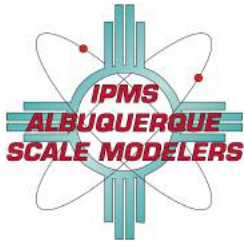


# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

September 2013

## THE FEZ REQUESTS

All ASM members who scored at Nationals are requested to bring their award-winning models and plaques for display at the September meeting. Time to show off!

## THE FEZ SEZ TONY HUMPHRIES

And so the Nationals are over. The vendor rooms emptied, the trophies awarded and the fat lady (who administered the raffle) has well and truly sung. She didn't sing any of my numbers of course, but that's hardly unusual. Anyway, wasn't that fun? This one was the first IPMS National Convention that I've ever attended and so I thought I'd take this opportunity to share some of my impressions. This may be of interest to those who regularly attend, to those who have never been, or to absolutely no-one at all. I'm going to do it anyway, though, so prepare yourselves...

Well, what can I say about the whole event? This one was apparently the most widely attended and most prolific, in terms of models entered, of any IPMS convention ever held in the Western US. The Eastern side of the country, being more densely populated, tends to see higher turnouts, of course. The standard of entries was truly remarkable too, so it's not just the quantities that were impressive. The hotel (Embassy Suites in Loveland, Colorado) was very pleasant, the staff friendly, the venue was large and spacious, albeit officially in the back of beyond, the beer exorbitantly priced (unless you took advantage of the freebies and it would have been rude not to, let's face it), and the company generally very affable indeed. The venue even brought in a guest chef for the awards banquet apparently. Unfortunately, he appears to have come directly from the Colorado State Penitentiary if the food was anything to go by. Chicken? That looked suspiciously like *Rattus Norvegicus* (and I don't mean "the Stranglers" LP to those in-the-know) but I must confess that I'm no expert in that particular field. Rumors that the chef was in fact none other than "Arsenic Al" Bulovski are as yet unconfirmed, but if it is true, then anyone who had the chicken can confirm that his current

sentence of fifteen consecutive life terms with no possibility of parole is entirely justified...

The two vendor rooms were also very well stocked. Some of the larger vendors had somewhat, er... let's say "ambitious" or "optimistic" prices for their latest kits, but despite this, business appeared to be brisk. Many of the smaller vendors had unusual items and were well priced in many cases. Several of them had a wide range of old and unusual kits, useful after-market accessories and more tools than a Swiss army knife factory. Some of the kits, particularly Airfix ones on sale, were older than I am, and in their original boxes too. Granted, these kits are so ugly that they could potentially turn you to stone if you were foolish enough to actually open the box, but many may have been of some value to collectors of original kits. Of course, you'd never want to actually put the things together, unless you did so blindfolded, and many of these kits may actually have been improved if you tried that approach, but the box art looked pretty cool and brought back many memories of a childhood marked by styrene, glue and petty larceny.

I've already mentioned the quality of the entries, which makes it all the more impressive that a number of our members came away with a bunch of trophies. More will follow on that subject from others, but to win a third place in any of the categories was a significant achievement. To win a first place was truly excellent. So, congratulations are due to all ASM members who placed anywhere with any entry. You represented the club magnificently and we salute your efforts. Thanks also to all who judged. While I personally suspect that Stevie Wonder and Helen Keller must have judged the group/chapter build category (our Matilda entry didn't place, in case you wonder) they all did an excellent job under difficult circumstances and anyway, I'm sure that questions over eyesight, sanity, and even parentage are water off a duck's back to anyone who has judged before. It's just like being a sporting referee/umpire. You're bound to upset someone, somewhere and it's a tough job that is truly worthy of recognition.

So, despite the lengthy travel, the banquet food, the hangovers and the breathtaking nerd-iness of the event, did I enjoy it? Absolutely. Would I recommend it to others? Certainly. Will my credit score ever recover from that level of expenditure? In a few years perhaps. As next year is in Hampton (you don't want to know what that is rhyming slang for, believe me) in

Virginia and the year after that, in Columbus, Ohio, then I don't think I'm going to be troubling the registrars or the judges at either event. But after that? Well, we'll have to see where it is located. I'm sure some of our members will go even if it's in Anchorage and will happily indulge in an epic 72-hour coffee-fuelled non-stop marathon drive, dodging avalanches, blizzards, and rogue moose as they do so. I guess I'm not that adventurous, but in the meantime there is Chile Con III to look forward to next June, and those who attended the Nationals were sure to pass the word around about that one and to hand out leaflets. Hopefully we'll see a good attendance as a result.

Lastly and by no means least, I should congratulate, not only all those who won trophies in Loveland, but all who participated. You did an excellent job. You did our club and yourselves, proud. Well done and thanks.

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## ASM AT NATIONALS

### JOE WALTERS

Expect a major article by Ken Liotta on the events of the 2013 IPMS Nationals in the next issue. And yes, any ASM members who'd like to pitch in with their impressions and/or reports may do so!

Meanwhile, Ken has generously made available his set of 500+ photos taken at the event (including some personal shots), and you can view them in full resolution online now (<http://tinyurl.com/2013nats>). I hope to add photos by others to this gallery as I can get them, and will announce availability of additional imagery via the Email list.

Here is an unofficial list of ASM models that placed, somewhat corrected from the initial list sent out by Email; anyone on this list who sees any remaining inaccuracies is requested to contact the editor (see contact list on page 4) with any corrections, to appear in the next issue!

Glen Bingham, 3rd Place 1/72 Biplanes, for IJN "Pete" biplane  
Victor Maestas, 2nd Place, 1/48 Large Jets, for F-117A Stealth Fighter

Brian Peck, 3rd Place, 1/32 Single-Engined Prop Axis, A6M2 Zero  
Victor Maestas, 2nd Place, Civil Racer Aircraft, P-51 Racer  
Larry Glenn, 2nd Place, 1/48 OOB, Axis, FW-190D  
Ken Liotta, 2nd Place, 1/72 Small Jets, Nigerian Alpha Jet  
Larry Glenn, 2nd Place, 172 Large Prop OOB, Wellington Bomber  
Larry Glenn, 1st Place, 1/48 Large OOB, IJNAF Gekko Nightfighter  
Jim Guld, 3rd Place, 1/35 Closed Top AFV, Isherman  
Dave Miller, 1st Place, Axis Artillery, PaK 39 Cannon  
Jim Guld, 1st Place, Allied Artillery, Pheasant ATG  
Gil De la Plain, 3rd Place, 1/72 Armor, Challenger MBT  
Jim Guld, 3rd Place, 1/35 Conversions, LRDG Chevy  
Jim Guld, 3rd Place, 1/35 OOB Armor, Allied, Vickers Light Tank  
Jim Guld, 2nd Place, 1/35 Armored Cars, RR Armored Car  
Dave Miller, 3rd Place, Pre-1946 Subs, I-16 Japanese Sub  
Dave Straub, 1st Place, Scratchbuilt Ships, USS Langley  
Ken Liotta, 3rd Place, 1/350 OOB Ships, PLA Song-Class Sub  
Ken Liotta, 3rd Place, OOB Stock Automotive, Kawasaki Zephyr MC  
Mike Blohm, 3rd Place, Realspace Hypothetical, Lunar Lander  
Victor Maestas, 1st Place, Sci-Fi Space, Snowspeeder  
John Tate, 3rd Place, OOB Realspace, US Army Corporal Missile  
John Tate, 2nd Place, Triathlon  
Ken Liotta, 1st Place, OOB Triathlon

Best Ship: Dave Straub, USS Langley

Peoples Choice: Dave Straub, USS Langley

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## RESPONSE

### KEN PINIAK

This is in response to the article by Tony Humphries in the August newsletter.

During my time in the Army, I had the opportunity to join a number of different local modeling clubs throughout the country, many of which were not competition oriented. They would have a couple of contests during the year; otherwise, the monthly meetings were mostly for display and discussion. One club in particular had a really nice custom: a table was set up and models, finished or works in progress, were put on it. Starting at one end of the table, the builder of each model would give a quick briefing on the model: pros and cons of the kit, aftermarket items, special techniques, problem areas, etc. This was very informative because it gave the other modelers not only good tips and techniques, but also alert them to bad model kits' (or good ones') problem areas, and anything else that they may not have known about that particular kit.

When I first moved to Albuquerque (about a million years ago) and joined this fine club, I passed this information along to the powers that be (or were). At that time there was not much interest in changing the contest format. Maybe things have changed now, maybe not.

On the plus side, I do find that the clinics put on by this club are very informative and worthwhile. Sometimes I only come to a meeting because of the clinic.

In any case, Tony Humphries is correct, even in the US, there are other ways to have meetings and it does not need to always be competitive.

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## KIT REVIEW

### JACK BRUNO

#### Dragon Panzerjager IV / L/70 Lang / ZWI

In my quest to do a little something different coming from the Ardennes campaign, I decided to build a little jewel that's been in my stash for a long time. It's *really* a long name, so for the sake of simplicity let's just go with "ZWI," shall we??? In reality this vehicle was literally an "interim solution" for a redesigned Panzerjager IV (L48) to an up-gunned L/70 Lang. It featured a large gun/crew housing to mount the 7.5cm Pak 42 L70 Gun, which was already achieving great fanfare in the Panther tanks. As you can see (photo below), the weight of the Tank was very heavy on the front of the chassis, which forced the engineers to use solid steel road wheels in the first four stations on each side to compensate for the additional weight of the gun housing.

This vehicle depicts a unit of the 116th Panzer Division in action near and around the town of Compogne, Belgium, 1944.

I like this kit a lot... it's a *pre*-million-part Dragon kit but still holds up very well. As you can see, I decided early on *not* to install the Thoma shields because at this particular time in

## FRED'S FOTO FILE

### FRED FRANCESCHI

#### Arkansas

Here are some photos that I took in 1980, when I went to Arkansas to visit family. The first photo was taken at a National Guard armory in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The unit was Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery. This self-propelled artillery weapon was displayed in front of the armory, and is still there. The photo shows my younger brother Jim, in his hippie days after his Viet Nam tour, with my son Steve.



The remaining photos were taken at a Civil War battlefield and park in Northwest Arkansas. Here is a shot of an antitank gun at the same park.



When you are visiting other places, it is a good idea to ask local people if there are any small museums, or any military vehicles on display in the area. You may stumble into a real find that is hidden away and known only to the locals. And be sure to have your camera "just in case."

[Editor's note: All of Fred's photos from his Arkansas trip and several more, larger and in full resolution, may be found in the [Bonus Pages](#). -JW]

combat they would be ripped apart trudging along the half-lane roads of the Ardennes. Besides, when I do the Panzer IV Ausf. J (late), they will be more appropriate. Also left off was the gun travel lock, which just annoyed me... in modeling, you can do that, it's allowed.

Following the instructions every step of the way I ran into no problems but I do have a few questions. In subsequent pictures, I found that the extra/spare wheel mountings were on the engine deck resting on peg mounts against the casemate. There's nothing in the instructions about this other than them being shown (lightly) in Step 12... so plan ahead. Furthermore, they do have you install two F13 parts for mounts on the rear hull... hmm. Go with the pegs, it looks better! After the chassis was finished, I had a *ball* with the kit-supplied solid horn track. I love them; in fact, if you *don't* want yours, I'll take them. I have *never* had a conflict with Dragon track... in fact, I really prefer them. You get a lot of time for the cement to cure and you can shape it however you want—it's very forgiving.

The upper hull was/is a real gem too... I used strip plastic, applied it with Testor's liquid glue where it needed to be and melted it into the lines, soaking it with a appropriate amount of liquid glue to soften/melt it where weld beads should be added and enhanced. Use a new #11 blade to press the plastic into shape. This attention to detail will really pay off in the dry brushing segment. A small lead wire was added for the electrical lead for the light.

Now, I looked all over for the two periscopes that are to be on the right and left on top of the casemate, under the protective brackets/guards supplied. I could not find them so I added them from the bitch kit I keep for parts... don't ask. I also tossed the exhaust cylinders as I just didn't like them. I used my razor, from John Voytech, and sawed aluminum tube. I then added strip plastic for the weld seams on the front and back. Nasty! I then left the tools off for later after painting. The gun came out nice and as kit progresses you can really see what a brute of a tank this was... Highly intimidating.

In looking at the only example left, in Samur, France, I roughed up the plastic of the housing a bit and added some green putty for that texture. On to the Paint Shop...

As I do with all my armor, I gave the entire vehicle a coat of flat black beforehand. Early this year I made a major investment just for *me!* I can do that! I brought myself into the modern age and put my trusty Paasche VH into retirement. I purchased a Grex outfit, the TRG with compressor... I *love* it... If it was a female I would marry it! Okay, that out of way, I also upgraded my paint and bought sixty colors of Vallejo—these are magical. A few months ago, my friends suggested that I lighten up my kits because they were darkish; well, I paid

attention and the last four kits that I've done have been looking superb. I used the Tank Aces colors for green (Splinter Bloch) and a light yellow and almost a rust-red brown. With the Grex I did the pattern freehand, adding a lighter shade of the paint in the middle of the pattern. When this was to my satisfaction, a coat of Future was applied. With the clear coat dry, I gave the tank a few Dick Van Dyke oil washes from Windsor-Newton. Everything is now coming into play, and a nice flat coat from Vallejo sealed everything in. This Verlinden net has been doing the Dracula routine on me since I started

("You need me... you need me"), so I soaked it in some white glue mixed with water and spread it out on the front of the housing and gun mantlet. My intention was to use foliage, but opted for the net.



With the painting all out of the way extra little things were done as spraying the tracks and undersides along with adding MIG pigments to and around the areas of usage. The chassis was given the same oil wash treatment as the hull and all was tight in the world. Metal rubbing on metal leaves a worn silverish look (friction). I used some aluminum paint on the running gear and tracks and this enhanced things really well... *don't overdo it!*

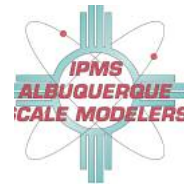
Now for the tools. Metal was painted dark grey, and the wood portions Tamiya "Buff." This was allowed to dry, then raw sienna oil paint was lightly brushed and streaked over the buff to give a wooden look. This was sealed with clear and oil-washed too... I brushed the flat coat on it. I used a pencil very lightly to sorta bring out some detail on the metal tools—the graphite comes out well. In addition, I painted the periscopes the clear green color with a small brush and applied Future

over the glass again when dried.

The base: I used a little ditty that the gals at the local Goodwill Store save for me. Bless their red-headed hearts! I used some packing styrofoam glued to the base on each side because I wanted a sunken road. This dried in a day and then I made a celluclay mixed with white glue mixture and covered the base, which was squared off with masking tape to keep the frame part intact. This dried over a three-day period and the tracks from an Italeri Panzer IV were pressed into the celluclay for tread marks in the road while it was still drying... *superb!* Before it was completely dry I pressed some Verlinden fuel cans and drum into the roadside to give the appearance of how critical the fuel shortage was for the Germans during this time. Two browns along with an oil wash were applied, and then three layers of baking soda was used. First, for the soaking of the oil wash... just keep applying it until it stays *white*... next was a layer over that and I used a water/white glue mixture applied with an eye dropper to keep the baking soda in place. The third layer was to cover the and soak into the second layer... looks very good. Some bushes were implanted, but not overdone... a common mistake, overkill... when it's enough, stop.

There you have it... I enjoyed this kit very much and I'm already looking at my next project! See you down the line.

[Note: The rest of Jack's pictures of this kit can be found on the [Bonus Pages](#). -JW]



### Master

James Guld . . . . .	1393
Victor Maestas. . . . .	1238
James Strickland . . . . .	597
Mike Blohm . . . . .	399
Brian Peck . . . . .	302
Josh Pals . . . . .	127
Glenn Bingham . . . . .	125
Dave Miller . . . . .	125
John Tate . . . . .	112
Larry Glenn . . . . .	77
Liotta, Ken . . . . .	2

### Intermediate

Tony Humphries . . . . .	1454
Bob Meeker . . . . .	1405
Frank Randall . . . . .	1101
Don Smith . . . . .	824
Steve Brodeur . . . . .	625
Gorham Smoker . . . . .	375
Jerry Little . . . . .	325
Ken Piniak . . . . .	193
Gil De La Plain . . . . .	125
Gil Johnson . . . . .	100
Jack Garriss . . . . .	60

### Basic

Matt Blohm. . . . .	2251
Fred Behnken . . . . .	325
Jeanne Garriss . . . . .	125
John Brannon . . . . .	2

### Junior

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

## MODELER OF THE YEAR POINTS STANDINGS

as of 13 Jul 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!

## AUGUST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS





# BONUS PAGES! PAINT

FRED FRANCESCHI

In late July I attended the military vehicle convention in Portland, Oregon. During a discussion with one of the primary paint vendors for military vehicle color schemes, I asked if he carried the blue paint used to paint the registration numbers on the hoods of the early World War II vehicles (I wanted to get an aerosol can for my truck). His answer was, "I can't sell enough of that color to pay for having the paint made. Use Modelmaster Insignia Blue paint."

So it may interest you to know that Modelmaster hobby paint is used on the 1-to-1 scale military stuff also.

Note: I quoted the vendor, but don't use Insignia Blue—use Intermediate Blue instead.



# BONUS PAGES! FRED'S FOTO FILE

FRED FRANCESCHI

## Arkansas

Here are some photos that I took in 1980, when I went to Arkansas to visit family. The first photo was taken at a National Guard armory in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The unit was Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery. This self-propelled artillery weapon was displayed in front of the armory, and is still there. The photo shows my younger brother Jim, in his hippie days after his Viet Nam tour, with my son Steve.





These two photos were taken at a Civil War battlefield and park in Northwest Arkansas, and include my oldest daughter Mari and Steve on another self-propelled weapon.



The next three photos are of an antitank gun at the same park.





The final two images are ones my other daughter Marcia took with her cell phone at the Siloam Springs armory when I started to write this article.





The Bataan Memorial Museum, sponsored by the New Mexico National Guard, is located in Santa Fe and includes weapons used by New Mexico guard members. I was there earlier in the year for a Bataan Death March ceremony, and saw an M-42 Duster, a 90mm anti-aircraft gun, and other weapons. And the displays inside the museum are excellent. If you go to Santa Fe, go see the museum.

When you are visiting other places, it is a good idea to ask local people if there are any small museums, or any military vehicles on display in the area. You may stumble into a real find that is hidden away and known only to the locals. And be sure to have your camera "just in case."

# BONUS PAGES! KIT REVIEW

JACK BRUNO

Here are all four of the photos Jack supplied with his article submission.







