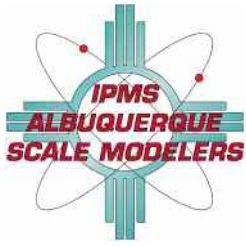


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

June 2014

## THE FEZ SEZ TONY HUMPHRIES

We'll start this month's newsletter with an announcement. Those of you who have an interest in comic book, real space, and science-fiction subjects may be pleased to hear that we have just confirmed that ASM will be putting on a display at the upcoming ACE (Albuquerque Comic Expo) event at the Albuquerque Convention Center, June 27 – 29 (<http://abqcomicexpo.com>). We should have a similar space in a similar area to last year (basically in the foyer/lobby/that big flat bit by the door). Anyone who has models of comic-related, Sci-Fi, or real space subjects should contact Mike Blohm to make arrangements to deliver/drop them off and if anyone would like to volunteer to help out then please contact Mike also and he will put you on the list. It is an event well worth attending if Sci-Fi and/or comics tickle your fancy at all. If you like to see personal appearances by people that you might recognize from the TV, scantily clad young ladies (note: the convention center has a strict no drooling policy, so don't do it) people in imaginative costumes waving unfeasibly large plastic axes, or even if you just enjoy watching overdressed nerdy-looking people in enormous outfits almost getting strangled when their cloaks get caught in the escalators, there's something for everyone. There are good vendor areas, the people are friendly, the food is theoretically edible and there are some remarkable sights to behold. Remarkable in every sense of the word... So why not give it a go? Even if you can't help out or contribute to the display, consider coming along anyway. At the time of writing, the ACE website hadn't been updated since April 6, and so information on guests was somewhat sparse apart from a couple of banners with names of people that I didn't recognize (although this is not my specialist area so they might be world-

famous for all I know) and a photo of some guy who looks suspiciously like my Accountant, but I'm sure they'll sort that out shortly, if they haven't done so already.

It's worth noting also that ACE won the award for best local convention in The Alibi last year, so they're clearly doing a good job. Now granted, they weren't competing against Las Vegas type events—so there were no dancing showgirls, strangely mustachioed European magicians in glittery costumes who look disturbingly like David Hasselhoff (still a signature look in parts of Germany to this day), live appearances by KISS or multiple formation Elvises dropping in by parachute, but this is still an achievement nonetheless and the organizers should be congratulated accordingly. Perhaps this year we can give them a run for their money with Chile Con 3? Who knows? I bet we'll have more heavy metal out in the parking lot anyway, what with the local military vehicle preservation society at CC3 and the CD collection in Josh's car. Admittedly we won't have the same range of young ladies in interesting costumes that will likely be at ACE, unless anyone out there is volunteering? I



think I can honestly say that you won't be seeing any of the E-Board in flimsy Poison Ivy costumes at Chile-Con anyway, mercifully. At least, not in public. Indeed the very thought of such a thing is likely to keep you awake at night and possibly bring you out in hives. It has me. If you feel like giving it a go yourself though, go ahead. Knock yourselves out. As another plus, we won't have many 90lb teenage boys with biceps like a Sparrow's kneecap in Conan the Barbarian costumes either. Hopefully... So whilst we may not draw the same kind of crowd, we can at least give them a run for their money perhaps. But in the meantime, please think about attending ACE and supporting a good local event. If you can volunteer your time to help out or supply appropriately-themed models to help bolster the ASM display then that would be appreciated too. I hope to see you there.

# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## MIKE BLOHM

### ASM at ACE 2014

ASM has received notification from the leadership of Albuquerque Comic Expo (ACE) 2014 that they would like to have ASM participate in the convention again as we have done the past two years, and we are planning to do so. ACE 2014 will be held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in downtown Albuquerque on June 27 – 29. The last two model shows were a real blast—see links to those below—and we'd like to put on another great show.



The purpose of ASM's display is to promote the modeling hobby, possibly gain some new members, and to have fun. We have a prime location right in the middle of the main traffic area where attendees come in to the building and also transit back and forth from the large vendor area to where the guest speaker presentations and seminars are held. In 2012 and 2013 we had hundreds if not thousands of folks stop by to look at the models and to ask questions about the models or painting techniques. Pictures of ASM display's location inside the convention center are included below.

The convention times when ASM will participate (Sat and Sun only) are 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Sat June 28 (we need to set up around 9:00 A.M.), and 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Sun, June 29. We will need ASM members to man our tables during those times, probably split up into two or three shifts

### Year 2014 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)  
Sponsored Contest: "Best Ford-themed model" (Patrick Dick)
- 07 Feb ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 07 Mar Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 04 Apr SPECIAL CONTEST #2**  
**FAMILY TIES**
- 02 May Japan**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 13 Jun SPECIAL CONTEST #3**  
**WORLD WAR I**  
Sponsored Contest: "D-Day, June 1944" (ASM E-Board)
- 11 Jul No meeting** due to Chile Con 3.
- 01 Aug ASM Swap Meet**—no points contest.  
Sponsored Contest: "Best French Subject" (Tony Humphries)
- 05 Sep Speed Demons**—Any it/subject/scale.  
**SPECIAL CONTEST #4**  
**SEAPLANES / AMPHIBIANS**  
Sponsored Contest: "Electronic Warfare" (Gil De La Plain)
- 03 Oct Sponsored Contest: "Adversaries"**  
(Mike & Matt Blohm)  
Sponsored Contest: "Assam Valley"  
(Don Smith)
- 07 Nov Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
Sponsored Contest: "Russian Bombers" (Tim Wood)
- 06 Dec SPECIAL CONTEST #5**  
**BATTLE OF THE BULGE PLUS 70**  
Plus Model of the Year competition!  
Sponsored Contest: "Fanta-storical"  
(Josh Pals & Patrick Dick)

per day with three to four people per shift. A signup roster will be provided at the June ASM meeting, and emails will be sent out requesting help. Please let Mike Blohm ([blohmm@aol.com](mailto:blohmm@aol.com)) or Joe Walters ([jwalters22@comcast.net](mailto:jwalters22@comcast.net)) know if you can participate and what days and times (morning or afternoon) are best for you. Folks manning the ASM tables do get free admission on those days, and there is plenty of fun to be had.

As in past years, the theme of the model display will be "Science Fiction, Real Space, Fantasy, and Science"—the same as what ASM has for its January Special Contest each year. In 2013 we had over 100 total models on five tables. The models were grouped by themes and genre that included Star Trek and Star Wars (about a third of the display); Real Space and Man In Space; science fiction television shows (Buck Rogers, Battlestar Galactica, Space 1999, The Jetsons); science fiction movies (2001, War of the Worlds, Alien, When Worlds Collide); Gundam and comic book figures; and science fiction vehicles (Batman, Speed Racer, Mad Max). Please consider showing your models at the show even if you are not attend-



ing. There is no limit on how many models you want to bring.

[Details about times, dates, links, photos from past ACE displays, and so on are listed in the full version of this article in the [Bonus Pages](#). -JW]

## CONTEST DIRECTOR UPDATE

JOHN TATE

“Japan” was the points contest for the May 2 meeting, with eligible entries having a Japanese theme. In Juniors, Aleya Montano picked up a First, Second, and Third for her Gundam entries, with a Best of Show and People’s Choice awarded to her Bandai 1/35-scale Warrior. In Intermediate, Gorham Smoker picked up a First and People’s Choice award for his Revell 1/35 H-13 helicopter and a First for his Italeri 1/35 Commando Car. Partap Davis won a First for his Platz 1/35 “Girls und Panzer” figure collection, and Adrian Montaña a First for his Revell 1/32 Colonial Viper. Don Smith won a First and Best of Show for his Maisto 1/18 Lexus car model.

In Masters, James Strickland won a First for his Hasegawa 1/350 IJN Yukikaze, Tony Humphries a First for his Tamiya 1/48 IJN Bulldozer and 1/35 IJA tanker figure, and Brian Peck a First, Best of Show and People’s Choice for his Tamiya 1/32 F4U-1 Corsair. Although not a Japanese subject *per se*, I ruled Brian’s Corsair model eligible for the “Japan” theme as it fought the Japanese throughout the Pacific War and also had a few Japanese aircraft to its credit, as reflected by the Rising Sun kill markings under the cockpit. Likewise, I ruled Glenn Bingham’s nicely-done 1/32 Mustang model eligible for theme, as it was in markings representing an aircraft that flew fighter missions over Japan during the final year of the War.

ASM members continue to turn out an impressive variety of scale models, at all skill levels; the more you build, the better your modeling gets, so this excellent showing bodes well for the future of our club and our hobby.

At the June 13 ASM meeting, there will be a WWI Special Contest, and a D-Day Contest sponsored by the E-Board. Let’s put in a good effort and bring some nice models to honor these two anniversary themes, which will also assist Mike Blohm and Josh Pals in putting together related ASM theme displays at the State Fair in September.

Remember, there is only a month left before ASM’s big “Chile Con 3” IPMS Region X Contest on July 10 – 11, so now is the time to finish up your builds and organize your entries. If you think

## FRED’S FOTO FILE FRED FRANCESCHI

### German Museums

These are photos I took at museums in Germany in about 2005. I visited several museums. One was the Auto & Technik Museum at Sinsheim. Another was the Museumsbuch Speyer. I also visited a military museum, maybe at Mainz-Kastel. The military museum is really interesting because its purpose is to have historical references for the people who design new uniforms and equipment. They had German, Russian, American, and British uniforms and equipment, as well as armored vehicles from a variety of countries.



The above photo is of a Russian T-34. It’s indoors and appears to be in good condition, so it may have been taken at the German army museum.



Above is an M7B2 Priest. The B2 version can be identified by the high “pulpit.” It was probably at Speyer.

[Editor’s note: All of Fred’s German Museum photos (larger and in full resolution), along with his full explanatory text, are in the [Bonus Pages](#). -JW]

it's too late to start a new build, try sprucing up an older model instead, or adding a nice subject base to an existing model. We'll be facing some stiff competition from other excellent Region X modelers, so let's see ASM put in their maximum effort to make this the club's best Chile Con showing yet.

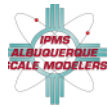
## IN THE BONUS PAGES! JOE WALTERS

In this month's Bonus Pages:

- A second Vice President's report, dealing with issues *besides* ACE 2014
- Photos of May's Best-of-Show contest winners
- Fred's photos from the German Museums
- A report by Jack Garriss on his experiences at the Region 6 contest in Kansas
- Joe's report from StarFest 2014 in Denver
- A report from the Durand Open House, and ASM's participation assisting the Cavalcade of Wings display



ASM Website



Chile Con 3 page



**CHILE  
CON**

# 2014 IPMS Region 10 Contest

## July 11 - 12, 2014

Hosted by  
**ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS**

### D-DAY PLUS SEVENTY

Chile Con 3 will take place at:

MCM Elegante Hotel and Event Center  
2020 Menaul NE • Albuquerque, NM 87107  
toll free (866) 650-4900 • fax (505) 881-4806  
[www.mcmelegantealbuquerque.com](http://www.mcmelegantealbuquerque.com)

Rooms \$81.00/Double Occupancy. Be sure to mention Albuquerque Scale Modelers and Chile Con 3 to get this rate!

IPMS members pre-registration:  
\$18.00 through May 31, 2014; \$20.00 thereafter

*Contest entry costs are for an unlimited number of entries. Awards Banquet, Raffle, and Make & Takes to be offered. For details as they develop, visit the ASM web sites*

[www.abqscalemodelers.com](http://www.abqscalemodelers.com)  
<http://tinyurl.com/chilecon3>

Contact person: Contest Co-Chair James Guld  
(505) 982-3089 • [jamesguld@pngltd.com](mailto:jamesguld@pngltd.com)

### Master

James Guld . . . . .	6402
Brian Peck . . . . .	437
Tony Humphries . . . . .	420
Larry Glenn . . . . .	389
James Strickland . . . . .	249
Ken Liotta . . . . .	243
Victor Maestas . . . . .	222
Michael Faust . . . . .	127
Glenn Bingham . . . . .	110
Mike Blohm . . . . .	108
Dave Miller . . . . .	104
Patrick Dick . . . . .	8

### Intermediate

Don Smith . . . . .	766
Adrian Montañó . . . . .	737
Gorham Smoker . . . . .	700
Partap Davis . . . . .	410
Frank Randall . . . . .	216
Pete Armijo . . . . .	150
Jack Garriss . . . . .	150
Jerry Little . . . . .	127
Len Faulconer . . . . .	125
Steve Brodeur . . . . .	85
Ken Piniak . . . . .	8
Matt Blohm . . . . .	6
Gil Johnson . . . . .	2

### Basic

Jeannie Garriss . . . . .	550
Michel Wingard . . . . .	4

### Junior

Aleya Montañó . . . . .	855
Marie Smith . . . . .	200

## MODELER OF THE YEAR POINTS STANDINGS

## CONTACT INFO

President:	Tony Humphries	764-0046	abkhumphries@gmail.com
Vice President:	Mike Blohm	823-9404	BlohmM@aol.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Frank Randall	681-5158	fcr40.fr@gmail.com
Contest Director:	John Tate	332-3928	jtlynwood@hotmail.com
Members Pro-Tem:	Jack Garriss		ebgarriss@comcast.net
	Larry Glenn		l.glenn2@comcast.net
	Victor Maestas	771-0980	vmaestas@aol.com
Webmaster:	Mike Blohm	823-9404	BlohmM@aol.com
Newsletter Editor:	Joe Walters	821-3751	jwalters22@comcast.net

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!

## MAY BEST OF SHOW WINNERS

Top to bottom: Don Smith's *Lotus* (Intermediate), Brian Peck's *F4U-1 Corsair* (Masters), and Aleya Montaño's *Gundam Warrior* (Juniors). There were no Basic entries.





# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MIKE BLOHM

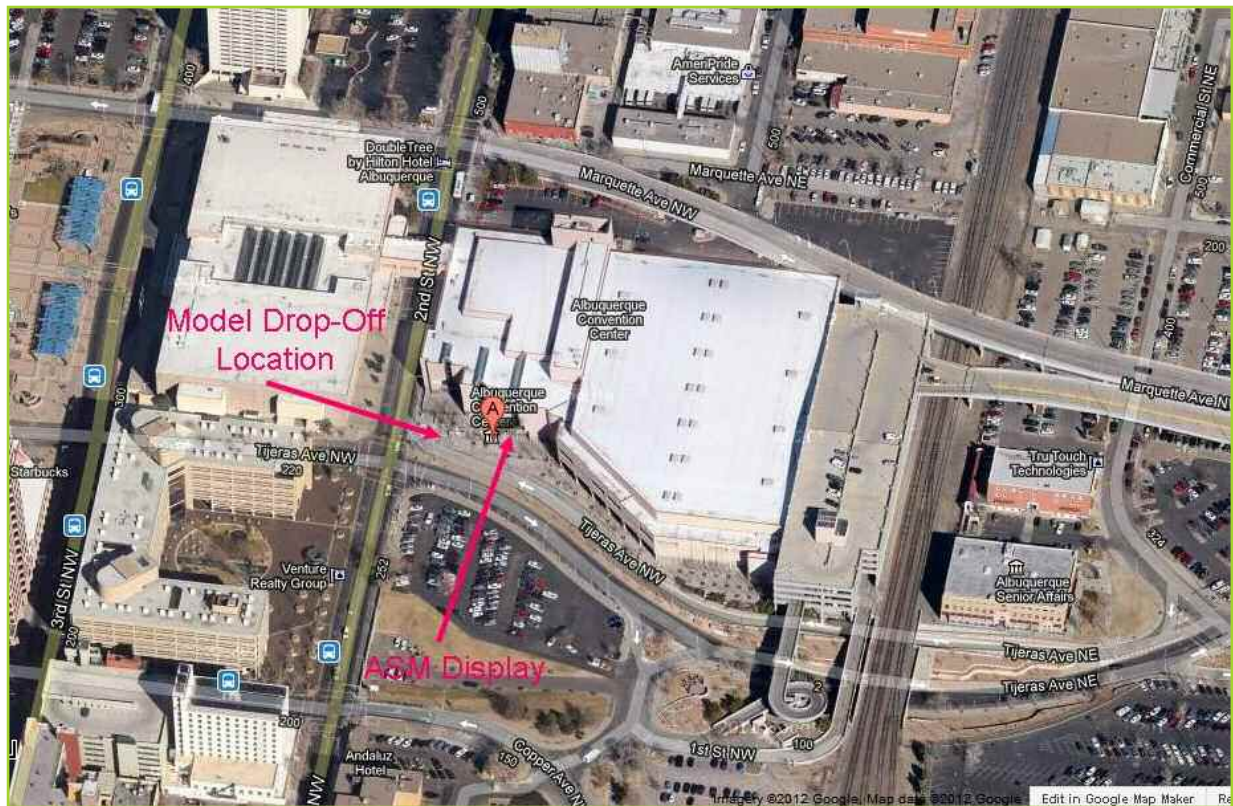
The next couple of months are going to include a lot of ASM activities and we encourage all ASM members to participate in them and to have a lot of fun.

June 28 – 29 is the **Albuquerque Comic Expo 2014** convention, and we are going to be putting on a huge model display on Saturday and Sunday. There is a lengthy article in the main newsletter on what it's all about and how to participate. If you cannot come man the tables, we ask you to please contribute some models for the tables. We are shooting for 100-plus models in the Sci-Fi, Real Space, Monster-Horror, and Anime themes. You can bring your loaners to the June 13 ASM meeting, or to Hobby Proz by Friday, 27 June, or drop them by at the convention center. Handouts with instructions will be passed out at the June 13th ASM meeting, and more emails will be sent out before the event. It was a lot of fun the last two times, and this year we will once again see the "Celebrity Judging Awards" for best models.

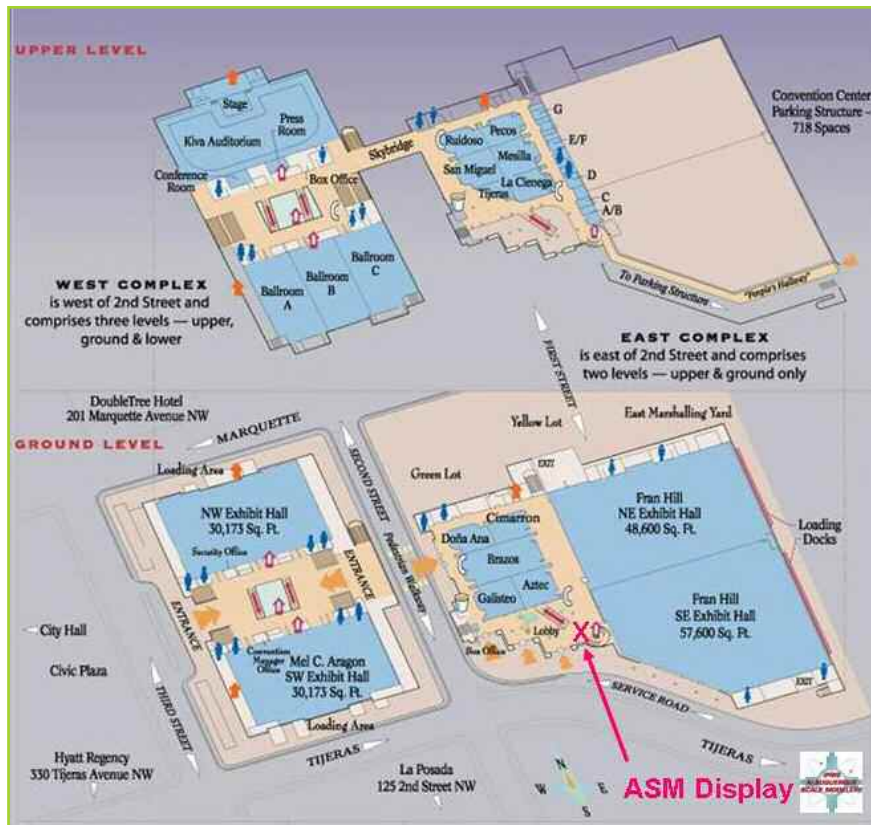
July 11 – 12 is **Chile Con 3**. All the web pages on the CC3 website are now populated and "hot" including the CC3 registration and model entry forms. June 10 is the cutoff for early registration, so see Jack Garriss to get that done. We will need max volunteer participation in a lot of areas at CC3—there will be more on that from Jim Guld. We still have a lot of contest trophy award packages that have not been sponsored, so see Tony Humphries if you would like to help out there.

September 5 – 6 are the model registration dates for the 2014 **New Mexico State Fair**. Please see the *ASM Website* for the eighteen possible categories you can enter a model in (only one entry per category). We will need some volunteers to man the registration table on those dates, and we are asking ASM members to also contribute models to ASM's display-only them display. This year's display will be the 70th Anniversary of D-Day and the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I. Hopefully you have built some new kits in those themes for the June 13th meeting's World War I Special Contest and E-Board's D-Day Sponsored Contest.

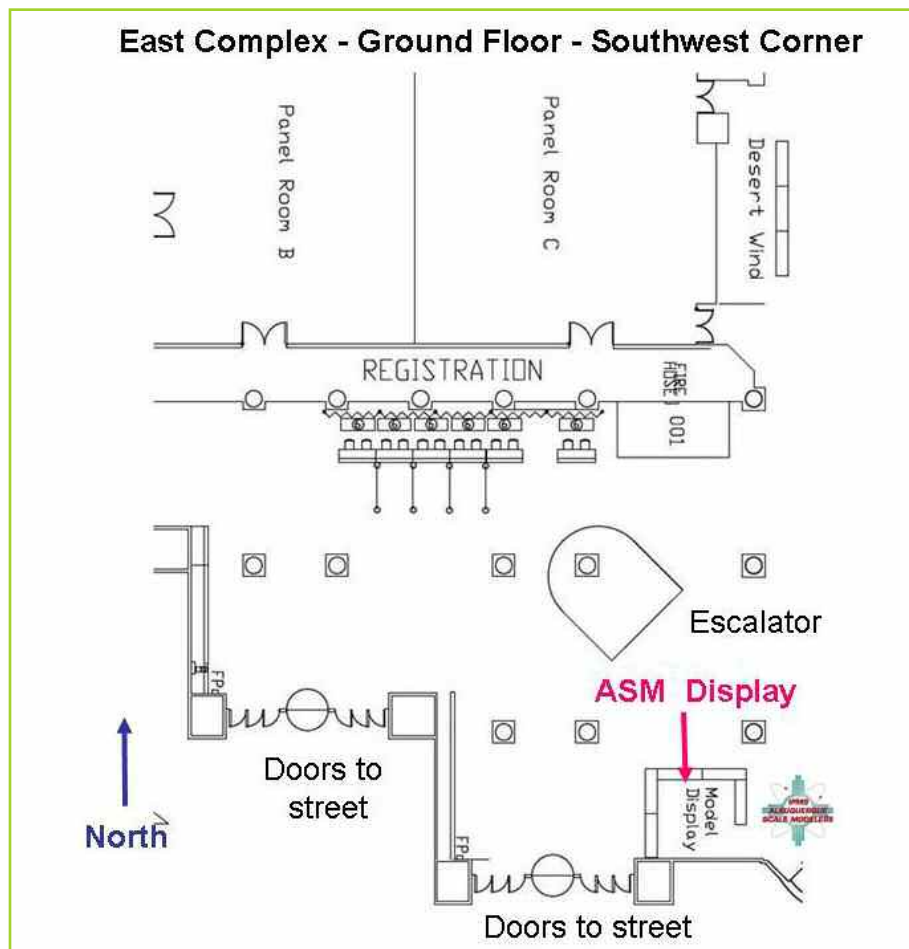
[Following are some useful diagrams for finding our location at ACE, along with some photos from our last two appearances at this show.]



Exterior ASM access points for the ACE convention



ASM's location at the ACE convention





# ASM AT ACE 2012









# ASM AT ACE 2013













# BONUS PAGES!

## FRED'S FOTO FILE

### FRED FRANCESCHI

#### **German Museums**

These are photos I took at museums in Germany in about 2005. I visited several museums.

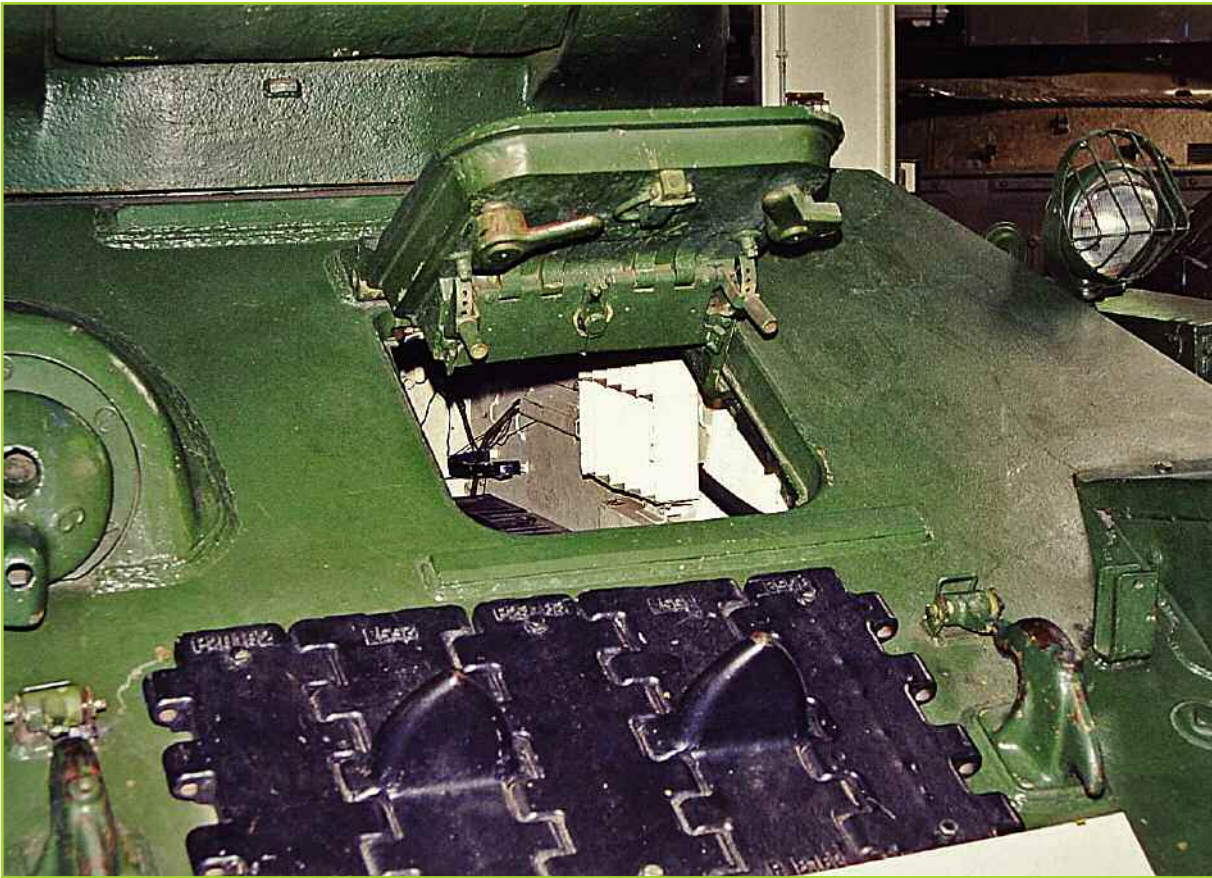
One was the Auto & Technik Museum at Sinsheim. Another was the Museumsbuch Speyer. I purchased books at both museums, but since they are written in German and I don't read German, I'm not able to do much more than look at the pictures in them.

I also visited a military museum, maybe at Mainz-Kastel. The military museum is really interesting because its purpose is to have historical references for the people who design new uniforms and equipment. They had German, Russian, American, and British uniforms and equipment, as well as armored vehicles from a variety of countries.

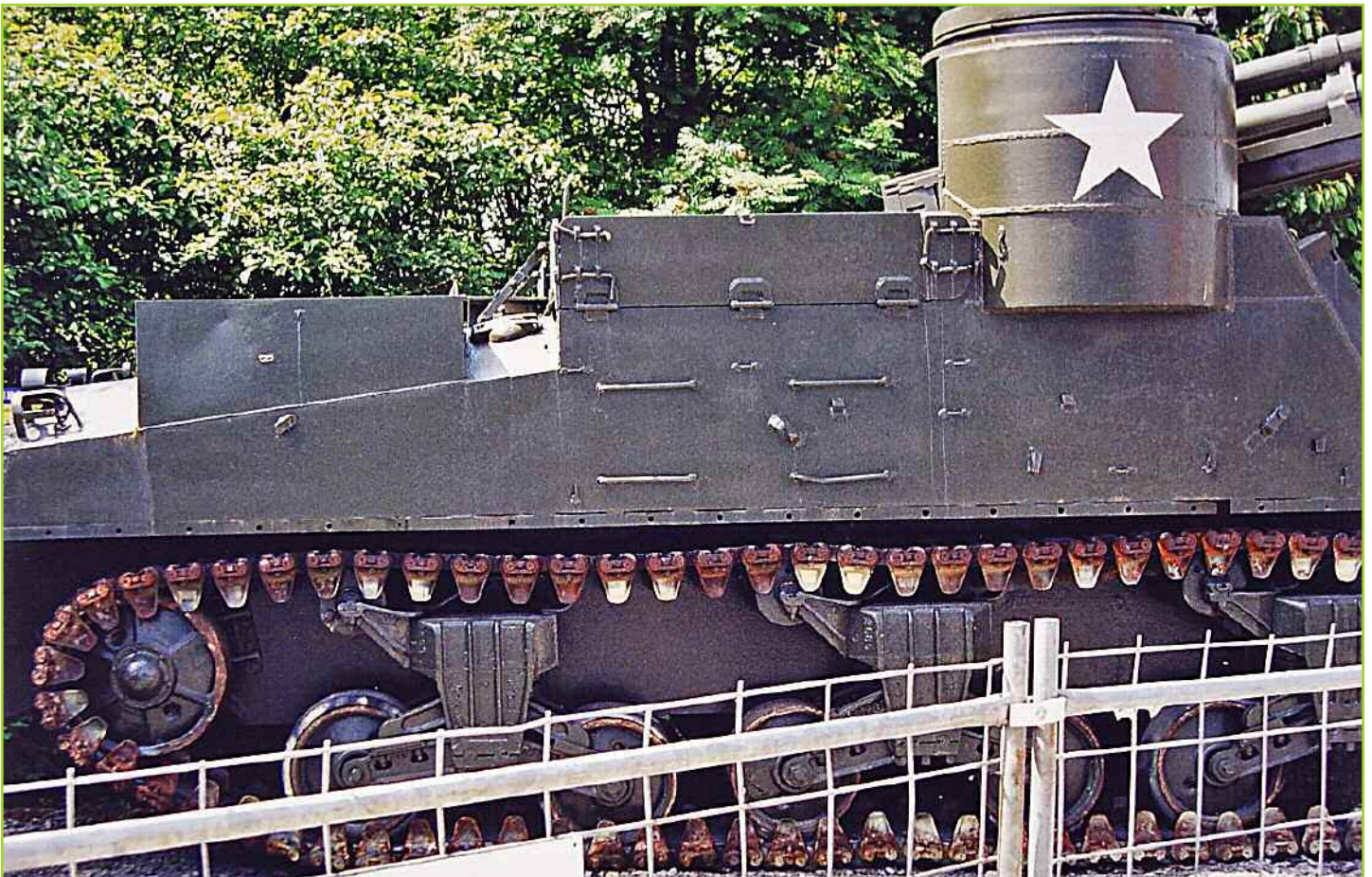
The first photos (this page and next) are of a Russian T-34. It's indoors and appears to be in good condition, so it may have been taken at the German army museum.







The next two are of an M7B2 Priest. The B2 version can be identified by the high "pulpit." It was probably at Speyer.



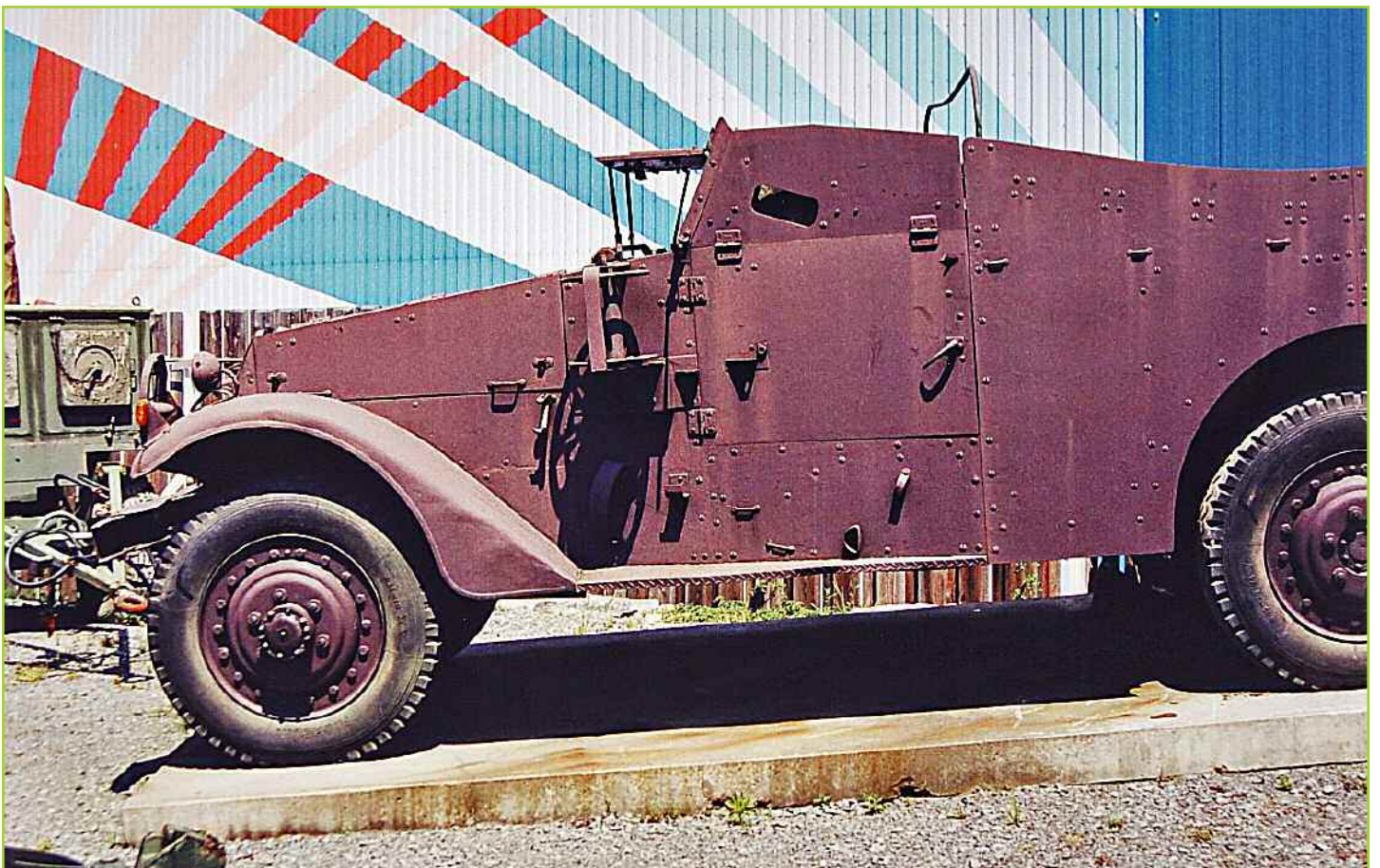




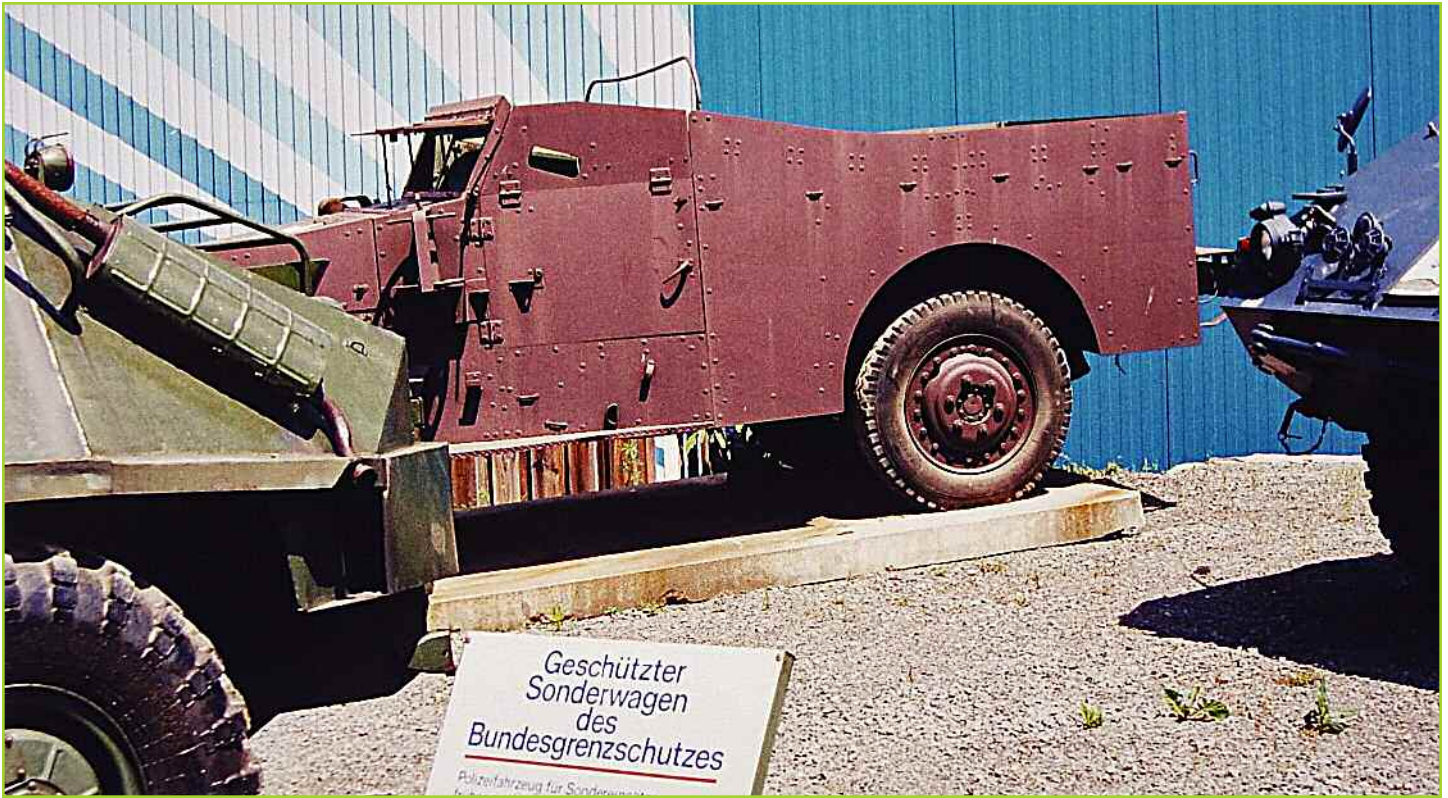
The next four are of M3 Scout Cars. One is painted olive drab, and the other is probably painted "rust." A real weathering job.











At bottom is a 3/4-ton Command Car, the replacement for the earlier 1/2-ton truck. It is lower, which enabled more of them to be packed in Liberty and Victory ships. Being lower also made it less likely to roll over so it was a bit safer. Both the 1/2-ton and 3/4-ton vehicles were made by Dodge.

My visits to the museums were really interesting and I'd like to return and see them again some day.





# BONUS PAGES!

## PRAIRIE WIND 2014 REGION 6 CONVENTION

### JACK GARRISS

Air Capital IPMS Modelers hosted the Region 6 convention at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center on May 16 – 17 in Wichita, Kansas. Hobbytown USA in Wichita co-sponsored the event.

Mark Vittorini and crew offered a Friday Evening “Bring & Build” Social Buffet, a McConnell AFB / Kansas Aviation Museum Tour, and a Saturday evening Awards Banquet. They advertised over 100 Vendor tables and a kit raffle.

They really tried. Arriving on Friday, I stopped at the Registration desk to check in. There was one person for all the tasks including individual kit registration. It did go smoothly once I proved that I had indeed pre-registered. He gave me a ticket for the raffle and told me, when I asked, that the banquet tickets weren’t ready yet. I figured the ticket was for the raffle but it turned out that it *was* the banquet ticket. The raffle room had a great many kits. Tickets were \$2.00 each, or twelve for \$10.00.

The contest room was huge, an entire ballroom divided into contest room and vendor room with room to spare. When I came in most of the model tables were still empty and pretty much stayed that way. The convention team had hoped for about 150 or more attendees but only had about 100. The number of models fell short of expectations too. Many categories were empty and many more had only one or two entries. I didn’t take pictures at that time assuming that the tables would fill up as the day progressed. When I returned that evening most of the tables were still pretty empty. Saturday morning didn’t fare any better. By the time Saturday evening came I decided that I would take pictures after the judging. When I went in I found that many of the modelers had already cleared their models and had gone home. I was never able to get an accurate count but I didn’t see anywhere near a hundred models on the tables. My best guess/estimate would be about 75 – 80 models total.

I don’t think the Air Capital IPMS Modelers made money or broke even. The Marriott is an expensive venue that required 25 rooms a night to give any break on costs. There was room for lots of vendors but I only saw eight. Most of them were like our swap meet. The Friday night “Bring & Build” Social Buffet saw another hitch. It was supposed to be a sliders / finger foods / drinks event. It turns out that the Marriott didn’t do that, so we had a mini-banquet three-course meal. Only about fifteen people signed up for that. The Raffle room had kits left over that were auctioned during the Saturday evening banquet.

During the awards presentation the cycle of pictures sometimes didn’t match the presentation list and one entire page of awards, including all the Best Of’s and special awards, went missing.

Overall, I enjoyed the convention and the people there. Mark and his fellow club members tried hard to make sure everyone felt that they enjoyed it. I did well but I wish there had been more models. I won three firsts, uncontested, and two thirds with several others in the categories. I was given the “Man into Space” special award, because, again, no one else entered. There were some seriously excellent models on the tables. But, between the costs they incurred for the venue as well as the lack of attendance, they couldn’t have done well, even with Hobbytown’s assistance.





## BONUS PAGES!

# ASM SUPPORT TO CAVALCADE OF WINGS MODEL DISPLAY MIKE BLOHM

ASM members Mark Vaughn and Mike Blohm set up and manned the Cavalcade of Wings' model display at the Durand Open Spaces celebration on May 10, 2014. The event was called "Soaring the South Valley: A Celebration of Birds and Planes," and was a rededication of the 1999 sale of land that was formerly the home of Westernair of Albuquerque to preserve it as "open space." Dick Durand Jr. formed Westernair Flying Service in 1955, and in 1959 it became Westernair of Albuquerque. The business included a 1,850-foot-long grass airstrip called the "Pea Patch" as part of its operations. Now known as Westernair Inc., it has been in business for over fifty years and is run by his son Dickie Durand III. The business rebuilt aircraft and restored classic airplanes, and in the process brought flight to the South Valley of Albuquerque. The business eventually expanded to the West Mesa Airport, and power lines installed in the early 1980s made the airstrip no longer functional for landings. After the airstrip was closed the property (ten acres) became agricultural land. The airstrip's location and some of the hangar buildings/shops are still visible in the Open Space area.

The event included a display of gliders by the Albuquerque Soaring Association, a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) color guard for the opening ceremony, lots of model glider flying, the Cavalcade of Wings' (CoW) model display, a host of displays by nature-related organizations including some live predator birds (peregrine falcon, owl and kestrel), guided bird-sighting walks, and a fly-by near the end of the event.

The CoW model display consisted of two tables with about 28 models that had been borrowed from CoW displays at the Kirtland AFB control tower or from storage. There were several models of aircraft that had been based at the





Durand air field, including a Cessna that turned out to have the very serial number and CAP markings that had been painted on it by Westernair. See the picture with the hangar behind it where the real aircraft had probably been painted. Lots of people came by to ask about the models and the CoW display at the airport. Handouts on both the CoW and ASM were passed out to the visitors. Hopefully we will get some of those folks to come visit an ASM meeting. The Durand Open Space is located at 4750 Isleta Blvd SW.

















# BONUS PAGES!

## STARFEST 2014 • DENVER, COLORADO

### JOE WALTERS

The annual StarFest science fiction convention took place this past May 2 – 4 at the Marriott Denver Tech Center in Denver, Colorado, and my wife Linda and I attended. This is always an excellent show, with so many activities and events that we usually start by looking at the schedule and marking off the things we *can't* attend due to timing conflicts. In the last few years, the show has expanded into several simultaneous conventions, spread out to two additional and adjacent hotels. There's ComicFest, RoboFest, GameFest, HorrorFest, and many more.

They always bring in numerous guests from various science fiction and fantasy movies, and this year featured Amanda Tapping (*StarGate SG-1*, *Sanctuary*), Nichelle Nichols (*Star Trek*), Sam Witwer (*Supernatural*, *Smallville*), Susie Plakson (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*), Tim Russ (*Star Trek: Voyager*), Billy Dee Williams (*Star Wars*), Giancarlo Esposito (*Breaking Bad*), and several more.

In addition to the on-stage guests, there are many other activities including autograph sessions for all the guests, videos of television episodes and movies, an amazing costume competition that gets more impressive every year, gaming competitions, makeup demos (Susie Plakson, while onstage, was made up as her Klingon character Key'lehr by one of the Star Trek Next Gen makeup artists, and spent some time in character, which added



Amanda Tapping on stage



Models in the Dealers' Room

a bit to the overall experience!), music acts, A Harry Potter-themed magic academy, trivia competitions, an art show, and far more events than I can fit even here. Check out the online interactive schedule (<http://starfest2014.sched.org>) for a look at what all was happening, and how many things were going on at the same time.

A large, well-stocked, and well-attended Dealers' Room offered all sorts of ways to part attendees from their money. A few even offered models, from the ubiquitous Trek kits we all know to odd and rarely-encountered "garage" kits.





There were three items of interest specifically to modelers: Modelers University, Make & Take, and the Model Show.

Modelers University was simply an informal setup for the purpose of teaching people the basics of modeling. Classes included Getting Started, Construction Techniques, Weathering and Detailing, and more.

Tom Grossman ran the Make & Takes, which were popular on an ongoing basis.



Right: An airbrush demo in session

Below: Two areas in use for Make & Takes. These areas were busy for the entire show.





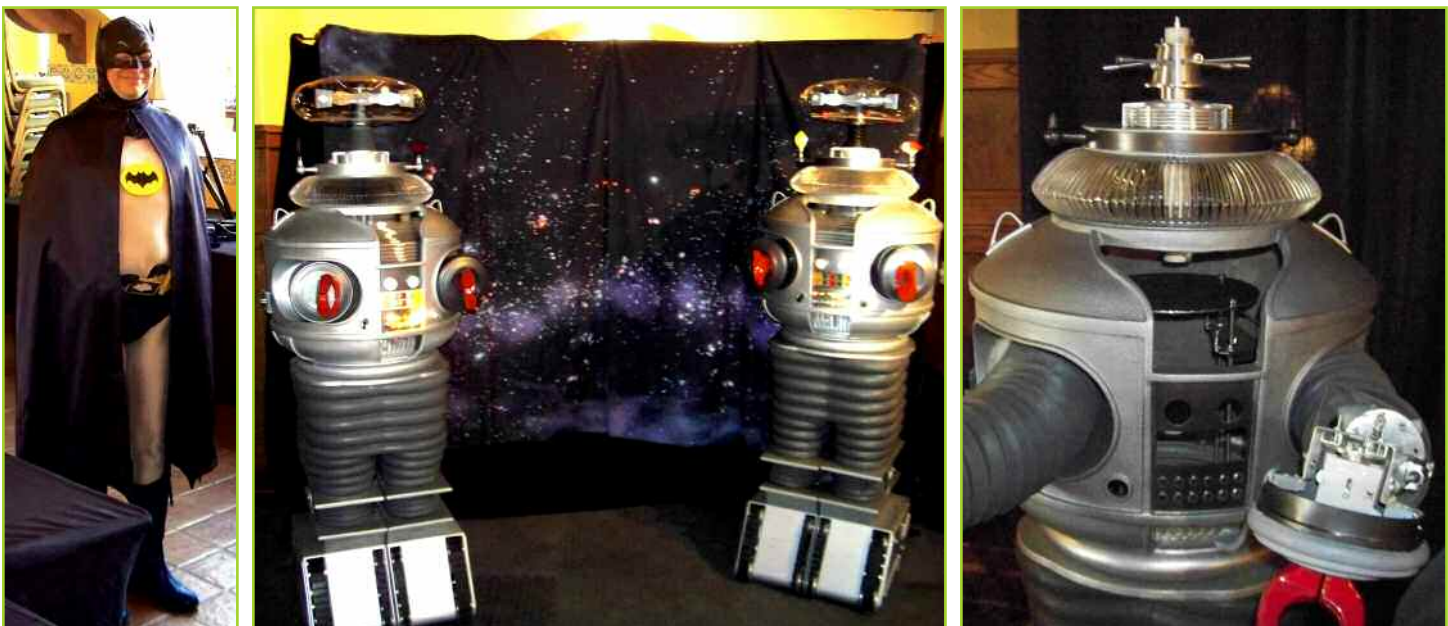
Vern Clark runs the Model Show, and there is always a good turnout of models ranging from the work of early beginners to that of seasoned masters. There were trophies and other goodies awarded to many entrants, and ASM members would be well-advised to consider attending these things and seeing if you can bring home some novel trophies to complement those IPMS things.

Next year's StarFest is already scheduled, and will take place April 17 – 19, 2015. For details as they develop, monitor the Starland website (<http://www.starland.com>), which is the home of the organization that runs the convention, and the new convention website (<http://starfestdenver.com>).

[Note: I took most of the following photos, but a few were blatantly stolen from the StarFest website.]



Some of the awards plaques and prizes awarded at the Model Show



L – R: You never know who is going to drop in to see the models; two exemplars from the local *Lost in Space* B9 Robot building club; and a work in progress.





Nicely lit-up LED-equipped Iron Man figure





Republic Star Destroyer from *Star Wars*. Note the inset detail with fighters launching.

























Does this count as modeling-related? In addition to StarFest, I also attended the annual conference of the International Trumpet Guild (I work for them) in Philadelphia in May, and, though they're technically not *models*, they are plastic!

At the opening concert, the trumpet ensemble Tromba Mundi (with well-known jazz trumpeter Vince DiMartino) came onstage carrying the Tiger Trumpets (lower right), and played a piece that demonstrated that they actually do play like "real" trumpets, and at the end of the piece, one of the players even sounded a very high, very loud "power" note, establishing that these things can take it.

Is some assembly required when you purchase one? I might have to get one and enter it in a contest...

At present, they're only available in the colors shown, but if a high school or college could order a batch of them in their school colors, they might just have something.

They run around \$300, which I think is a bit on the high side.



And it's not just us!



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