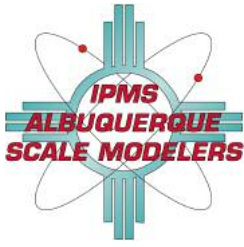


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

January 2008

THE PREZ'S SPIEL JAMES GULD

Okay, I'll get all the holiday wishy-washy stuff over with right off the bat. Happy whatever!

Now, I do hope all you plastic-loving geeks get your fill this season, and with that, I want to see models, people! Yes, even planes out on those tables next year. I even heard a rumor that Jack Morris will build a model this year. Hoa boy, this I gotta see.

That is like spotting the Jersey Devil out here in New Mexico.

Well, it's time to put the antlers on the dog and watch "How The Grinch Stole Christmas."

Season's Greetings!

STAR WARS EXHIBITION MIKE BLOHM

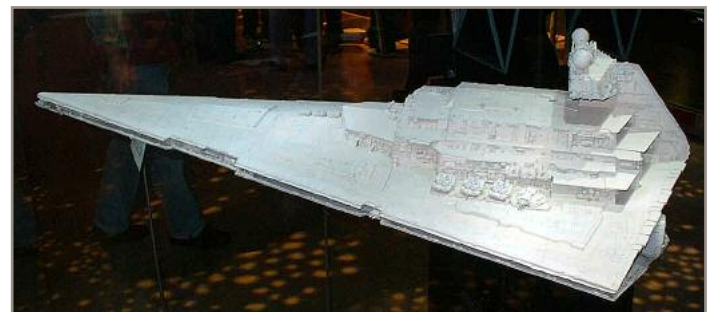
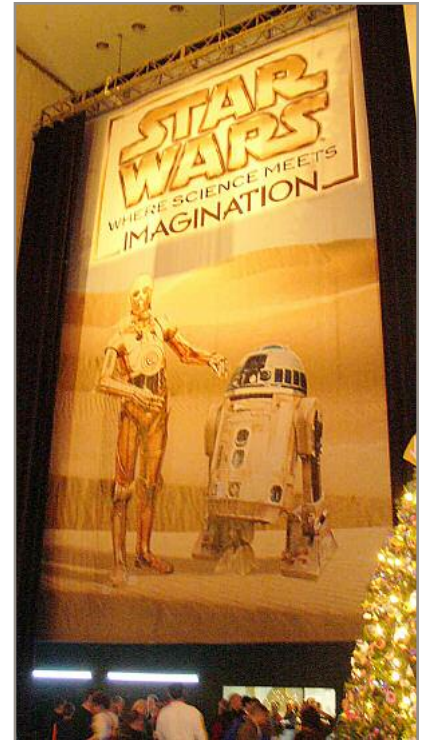
I recently had the opportunity to see the *Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination* exhibition at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. January's upcoming "Sci-Fi, Real Space, Science, and Fantasy" contest makes this a good time to write an article on my visit. The exhibit includes over 100 artifacts from all six *Star Wars* films, and explores the fantasy technologies depicted in the films, the real science behind them, and the current research that may someday lead to real-life versions of the technologies seen in the films. There are a lot of hands-on activities for the kids and recorded interviews with movie designers and scientists. However, to a model builder, it was the chance to see and photograph the actual, awesome models that were featured in all of the *Star Wars* movies. I'm sure that I made a pest of myself doing "walk around" shots of each of the models.

A few of the pictures are included below. Several

more pictures can be found on the ASM Web Site's Field Trips page (http://abqscalemodelers.com/asm_field_trips.htm)

The most prominent models were a Millennium Falcon that was about four feet in diameter and an X-Wing fighter that had about a five-foot wingspan. There were smaller models of most of the ships and ground vehicles from all the movies. The full-size mock-up of Luke's "Landspeeder" from Episode IV was also in the display. This was the vehicle that Obi-wan, Luke and the droids ("These aren't the droids you're looking for") took to Chalmun's Cantina in Mos

Eisley (*editor's note: you will never find a more wretched hive of scum and villainy*) on the planet Tatooine. Other items in the exhibit were the droids themselves, including R2D2, C-3PO, and Battle and



JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

JAMES GULD

'Tis the season for getting more stuff. What's new on the armor front, you ask? Well, my fine plastic building friends, it looks like Hobby Boss is about to release their second kit of the M4 High Speed tractor. This one is for the 155mm gun and 8 inch Howitzer.

I also saw some resin update wheels announced by Hussar for the Studebaker 6x6 truck that ICM recently came out with.

There are also some resin updates out now for Tamiya's UE tractor. Blast and Azimut each have a set.

Dragon has a bunch of new planned releases either through Cyber-Hobby or Dragon. The latest I saw announced is for a Panther G early version done in the "Smart Kit" series, but it doesn't have pre molded Zimmerit like some of the Tigers recently redone. They also have some more paper panzers and odd variant for a Stug III G. Seems like they are trying to get as much mileage out of kits as possible. Yet, still no word on when the M3 halftracks will come out. Come on, Dragon, get it done...

As always, keep your eye on the PMMS web site for the latest information on armor-related goodies (<http://www.perthmilitarymodelling.com>)

Now go build something.

SCI-FI MODELING UPDATE

JOE WALTERS

Yes, there's lots of news on the Sci-Fi front, and a bunch of space to fill, so here we go again!

First off, Sci-Fi enthusiasts should monitor the Starland web site (<http://www.starland.com>) for news on the upcoming Starfest 2008, which takes place this time around on April 18 - 20 at the Marriott Denver



Destroyer Droids; and the costumes worn by the main and supporting good guy and bad guy characters, among them Han Solo, Princess Leia, Chewbacca, Darth Vader and your favorite Stormtroopers.



And, of course, you get to "exit through gift shop" where you have the opportunity to spend a lot of money on really cool stuff that you never knew you needed. "You cannot resist the power of the Force" is a good excuse. A great show to definitely see if you get the opportunity to visit a city where it is on display.



December meeting highlights, clockwise from above: the one-hour modeling contest in progress; members milling about; members in the business meeting.





Model of the Year winners for 2007, L – R: Don Blea's A6M5 Zero, Adrian Montano's U-552 Type VII C U-Boat, and Dave Straub's NC-4 Flying Boat (awarded *Best Aircraft* at Nationals). There were no Junior entries this year, though there were eligible models.

Tech Center. Starfest (as it says on their web site) is an annual convention encompassing all aspects of popular media, film and television. Started in 1977, it attracts several thousand fans of popular culture for a weekend of social interaction, games and fun. There are over a hundred activities on the multi-track programming schedule. Events include film studio presentations, onstage Q&A sessions with actors, producers & directors, autograph and photo sessions, costume and talent contests, film festivals, model and art shows, collectible merchandise, educational seminars, discussion panels, kids' events, fan club presentations, and assorted Klingons, Jedi and other strange and unusual creatures.

The sci-fi model show is of particular interest to us kit assemblers, and has been growing in recent years—there were nearly 100 models at last year's show.

They haven't yet begun listing scheduled guests or a detailed schedule of events, so keep an eye on the web site.

Meanwhile, in the modeling world, many new kits and accessories have become available.

From TimeSlip Creations comes a light board for Howling Wolf's 1/24-scale Cylon Raider. This circuit board has 13 LEDs to simulate the eye movement. You need to supply a 3v power source and you have to carve out the head to install the board. The board has leads for you to attach your power source. For more information, visit the TimeSlip Creations web site (<http://www.timeslipcreations.com>), where you'll also find some other ship kits from *Battlestar Galactica*.

Fantastic Plastic Models' new *Phoenix Warp Ship*



One is now available in limited release. This is the prototype warp vessel built and piloted by Zefram Cochrane in 1996's *Star Trek: First Contact*. The 1/144-scale kit features warp nacelles that can be positioned in either the launch (closed) or in-flight (open) position.

Fantastic Plastic has a number of incredible sci-fi kits, many of which you've probably never seen before (http://www.fantastic-plastic.com/gift_shop.htm).

New from Starcraft Models is a 1/1400-scale New Orleans-Class resin kit (yes, this ship appeared on screen) (but you had to look close & quick!). This kit comes with a base, decals, and thorough assembly and painting instructions.



This kit is available through Federation Models (<http://www.federationmodels.com>), as are many others. Click on Model Kits, then select Starcraft Models, and scroll down to the bottom of the page. You'll see many other interesting kits there.

In other Trek news, VooDooFX is proud to release the much anticipated Enterprise Refit Lighting Kit for the large Polar Lights kit. VooDooFX calls it "the most accurate and high performance lighting package of its kind." This kit is designed towards the advanced to pro modeler level with electronic experience required, features navigation speed control (fine tuning), and



includes all the needed circuit boards, shrink tubing, wire, LEDs, power supply with plug, online instructions and access to a customer support line.

This isn't cheap—it runs \$299.00, but you just can't put a price on... well, okay, you *can*, but check this out anyway. The details are all on their web site (<http://www.voodoofx.com/fiberfx.htm>), where you'll also find a must-see video of the kit in action (plus zillions of lighting kits for other sci-fi models!).

Star Wars fans will want to check out a German web site (<http://www.triliance.de/index2.htm>), where there are a number of add-on products, including detail parts for the ERTL Millennium Falcon, a two-seater conversion for the Fine Molds Y-Wing Fighter, parts for making Death Star bases (including the laser tower shown here) and the dreaded Space Tick (look closely!).



Irwin Allen fans will be excited to learn that Moebius Models is coming out with a huge model of the Seaview from *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*. It's in 1/128 scale, and measures 39 inches long! It is accurate and extremely detailed (exterior *and* interior!), comes with crew figures, a Flying Sub, Mini-Sub and Diving Bell, and if you want (and have large amounts of disposable cash available), you can get an add-on kit to allow you to *operate this model in and under the water via radio control!*

A Seaview preview (sorry) written by the highly-opinionated Dave Merriman is available on CultTVMan's

site (<http://tinyurl.com/2ddqpe>). This thing has to be seen to be believed.

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**—men 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).
- 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** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

Master

James Guld	1654
Mike Blohm	867
Dave Miller	674
David Straub	335
Mike McNichols	217
Brian Peck	147
Ray Ayles	137
Ken Liotta	6
Glen Bingham	2
Patrick Dick	2
James Taylor	2

Intermediate

Victor Maestas	989
Don Smith	898
Frank Randall	605
Adrian Montano	595
Rick Carver	535
Kyle Garber	285
Jeff Frickstad	37
Mark Soppet	2

Basic

Gil Johnson	1487
Dan Blea	530
John Tribou	377
Jeannie Garriss	355

Junior

Kelly Brown	285
Graham Basha	235
Shawn Brown	185

ASM 2007 MODELER-OF-THE-YEAR POINTS (FINAL STANDINGS)

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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.