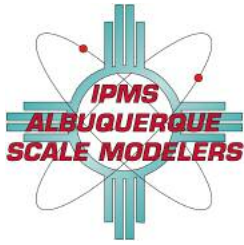


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

November 2011

## KIRTLAND OPEN HOUSE KEN LIOTTA

For the first time ever, a local plastic modeler's club has participated in an Albuquerque-based air show as guests of Kirtland Air Force Base's "Open House." Albuquerque Scale Modelers now holds that dubious distinction and we did it in grand style. At this year's KAFB Open House on October 9, ASM had the honor of setting up six tables in KAFB's Hangar 1000 (aka the Osprey Hangar) to participate as one of their Vendors/Guests. We were able to set up our club's "What is Scale" display, host two live model building demos, and (the icing on the cake) display ASM's 2006 IPMS/USA Nationals award-winning  $\frac{1}{32}$ -scale F-16 Thunderbird Team!

ASM members Pete Beck, MTCM(SS), USN, Keith Liotta, and I arrived early Sunday morning before the gates opened up to set up the tables and displays that Pete and I had dropped off the previous Friday. The arrangements made with KAFB to grant our club special access to the Show were a direct result of the dedicated efforts of Master Chief Beck and his contacts at KAFB. Without his efforts, ASM would most likely have never had this opportunity. For the club's Thunderbirds display, we used the original simulated tarmac base that was used for the 2006 Nationals. To protect the F-16s from possible wind incursions and potential little wandering hands, we covered all six T-birds with one large glass display case cover that I have had in storage at my place for a few years. I had a special banner made up (thanks to my loving wife Rita for assistance with that) to post in front of the T-birds and we also added appropriate patches, stickers, and

October meeting highlights: below, the business meeting in progress; right, Ken Liotta runs a clinic on casting.

photos that were made available for the display, care of Mike Blohm.

For the "What is Scale" display, Mike Blohm provided the presentation board and we used Frank Randall's  $\frac{1}{72}$ -scale, John Tate's  $\frac{1}{48}$ -scale, and my  $\frac{1}{32}$ -scale Spitfires to demonstrate the three basic scales with respect to one-another.

To add to the two ASM displays, on one end Pete set up several of his  $\frac{1}{48}$ -scale completed masterpieces representing some of the Air Force hardware currently being flown today, including the F-16CM, the F-15E, the MQ-1 Predator, and the MQ-9 Reaper. On the other end, Keith and I set up numerous models representing examples of the various kinds of plastic models that are available to the public along with our complete model building setups. While we also focused on Air Force hardware, we included a few other "off" subjects. For example, we included a  $\frac{1}{12}$ -scale Ensign Darwin Dolphin from the old *SeaQuest* TV show. That turned out to be one of the kids' favorites.

The Open House officially opened at 9:00 A.M. and came to an end around 4:30 P.M. with numerous air demonstrations and fly-bys throughout the afternoon, including a T-33 demo, multiple passes by a B-1 and then a B-2. As usual, the show-ending finale was the USAF Thunderbirds demonstra-





tion, a truly amazing sight for any aviation and modern day jet enthusiast. During the entire show, our tables/display had a continuous flow of visitors literally lined up to pass by and see the displays. Numerous attendees stopped to take pictures of the models, the T-Bird display and of their children right next to or with the models. On several occasions, I had noticed moms having their kids lean in towards the table to get a picture of them next to the Academy 1/32 F-18 Blue Angel that I had brought along. It just seemed like the right thing to do by carefully handing the model to the kids so that they could hold it while their moms or dads snapped pictures. The payoff was seeing the huge smiles on their faces.



Besides all of the picture taking, we had dozens of attendees asking how we built certain models and how did we apply some of the paint, decals, and effects (washes). The entire day was filled with mini-demos, how-to instructionals, directions to finding model kits and supplies at places like Hobby Proz and the internet. We handed out the entire handful of Hobby Proz business cards within the first two hours, and then dozens of handwritten contact info for the shop too. We probably could have handed out a box load of them (hmmmm, lesson learned). In addition to all of the business stirred up for the shop, we also handed out the fifty-plus ASM club flyers that Mike Blohm and I had printed out for the show within that same first two hours (again, lesson learned for next time). It turns out that many Albuquerqueans had no idea there was a Plastic Model club in town. With any luck, we will see several of them at our meetings in the com-

ing months. One potential visitor to a future ASM meeting may include the 377th Air Base Wing KAFB Public Affairs Manager Michael Kleiman. We had a fair conversation about ASM and what we have to offer, and he expressed a significant interest in exploring the hobby.

The icing on the cake for the day was the numerous visits to the club's Thunderbird display by several ground/support crew members, PA Superintendent MSgt Kimberley Harrison, the Number 12 Public Affairs Officer Maj. Kristin Haley, and Thunderbird 3 himself, Maj. John Gallemore. All



of the Thunderbird team members were very impressed with the display and appeared to turn into little kids in a candy shop as they looked closer at the models. Each member's visit would usually lead to photograph opportunities where they were asked to stand by the ASM T-bird display for and with the general public. There are now dozens of photos across Albuquerque that include the ASM display as a backdrop with the Thunderbird members.

Additional thanks should be given to ASM members Dave Epstein, Jeff Frickstadt, Chuck Girven, and Pete's wife Rayna for the time they offered to stop by, support the display efforts, and for sitting in for Pete, Keith, and I so that we could enjoy portions of the Air Show too.

ASM would also like to extend special appreciation to Maj. Cindy Vernier, USAF, and Lt. Cox, USAF, for accommodating us in Hangar 1000 at this year's KAFB Open House and making us feel so welcome. All of us had the most superb time participating and being a part of the show. It will certainly be a Show to remember for us.

[Note: Ken supplied many photos, and all are included in the Bonus Pages. -JW]

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## TRIP REPORT

### MIKE BLOHM

#### Yanks Air Museum

This Field Trip Report covers one of two outstanding air museums that I recently visited on a trip to Southern California. This report is on the Yanks Air Museum in Chino. The museum has two large East and West Hangars with aircraft on display, a Restoration Hangar, and an outside Tarmac / Boneyard area with parked aircraft and other items in semi-storage condition.

The stated mission of the museum is "Preserving the her-



itage of American aviation.” According to their brochure, the collection has 160+ aircraft, many of which are the sole surviving examples. The aircraft on display have been restored to airworthy conditions.

The displays are mostly divided up by eras and specialty. The West Hangar has 37 aircraft and 3 vehicles from 1903 to 1945. The East Hangar has 17 aircraft from 1946 to modern day. The East hangar also has several simulator and ejection seats, and about 10 display cases of models which are highly recommended for viewing.



Rare aircraft of note include an F-6M (photo recon P-51A), YP-47M, F-5G (photo-recon P-38L), MX7-Y Ohka II (Baka Bomb), Fi 103 V-1 (Buzz Bomb), Kaman KD 1A Autogiro), and P-63A. For the WWII fan, there are an F6F-5, FM-2, SBD-4, P-39N, P-40E, P-51D, and B-25J. There are lots of modern jets too, including an F-84E, Canadair Sabre Mk 6 (F-86E), F-100C, F-106B, F9F-8P, T-38A, FJ-1, A-4C, F-14A, and E-2C. Pictures of some of these are included here. As always, you “exit through gift shop” and lots of items are available, but not too many models other than pre-built and wood display types.



Highly recommended: plan on about half a day to see everything. The museum is located southwest of the Ontario Airport and just off Interstate 10. If you are flying into Ontario or driving on I-10 to get to Los Angeles, this is definitely worth the four-mile detour. Admission is \$11.00. Check out further information on the museum online (<http://www.yanksair.com>) including details on the collection. The other nearby museum—Planes of Fame—will be covered in another trip report.

[Note: Mike supplied many photos, and all are included in the Bonus Pages. -JW]

## TRIP REPORT

JOHN TATE

### Aerospace Museum of California

On a business trip to Sacramento, California, earlier this year I had a chance to visit the Aerospace Museum of California, located in McClellan Park, the site of the former McClellan Air Force Base, now a business park. The museum,

## FRED'S FOTO FILE

FRED FRANCESCHI

### North American F-107A

The color F-107A photo was taken in May 1960. I think that the black and white photo was taken in 1958.

Both were taken at open houses on Edwards AFB that were for manufacturers and vendors. They weren't open to the public, but my next-door neighbor was an engineer at Convair and he took me to see the displays.



Three of these aircraft were built and flown. Intended as a successor to the F-100 Super Sabre—and bearing many common parts—it was initially called the F-100B, but eventually got its own designation. Never receiving an official name, it was informally known as the “Super Super Sabre” or the “Ultra Sabre.” Pilots called it the “Man-eater;” picture yourself climbing into that cockpit, looking over at the air intakes and thinking about ejection...

When testing ended and the aircraft was not put into production, the number two aircraft (tail number 55119) went to the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Ohio; the other two were leased to NACA for high-speed flight research.

The bottom photo is of the number three aircraft, tail number 55120. This aircraft was later damaged during an aborted takeoff with Scott Crossfield at the controls, and was not repaired. The wreck was transferred to Sheppard AFB, Texas, and used for fire-fighting training until it was destroyed in 1960.

F-107A number one (tail number 55118) eventually went to the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

Neither Fred nor I could make out the tail number in the top photo, no matter how we zoomed in or peered at the original photo. So we don't know which one this is!

-JW



located in the north end of the park, is a medium-sized aviation museum with a nice collection of modern jets, including the A-10, F-14, F-4 Phantom II, and F-104, to name a few, and several WWII types, such as the C-47 and PT-26 trainer.

For any aviation enthusiast or modeler, you could easily spend a full afternoon poking around the old aircraft; most of the planes are on open display and modelers can check out nooks, crannies and landing gear bays to their heart's content.

And if you tire of the museum displays, the US Coast Guard maintains an active C-130 unit just across the parking lot.

When your visit to McClellan is complete, be sure to check out Sacramento's three first-class hobby shops: Viking



Hobbies, Riverside Hobbies and R/C Country Hobbies.  
 Aerospace Museum of California, 3200 Freedom Park Dr,  
 McClellan, CA 95662 ([www.aerospacemuseumofcalifornia.org](http://www.aerospacemuseumofcalifornia.org)).  
 [Note: John supplied many photos, and all are included in the Bonus Pages. -JW]

### Year 2011 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 07 Jan SPECIAL CONTEST #1**  
**SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY**
- 04 Feb ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 04 Mar Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 01 Apr Super Clinic Night**—no contest.
- 06 May SPECIAL CONTEST #2:**  
**SHINY SHOW RODS**
- 03 Jun 1941**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 08 Jul SPECIAL CONTEST #3**  
**MORE OR LESS (THAN FOUR WHEELS)**  
Sponsored Contest: *Post-Apocalyptic*  
(Josh Pals)
- 12 Aug ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.  
*Nationals Debrief Night—Bring Models & Trophies!*
- 09 Sep Mediterranean**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 07 Oct SPECIAL CONTEST #4**  
**COMMON KITS (SEE WEB SITE)**
- 04 Nov Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
Sponsored Contest: *P-39 (Don Smith)*
- 02 Dec Sponsored Contest: BMW**  
(Patrick Dick)  
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

#### Master

James Guld . . . . .	1100
Victor Maestas . . . . .	1024
Paul Kirchner . . . . .	775
John Tate . . . . .	490
Mike Blohm . . . . .	470
Glenn Bingham . . . . .	256
Ray Ayles . . . . .	79
Don McBride . . . . .	35
Ken Liotta . . . . .	16
Dave Miller . . . . .	6

#### Intermediate

Larry Glenn . . . . .	1117
Tony Humphries . . . . .	1014
Frank Randall . . . . .	399
Don Smith . . . . .	341
Adrian Montaño . . . . .	145
Steve Brodeur . . . . .	104
Don Blea . . . . .	100
Jack Garriss . . . . .	75
Blaine Couch . . . . .	25
Ken Barry . . . . .	4
Kyle Garber . . . . .	2

Ken Piniak . . . . .	2
Tim Wood . . . . .	2

#### Basic

Gorham Smoker . . . . .	720
Logan Carbin . . . . .	379
Jeannie Garriss . . . . .	275
Gil DeLaPlain . . . . .	175

#### Junior

(No entries yet)

### ASM 2011 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.



# BONUS PAGES!

We have three Bonus segments this time out, so we start with Ken Liotta's photos (some taken by Mike Blohm) from the Kirtland Open House.















Thunderbirds team members check out ASM's T-birds display. Above: Maj. Kristen Haley (Public Relations Officer) and MSgt Kimberley Harrison (PA Superintendent). Below: Two members of the renowned Thunderbirds maintenance team.







Above: Maj. Vernier, of Kirtland AFB. Below: Thunderbird 3 himself, Maj. John Gallemore.

















Hey, look! Another Gama Goat! (See last month's issue)









Above photos are from Ken Liotta; the following Kirtland photos are from Mike Blohm.















# BONUS PAGES!

Here we have all of Mike Blohm's photos from the Yanks Air Museum in Chino, California.

























# BONUS PAGES!

Here we have all of John Tate's photos from the Aerospace Museum of California, in McLellan Park, California.









