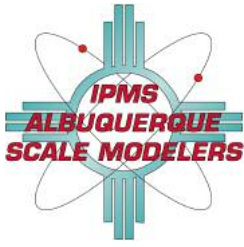


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

June 2008

## DOES MODEL BUILDING TEACH US ANYTHING? JAMES GULD

I was thinking about this last week and decided to let my muse loose on this. Of course, I think the answer is very obvious, but let's see.

First, a trip back in time to an eight-year-old boy who saw these great Aurora and Monogram models at the PBX and begged to make one. My Mom (a school teacher, artist and musician) and my Dad (career Air Force) must have seen this as an opportunity to broaden the horizons of a smart but unmotivated child with some learning problems. So the deal was: I built and Mom painted until I proved that I would not paint walls, furniture, younger brother, floors, or the dog. Ah, the things we built—Superman, tanks, dinosaurs, an American Airlines 707, Mustangs, Me-109s and more. And not just that—we read the history inserts that were provided

and we went to the Library to learn more, so by High School I had quite a collection and knew all about each plane.

What else did I know by then? Well, by then I knew about aerodynamics, hydraulics, physics, electronics, weapons systems, dynamics, tactics, history, and much more. Why? Because my model building stimulated so much reading; books like *30 Seconds Over Tokyo*, *God is My Co-pilot*, *Thud Ridge*, *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, *Bridges at Toko-Ri*, *The Longest Day*, *Day of Infamy* and more. My models were inspired by the history and the stories behind them, and the research to make them better.

College, of course slowed this down, since I had to focus on other activities, but I discovered IPMS Space Park, California, and IPMS El Paso, and this brought it all back. I got to meet great modelers and real people who were really there, such as General Jimmy Dolittle, Col "Bud" Anderson, astronauts "Buzz" Aldrin and Frank Borman, and many Air Force pilots and other important people, and some not as well-known.

I have taken many trips to National and Regional conventions and seen and talked to many other modelers and been to many museums and overall I have noticed that we all seem to share some kind of passion about the history of what we are replicating, and are willing to share their love for this hobby. I have also had some great friendships that are just

special. On the other hand I have had many people, friends and loved ones, look at "those silly plastic planes" and wonder why and even say it is a waste of time. I don't think so, because I know what it has taught and

showed me and where I have been because of "those silly pieces of plastic."

So in conclusion, I must say that Model Building is so much more that we realize, and we really should try to pass it on and not let it pass us by.



May meeting highlights, clockwise from top: the business meeting, works in progress, and MiG Killers contest winners with their plaques

# DAVE STRAUB'S MASTER & MOLD MAKING CLINIC

## JAMES GULD

We will be holding the clinic at Dave's house on Saturday, June 14, starting at 1:30 P.M. It should last until around 4:30. Dave's address is 11424 Paseo Del Oso NE. Be there!

# KITS FOR THE TROOPS

## FRANK RANDALL

For a couple of months back, we were collecting Kits for the Troops. After all your generous gifts, I had the privilege of sending to the Baghdad Hobby Club a couple of care packages containing thirty-one kits, a pack of brushes, and four posters. The donations covered a wide selection from tanks to airplanes to even ships, so there will be something for everyone. The kits will be distributed by MSG Brian Allen, who passes on his thanks to all who contributed to this cause. Thank you members of ASM!

# JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS

## JAMES GULD

May's here and that means one thing: the Shizuoka Model Show in Japan. With that, it also usually means a lot of new releases from the major players. Here is a link to some show pictures.

[http://www.geocities.jp/hobby\\_show\\_album/japan/shizuoka2008/index.htm](http://www.geocities.jp/hobby_show_album/japan/shizuoka2008/index.htm)

There has been a flurry of new kit releases along with some updates on earlier kits. My favorite site for keeping up is PMMS. Just go to the New Kit News page and you can pull down a list of most of manufacturers and see what's new. Here are some of the highlights.

MasterBox has some new figures sets, a BMW motorcycle, a couple versions of the French Panhard armored car, and a couple of versions of the German 170 VK staff car.

Trumpeter has some photos of a B4 203mm gun and limber.

SKP has a picture of the A30 Challenger Mk VIII model, but no release date.

MiniArt has announced some new figure releases along with a new diorama building. Also the US Jeep crew with MPs is now out.

AFV Club has their Churchill MKIII listed as a May release along with the Stryker M1128 MGS.

Dragon has announced a DV M4A1 Sherman in British markings for El Alamein, early- and mid-production Brumbar, Marder IIIM initial production, and a Sdkfz. 7.8-ton halftrack.

Tamiya has their new Panzer II A-C along with some older kits updated with new figures.

Tristar has an early Brumbar listed as a May release. They

also have an early flak 38 kit with Waffen SS crew and a Marder III M kit listed.

Bronco Models has a few new kits listed, two different Staghound armored car variants and a Humber armored car variant. There are also some test shots of the upcoming A13 Cruiser tank.

So it looks like a good year for new armor.

# ROAD TRIPS

## BRIAN PECK

Here are a couple of photos from the April Road Trip to the Pima Air Museum. Additional photos are on the web site!



Tom points out, "See, real aircraft have seamlines too!"



Patrick waits for the keys next to his new F-14 as he wonders where his salesman wondered off to...

The next road trip is planned for late spring (Date TBD) to the Denver/Greeley/Colorado Springs area for multiple Hobby Shop raids and a possible stop at the Air Museum in Pueblo. It will be also a 2-day "sortie."

The 3rd road trip scheduled for mid to late summer will be to El Paso for a 1-day "sortie" to go the War Eagle air museum and Hal's Hobby shop.

The last road trip in the mid to late summer will be either to Liberal, Kansas, for the Air Museum there as a 2-day sortie, or to Amarillo for a 1-day raid at the local Hobby shop and eats. I dare anyone to eat the famous 72-ounce steak at The Big Texan steakhouse (bring a bag!).

## KIT REVIEW

### JEFF FRICKSTAD

#### Italeri 1/35-scale Bofors AA gun 40mm (kit #6450)

Finally, a 40mm AA gun! Way back in the 1980s there was one. I don't recall the company that put it out. So now that Italeri has one, I thought that I would build it.

First thing you see is the parts trees, the instruction and no decals. Building starts with the tires and axles for front and back. Next is the towing or firing position—I went with the firing position.

Step 3 in the firing position is a bit odd for model parts 55B; the pads are short for three sides (back and two side wings); the front is fine, it sits like it should. The other three

are short about  $\frac{1}{16}$ ", so I added some rod stock ( $\frac{3}{64}$ ) and it fit perfectly. Parts 53B are tiny little handles, be careful with them!

Step 7: parts 82B fit into parts 81B. One problem: the holes are too small. A hobby knife



and a small file will open the holes for a good fit.

Step 8: The frame is fragile—be careful. The pedals are set at an angle.

The rest of the kit went together very well.

The figures with the kit are a bit big for the seats. The two seated figures need a Dremel diet...

The two standing figures with ammo are so-so, but you can use them.

There is a detail set out and a wheel mask, and maybe a metal gun barrel(?) and hopefully seated crew.

So if you need protection from those pesky aircraft, I think you will like it.

I give it 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  tanks. 🐸 🐸 🐸 🐸 🐸

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

### MIKE BLOHM

#### Battle of Britain Memorial Flight

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's headquarters at Royal Air Force (RAF) Coningsby in Lincolnshire, Great Britain. The Flight provides flypasts and displays commemorating the RAF's role in World War II. It was formed in 1957 as the Historic Aircraft Flight, and today it is one of the world's best-known historic aircraft collections. In 2007, the Flight conducted 945 individual appearances at 536 separate events, which included



99 air displays and 437 flypasts of various sizes.

Our group was given a personal tour of all the aircraft that were parked in the Memorial Flight's hangar. These included a Lancaster Mk III, two Hurricanes (Mk IIc), five Spitfires (Mk IIa, Vb, LFIXe, and PRXIX), and two DHC-1 Chipmunks. Their C-47 Dakota was flying during our tour. See the included pictures—more are available on the ASM web site. The

#### Year 2008 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>4 Jan</b>  | <b>SPECIAL CONTEST #1</b><br><b>SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY</b>  |
| <b>1 Feb</b>  | <b>ASM Swap Meet</b> —no contest.  |
| <b>7 Mar</b>  | <b>Open Contest</b> —Any kit/subject/scale.  |
| <b>4 Apr</b>  | <b>Heroes &amp; The Good Guys</b> —men, women, or machines, any kit/subject/scale/era.<br><i>Sponsored Contest: "Best Corsair" (Don Smith)</i> |
| <b>2 May</b>  | <b>SPECIAL CONTEST #2</b><br><b>PHABULOUS PHANTOM'S PHIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY</b><br><i>Sponsored Contest: "American MiG Killers" (Brian Peck)</i> |
| <b>6 Jun</b>  | <b>Eastern Front</b> —Aircraft, Armor, Figures (any kit/scale/subject).<br><i>Sponsored Contest: "Best D-Day Subject" (ASM E-Board)</i>        |
| <b>11 Jul</b> | <b>Open Contest</b> —Any kit/subject/scale.  |
| <b>1 Aug</b>  | <b>The Zoo</b> —Mustangs, Panthers, Cougars, etc.; any kit/subject/scale.  |
| <b>12 Sep</b> | <b>The Pacific</b> —Any kit/subject/scale.   |
| <b>3 Oct</b>  | <b>SPECIAL CONTEST #3</b><br><b>ASM'S BEST P-47, 10TH ANNIVERSARY</b>  |
| <b>7 Nov</b>  | <b>World War I, 90 Years</b> —Any WWI kit/subject/scale.<br><i>Sponsored Contest: "WWI Aces" (Mike Blohm)</i>                                  |
| <b>5 Dec</b>  | <b>SPECIAL CONTEST #4</b><br><b>TAG-TEAM MODEL</b><br>Plus <i>Model of the Year</i> competition!   |



tour went from plane-to-plane, talking about the operational history of each aircraft and the story behind their current markings. The aircraft's schemes are often changed to match a significant historical event. Many of the aircraft were in pieces as they were undergoing maintenance actions. Unfortunately we were not able to climb into any fighter cockpits, but we did get free rein to scramble within the Lancaster's interior. It was quite narrow and involved a lot of climbing over and around items to make it from the tail gunner's position all the way up front to the bombardier's station.

An added bonus was a visit to the Flight by a two-seater Spitfire and a T-6 Texan. At the end of the tour, an Avro Vulcan bomber—the last one flying—flew in to RAF Coningsby for a compass swing, making one flypast before landing. This aircraft was recently brought out of retirement for use in aerial displays.

Highly recommended to visit if you happen to be near the



city of Lincoln in Northern Great Britain or near one of the locations they perform at. You can learn more about the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and their display schedule at their web site (<http://www.bbmf.co.uk/index.html>).



**Master**

John Tate . . . . . 901  
 James Guld . . . . . 871  
 Mike Blohm . . . . . 292  
 Mike Franklin . . . . . 160  
 Ken Liotta . . . . . 159  
 Patrick Dick . . . . . 87  
 Brian Peck . . . . . 50  
 Mike McNichols . . . . . 25  
 Dave Miller . . . . . 25  
 Keith Liotta . . . . . 2

**Intermediate**

Victor Maestas . . . . . 649  
 Tim Wood . . . . . 325  
 Frank Randall . . . . . 320  
 Rick Carver . . . . . 250  
 Josh Pals . . . . . 200  
 Don Blea . . . . . 125  
 Adrian Montañó . . . . . 110  
 Don Smith . . . . . 103  
 Tom Perea . . . . . 102  
 Jeff Frickstad . . . . . 75

Jack Garriss . . . . . 25  
 Danny Williamson . . . . . 2

**Basic**

Gil Johnson . . . . . 660  
 Matt Blohm . . . . . 125  
 Jeannie Garriss . . . . . 125  
 John Tribou . . . . . 125

**ASM 2008 MODELER-OF-THE-YEAR POINTS**

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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.