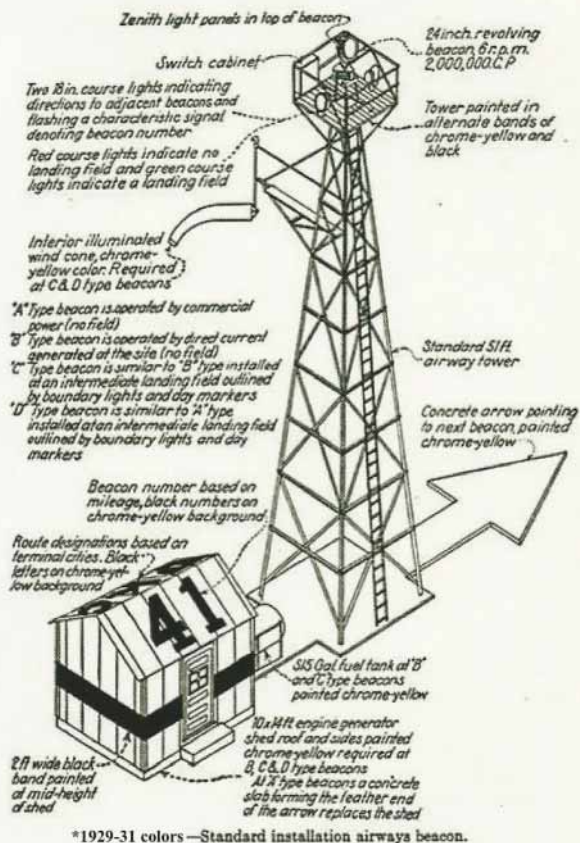
Thanks to Josh Pals for donating the Porsche kit, Hobby Proz for donating the Smerch kit, and to an anonymous member who donated the B-24 kit. Thanks to all the members that participated in the raffle. All ticket funds went to the ASM treasury.

BONUS PAGES! BUILD REPORT MARK VAUGHN

Jackie Cochran's Seversky Racer

Through IPMS and the Cavalcade of Wings, I volunteered to make a model of Jackie Cochran's Seversky Racer for Steve Owen at the Western New Mexico Aviation Heritage Museum. This museum is primarily devoted to the TAT arrows and airmail beacons, having relocated a beacon with buildings to the Grants-Milan Airport. It also has several aircraft models of local historic crashed planes as well as some actual re-covered parts.

Western New Mexico Aviation Heritage Museum



Open Saturdays: 9 am - 1 pm

Or - Self-Guided Walking Tours

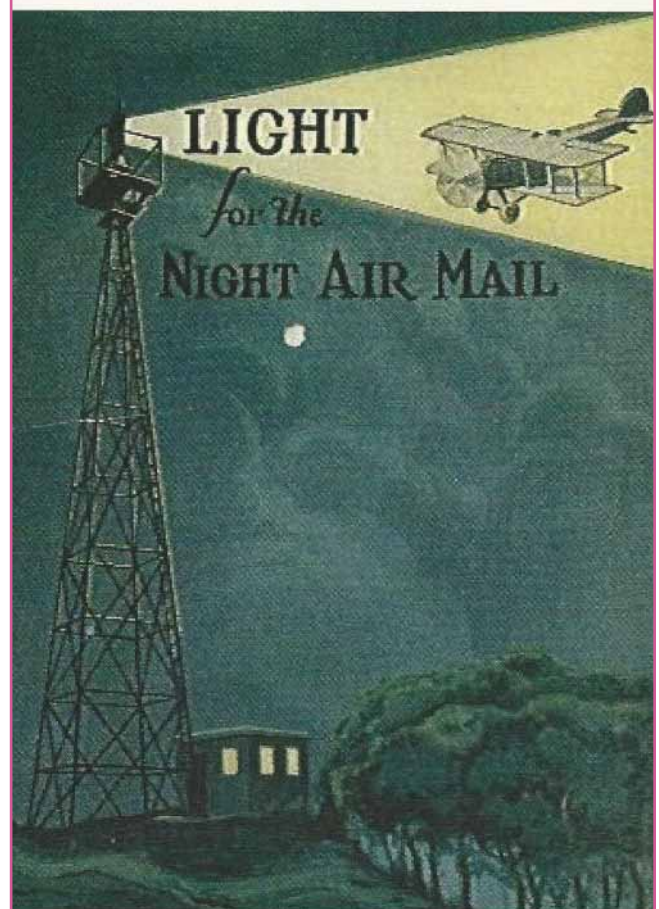
*** Free ***

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AIRWAYS MUSEUM

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At the Grants-Milan Airport

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Follow signs**



to Airport Rd.

They have an exhibit about Jackie Cochran's record breaking flights that doubled back over New Mexico, which needed a model of her 1938 Bendix aircraft. Her career achievements are incredible and worth investigating (<https://tinyurl.com/asm2002a>). She flew a Seversky AP-7 racer which was basically a P-35 with a more powerful engine.

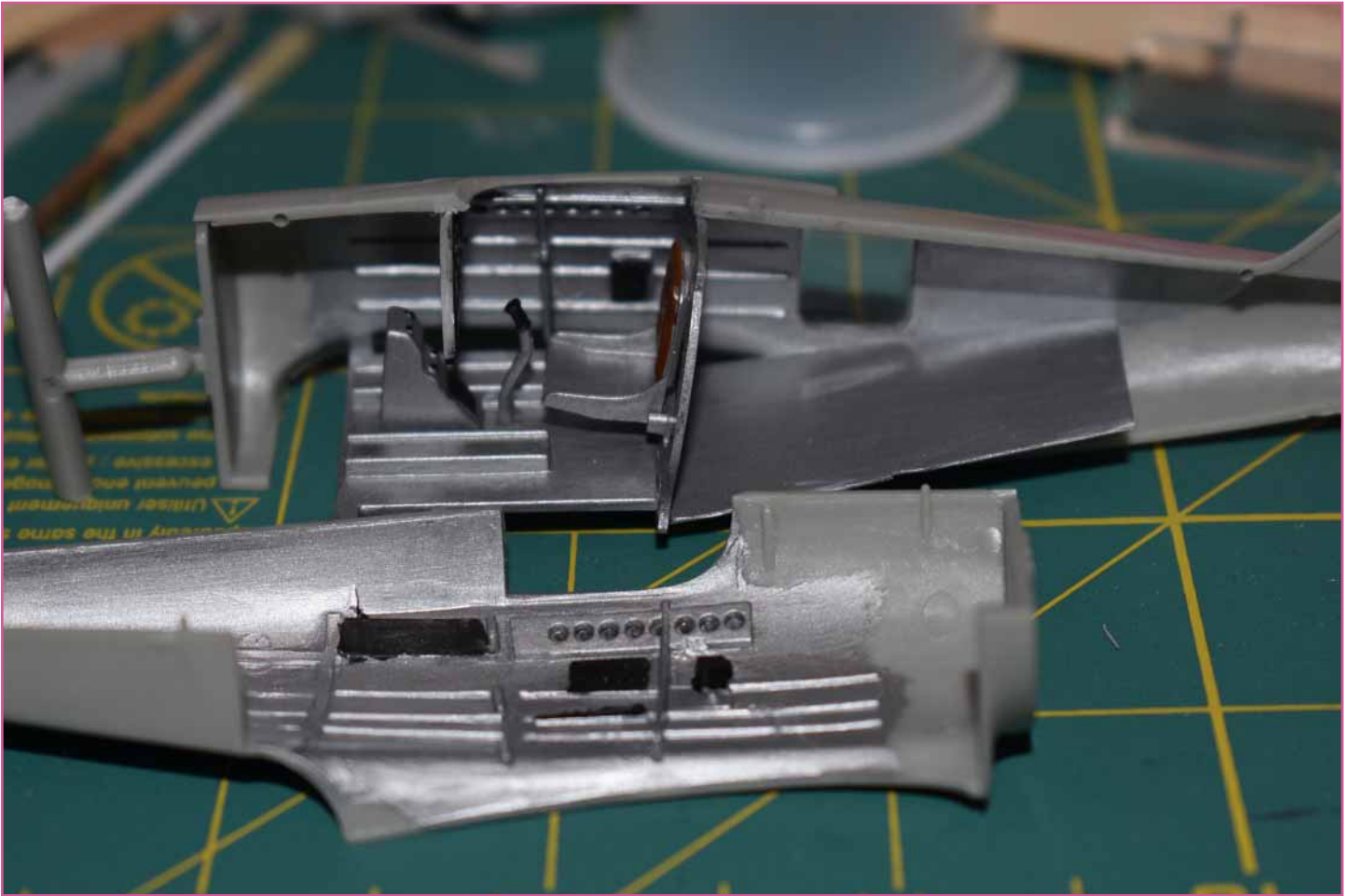
The P-35 was a prewar fighter with the USAAC. Some were sold to Columbia, Sweden, Russia, and Japan(!). When Major Seversky was thrown out of his own company, it was renamed Republic. The P-47 was a larger direct descendant of the Seversky racers and P-35, via the P-43.

Steve had a Williams Bros $\frac{1}{32}$ P-35 S-2 (1970 tooling), which we rejected due to some issues such as cavernous sink holes, raised, inaccurate panel lines, and— most important—no appropriate decals. Also, it is slightly different from Jackie's plane. By happenstance, I had a $\frac{1}{48}$ HobbyCraft kit of the 1938 Cochran AP-7 Bendix racer, complete with the appropriate decals, so we went with the more modern (but smaller) kit. Originally tooled in 1993, the kit is basically a hybrid between the Seversky racer and the P-35. The fuselage is slightly too long, the canopy too high, and the dihedral too sharp; all basically impossible to fix without major surgery. One of the great things about building for normal folk and museums is that the vast majority don't know or care about such "glaring" errors, like we do. I cannot stress how fulfilling it is to build for museums. They are universally grateful for whatever you can give them. Furthermore, your models get far more "views" than just sitting on your own shelf. And you end up with more shelf space.

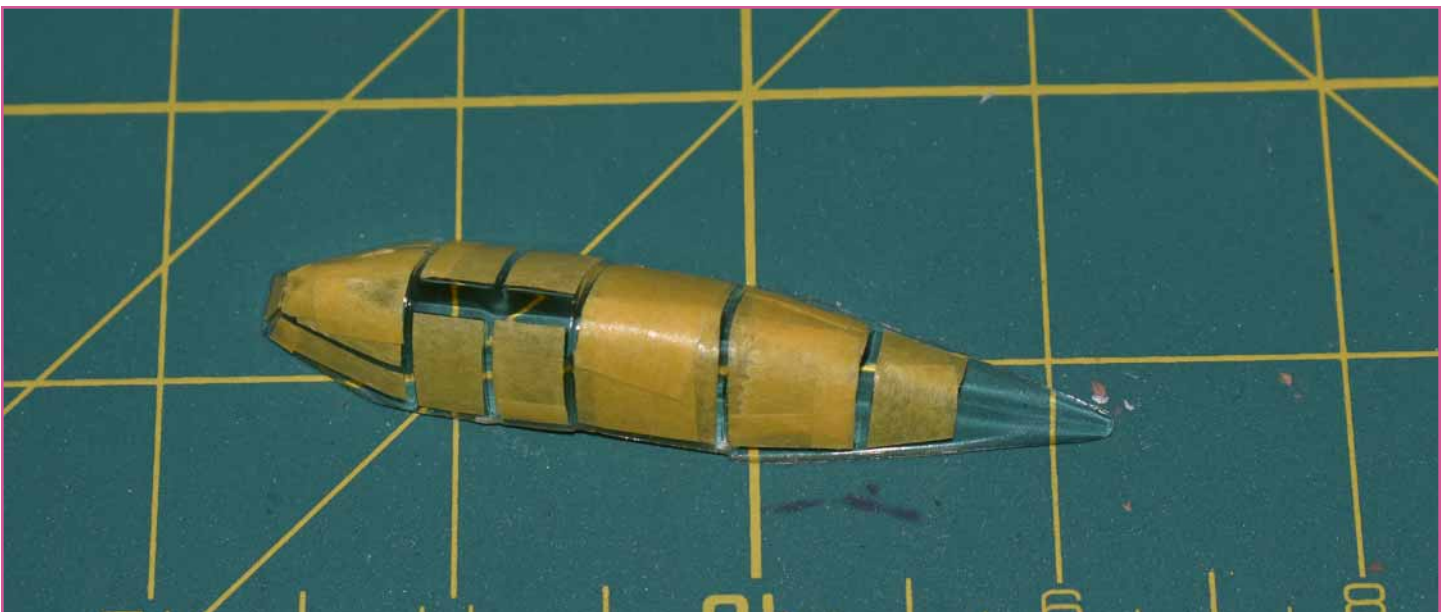
I did fix a few of the easier issues. Jackie (and Major Seversky, an amputee) entered through a side window/door in the fuselage aft of the cockpit. The seat back folded down to permit this. The interior of the model fuselage is thus visible, since I polished and "Futured" the side window plastic. So I made a floor out of scrap as well as continued the internal longeron/frame structure aft.



The interior of the racer and the P-35 was unpolished bare aluminum. The racer had far less instrumentation than the P-35, resulting in a comparatively bare cockpit. I have no photos of the aft interior but a racer would have little or no equipment there.



There were a surprising (frustrating) number of sink holes and ejector pin marks. I missed one, as you can see. I polished the exterior plastic to remove as many blemishes as I could prior to the bare metal finish. I hate bare metal finishes since they always seem to make otherwise good models look toy-like, to my eye. I chose not to “enhance” the cockpit, due to the small scale and the closed canopy.



The canopy is quite a birdcage, requiring extensive masking for spraying. Assembly was typical for a kit of this vintage with gaps, sinks, and misfits. The wheel spats are especially ill-fitting and required surgery to get them to look this good (less bad). The engine was well detailed but basically invisible. According to my reference photos, the Bendix plane had no landing lights (these came later) but did have a ring antenna and radio behind the pilot's head, not included and faked from my spares (the box art shows them, though). Also, the rear faces of the propeller blades were not blackened on Jackie's plane, for no known reason (a "glaring" oversight?). Later racers and fighters did.



The bare metal finish, Model Master buffing, looked okay to me.
I hate bare metal finishes



Here's the finished item.

Did I mention that I hate bare metal finishes? I left well enough alone and did not blacken the panel lines. At over ten mils, in $\frac{1}{48}$ these are a half inch wide! The decals really perked it up for me. I left everything pretty glossy as the racer actually was constantly well buffed, see below. I figured most folks viewing the model would not understand the doped fabric control surfaces versus bare metal, so I left them matching, although I still twitch a little. The nice thing about the Racer is that it was brand new and meticulously cleaned for racing—no need for weathering!



Jackie painting her infamous number 13 right before the Bendix race. Shiny surface.

I was aided in the details by two books: *Sever the Sky*, by Edward Maloney; and *Thunderbolt, from Seversky to Victory*, by Warren M. Bodie. The former has several errors, but has a lot of good photos. The latter has a little on the racer but takes it through the P-47. If you would like to learn about an amazing pilot, *Jackie Cochran the Story of the Greatest Woman Pilot in Aviation History* by Maryann Bucknum Brinley is a quick read. I was ignorant of her amazing career—I had thought Amelia Earhart was the big deal in women's aviation. Cochran was the first woman to break the sound barrier, and founded and headed the WASPs. Her list of aviation records is incredible. All the while she headed a very successful cosmetics company. She saved LBJ from dying and often hosted Ike at her ranch.

It was not all smooth for Jackie. In the 1938 Bendix race, she all of a sudden had fuel feed problems from one of the wing tanks, causing severe balance issues. She rocked her wings, and tilted the plane which eventually decreased the problem, still finishing first. A wadded up piece of paper was found in the tank, blocking the outlet. Accident or misogyny, no one will ever know. Well, get the book if you want to know more.

Steve was well satisfied with the model and kept offering payment, which was refused, of course. I *did* accept the Williams kit. Since it's an S-2 racer I'd have to do the metallic green Frank Fuller racer (did I mention I hate bare metal finishes?). I may also do the Cochran racer with the later P-47 style landing gear (and landing lights) with the part kit I have left, or just make one for me. The model is on display at the museum 9:00 A.M.– 1:00 P.M. Saturdays—check before you go (<https://tinyurl.com/asm2002b>).



BONUS PAGES!

ASM's "1939" DISPLAY AT THE 2019 NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR MIKE BLOHM

This article provides a look at ASM's model display at the 2019 New Mexico State Fair that occurred on September 5 – 15, 2019. The display's theme was "1939—80th Anniversary of the Beginning Of World War II." The conflicts of 1939 covered by the display included the Invasion of Poland (Poland versus Germany and Russia); the Winter War (Russia versus Finland); the Khalkhin Gol/Nomonhan Incident (Russia versus Japan); and the second Sino-Japanese War (China versus Japan). Most people have probably never heard of the Battle of Khalkhin Gol, which had a major impact on Japan's expansion strategy in World War II. Likewise, people probably know little if anything about the Winter War, which likely encouraged Hitler to invade Russia in 1941. The display provided the opportunity for fair attendees to learn something new as well as view some nice models. The display had a short history of each conflict along with maps located at the top of the case. Pictures of these histories and all the models are available on the ASM Website's 2019 NM St Fair Contest webpage (<https://tinyurl.com/asm2002c>).

The display had a total of 36 models ranging from $\frac{1}{72}$ -scale to $\frac{1}{16}$ -scale. The models were grouped by conflicts and participating nations. Large-scale and small-scale models were mostly on separate shelves with flags showing their nationality. Aircraft took up the top two shelves and armor went on the floor of the case. Four of the display models were also model contest entries (identified by orange tags in the pictures). The display included subjects in each nation's inventories at the time of the conflict, and not necessarily subjects that saw actual combat. The Invasion of Poland section had the most models—32 total—with 22 aircraft and 10 armored vehicles and figures. England and France declared war on Germany, but their forces did not get into the fray before Poland had surrendered, so we did include models from them. See pictures and caption info for the model subjects, scale and builders. The Winter War, Sino-Japanese War, and Khalkhin Gol each had one aircraft model. As mentioned previously, these are fairly unknown conflicts and builds are few. Lastly, we had one Condor Legion aircraft model from the Spanish Civil War, which had ended in early 1939. These four aircraft were all located on the right side of the second shelf. Scale breakdown was 23 in $\frac{1}{72}$, 5 in $\frac{1}{48}$, 1 in $\frac{1}{32}$, 6 in $\frac{1}{35}$, and 1 in $\frac{1}{16}$. Model contributors were as follows: Larry Glenn (5), Tony Humphries (3), John Tate (3), Josh Pals (1), Bob Henderson (1), Scott Jaworski (1), Jim Medina (1), Frank Randall (1), and Mike Blohm (20).

The 2020 State Fair display theme will be "70th Anniversary of the Korean War" with models from anytime during the war (June 1950 – July 1953) and from all the different nations that participated. Stand by for more information on that. We will poll the membership on what is available and determine what models need to be built.



Views of the display case, with 36 total models.



Historical info and maps for Invasion of Poland and the Winter War.



Historical info and maps for Khalkhin Gol and the Second Sino-Japanese War.



Invasion of Poland—French aircraft: Potez 630, Breguet 693, Dewoitine D.520, Bloch MB. 152, Curtiss Hawk 75, all by Mike Blohm.



Poland—French: Morane-Saulnier MS.406; British: Hawker Hurricane Mk I, Spitfire Mk I; Polish: PZL P11; and German: Messerschmitt Bf 109E, all by Mike Blohm.



Poland—German: Bf 109E, Junkers Ju 87B Stuka, Bf 110, and Dornier Do 17, all by Mike Blohm.



Poland—French: Hawk 75, D.520 (both Vichy France markings), Loire-Nieuport LN40; British: Blackburn B-25 ROC all by Larry Glenn. Lockheed Hudson by Ray Blohm.



Poland—British: B-25 ROC, Hudson; Polish: PZL 25B Karas by Larry Glenn.



Sino-Japanese War—Polikarpov I-16 Rata (China); Winter War: Tupelov SB-2 (USSR) both by Mike Blohm. Khalkhin Gol: I-16 (USSR) by John Tate. Bf 109E (Spain) by Frank Randall.



Poland—PZL P11 and PZL 25B Karas.



Poland—German: Junkers Ju 88, Heinkel He 111 both by Mike Blohm. Ju 52 by John Tate.



Poland—French: Renault FT-1 and Renault Universal Carrier by Tony Humphries, and Char B1 by Josh Pals; Polish: Renault R35 by Scott Jaworski.



Poland—French: Universal Carrier by Tony Humphries; Polish: Renault R35 by Scott Jaworski; and German: Panzer 38(t) by Bob Henderson.



Poland—German: Panzer 38(t) by Bob Henderson and “Blitzkrieg” diorama by James Medina.



Poland—German: Panzer I, Sondernkraftfahrzeug 251 half track, and 88mm Flak all by Mike Blohm.



Poland—German: “Blitzkrieg” diorama by James Medina; and Russian BA-6 Armored Car by John Tate.

BONUS PAGES! MISCELLANEOUS

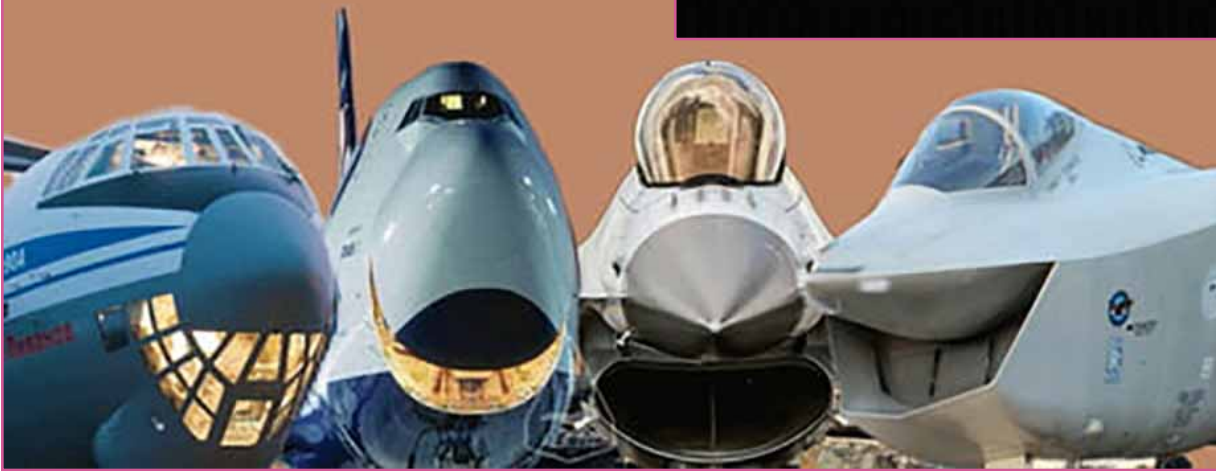






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Below: **You too** should be able to identify this plane from this cockpit image!





THE SCENE OUTSIDE THE HOBBY SHOP GOT UGLY...FAST!

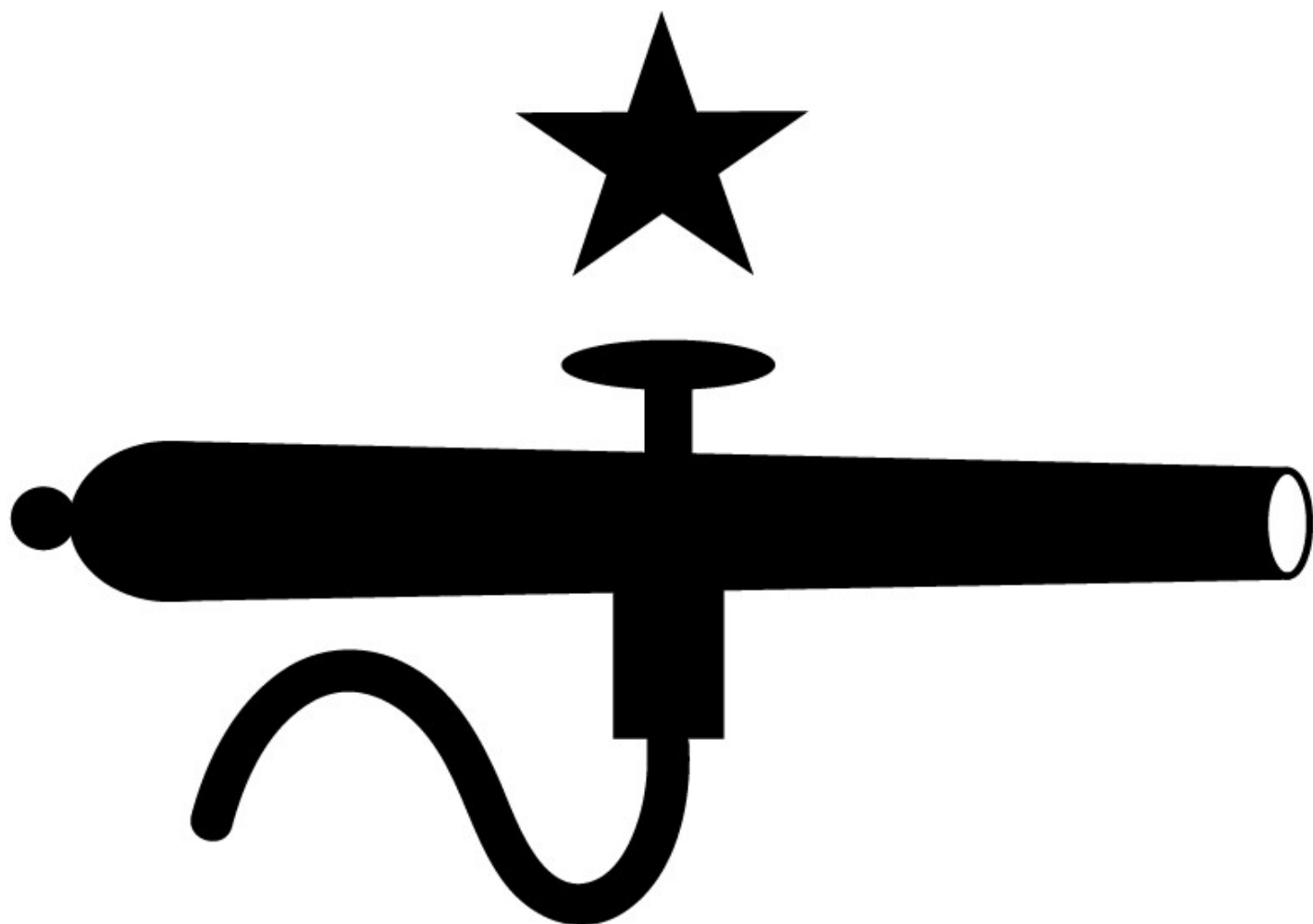








Your Editor particularly likes this image of a KC-135 on approach!



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