

ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

March 2012

PRESIDENT'S SPIEL JAMES GULD

It's almost spring—wow, where did winter go? That means warmer weather, longer days, baseball season getting underway, and the start of the ASM contest schedule. We had a good turn out of Works in Progress on the tables back in January and I'm hoping that this will be the trend for the remainder of the year. Bring in those WIPs, and if you have questions don't hesitate to ask one of us how something should look or how we did a certain technique. I think one of the strongest aspects of our club is the sharing of knowledge. My door is always open. Feel free to contact me either at the meeting or if you like via Email—or dare I say, even by phone. Just do it before 9:00 P.M.

As I mentioned last month, we are still looking for volunteers to help out with the Cub Scout Make-&-Take. It will take place in Rio Rancho and runs from 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. The possible dates are March 7 & 21, April 4 & 18, or May 2 & 18. So far, there are three of us doing it. I would like to see at least two more members help out. There are 15 scouts. We have all the kits, we just need help with the mentoring. Thanks!

Now, moving on to more nuts and bolts of modeling, I thought I would give you my impression of the Vallejo Model Color paints that Hobby Proz is now carrying. These are high-quality paints, but I'm not a fan of the squeeze bottle jars. They are also meant to be thinned before using. That is a good

February meeting highlights, L – R: The Swap Meet in full swing; Brian Peck runs a clinic; and the business meeting in progress.



thing since you get more bang for your buck. I save my old Tamiya paint jars and have found that I get almost two full jars once I thin the Vallejo paint down. I use distilled water to thin it. I have been using a number of their colors for my figures, especially for my faces. I've found that by diluting it with distilled water and Liquitex retarder, I can get it to go on much better than Model Master paints. I'm still experimenting with this, but I'm happy with the way it's going so far. Vallejo also makes their spray line called Model Air which I have only experimented with it a little. I found that it still needs a bit of thinning even though they say you can spray it straight from the bottle. What I like is that they have a great variety of colors; but on the downside, a number of the colors from the Model Color line do not correspond to the Model Air line. Another thing I noticed is that at least for WWII US armor, their olive drab is a bit too brown. On the upside, they do have some other "greens" that, IMHO, better represent a good starting point for US OD. Now, don't call the color police on me!

Something shiny? Well, it started out that way at least. I've been working on the Meng Models Toyota Technical pickup truck. This is a pretty nice little kit and the fit surprised me. I'm working on a little diorama with it and hope to have it ready for the March meeting. Even if the diorama isn't done, I'll bring in the truck.

Well, that's about all I have. Get out there and build models and "Let's Go Mets!" We both turn 50 this March.

CONTEST DIRECTOR UPDATE

VICTOR MAESTAS

The February meeting was a swap meet, so no contests. Some folks are already getting a leg up on points with some Work-in-Progress entries. Remember that you can bring up to three WIPs worth two points each at all of our meetings, contest or not.

This month (March) is our first Points contest, with an Open theme—all subjects, all eras and all scales. Let's start the year off with some full tables. Also, this month, Don Smith will be sponsoring a contest for "Best Sci-Fi Spaceship." Don always has some interesting prints for his awards.

This month Dave Straub will be showing a pres-

entation on last year's IPMS/USA National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska: "Omaha by the Sea."

Stuff to plan for: April's meeting will include two contests: the theme (Points) contest for that evening will be "Large Scale," and Hobby Proz will be sponsoring a "Best 1/32 Tamiya P-51D" contest. Check the web site or contact me for specifics on both of these contests. April will also include Doug Dildy's presentation on the Dambusters.

FIELD TRIP!

MIKE BLOHM

Albuquerque Comic Con 2012

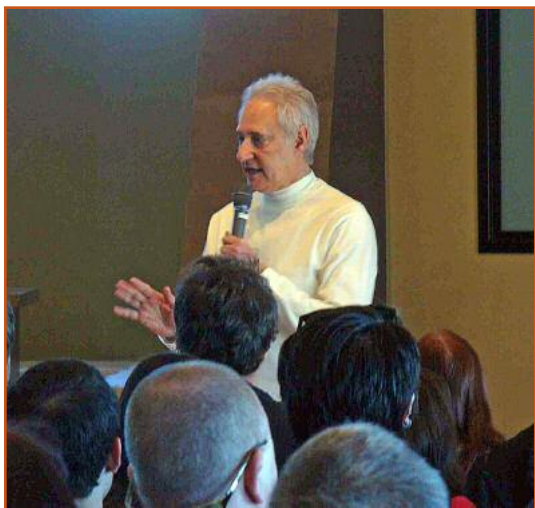
This trip report covers a visit to the Albuquerque Comic Con 2012 convention that took place on

Year 2012 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 06 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
Sponsored Contest: Lasers
(Patrick Dick)
- 03 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 02 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: SF Spaceship
(Don Smith)
- 06 Apr** **Large Scale**—Aircraft 1/35 and up,
Armor 1/25 and up, Auto 1/18 and up,
Ships 1/44 and up
Sponsored Contest: Best Tamiya 1/32
P-51D Mustang (Hobby Proz)
- 04 May** *Super Clinic Night*—no contest.
- 01 Jun** **British Steel**—Any kit/subject/scale,
operated or built in England.
- 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!

13 – 15 January 2012 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. The theme of the convention was “Celebrating the 70th anniversary of Wonder Woman and Women in Comics and Film.” The event was held in a different, larger venue than the 2011 Comic Con, which certainly made it easier to get around, and there seemed to be more vendors too. The convention featured both comic book authors and celebrities from comic-book-related movies and television shows. Guests of note included Brent Spiner (*Data in Star Trek: the Next Generation, Independence Day*), Dean Stockwell (*Quantum Leap, Dune, Battlestar Galactica*, multiple other roles), Claudia Christian (*Ivanova on Babylon 5*), Lou Ferrigno (*The Incredible Hulk*), Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa (*Shang Tsung in Mortal Kombat*),



Brent Spiner regales the crowd

Kristin Bauer (*True Blood*), and Jake Busey (*Starship Troopers, Contact*). Matt and I sat in on the presentations by Brent Spiner, Dean Stockwell and Claudia Christian, and they were both entertaining and informative for the fans. Spiner’s rendition of Patrick Stewart informing everyone that he would now be addressed as “Sir Patrick Stewart” (after having been knighted) was priceless.

Comic artists at the convention included William Stout, Gene Ha, Frank Cho, and Phil Jiminez. Many local comic book authors and artists were present as well and it was interesting to talk with

FRED'S FOTO FILE

FRED FRANCESCHI

Black Sheep

If you like Corsairs and want to enter Josh Pals’s October “Movie or TV Show” contest, here’s one for you. In the 1970s I lived in Saugus (now Santa Clarita), California. From 1976 through 1978, the TV series *Baa Baa Black Sheep* (in syndication, this series was re-titled *Black Sheep Squadron*) was filmed a few miles away, near where Magic Mountain is located. Just South of Highway 126 and a few miles West of the I-5 freeway. Robert Conrad played the part of Pappy Boyington.



There was a runway paralleling highway 126 and probably about a quarter mile South of the road.

At one end of the runway were the Quonset huts of the Americans, and at the other end were the bamboo and palm huts of the Japanese.



The O-47 taxis past. In the background at right are the buildings comprising the American compound; to the left you can see a C-47 and, beyond it, a line of parked Corsairs.

I was able to take photos of the aircraft taxiing around, and sometimes watched the planes fly west towards the ocean near Ventura for filming. One of the planes in the photos looks like a pregnant T-6. It’s an O-47 observation aircraft.



It was fun to watch the series after seeing the planes fly around, and these photos bring back fond memories.

[All of Fred’s *Black Sheep* photos, along with a few extra goodies, may be found in the Bonus Pages! -JW]

some of them too. The main room had lots of vendors selling comic books, posters and art, action figures, T-shirts, and even some model kits—mostly science-fiction spacecraft and figures.

Lots of the attendees were dressed in comic book, anime, and movie costumes and those are always interesting to see. Surprisingly there were only a few Wonder Woman outfits, and a lot less of the Marvel movie and comic characters than in 2011. Maybe they got involved in a “Secret War” in an alternate universe somewhere. One of the more ingenious costumes was “Spam Man”—see his photo



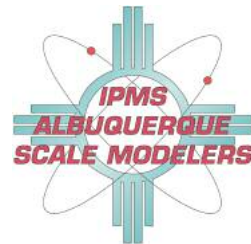
Model kits and such on display and for sale amongst the others posted on the web site (<http://tinyurl.com/asmacc12>)—but Bobetta Fett was pretty good too. Based on what looked like to



Much to see and buy in the Dealers' Room!



have been a successful second convention, they will probably be back in 2013. Be there—Aloha—No deals.



Master

Josh Pals	6
Ken Liotta.	6
Mike Blohm	2
Ray Ayles	2

Intermediate

Kyle Garber	4
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Basic

Chuck Girvin.	4
Matt Blohm.	2

Junior (no entries to date)

**MODELER OF THE YEAR
POINTS 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.

BONUS PAGES!
FRED FRANCESCHI
Black Sheep









Above: Rare photo from a set visit. Gregory "Pappy" Boyington poses with Robert Conrad, who played him in the series. This photo was likely taken at the same location shown in Fred's photos.

Right: A couple of tie-in model kits based on the series. Did you build them?

