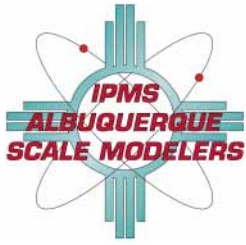


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<https://abqscalemodelers.com>

November 2021

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS JOHN TATE

At the 1 October 2021 club meeting, the following members were re-elected to the E-Board for 2022:

President: John Tate

Vice-President: Dave Epstein

Contest Chairman: Ken Liotta

Secretary/Treasurer: Frank Randall

Pro Tem: Robert Henderson

Pro Tem: Scott Jaworski

Elected as a new Pro Tem member for 2022:
Victor Maestas

October Meeting highlights, left to right: Contest Director Ken Liotta presents Steve Brodeur with the award for the "Hurricanes" special contest, the winning model, and the business meeting in progress



Appointed Positions: Mike Blohm continues as Webmaster and Joe Walters continues as Newsletter Editor.

The November 5 meeting will be fairly busy, with a guest speaker—Kathy Myers of the *USS Iowa* battleship museum—and a points contest covering the Pearl Harbor attack. Hope to see a good turnout as the year winds down and some of our 2021 modeling projects end up on the contest table. We're all used to this by now but remember UNM masking requirements are still in force for our meetings.

IN THE BONUS PAGES!

In this month's **Bonus Pages**:

- A report on the Air Force Anniversary Ball by Mike Blohm
- A historically significant Skyraider build report from John Tate
- An article on Chuck Yeager by Mike Blohm
- And more!

Right: A LEGO build of Stark Tower from the *Marvel Avengers* movies. See it larger and uncropped in the Miscellaneous section of the Bonus Pages!



CONTACT INFO

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the ASM E-Board:
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Vice President:
Secretary/Treasurer:
Contest Director:
Members Pro-Tem:

Webmaster:
Newsletter Editor:

John Tate
Dave Epstein
Frank Randall
Ken Liotta
Bob Henderson
Victor Maestas
Scott Jaworski
Mike Blohm
Joe Walters (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 now ten days prior to the next meeting (that's a Tuesday). Items I receive by Tuesday night will be in the newsletter, and items received after that will be in the following issue.**

BONUS PAGES!

ASM MODEL DISPLAY AT THE 2021 AIR FORCE ANNIVERSARY BALL

MIKE BLOHM

The ASM model display at the 2021 Air Force Anniversary Ball was a big success. The event, held on Friday, October 15, at Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB), celebrated the 74th birthday of the USAF. The USAF became a separate service on September 18, 1947, with the passage of the National Security Act of 1947. The theme of the event was “Casino Night.” There was no secondary historical anniversary theme this year. Therefore, we decided to include the “71st Anniversary of the Korean War 1950 – 1953” display that we had done at the 2021 New Mexico State Fair alongside the “USAF 1947 to Present” model display as we had set up at the 2018 and 2019 events.

This year we had two large tables set up in the main ballroom that the attendees would pass by as they entered into the event. ASM arrived with 26 tubs and boxes of models and set up a total of 76 models on the tables in a multitude of scales. They were arranged in chronological order from the right end starting with 1947 to the left end at 2021, to go with how the people would walk by the tables. See the pictures included with this article—more will be posted on the ASM Website.



26 total tubs and boxes of models brought for the display



Tables fully set up with 76 total models



View of display from right end

For some variety and humor the far right end started with my “You Are Leaving New Mexico” diorama with a flashing UFO levitating a cow on a beam of light—that was a big hit; and the P-38H Lightning of New Mexico’s fighter ace Capt Danny Roberts, who scored 14 victories in the South West Pacific theater. Next in the lineup were some early test aircraft including the X-1, XF-82, and X-15. The Korean War section was next with 34 total models covering all aspects of the conflict. We had a mix of models from all the US services, including some armor and US Navy beach assault models from the Inchon Landing, a Sea Fury from the United Kingdom, and six aircraft flown by North Korea. The Mercury-Atlas “Friendship 7” model included in the Korea section had a tie-in with the awesome “F-86 Sabre versus MiG-15” diorama done by Glenn Bingham that depicts Major John Glenn downing his third and last MiG-15. So we did have a space exploration model in the display and we did get some questions from the attendees about the availability of space models.



Right to left: P-38H of Capt Danny Roberts and "You Are Leaving New Mexico" UFO diorama, test aircraft, and Korean War



Second half of Korean War models

The next section covered aircraft from the Viet Nam war (11 models) including John Tate's A-1E Skyraider flown by Medal of Honor winner Major Bernard Fisher, and aircraft in the Strategic Air Command and Air Defense Command. These were followed by modern aircraft from the Gulf War through the present time. This area included 1/144- and 1/200-scale models of large aircraft such as bomber, attack, reconnaissance, and cargo/airlifters. Finally, capping off the far left end were models of an F-51D and an

F 16C from the New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Fighter Wing "Tacos" in 1/48 scale by Glenn Bingham and Dave Epstein for some more local flavor in the display.



Viet Nam, SAC, and ADC aircraft



Gulf War through current time aircraft



Left and below: Vertical views of the display from both ends of the tables

Lots of people stopped by and asked questions about the models and the subjects, and we were thanked for putting on the display by the Kirtland AFB Commander and the AF Ball POC. The POC remarked that the display was great and a visual reminder to all the attendees of the mission of the Air Force. He also mentioned that we should be a part of every AF Anniversary Ball event and that he would pass the word for next year. We did hand out some ASM flyers so maybe we will get some new members in the club.





Opening ceremonies for the event



Attendees viewing the models

Mike and Matt Blohm set up the display and manned the tables during the event. Thanks to the following ASM members who loaned models for the display: Frank Randall, Glenn Bingham, Steve Brodeur, Ken Piniak, John Tate, Scott Jaworski, Bob Henderson, Dave Epstein, Victor Maestas, and Mike and Matt

Blohm. Note that there were additional models provided by the members listed above that could not be displayed due to space limitations.



View of ASM's 2021 Air Force Ball model display

Click here to see reports on the 2018 and 2019 ASM Model Displays:

<https://tinyurl.com/asm2111a>

<https://tinyurl.com/asm2111b>

BONUS PAGES!

COLONEL FISHER AND HIS SKYRAIDER

JOHN TATE



A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam, March 10, 1966—a US Special Forces base was under attack from the North Vietnamese, and USAF A-1E Skyraiders of the 1st Special Operations Squadron were striking the enemy. One of the Skyraiders was hit and crash landed at an airstrip at the Special Forces base, its pilot, Major “Jump” Myers, taking cover behind an embankment. Major Bernard Fisher, flying another Skyraider, made a quick decision to land his plane under intense enemy fire and rescued Major Myers. On January

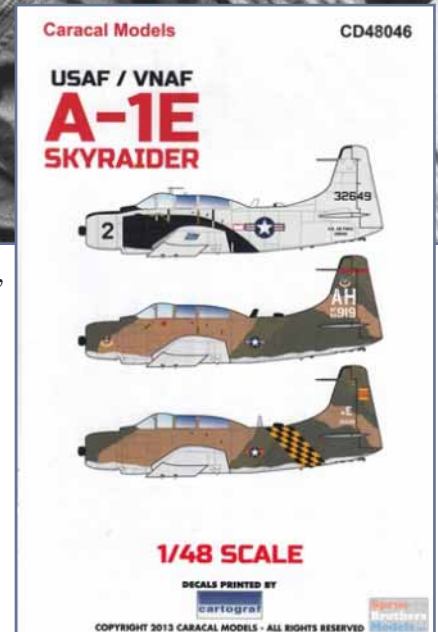
19, 1967, Major Fisher was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism by President Lyndon Johnson.

I first learned of Major Fisher, who retired from the Air Force at the grade of Colonel in 1974, from a Caracal 1/48 decal sheet on the A-1E Skyraider, which had markings for his plane. Wanting to know more,



I read Colonel Fisher’s 2004 autobiography, “Beyond the Call of Duty,” which was a highly readable and enjoyable book about Colonel Fisher’s career, Skyraider operations in Vietnam and the circumstances of the famous rescue. I was hooked, so had to build a model of his plane.

When it comes to modeling options for 1/48 A-1E Skyraiders, there’s only one game in town, the four-decades-old Matchbox kit, re-released by Revell in 2013. It was very much a creature of its times, with toy-like folding wings and rudimentary representations of ordnance. But the good news was, it was generally accurate in shape and the cockpit





was okay, at least with the canopy closed. So I got to work. Since I wanted a completed model I kept AMS to a minimum but still made some basic fixes and corrections for the sake of accuracy. One thing I didn't do was effect the suggested wing swap surgery with a $\frac{1}{48}$ A-1H Skyraider kit; that was never going to look right and was more trouble than it's worth. Here's some of the work I did to the kit:

- Added seatbelts to the kit's non-ejection seats, correct for this plane in 1966.
- Added a reflector gunsight to the instrument panel coaming.
- Added a prop, wheels, and wing pylons from a Monogram $\frac{1}{48}$ A-1H Skyraider kit.
- Added "iron bomb" ordnance, mostly 500 pounders, from the spares box.
- Added a variety of antennas to the aircraft spine, to match period photos of A-1Es.
- Shortened the landing gear legs to give the model a proper "sit."

- Scraped and sanded the heavy side braces off the windscreen, which were not present on the real plane, and added internal braces.
- Added a scratchbuilt windshield wiper.
- Added a correct centerline tank and pylon from the Tamiya Skyraider kit.



The biggest job was closing the folding wings but the task wasn't too bad, just tedious. When I got most of the work on the kit finished, I painted the model in an overall gray color, similar to USAF ADC Gray, which was correct for this early batch of Skyraiders, and added silver leading edges to the wings and horizontal stabilizers. Painting the "Blue Room" canopy was fun and easy.

The Caracal decals went on nicely, and were accurate for the plane, but make sure to check photos of real planes from the period to get placement correct.

I was proud of the model when I finished it, not because it's a contest-winner, but because I had to put some work into the model to get a nice replica, to honor a great aviator and American hero, Colonel

Fisher, who passed away in 2014. With each year, the Vietnam War passes further out of human memory, and as modelers we can do our part to make sure history isn't forgotten. If you get a chance during the coming year, check your shelves for that Vietnam War model subject you overlooked, and like me, take a chance to learn something new about the story of the war and the men who served in it.



BONUS PAGES!

CHUCK YEAGER: AMERICAN ACE AND TEST PILOT

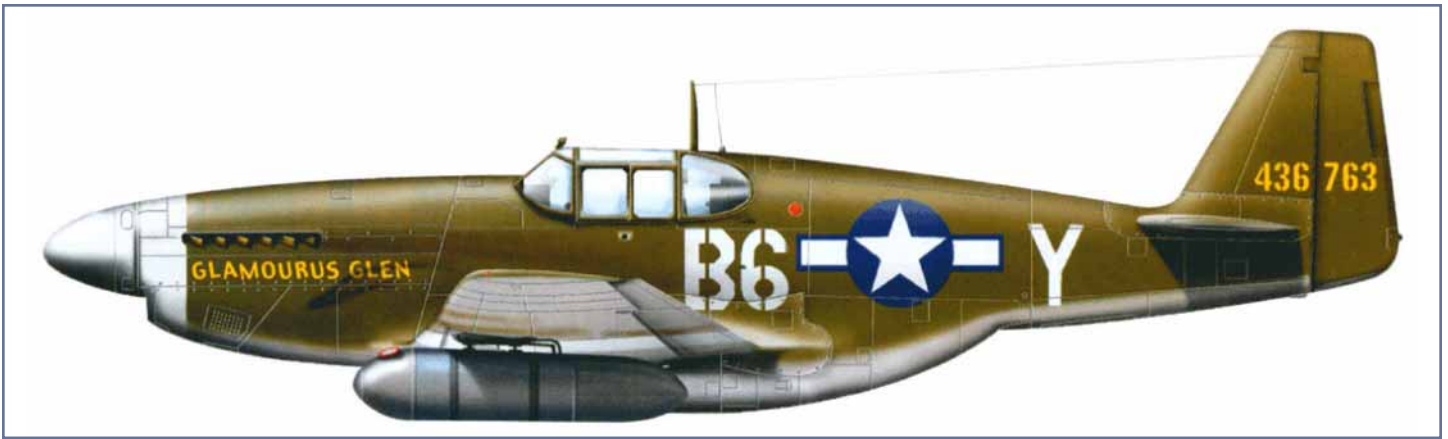
MIKE BLOHM

[Note: This article was originally published on the ASM Website to support the “Chuck Yeager—The Legend of Legends” Sponsored Contest that was held on July 9, 2021.]



Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager passed away on December 7, 2020, at the age of 92. He is well known for having been an American ace in WWII as well as a famous test pilot who was the first person to break the sound barrier. Yeager started his military career as an aircraft mechanic in the US Army Air Corps in September 1941 and advanced to the rank of Corporal. He entered enlisted pilot training in September 1942 and received his pilot’s wings and the rank of Flight Officer in March 1943. He was transferred to the 363 Fighter Squadron of the 357 Fighter Group in March 1943 at Tonopah Field, Nevada, where they trained on the P-39 Airacobra. He was grounded for a week after clipping a farmer’s tree during a training flight. Yeager sailed with the group to England in November 1943 where they later became known as the “Yoxford Boys.”





Yeager had a total of 11.5 victories in WWII and was the third-ranking ace of the 363 FS. His first victory was a Bf-109G on March 4, 1944, during a mission to Berlin, and he also damaged an He-111K. He was shot down and wounded by an Fw-190 on March 5, 1944, over France while flying a P-51B. With the help of the French Resistance he was able to escape to Spain on March 30 and returned to the group on May 27, 1944. He was able to remain with the group instead of being sent back to the USA by appealing to Gen Eisenhower. When the area that he had escaped through was overrun by the Allies after D-Day he was allowed to return to flying missions.



Yeager did not score again until he shared 0.5 victory of a Bf-109 on September 13, 1944. He had five victories (“ace in a day”) on October 12 during a bomber escort to Hanover when his flight engaged a gaggle of 22 Bf-109s. On November 6 he downed an Me-262 jet while it was on approach to landing and also damaged two other Me 262s. Yeager’s last scoring was four Fw-190s on November 27, 1944, during a bomber escort to Magdeburg where he was in an engagement with 150 enemy fighters. The 357 FG scored 30 victories that day. Yeager had no ground victories. He was transferred out of the 357 FG in January 1945 holding the rank of Captain at that time.

Yeager named his aircraft *Glamorous Glen* after his girlfriend Glennis Faye Dickhouse, who became his wife in February 1945. His three assigned aircraft with the 357 FG were: P-51B 43-6763, B6-Y *Glamorous Glen*; P-51D-5NA 44-13897, B6-Y *Glamorous Glen II*; and P 51D-15NA 44-14888, B6-Y *Glamorous Glen III*.

Yeager remained in the US Army Air Corps/US Air Force after the war, becoming a test pilot at Muroc Army Air



Field (now Edwards Air Force Base), following graduation from the Air Materiel Command Flight Performance School. Yeager broke the sound barrier on October 14, 1947, in level flight while piloting the Bell X-1 *Glamorous Glennis* at Mach 1.05 at an altitude of 45,000 feet over the Rogers Dry Lake of the Mojave Desert in California. The success of the mission was not announced to the public until June 1948. Yea-





ger was awarded the Mackay Trophy and the Collier Trophy in 1948 for his mach-breaking flight, and the Harmon International Trophy in 1954. The X-1 that he flew that day was later put on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

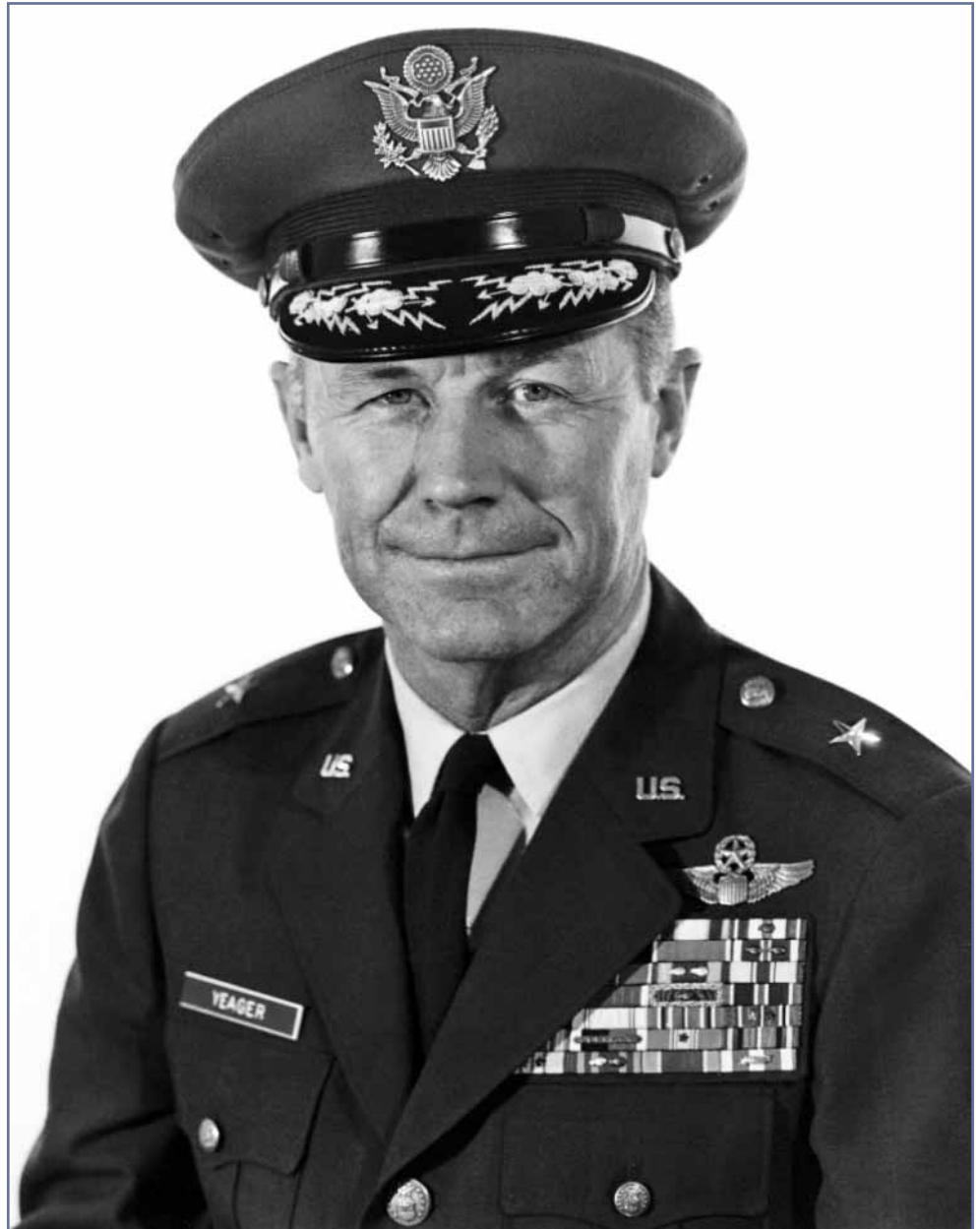
Yeager later commanded fighter squadrons and wings in Germany as well as in Southeast Asia, where he flew 127 combat missions during the Vietnam War. In 1962 Yeager became the first commandant of the USAF Aerospace Research Pilot School, which produced astronauts for NASA and the USAF. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1969 and inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1973. Yeager retired on March 1, 1975, but he continued to fly in commemoration flights on the anniversaries of breaking Mach 1. He passed away on December 7, 2020. The Bell X-1 is on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.

Sources:

Stars and Bars—A Tribute to the American Fighter Ace 1920 – 1973 by Frank Olynyk

P-51 Mustang Aces by William Hess

Wikipedia articles

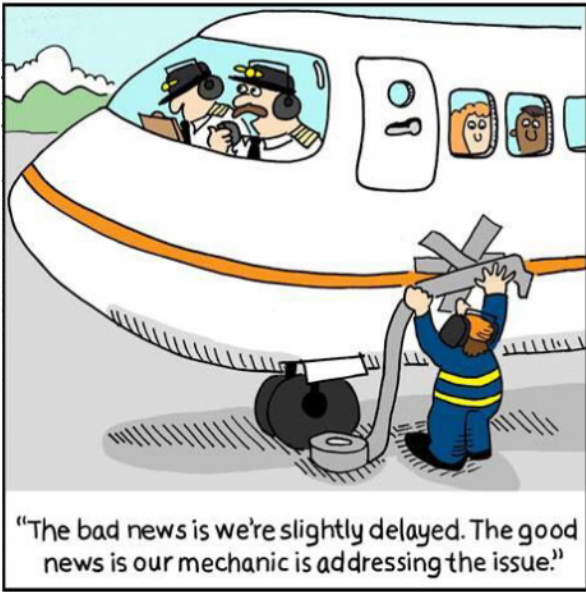


Models on the following pages are by Victor Maestas.





BONUS PAGES! MISCELLANEOUS



moments after you
disregarded that "patrolled
by aircraft" sign











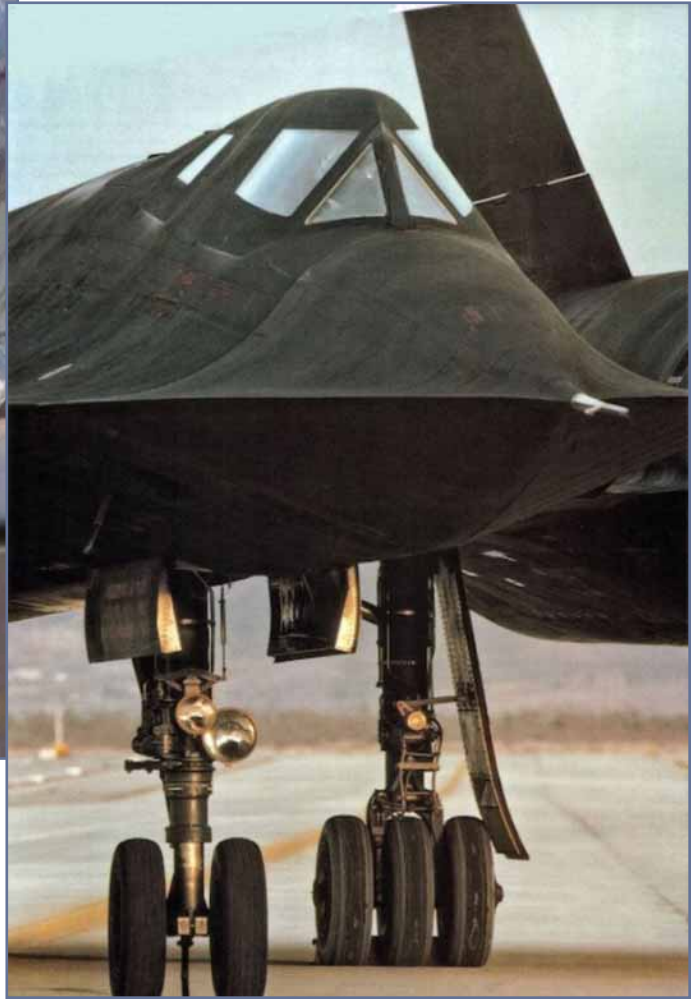


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