

ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

July 2012

PRESIDENT'S SPIEL JAMES GULD

I can hardly believe it. We are halfway through the modeling year. As the summer months come upon us we sometimes get away from modeling and do more outside activities. I know I hit a small lull a few weeks ago and couldn't decide about what to start next. What got me out of it was to look through some of my reference books, and I poked about online at some possible projects. This, along with our last AMPS meeting, was enough for me to decide on a project. Something about seeing and talking about armor got me off the fence. Something a bit different for me; no, not a plane, but a modern subject. I'm going to tackle a LAV A2 in Afghanistan from 2009. One of the nice things about working on modern subjects is you can get some good pictures off of the internet. I've gotten most of the parts, and upgrades are on their way. I even started thinking about another modern subject for down the road, the Panda M-ATV vehicle. So if you need a kick in

the pants to get building, come to a club meeting and get inspired to build something. Strike up a conversation with someone about how they did a certain model or check out some of the works in progress and get your modeling mojo back!

CONTEST DIRECTOR UPDATE VICTOR MAESTAS

The theme for the June points contest was "British Steel." There were 24 well-done entries and some folks did indeed push the theme boundaries for this contest.

In the **Juniors** category, Aleya Montaño took a Gold, Best of Show, and People's Choice for her TIE Fighter. In the **Basic** category, Matt Blohm also took a Gold, Best of Show, and People's Choice for his Spitfire Mk Vb. Tony Humphries won **Intermediate** Best of Show with his Taliban Donkey and Driver vignette. Adrian Montaño won the Intermediate People's Choice award for his big RAF Eurofighter. In the **Masters** division, Larry Glenn's Vickers Wellington Mk. X

June meeting highlights, L - R: Frank Randall draws a crowd for his Decals clinic; a couple of junior modelers practice the craft; and the business meeting in progress.



**Editor's Note: This issue is crowded!
June Best-of-Show photos are in the Bonus Pages.**

won both Best of Show and People's Choice awards. Great work by all.

Tony Humphries won the "Pushing the Boundaries" bonus for the "British Steel" June contest. His connection to the theme is that he entered a model built by a Brit. Other contenders included Aleya's and Adrian's Star Wars TIE Fighters. Their connection is that the actor playing the part of Darth Vader is British (David Prowse). Mike Blohm also entered his scratchbuilt girder vignette made from British steel. To be considered for the PtB bonus, please remember to write your justification on the entry sheet and put a red sticker on your entry form.

The Modeler of the Year points standings in Juniors and Basic are being dominated by Aleya Montañó and Matt Blohm, respectively. Masters and Intermediate are very close and the lead keeps changing. Currently in Intermediate, Tony Humphries is leading and in Masters, John Tate is in the lead. Both categories are still very close and with four more points contests left this year, anything can happen.

Upcoming contests include the "70, 50, 30 year Anniversaries" theme (1942, 1962, 1982) for the July points contest. August is a Super Clinic night with no contests scheduled. This will give time to build for the "New Mexico Centennial of Statehood" points contest in September. Also in September is the "From a Movie/TV Show" contest sponsored by Josh Pals.

A RANT PAUL KIRCHNER

Hey all. Albuquerque Scale Modelers? Is that what we really are? Or is this the Albuquerque Social Club? To be perfectly frank, the business meeting part of our get-togethers bores the hell out of me. Not that they're without their value or purpose. It seems to me, though, if some of you spent half as much time modeling as you did talking we'd all have a lot more models to gawk at every month.

Think about this. There are several different skill levels and numerous categories that you can enter your work into. Most/many entry possibilities are left vacant. If you'd just set aside any inhibitions and enter whatever work it is that you have on the burner, then you would get points, ribbons and all that happy crap, by default, due to lack of competition.

Some of us always seem to have something(s) to enter into the contests. Don't be intimidated! Instead, draw inspiration from it. However, I'm sure a lot of you are holding out on the rest of us. Bring your work in for all to see! There's no need to be afraid or whatever excuse you make for yourselves. We're all amigos here, and we support and help one another. It's a good way to make progress, evolve and learn.

It's all too easy to view your own work either over critically or favorably or even both. Share your models with the club and get some more input and opinions to help further your knowledge and skills. You'll hear both compliments and criticisms but you will come away with a better understanding of

Year 2012 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for "Modeler of the Year" Points

- 13 Jul** **2012: 100-, 70-, 50-year anniversaries**—Any subject from 1912, 1942, 1962 (100 year anniv of NM statehood)
- 03 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 07 Sep** **Radial Engines**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 05 Oct** **Century Series**—Any subject with 1xx in name or designation
Sponsored Contest: From a Movie or TV show per IMDB (Josh Pals)
- 02 Nov** **More Than a Handful**—Any subject with large weapons
Sponsored Contest: Stealth (Mike Blohm)
- 07 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2 PEARL HARBOR**
Sponsored Contest: Rolls Royce (Patrick Dick)
Plus Model of the Year competition!

techniques and methods to enable you to progress in the art of scale modeling.

Thanks for hearing out my "rant," and fill up those display tables!

AMPS 2012 JAMES GULD

This past April 26 – 28, I attended the AMPS Nationals in Auburn, Indiana, at the WWII Victory Museum. They have used this venue before in 2008 and 2010. I attended the show in 2008 when I drove out from Santa Fe. This time I decided to fly and I am glad to say I didn't have any problems getting my models there. In fact, the TSA screener at the Santa Fe airport asked me if they were tanks in the container. The only problem I had was my model box was too large to fit under the single isle seat of the small jet we flew out on. Luckily the person across the isle traded seats with me. Other than that, everything made it out and back without any damage.

For those of you who are not familiar how AMPS administers a contest, details are online: (<http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/contestRules.aspx>).

I'll give you a quick overview. Your model is not judged against anyone else's model except in the case of Best of Show awards. You are judged by a group of four modelers on a points scale that adds up to 30 points and the lowest score is dropped. The awards are Gold, Silver, and Bronze, and depending on what your level is, this will determine your score. The different levels are on the web site. When you enter your models at the show, they are put in the judging room, and, as they are judged, are brought out to the tables for viewing. So once the show begins, judging begins. They run two-hour shifts and have six tables going per shift. The only models that are judged out on the floor are dioramas, vignettes, and figures. This year I took the Judge's Certification class and I'm

now an AMPS certified judge. It consisted of two hours of classroom training on Thursday night and at least two judging shifts. I ended up doing a total of four shifts. This year they had a record number of models entered, 648. Judging was done by 3:00 P.M. on Saturday.

Along with the contest they had seminars and a raffle. This year, some of the seminar presenters included Mig Jimenez and Adam Wilder. I had a chance to talk to both of them at the show, and they were both down-to-earth guys. This show was also an opportunity to meet up with old friends or a chance to meet someone I might have talked to online. I did both this year. It was a great show and the only real criticism I have of the venue is the lighting in the display area of the museum where all the vehicles are kept. It is poor and most of the vehicles have barricades around them so you can't get up real close to take detail shots. Other than that, it was a great show with a ton of great armor. So if you ever get a chance to go to one I would personally recommend it. If you ever want to come to one of our New Mexico AMPS meetings, Email me and I'll add you to our mailing list. There is no cost to join, but we do encourage you to join the national AMPS organization.

[Photos from this event are available on the ASM Web Site (<http://tinyurl.com/amps2012>).

ASM AT ACE MIKE BLOHM

The Albuquerque Scale Modelers (ASM) put on a model display (show) on June 9 and 10 in support of the Albuquerque Comic Expo (ACE) 2012. The purpose of ASM's display was to promote the modeling hobby, possibly gain some new members, and to have fun. ACE 2012 was held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in downtown Albuquerque, and ASM had a primo location right in the middle of the main traffic area where attendees came in to the building and also transited back and forth from the large vendor area to where the guest speaker presentations and seminars were held. We had hundreds if not thousands of folks stop by to look at the models and a lot of them asked questions about the models or what techniques we used to paint them. You'd be surprised at how many closet sci-fi model builders live in Albuquerque.

The theme of the model display was "Science Fiction, Real Space, Fantasy, and Science"—the same as what ASM has for its January Special Contest each year. We had a total of 108 models on five tables—actually 155 models if you also count each individual figure that Mike McNichols brought in. The models were pretty much

FRED'S FOTO FILE FRED FRANCESCHI

Unusual Aircraft at Mojave

Well, folks, as I mentioned in the Foto File with the US Army F-86s, I lived fairly close to the Mojave airport (maybe 75 miles). And in the late 1970s, Bert Rutan had his homebuilt aircraft factory going in a hangar at the airport. Monthly, they had a fly-in of VariEzes—completed ones, not the ones under construction. I drove there several times and took photos of these really unusual planes that were designed to be un-stallable.

Last year I went by Mojave and looked for his hangar, but it is now Scaled Composites and occupies a lot more space than it used to. And I went there on a Friday that they were closed. I'd hoped to see some unusual new dream machine, but no such luck. However, the New Mexico Space Port is built to accommodate his recent Spaceship launching design.



Anyway, photo 1 is a Rutan Quickie at Mojave, with some old worn-out airliners in the distant background. Those old airliners are probably still there, painted for airlines that no longer exist.



Photo 2 is a VariEze at Mojave.



Photo 3 is a larger VariEze, probably a Long-EZ.

[Editor's note: All of Fred's Mojave photos—including some amphibians, a Gloster Meteor, and a very unusual aircraft taking off—may be found in the Bonus Pages! -JW]

grouped by theme and genre, and the ASM “What is Scale Modeling” display board was right in the middle, with four P-51D models ranging from 1/8 through 1/2 scales.

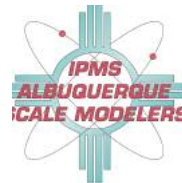
ASM members that helped man the tables included Jim Guld, Joe Walters, Ray Ayles, Mike McNichols, Blaine Couch, Ken Piniak, Frank Randall, Adrian Montano, and Matt, Laura, and Mike Blohm, Members who provided models but could not attend included Patrick Dick, Victor Maestas, and Gorham Smoker. We normally had at least three ASMs available to watch the models, answer questions, and pass out ASM and NM State Fair model contest promo sheets. Thanks to all who manned the exhibit and provided models.



I believe that we met our three objectives. I think ASM put on a great show and it was very well received by the both the ACE attendees and the ACE leadership. It was like a super mall show, where the attendees knew what the subjects were, and really wanted to see and talk about the models. There were some highly-charged “words of excitement (expletives

deleted)” expressed by a few of the visitors as they saw their favorite subjects. We also had “celebrity judging” by a cast of characters that reviewed all the models and picked out their favorite—those awards will be passed out at the July ASM meeting. You’d be surprised at who attended ACE, sometimes incognito. We passed out a lot of ASM promo sheets and it looked like a lot of folks were interested in the club. There was also interest in bringing models to the NM State Fair, especially amongst the junior modelers. It turns out that the Cylon Centurion warrior who stopped by to chat and judge is actually an avid model builder. Not sure how much time he has to build models between raids on the Colonials, but he might be showing up at one of our meetings. As for having fun, one of the bennies was free tickets for the ASMs manning the tables, and we all did have a fun time. If you’ve never been to one of these conventions, you should definitely check them out. And you will get the chance to check ACE out next year, as it looks like ACE would like to have us back, and maybe incorporate some other aspects such as a contest. We will provide more info on that as we receive it. I think this would be a tremendous annual thing for ASM to do as a promo event. So now you have another reason for building those models for the January contest—we need another 150 brand new models to display in 2013.

[Photos are available in two places on the ASM Web Site (<http://tinyurl.com/ace2012a> and <http://tinyurl.com/ace2012b>).



Master

John Tate	1075
Paul Kirchner	886
Mike Blohm	457
Larry Glenn	414
Brian Peck	287
Ken Liotta.	268
Ray Ayles	189
Glenn Bingham	116
Dave Miller	112
Fred Franceschi	75
Josh Pals	8

Intermediate

Tony Humphries	940
Adrian Montañó	825
Robert Meeker	760
Frank Randall	757
Don Smith	462
Pete Beck	325
Kyle Garber	129
Steve Brodeur	125
Rick Carver	125
Blaine Couch	110
Ken Piniak	102

Basic

Matt Blohm	1132
Chuck Girvin	4

Junior

Aleya Montañó	930
Phillip Trujillo	325
Matthew Ortiz	125

MODELER OF THE YEAR POINTS STANDINGS

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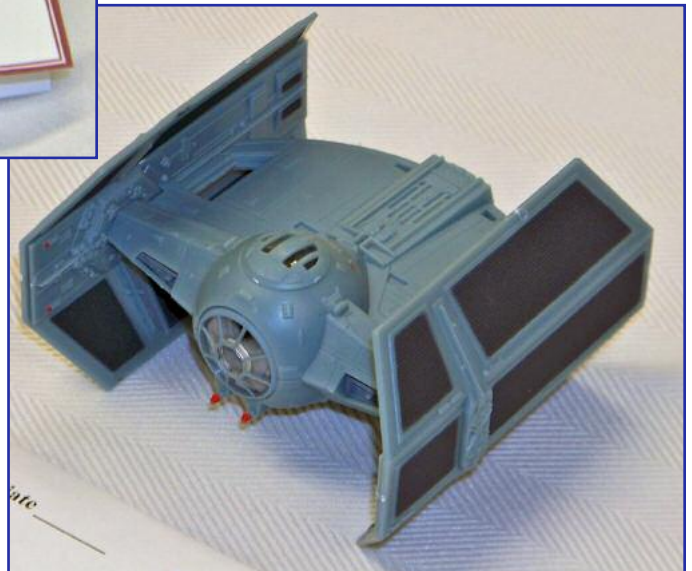
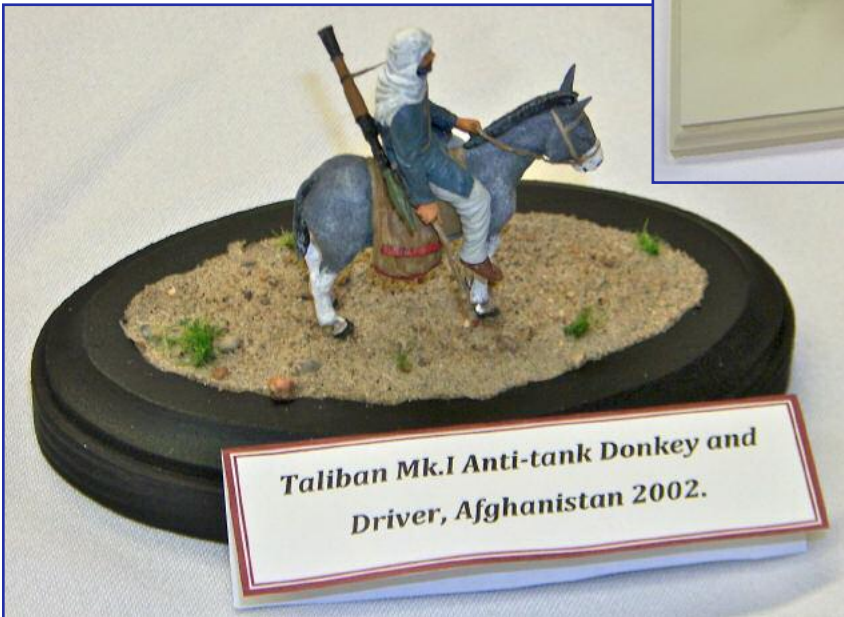
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ASM members are encouraged to submit articles, reviews and other items as appropriate. Contact editor Joe Walters for details and specs. Submission deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month.

BONUS PAGES!

BEST OF SHOW WINNERS FROM THE JUNE CONTEST

Top to bottom: Matt Blohm's *Supermarine Spitfire Mk Vb*; Larry Glenn's *Vickers Wellington Mk X*; Tony Humphries's *Taliban Donkey and Driver*; and Aleya Montoño's *TIE Fighter*.



BONUS PAGES!

FRED FRANCESCHI

On this page: the Rutan Quickie, developed by Bert Rutan for the Quickie Aircraft Corporation. It also exists as a two-seater, called the Q2, and there's a version with tricycle landing gear, called the Tri-Q.



On this page: two shots of the VariEze from the main article. Note the engine is running in the top shot. And something very odd-looking (possibly another VariEze?) is taking off in the background. It shows up again later.



On this page: two shots of the Long-EZ from the main article. Note the VariEze parked next to it in the top photo for comparison.



On this page: a Gloster Meteor at Mojave.

Fred: "I've no idea what it was doing there."

Note in the bottom photo, behind the Meteor's tail, that odd-looking aircraft is visible again, flying past.



On this page (text by Fred): "...an amphibian. At first I thought I had taken it at Mojave, but as I looked over the photo I decided that I don't have any idea where I was when I snapped the shot. But it sure is ugly!

And the photo on the next page is another civilian amphibian, taken at Mojave airport. I don't know why it was there, but there are dry lakes such as Edwards Air Force Base in the area. Thank goodness it had wheels.





BONUS PAGES!

ACE PHOTOS

A few photos from the Albuquerque Comic Expo.

Mike Blohm took this shot as the show was about to close—one of the few quiet times we had all weekend!

You can see our new banners (thanks to Matt Blohm), and the entire model display. At the right edge of the picture you can see the main entrance, where virtually everyone came through.





Above: A cylon centurion (old-school) selects his favorite model. Below: Only Imperial Stormtroopers are so precise, as they pick out their favorite build.



A roguish passerby selects her favorite from among the many models.



Top: A good look at the crowd passing by; this room was always busy!

Bottom: Oh, surely not; this couldn't have happened! Stan Lee stopping at the ASM booth?? This must be some kind of Photoshop trick, right? Dude!



Top: A close look at the Figures section of the display. Stan seemed to really like the Hulk, Spider-Man, and Iron Man figures.

Bottom: We used this vehicle to transport the models to and from the show.

