

ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://www.hobbies-n-stuff.com/ASM-Stuff/asmweb.htm> September 2006

VICE-PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS JAMES GULD

After coming back from Nationals and having thrown in my hat into the judging ring, I have to say I'm glad I did it.

I also think that the clinic that we did a couple of years ago on judging was great and I would like to encourage more people to judge. It helps you build better models by making you think about the basics and helps you stay focused during a build.

Now I am also asking for volunteers to add their names to the Region 10 judges list. I know we have a number of nationally-qualified judges and a few people who have judged at our regional that I think should sign up. This information can be sent into Don Kehrer or you can give it to me and I will pass it on.

CONGRATULATIONS! KEN LIOTTA

ASM Wins at IPMS/USA Nationals, AGAIN

The IPMS/USA National Convention has come and gone once again, and ASM should be proud of the superb turnout of its membership in Kansas City. We had 19 of our current members participate in the Nationals with 15 of those members entering 33 entries. These entries brought home 15 total awards ranging from the new Premier awards through the usual firsts, seconds, and thirds all the way to the prestigious Michael L. Fritz Memorial (Best World War I subject) Award.

The event had 783 modelers enter 2031 entries. Over 1000 participants attended the seminars and 35 kids joined in the "Make-&Take" event. The Convention was held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Kansas City over the weekend of August 2 - 5. The well-lit model display room was most spacious with plenty of room to move around in between the display tables.

The equally spacious vendors' rooms (yes, that is plural—they had two vendors' rooms) had all the plastic modeling candy that an enthusiast could ask for. When I walked out of the main vendor room, I had spent almost an entire paycheck and *then* had to bargain with my wife on the phone to let me dip into the emergency funds.





There were so many top-quality models, books, tools, decals, etc., that my head was spinning. I'm not sure how I got it to sit straight long enough to finish my traditional "all-nighter" hotel room Nationals model build. Yes, I did it again! Can't help myself. And it turned out to be worth it, too—I brought home a few pieces of wood (awards) of my own.

One of our club members' greatest achievements was when our representative dirigible/amphibious scratch builder, David Straub, took the 1/72 scratchbuilt category first place award with his marvelous L-32 Zeppelin. That same work of art was the model that won the prestigious Michael L. Fritz Memorial Award. And, get this, he also built a car model! Bet you didn't know he builds those things. Before you start wondering what was he thinking, he won first place with his 1/20-scale 1939 Mercedes Benz Indy Car in the Competition Open Wheel category. I just hope he doesn't start thinking about building motorcycle models.



ASM's highlight at the Nationals was placing third in the Group/Chapter category. No less than nine of our club members banded together to build not just six but *seven* Tamiya 1/32-scale F-16 Thunderbirds. The primary builders were Patrick Dick, Frank Randall, Tom Perea, John Pattison, Brian Peck, and Kyle Garber. During the closing weeks before the Nationals, problems in building popped up and an alternate joined the group, Keith Liotta. With only three weeks left before the Nationals, Keith was able to build up a complete T-bird to have at the ready in case a backup was needed. With all the little hiccups along the way, it turns out that the alternate was needed and in true Thunderbird team spirit, Keith's F-16 became aircraft No. 3. All six models were displayed on a superb eight-foot-long display base that had been crafted by our resident treadhead, James Guld.

Master figure painter Stan Harris painted most of the pilots, while the remaining pilots were painted by the aircraft builders (due to scheduling issues). All of these members deserve a big round of applause for their magnificent achievement.

Our club can also be proud of the following members for having received awards with these models:

2006 IPMS/USA NATIONALS ASM AWARD WINNERS

Don Alberts:	1st	Tam	1/48	Swordfish
	1st	Mono	1/48	TBD Devastator
	3rd	Trump	1/72	RA-5C Vigilante
Rick Carver:	2nd	Mult	1/35	Italian Roach Coach Diorama
	3rd	Unk	1/35	Medieval Mortar
Mike Franklin:	2nd	Has	1/48	P-47D
James Guld:	2nd	Mult	1/35	"Things to Come" Diorama
	Premier	DML	1/35	V-2
Ken Liotta:	1st	Tam	1/12	YZR-M1 2005
	3rd	AccMini	1/48	F3F-1
Dave Miller:	2nd	Unk	1/15	Browning 30 Cal. MG
	2nd	Unk	1/72	8.8cm Flak 37 ZGKW 18t
Dave Straub:	1st	Revival	1/20	1939 Mercedes Benz Indy Car
	1st	Scratch	1/200	L-32 Zeppelin
				& the Michael L. Fritz Memorial Award

Apologies if I have left anyone out. -KL

When walking through the display room I was able to capture over 400 digital images of the incredible model work. That certainly didn't cover all 2000+ models but those that I did catch appeared to be of exceptional quality. As is the case with most every Nationals, the judging results was spot on with no occasions where one was left wondering what the judges were looking at. The Judges Grand Award was presented to a fabulously built 1/72 scale USS Kidd, and the People's Choice went to a magnificently super detailed 1/72 B-2.



There are several web sites where you can find photos of the Convention and the models, including:

<http://www.ipmsusa2006.org/results/index.html>

http://www.ipmsusa2.org/EventsGallery/2006_Nats/index.htm

<http://www.scalewarbirds.com/nats2006kcpage01.htm>

And a few to view the full results:

<http://www.ipmsusa2006.org/results/index.html>

http://www.ipmsusa2.org/EventsGallery/2006_Nats/2006IPMS_NationalWinners.pdf



The banquet room was as spacious as ever with the dinner served in the buffet format that seems to have become the norm for the banquet. Over the past few years, the awards presentation seems to have been bitten by a bug or two. This year's seems to have fared a little better than most. However, for those that were counting, only four photos of the wrong piece appeared in the slide presentation and the presentation had to stop only three times to re-align the award announcements with the photo slide sequence. Once the awards presentation was complete, model removal from the display room went a little smoother and without as much haste and urgency as has been the case in the past.

Next year's 2007 IPMS/USA Nationals will be held August 22 - 25 at the Marriott Hotel in Downtown Anaheim, California, and will be hosted by the Orange County IPMS Chapter. Having been a former member of that group when I still lived in Southern California, I can attest to their commitment and love of the hobby to put on a superb convention. Make your calendars, start planning your trip, save your vendor room money, and above all, *build those award-winning models!* See ya there.

BONUS PAGES!

Members who receive the electronic (PDF) version of the newsletter will receive more of the dozen or so photographs Ken Liotta provided for the above article.

If you don't automatically receive the PDF file now, you can download it from the ASM web site.

JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS JAMES GULD

Oh, no—not another post-Nationals report! Sorry, kids, but I promise to make it “tool related.”

With my shopping list in hand I headed into the vendors' area and started to scope out where the best deals were to be had for what I was looking for. On my tool list was the

Micro Chisel from Mission Models. They have also come out with a scribing set and a replacement chisel set for this tool. It is a simple metal shaft with a rubber grip about 5-1/2" long with the ends held in by a tiny Allen head set screw. They even come with protective rubber tips, but I've already worn through them. That's how sharp the ends are. The scribing tip set comes with four bits: a plain pointed bit, .005, .0075, and .010. The 1mm replacement chisel set comes with two flat tips and one round tip. One of the side benefits of this set is the round tip. I was experimenting with it and found it great at making half-moon shape weld beads in styrene. I have a technique that I picked up from AFV Modeller that uses putty and a small shaped brass tube to make the same look, but this new tool needs no putty. I was pretty jazzed about that. I know what you're thinking: “Jim, you gotta open up a window when working with glue!” That was the only cool tool I came across.

I was hoping to find a good deal on a new Iwata airbrush but none were to be had, so I had to spend money on kits and books. I know it's tough, but we all have to do our part to spur on the economy. I did get a sneak peak into one of the new Dragon “smart kits” of the Panther G late. Looks like a nice kit and should be out soon. They did have some for sale on Saturday, but at \$50 a pop.

I did pick up the Academy M3 Lee, Dragon premium edition so-called Porsche turret King Tiger, Italeri 232 6-rad early war recon vehicle, and a bunch of sweet resin goodies from Formations. Rob from Formations is one of the nicest

Year 2006 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 6 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
- 3 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 3 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/scale.
- 7 Apr** **Best Kitai** (WWII Japan air forces)
- 28 Apr** **Flying Boats, Amphibians, & Hulls**
- 2 Jun** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**
THE BEST TWO-FER
- 7 Jul** **Italian Wonders** (any era/scale/subj.)
- 4 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest
- 8 Sep** **Armies of the 1900s**
Workshop: Figure painting (TBA)
Sponsored Contest: Best Viet Nam Subject (Tim Estes)
- 6 Oct** **Eastern Europe 1950 - 1990**
Sponsored Contest: Babefest (Ken Liotta)
Workshop: Homemade tools (show & tell)
Workshop: Attaching “itty-bitty” pieces (TBA)
- 3 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/scale.
Sponsored Contest: “F-teen” (Ken Liotta, Keith Liotta, Brian Peck, Frank Randall)
- 1 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**
BEST ZERO
Plus Model of the Year competition!

vendors you'll ever meet and he makes beautiful kits and conversions for U.S. related armor.

On the book front I picked up the WWP book on the WC-51 Beep, the Allied/Axis book on the Chafe, and the JJ Fedorowicz book *Funklenkpanzer* which covers all the German remote- and radio-controlled units in WWII.

On the ride home, the conversation centered on what to build next. Boy, it's getting tough with a lot of different kits pulling at me. But I decided on some of my next projects. I have an itch to do some Zimmerit so I'm starting in on a Stug 3 late with the waffle pattern, and then after that I'm going to start in on a series build of the vehicles of the 653 Panzerjager battalion. First up will be the Bergtiger P, which also has Zimmerit, and I'll try out my hot knife method on it.

Well enough from me. Now get back to that workbench and build something!

BOOK REVIEW

DON SMITH

This month's book review has nothing to do with military history and some would argue that it has little to do with the type of a modeling we do. I think we're modelers because we like making miniature "things" and I know some of you "do" trains. Thanks -DS

Playing with Trains

A Passion Beyond Scale

by Sam Posey

Random House Trade Paperback Edition, 2005

Boy meets toy trains, boy falls in love with toy trains, boy grows up, later in life boy rediscovers toy trains are actually

model trains and falls back in love.

This book is about Sam Posey's journey into model railroading. When his son is born he believes he will once again get to play with toy trains. In his effort to build a dream layout he learns about trains, history, model railroaders and himself. Sam Posey is a former race car driver and TV sports announcer, and he has the money to get into the hobby in a major way. His book looks at his journey and examines what makes train guys tick. He doesn't have a conclusive answer but discovers different "camps" of railroaders (sound like anyone we know?). I enjoyed the gritty stories about modelers, their layouts and the business. I didn't care about the "mushy philosophy" but told myself, "This guy was diagnosed with Parkinson's, cut him some slack." The book ends in a slow death—Posey takes a train ride to Florida and also visits the Strasburg Railroad in Pennsylvania where he actually gets to drive the train. Not actually exciting stuff compared to what we do. Ah, give me an M-3 halftrack at Regionals any day.

The biggest groan, but also a wise choice by Posey, is hiring a professional railroad model builder to help him. Give him credit—he also does much of the work himself.

This book is in softcover. I picked up a copy from Borders. The retail price is \$13.95 but I got a 3 for 2 deal last month. I would recommend this book if you really want to read about model railroading, but it probably wouldn't do much to make you a better modeler. The saving grace is it covers the hobby's current state rather than reminiscing on the good ol' days, back when you made your own plaster out of flour and glue. I'll give it a rating of two out of five stars. ★★

Master

John Tate	1375
James Guld	689
Mike Franklin	450
Dave Straub	410
Don MacBryde	295
Juan Benitez	262
Patrick Dick	181
Mike Blohm	126
Dave Miller	100
Dave Boehning	25
Ken Liotta	8
Brian Peck	2

Intermediate

John Kendrick	1470
Rick Carver	985
Hank Petitgirard	630
Frank Randall	250
Kyle Garber	125
Jack Garriss	75
Don Smith	24
Mark Soppet	6

Basic

Tim Estes	1295
Wayne Sprong	1065
Don Blea	125
Alberto Bernal	4

Junior

Jeannie Garriss	660
Taylor Liotta	325
Ryan Sharp	325

ASM 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.



There are many sources on the world wide web for pictures from the Nationals (some are listed in Ken's article above). Quality and resolution vary wildly, of course. These pictures of the ASM *Thunderbirds* entry were culled from some of those sites.

The pictures on the following pages were submitted by Ken Liotta to accompany his article.











