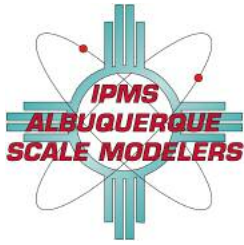


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

September 2011

ASM AT NATIONALS JOHN TATE

Editor's Note: This is the only report I received concerning our performance at Nationals, as John Tate sent this as Breaking News via Email to several club members. There are probably some corrections to be made! —JW

Many ASM members were present in Omaha: Jim Guld, Frank Randall, Mike Blohm, Dave Straub, Steve Stronach, Ken and Keith Liotta, Dave Miller, Frank Gasparich and me. We did well: Dave Straub got a First for his Zeppelin, Jim Guld got two Firsts for nice $\frac{1}{8}$ s tanks, and a Second for his great diorama, "Golden Shower." I got a First for a $\frac{1}{8}$ s Ki-46 Dinah, which went head-to-head with a very nice Hs-129 by Ken Liotta; Ken got a well-deserved Second. Dave Miller won a First with an 88mm artillery piece. Several other Seconds and Thirds were won by ASMs Frank Randall, Keith Liotta and me.

PRESIDENTIAL INKLINGS VICTOR MAESTAS

Cross-Training

Cross-training is used by top athletes to improve the performance in their primary sport by using skills gained by doing another sport. If the same activity is performed all the time, the muscles learn to do that particular activity very well, but they become limited to only doing those activities. By varying their workouts, they can increase their overall performance and widen their skills. Professional skiers ride bikes or run to not only increase stamina and endurance, but to improve their other skills like balance and reflexes. Even though these additional activities may not directly translate into improved performance on the ski hill, they will become better skiers overall because they are pushing their boundaries. Modelers can do the same by using skills gained in other genres to improve their skills in their primary area of interest.

Although my primary interest in modeling is aircraft, I have improved my skills by branching

August meeting highlights, clockwise from top left: Ken Liotta speaking from in

front of a display of Nationals winners; the Swap Meet in full swing; and Harry Davidson speaking at the business meeting.



out into other types of models including figures, sci-fi, ships (subs), armor and automotive subjects. Each type has its own set of skills and knowing more of them makes me a better overall modeler. I have used several armor weathering techniques on aircraft and figures and I think they are better models because of it.

Color modulation, filters and blending small multi-colored paint dots are common armor techniques used to break up monotone color schemes. These techniques can be used to give a simple paintjob life, whether it's an OD tank or a gull grey aircraft by using the same procedure with different colors. For armor weathering, dirt, rain and rust streaks applied vertically depict a well-used machine, and on aircraft, the streaks are applied along the airflow, with different colors, to show hydraulic leaks and exhaust stains.

I have also used common aircraft techniques to improve other types of models as well. Pre-shading panel lines on an aircraft can be used on figures to enhance shadows and creases in clothing and skin. Washes applied in aircraft wheel wells using dark grey (for enhancing shadows) and pink (to show hydraulic fluid leaks) can be used on tank treads by using different colors including red (rust) and tan (dust and dirt).

I have used another technique, masking with silly putty, for masking the puzzle scheme on a Char B and to paint a lizard scheme on an aggressor A-4. I haven't tried it yet, but I want to try the hairspray paint chipping technique on winter armor as well as showing paint burnt away from a hot jet engine nacelle.

I have been challenging myself by doing automotive subjects with high-gloss paint jobs. The preparation and patience needed to get an unblemished gloss finish on cars has improved the finish of my armor and aircraft subjects.

Branching out once in a while and trying something new can improve your overall skills as a modeler. It may not be easy, or get perfect results the first time, but your repertoire of skills will increase. As this activity we do is a hobby, I find it encouraging having the quality of my models improve. Changing subjects also keeps me challenged and lets me keep an eye out for new and different techniques to use on my same old subjects.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

MIKE BLOHM

Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles

This trip report covers the Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles located in Lexington, Nebraska. I had the opportunity to make a short visit at this museum when returning from the recent IPMS/USA National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. The museum is located adjacent to I-80 at the Lexington exit, so it is very easy to get to. A "vignette" of a UH-60 helicopter sitting atop a simulated rooftop with peo-



ple (silhouettes) climbing into it—looking back to the Saigon evacuation—is next to the highway and calls your attention to the museum.

The museum's mission is to preserve historic military vehicles and also to honor America's veterans of the battlefield and home front. There are about 100 vehicles on display spanning more than 50 years of time, including tanks, jeeps, halftracks, trucks, ambulances, helicopters, snow and artillery tractors, Humm-Vees, and helicopters. There is a long line-up of vehicles parked outside the museum, and a large number of vehicles and displays located inside the museum's library area and several garage-type bays. A lot of the vehicles are open, and hands-on is encouraged. There are some model displays in the museum, along with rifles, helmets,



munitions, and engines. Tanks include the M-4A1E8 Sherman, M-60A1 with bulldozer blade, and M-2 Bradley. Also in the collection are the M110A2 self-propelled 8-inch howitzer, M113 APC with a prototype Hellfire missile launcher system, M16 halftrack with quad .50-inch machine guns, M-28 Weasel, M-7 Snow Tractor, and German Army Kuebel-Wagen Type 82 and Schwimm-Wagen Type 166. Several pictures are included with this article; more are available on the ASM Web Site (http://abqscalemodelers.com/asm_field_trips.htm).

Overall a great museum to visit and a definite stop for military vehicle modelers. Plan about half a day if you want to see everything. Admission is free. For further information see the museum's web site (<http://www.heartlandmuseum.com>).

CONVENTION REPORT

JOE WALTERS

Star Trek Las Vegas 2011

My wife Linda and I attend the big Trek convention put on by Creation Entertainment in Las Vegas every year, and we always have a great time! This year was no different.

The convention took place August 11 – 14, and was in a new venue this year, the Rio Hotel & Casino—a large and modern facility with plenty of space. The Rio featured a substantially larger Main Events room than the Hilton, and the Dealer Room was at least as large as its predecessor. Previously, this convention had always been held at the Las Vegas Hilton, former home of the attraction known as Star Trek: The Experience. With the closing of the Experience a few years back, we really had no further incentive to go to the Hilton, which is getting a bit dilapidated as time passes.

There were few items of interest to modelers at this convention, and certainly no modeling-related events. The main thing of modeling interest would be the Dealer room, where



some vendors sold kits (mostly the mainstream sci-fi kits you see everywhere), and some sold props and recreations of items from the shows and display kits that could be of interest.



Most of the dozens of guest stars were easily accessible at various times during the con; some, like the really major luminaries (Patrick Stewart, William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, etc.) limited that access to autograph and photo sessions, for which you had to pay, but many were approachable after initial lines had died down. Indeed, for much of the con, stars like Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner, and John DeLancie, spent time at tables in the Dealer room and you could just walk up and strike up a conversation. Considering the several thousand people in attendance, this was a bit unexpected!

A major event of the convention was Leonard Nimoy in his final Vegas con appearance. He's retiring from conventions as of this year, and his final con appearance ever will be in October at a Creation con in Chicago. He spent his entire hour giving a prepared presentation on his life and career, including showing some slides of never-before-seen photos from Trek and other series he

had done. He became very emotional at the end, as he thanked the fans for the many years of support and good wishes. He filled the Main Events room. Linda and I estimated there were close to 5000 chairs in that room, and they were nearly all filled.

There was an attempt (second year in a row) to break the Guinness record for most Star Trek costumes in one place at the same time. They did this last year, setting the record at 543. Later that year, DragonCon in Atlanta broke that record with 571, and then FedCon in Germany broke it again, setting the bar at 691. They'll have to work harder now: we hit a total of 1040, including Linda dressed as Dr. Miranda Jones—sensor net, goggles, and all.

FRED'S FOTO FILE FRED FRANCESCHI

Grumman J2F Duck

Editor's Note: Fred took several photos of this aircraft, and all of them appear in the Bonus Pages enjoyed by our electronic subscribers. –JW

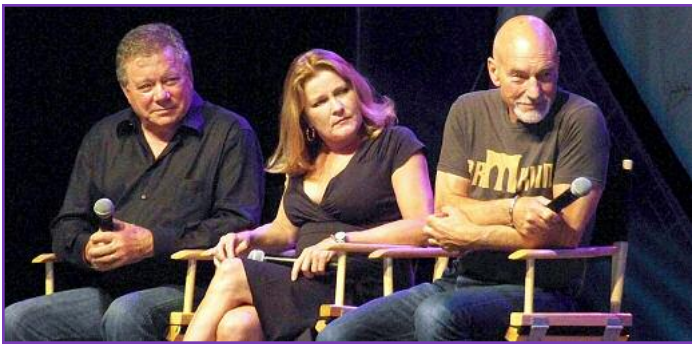
These photos were taken at La Pressa airport at Casa de Oro (east of San Diego, California) circa 1956. The Grumman Duck was probably parked there for a year or so, then flown to a new home. I thought it was an interesting plane and took the photos in case a kit came out and I wanted to model it.

That airport was closed a few years later. But a pilot who did not keep up-to-date charts landed there after it was closed, mistook a short taxiway for the runway, and killed himself and his passenger.

Casa de Oro, California (East of San Diego), still exists. But the land, like so many other small airports, is now completely covered with housing and strip malls. Not a trace of the airport still exists.



A search for the N-number seen on Fred's photos turned up this contemporary photo of the exact same aircraft decades later! Apparently it's been through a restoration or two.



Sunday featured the biggest draw: Sir Patrick Stewart, William Shatner, and Kate Mulgrew together onstage. They each got some solo time, then came together for a mass Q&A session. The Main Events room was filled to the gills; all the chairs were full and people were standing around the walls and in the back. I have to believe there were over 5000 people in there. Remember, Star Trek has been off the air for the better part of a decade! Apparently, there's still some interest in the franchise. This was easily one of the high points of the show.

Events we missed included several more panels (you can't hit them all!), David Gerrold's Writer's Workshop, genre auctions, the "Resistance is Futile Champagne Bingo Bash" (we attended that once a few years back—the prizes were excellent, but the event was very pricey and there were far more attendees than prize packages), Karaoke Night (I make a habit of missing out on Karaoke nights wherever and whenever, thank you), the various breakfasts and lunches with the stars, a presentation on the Hubble Space Telescope, Leonard Nimoy's photography seminar, a "Stump the Experts" trivia competition, autograph sessions and photo-

ops (we happen to have virtually everyone's autograph from over the years; Linda only got one this year, John Cho—Mr. Sulu from the recent Trek movie), and much more.

An excessively detailed version of this report, along with a large number of photos taken at the con, can be found at the old ASM Temp Web Site (<http://web.me.com/jwalters>).

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

Victor Maestas	789
James Guld	568
Paul Kirchner	495
Mike Blohm	464
Glenn Bingham	256
John Tate	245
Ray Ayles	75
Don McBride	35
Ken Liotta	10
Dave Miller	4

Intermediate

Larry Glenn	782
Tony Humphries	659
Don Smith	341
Frank Randall	214
Adrian Montañó	145
Steve Brodeur	102
Don Blea	100
Jack Garriss	75
Blaine Couch	25
Ken Barry	4
Kyle Garber	2

Ken Piniak	2
Tim Wood	2

Basic

Gorham Smoker	595
Logan Carbin	379
Jeannie Garriss	275

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
FRED'S FOTO FILE
FRED FRANCESCHI

Grumman J2F Duck





