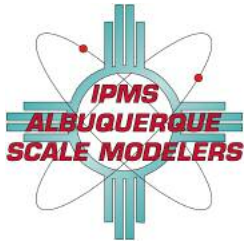


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

November 2013

## THE FEZ SEZ TONY HUMPHRIES

“Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot...” and no, I’m not talking about the E-Board elections. That’s the start of an old rhyme from Merry Olde England that celebrates the Gunpowder Plot from 1605, when an honest man actually entered Parliament for the first and only time and attempted to blow it up. (I’m sure, by the way, that there a few people who might be tempted to follow his example with Congress at the moment. Even if you are—don’t do it! Many of them probably wouldn’t be missed, but don’t need we any visits from the FBI...). Sadly for Guy Fawkes and perhaps the rest of us too, he didn’t succeed and I’m not sure he was as merry as the rest of the country after that, particularly during his execution when the flames reached his breeches and thoroughly roasted his chestnuts. Okay, so that’s a mixed seasonal metaphor, perhaps; chestnuts and open fires are next month. This month does bring us Thanksgiving, though, and having labored through one of the most painful and tortured introductions since Gutenberg slipped with a number three wood-chisel and invented movable typefaces for

his (hitherto useless) printing press, be thankful that it wasn’t any worse... It nearly was.

Okay, so we don’t get the chance to set off fireworks and burn radical Catholics at this time of the year in the USA even if we wanted to (which of course we don’t—this isn’t Northern Ireland, after all...) but we do at least get the chance to celebrate the arrival here, fifteen years after Guy Fawkes’s grisly demise, of a bunch of humorless drab and dreary, buckle-festooned turkey fetishists. And why not? I don’t know about you, but at this stage of the year I’m ready to celebrate just about anything. And as the modeling (and calendar) year draws to a close, we certainly have had much to celebrate and be thankful for as a club this year—our performance at the National Convention, for example, when many of our members won trophies against some exceptional competition. There is also our showing in the State Fair, where a magnificent display of Pacific War air power was put together at surprisingly short notice and many of our members again won trophies, ribbons and/or medals. Congratulations once again to all that did so and who represented our club so well at both events and thanks to all who helped out.

On the subject of competitions, as you are no doubt aware, we were also awarded the IPMS Region 10 regional competition for next year and have begun the preparations to host Chile-Con III (see the website at <http://tinyurl.com/chilecon3> for further info and updates). Work is already well underway on that but if you are not yet involved and would like to be, please see any of the E-board or Jim Guld or Tom Perea and I’m sure they will be glad to sign you up.



October meeting highlights, top to bottom: Members assemble before the meeting; and the business meeting in progress.



In addition, the club has welcomed a number of new and some returning members this year and has expanded our membership roll to unparalleled levels. We have regular and popular club competitions and the number of entries seems to be growing with every meeting. Let's hope we can continue this into next year and beyond. And while we're talking about next year, don't forget that we have an election for the 2014 E-Board coming up. Surprisingly we only have one contested position this time, that of Contest Director, so please ensure that you vote for whichever candidate tickles your particular fancy (although no actual tickling will be allowed of course and I think we covered that subject adequately last month...). Be sure to vote and vote early if you can. For those who are unable to do so, you can still cast your vote at the next meeting on November 1. The next meeting is also our last points competition night of the year, so hopefully we'll see lots of models on the tables too. It's that time of the year when the days and nights are getting colder and the darkness is closing in and so you have to resign yourself to giving up the naked Himalayan rock-climbing (watch out for the yetis!) and find something else to occupy your time. What could be better than building a model instead? Well, several things to be honest but this **is** both a model club newsletter and a family publication, so let's just go with the model building shall we?!? So go back to your benches and get building. We look forward to seeing your work on the tables next time around.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### MIKE BLOHM

#### 2013 Model of the Year Competition

All ASM members are reminded that the December 6 ASM meeting events include the "Model of the Year" competition, which includes all the Best of Show winners at all skill levels (Juniors, Basic, Intermediate, and Masters) from all of the 2013 Theme and Special Contests. Eligible models are listed on the ASM website ([http://www.abqscalemodelers.com/asmcontenders\\_2013.htm](http://www.abqscalemodelers.com/asmcontenders_2013.htm)).

This list will be updated to include the November contest winners. You do not have to be present at the December meeting for your model to compete, but the model does, so please arrange for someone to bring it if you cannot attend.

## KIT REVIEW

JOHN TATE

#### Flashpoint Fighters

A Pair Of 1960s Warplanes From Hobbycraft

There have been a lot of great model kits released during the past twenty years, so many that it's easy to overlook some decent, low-end kits in favor of the latest-and-greatest, high-tech models from the premier manufacturers. But tucked away in our model closets are some real jewels that, with a little work, can be turned into fun, worthwhile projects. Hobbycraft kits are a good example—their later-issue models are affordable, easy to build, passably accurate, and have some

### Year 2013 Contest Quick Reference Chart

Titles in **blue** indicate contests for points

- 04 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**  
**SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY**  
Sponsored Contest: "Frickin' Laser Beams" (Patrick Dick)  
Sponsored Contest: "Rolls Royce" (Patrick Dick)
- 01 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 01 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
Sponsored Contest: "Revell 1/48 Ventura" (E-Board)
- 05 Apr** **More Than One Radial Engine**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
**Famous Motorsports Vehicles**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
Sponsored Contest: "Best Sci-Fi Spaceship" (Don Smith)
- 03 May** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**  
**SINGLE IN-LINE ENGINED AIRCRAFT**  
Sponsored Contest: "Revell 1/32 He-219" (Hobby Proz)
- 07 Jun** **Cold War**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
**Cherche la Femme**—Female-named subject, any kit/subject/scale.
- 12 Jul** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
Sponsored Contest: "North African Armor" (James Guld, Tony Humphries)
- 02 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 13 Sep** **On the Water**—Anything waterborne, any kit/subject/scale.  
**Beyond Babe Artwork**—Any subject with non-pinup nose art.  
Sponsored Contest: "Rotary Winged" (Gil De La Plain)
- 04 Oct** **Axis of WWII**—Any subject excluding Germany and Japan.  
**Go Figure**—Any humanoid figure.  
Sponsored Contest: "Big" (Brian Peck)
- 01 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.  
Sponsored Contest: "Danny Roberts / Best P-38" (Mike Blohm, John Tate)
- 06 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**  
**JET POWER**  
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

great decal choices. Here are a couple of good, solid kits by Hobbycraft, their 1/48 Sea Fury and MiG-17F, that most modelers can turn into decent replicas while picking up a little modeling experience at the same time.

The Hobbycraft 1/48 Hawker Sea Fury was initially released circa 1990 but had some shortcomings, which were addressed by Hobbycraft when they re-released the kit several years later. The retooled Sea Fury was released in three different versions, all of which contained excellent decals, nice box art, and useful color profiles on the bottom of the kit box. One of these was the "Bay of Pigs" Sea Fury which had interesting markings for Sea Furies from Fidel Castro's Fuerza Aerea Revolucionaria (FAR), which played an important role in defeating the



CIA-led Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in April 1961.



The kit builds into a nice representation of the Sea Fury right out of the box, is accurate in outline and goes together with a minimum of fuss. I used some aftermarket resin details, from a variety of sources, to replace the wheels, propeller blades, bomb racks and cockpit and added a vacuum canopy; these extra parts helped add some realism to the model. However, it's possible to add detail just from the odds-and-ends in the spares box and still get a nice replica. The kit decals went on flawlessly—Hobbycraft has some of the best decal sheets from any manufacturer, and I've used plenty on other projects over the years. I was happy with the final result and a Bay of Pigs Sea Fury makes for an eye-catching and historically significant model.



Like the Sea Fury, the Hobbycraft 1/48 MiG-17 was initially released circa 1990 but later retooled and rereleased several years later, with nicer box



## FRED'S FOTO FILE

### FRED FRANCESCHI

#### Chino Airshow

In 1979 (or was it 1978 or 1980?) I went to an airshow at the Chino airport, and the Confederate (now Commemorative) Air Force put on an awesome aircraft program. It surprises me to realize that these shots were taken over 30 years ago. And some of the planes were rare, even then.

Some of the airplanes are ones that I will never see again.



The P-51 Apache in British markings. A real rare bird.



A Grumman F7F Tigercat, maybe the most beautiful airplane ever designed.



B-29 nose art.

[Editor's note: All of Fred's photos from this Chino airshow, larger and in full resolution, may be found in the [Bonus Pages](#). -JW]

art and new decals. I liked this kit release because of the interesting “small air force” subjects on the decal sheet, which highlighted the MiG-17’s use as a widely-exported Soviet fighter jet during the 1960s.

Like the Sea Fury, the retooled Hobbycraft MiG-17 went together without too many problems. The model had some questionable contours in various places but when it was finished it looked like a MiG-17, which was good enough for me. I added some cockpit detail, a corrected ejection seat and extra sway supports for the drop tanks—the kit only provides one per tank, while the real plane had two. But nitpicks were secondary to what was a fun, quick build. I modeled mine as a Nigerian MiG-17F from the Biafran Civil War, circa 1969 – 70.

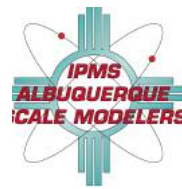


So if you’re interested in some quick builds that can also help hone your modeling skills, keep an eye out for overlooked models like these “black box” Hobbycraft kits—with a little work you can end up with a decent replica, usually of an interesting and historically-significant model subject. As sticker shock increases with all the \$200 mega-kits hitting the shelves, it might be a good idea to return to the basics, tackling affordable kits that can be fun to build and completed in just a week or two. In fact, that might make a good theme for a future club contest—models built from kits that cost \$25 or less.

## IN THE BONUS PAGES!

In this month’s Bonus Pages:

- Photos of October’s Best-of-Show contest winners!
- We have two candidates for Contest Director for next year, and each has submitted a statement of position, which you can read here!
- Fred’s photos from the Chino Airshow are all present, uncropped, and as large as I can make them within the limits of resolution and page size!



### Master

James Guld . . . . .	2145
Victor Maestas . . . . .	1300
Mike Blohm . . . . .	690
James Strickland . . . . .	597
Brian Peck . . . . .	332
Josh Pals . . . . .	284
Glenn Bingham . . . . .	265
Dave Miller . . . . .	157
John Tate . . . . .	142
Larry Glenn . . . . .	107
Liotta, Ken . . . . .	62

### Intermediate

Bob Meeker . . . . .	1805
Tony Humphries . . . . .	1699

Frank Randall . . . . .	1446
Steve Brodeur . . . . .	920
Don Smith . . . . .	824
Gorham Smoker . . . . .	405
Jerry Little . . . . .	325
Ken Piniak . . . . .	318
Blaine Couch . . . . .	275
Jack Garriss . . . . .	210
Gil De La Plain . . . . .	155
Gil Johnson . . . . .	130
Michel Wingard . . . . .	102
Allan Highcove . . . . .	85
Pete Armijo . . . . .	25
Kyle Garber . . . . .	20

### Basic

Matt Blohm . . . . .	2448
Louis Galegos . . . . .	335
Fred Behnken . . . . .	325
Jeanne Garriss . . . . .	125
John Brannon . . . . .	2

### Junior

Caroline Smith . . . . .	450
Marie Smith . . . . .	450

## MODELER OF THE YEAR POINTS STANDINGS

as of 23 Sep 13

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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!

October's contest winners:



Above: Tony Humphries's *The New Recruit*  
(Axis of WWII contest Best of Show)



Right: Tony Humphries's *New York City Fireman*  
(Go Figure contest Best of Show)





Mike Foust's F-16 Falcon (Big contest Best Aircraft Entry and People's Choice)





Above: John Pattinson's *Space Girl* (*Go Figure* contest Best of Show and People's Choice, *Big* contest Best Miscellaneous Entry)

Right: Victor Maestas's *Alien Mother* (*Big* contest Dude Award)



# BONUS PAGES!

## CONTEST DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Each candidate for the Contest Director position submitted statements of position, and they are presented here in alphabetical order. Editing was limited to formatting and syntactical corrections; the context is unchanged.

### KEN LIOTTA

As your Contest Director for the past year (and other previous years), I have endeavored to maintain a respectable balance for all of our club's members in our monthly contests. While the contests are not the main focus of our organization, they are a driving force in our pursuit to build a better model. By hosting a monthly contest in one of the three formats that have evolved over the past decade, we are able to learn from our fellow modelers' achievements and mistakes. Thus we become better modelers ourselves. In between all of the competitiveness I have always thrown in what I believe to be a good mixture of fun. Most, if not all, of us started in this hobby for the fun of it, so it has been so very important to me that I share this belief with all of my fellow modelers. This, mixed in occasionally between the historical accuracy, I believe, leads to a better enjoyment of the hobby.

I also believe that I am your, the membership's, representative during the decision making processes, such as at our monthly E-Board meetings. While offering new or creative ideas for our future contest planning, I have always separated any personal ambitions or hidden agendas from what I believe the membership wants out of our contests. I have maintained that my suggestions or decisions are not absolute and would continue to direct our contests down a path that I believe you want. This is why I recommended that the 2013 schedule include subjects, themes, and clinics that could better prepare and support the membership as they were building up towards participation in our most coveted event, the IPMS/USA Nationals up in Loveland, Colorado. Now that we have effectively gotten over the Nationals Contest "hump," I believe that the membership would like to throttle back a little bit for the next year and were I to become your Contest Director again, I would recommending a 2014 contest schedule that is lighter. This would include:

1. Moving back to single theme nights instead of the double themes.
2. Switching to fun topics from the more serious, for our themes. Some examples might be what I believe is a club favorite of the fun building side "The Zoo" where model subjects with names like Jaguar, Mustang, and Elefant fit your latest builds. Or "Building your childhood favorite—Again" (models from before 1970, no photoetch or resin allowed).
3. And a reduction in the number of "Contest" nights with an increase in "How to" model building technique clinics. Perhaps a return to an "All clinic" night were the members can rotate from one to the next clinic through out the evening.

It would be my pleasure to have your vote as your 2014

Contest Director once again, to continue serving you and representing your wishes on the ASM 2014 E-Board. I would continue to welcome your input on subjects that you want to see as build clinics and topics that you wish to build for in our month's contests or display only. Thank you.

### JOHN TATE

The ASM Contest Director's spot is hard work and the toughest job on the E-Board—I know this from first-hand experience, since I held the post back in 2010. But it's worth the effort to serve the club, since our members deserve fair and respectful judging at all of our contests. Contest nights are the core of our meeting calendar and it's important they serve as a venue to encourage our members, at all skill levels, to advance in the hobby. But our contest nights also should be fun and inclusive, goals I believe we have strayed away from over the years. Everyone in ASM should be able to participate in the hobby and the Contest Director can play a key role in making this happen.

Here are some suggestions for the Contest Director's role in 2014:

- Work closely with ASM members involved with club displays at the State Fair and other venues, to allow all of our club members a chance to work on group model projects that benefit both individual modelers and the club as a whole. Two "anniversary" themes have been suggested for the State Fair display next year—WWI and D-Day—and the Contest Director can support these themes in the 2014 contest schedule.
- Simplify the annual contest schedule and focus on what club members actually build. Contest themes should come from the membership; the job of the Contest Director should be to administer contest ideas preferred and suggested by the membership, not the other way around.
- Try to incorporate a bit of "show and tell" into our annual contest schedule. Our meeting nights are heavy on contests and clinics, but short on offering individual members a chance to talk about their latest builds and modeling interests. Contests can be a lot of fun, and should remain an important part of our annual meeting schedule, but I'd like to hear from all of our members from time to time about what they've got on their build tables. This is also a great way to learn about new members and share an interest in their work.

I'd like to mention again, that model contests should be fun. I'm an IPMS National Judge and have judged at more local, Regional and National contests than I care to remember, but fairness, understanding the challenges of model-building, and a positive attitude, are just as important as memorizing IPMS contest rules. I'm an active model builder, and have been for a couple of decades, so I know how much hard work goes into every model on the table. I promise every model will be judged with fairness and respect- this is the best way to get good participation from the membership in our club contests.

Thanks for your support and I look forward to a great contest year in 2014.



# BONUS PAGES! FRED'S FOTO FILE

FRED FRANCESCHI

## Chino Airshow

In 1979 (or was it 1978 or 1980?) I went to an airshow at the Chino airport, and the Confederate (now Commemorative) Air Force put on an awesome aircraft program. It surprises me to realize that these shots were taken over thirty years ago. And some of the planes were rare, even then.

Some of the airplanes are ones that I will never see again.



The P-51 Apache in British markings. A real rare bird.



A T-33 in Thunderbird markings.





A Grumman F7F Tigercat, maybe the most beautiful airplane ever designed.



An F4U Corsair. Even now, there are a lot of these flying.





An FM-2 Wildcat in an incorrect paint scheme. Notice the early World War II insignias on a version of the plane that wasn't flying at the time those markings were used. Just because a real airplane is painted a certain way doesn't mean that the real planes were painted that way. Modeler beware!



This is an aircraft formation that was rare in the 1970s. I wonder if any of these planes are still flying. A B-29 with a B-24 (actually, it looks like the C-87 transport variant) and a B-17G, with a *real* Japanese Zero in the lower left and a B-25 in the distance. I remember that the Zero groundlooped while it was taxiing during the show.





B-25 nose art.



The B-29.





The B-29 with the Zero in the photo. Two “to the death” enemies together.



The B-29 taking off.





A British Lysander camouflaged for night operations.

One thing that I remember humorously about the airshows is that on one weekend I went to a real airshow; maybe it was this one. In just about all of my flying shots, the planes were so far away that they were barely recognizable in the photos. The next day I went to a radio control scale aircraft model contest. The “in the air” shots of the radio control models looked much better than the ones of the real aircraft.