

THE EAGLE'S VIEW MIKE BLOHM

ASM did very well at the IPMS/USA National Convention last month in Phoenix. We had seventeen members in attendance—see pictures in the Bonus Pages. I'm not sure if that is a record for the club, but it is up there! ASM modelers placed first and second in the Best Chapter/Group Entry category with the "World War II Matilda Tanks Across the World" display led by Ken Liotta and the "Renault FT—The First Modern Tank" display led by Tony Humphries. The Matilda display also won the Best Miscellaneous award. Congratulations to all the ASM members who built models for the displays. I also wanted to give kudos to Jerry Little for putting



together the great ASM chapter/club display table for the Nationals. Pictures of the two group entries and the club's table are shown at the top of the ASM Website's home page.

There will probably be other articles written on the Nats, but here are my comments. Overall, I thought it was a great show with a lot of great models on the tables. I heard about some long delays in getting registered on the first day, but I did not personally experience that on the second day. They had pretty smooth model entry procedures, and I picked up some ideas that we might want to incorporate for the next Chile Con. I think there should have been some splits in the non-aircraft and armor categories, which also had huge amounts of entries. The 2020 Nationals will be in San Marcos, Texas, about halfway between Austin and San Antonio. So you'd better get building for that!

Thanks to all who entered models in the New Mexico State Fair model contest and/or ASM's "1918" model display, and who helped with the registration and judging. We will have a report at the September 7 ASM meeting with some statistics on how

August Meeting highlights, top toi bottom: The Swap Meet in full swing, and the business meeting in progress.



many entries and entrants we had and how many models were in the display. Contest results will be posted on the website within a few days of the judging. There are normally around 300 pictures posted each year, so that will take a few weeks. If you entered any models, don't forget to pick them up on Monday, September 17, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The next model display coming up is the Air Force Ball on September 15 at Kirtland AFB. We are looking for anything USAF from 1947 through the present time. This includes aircraft (it is the Air Force), helicopters, missiles, X-planes, support vehicles, figures, ships (yes, they have some), and dioramas. I will be going through the model pictures from the last couple of years and let the builders know which of their models could be used, in case you have forgotten what might be a player. We intend to borrow some of the ASM-built nuclear bomber models from the Defense Nuclear Weapons School Museum display, including ½-scale B-36, B-47, B-52, and B-2 aircraft. How to provide loaner models will be discussed at the September 7 meeting and in an email to the membership. Please

let me know what you will be loaning so that I can print out name plates for them.

To wrap up, this month's short American ace story is on Lieutenant Colonel Bill Harris, US Army Air Force. The story and pictures are in the Bonus Pages. Harris, with sixteen aerial victories, is the 32nd ranking US ace (tie) and the 27th ranking USAF ace (tie). He was the top ace of the 347th Fighter Group (FG), and the top P-38 Lightning ace in the 13th Air Force. He served two tours with the 347 FG and one tour with the 18 FG, becoming the commander of that unit.

IN THE BONUS PAGES! JOE WALTERS

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

- Mike's photos from the Nationals
- Mike's article on this month's Ace
- Tony Humphries on his Nationals experience
- Joe's report on Star Trek Las Vegas
- And more!

Master		termediate		Mark Vaughn	
Brian Peck		Chuck Herrmann.		Don Smith	
Tony Humphries .		Robert Henderson		Partap Davis 4	
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Bret Kinman 2		Jack Garriss		2018 MODELER OF THE	
		Blaine Couch 25		YEAR POINTS	
				As of 19 Aug 18	
	President:	Mike Blohm	823-9404	BlohmM@aol.com	
CONTACT	Vice President:	Josh Pals	344-4761	jpals871@gmail.com	
	Secretary/Treasure		681-5158	fcr40.fr@gmail.com	
	Contest Director:	John Tate		3	
	Members Pro-Tem:	Jack Garriss	908-1231	jgar319113@aol.com	
		Chris Kurtze	489-1046	aggressivekill@yahoo.com	
IINFIL		Keith Liotta		theemodelstarter@aol.com	
	Webmaster:	Mike Blohm	823-9404	BlohmM@aol.com	
	Newsletter Editor:	Joe Walters	821-3751	jwalters22@comcast.net	

BONUS PAGES! THE EAGLE'S VIEW MIKE BLOHM

Nationals photos by Mike Blohm and Ken Liotta













This page and next: Here are some pictures of the outstanding ASM Club Display Table at the 2018 IPMS/USA National Convention, put together by Jerry Little. Well done, Jerry! -MB



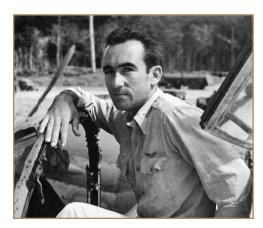






BONUS PAGES! THE EAGLE'S VIEW MIKE BLOHM

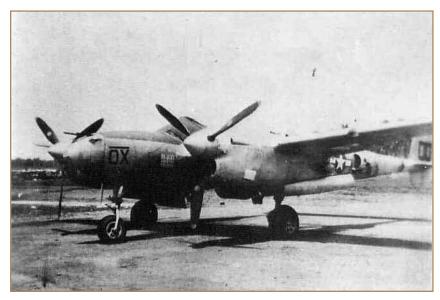
Bill Harris: P-38 Lightning Ace of the Southwest Pacific



Lieutenant Colonel Bill Harris is a little-known ace who flew P-38 Lightnings in the Southwest Pacific, eventually becoming the top P-38 ace of the 13th Air Force. Harris is the 32nd-ranking US ace (tie) and 27th-ranking USAF ace (tie), and was the top ace of the 347 Fighter Group (FG). Harris had served in the US Navy from 1936 – 1940 as a radioman on the *USS Houston*. When the US entered WWII he wanted to fly instead of returning to the Navy, so he joined the Army Air Corps. From his Navy experience he did not want to fly over water, but he ended up serving two combat tours in the Pacific. The first was with the 339 Fighter Squadron "Sunsetters" of the 347 FG, scoring fifteen total victories flying the P-38G and H between June 1943 and February 1944 in New Caledonia, Guadal-

canal, and New Guinea. His victories included a "triple" (Zekes) on 15 Feb 1944 at Vunakanau air strip, and four "doubles." He had ten kills in a five-month period (June – October 1943), including three total in two sorties on 10 Oct 1943. He joined the 18 FG in November 1944 for a second combat tour flying the P-38J in New Guinea and the Philippines. He scored one additional kill on 22 Jun 1945 (Oscar) at Mandai Airdrome in the Celebes (Indonesia). He served as 18 FG commander from 1 Aug 1945 to the end of WWII. 13th AF P-38 units were relegated to airfield and rail attacks during the invasion of the Philippines, effectively limiting their opportunities for additional victories. After the war Harris went back





to a logging business that he had stared in 1940, and then became a rancher. Harris passed away in May 2012. He was inducted into the Oregon Aviation Hall of Fame on 7 Nov 2015.

The model of Harris's P-38 is the ½2-scale Hasegawa P-38J/L kit. The model depicts Harris's aircraft in August 1945 at Zamboanga Airfield on Mindanao in the Philippine Islands. The model goes together well but needs sanding along the booms for a smooth join. It is finished in Model Master aluminum plate (buffing) enamel paint. Harris's markings were fairly minimal, and were bashed from

Super Scale and Aeromaster numbers and letters decal sheets with the victory markings from a P-38 sheet. His name plate was hand-painted. The "OX" on the nose of his P-38 is his ranch's cattle brand.





Bonus Pages! Some reflections on the 2018 Phoenix Nationals Tony Humphries

So, another Nationals has come and gone. A competition that ASM enjoyed some success in (as you will discover in a moment) and also where we were well represented in terms of attendees. Quite a few of our club made it out there and hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves?

So how did we do? I am sure others will respond with a list of trophies and accomplishments, but notably both of our entries in the Group/Chapter entry (we had one from the "Sandia Modelers" group and one official ASM entry) did well, with a 1st and 2nd place secured against some pretty stiff competition! I think the judges were impressed with both the presentation and information that we presented with both of our entries and I believe that both factors were the key to victory in that category. Also, one of our FTs went round and round on a turntable, and we should never underestimate the impact of (deliberate) motion and shiny things on the judges.

The Matilda entry, which claimed 1st place, was a repeat (with some improvements) of our 2013 Nationals entry, which the judges at that time forgot to judge (not that we are bitter or anything... it was only a year of our lives that it took to put that together) so it was nice to see that validated. The Renault FT entry was an entirely new experiment in a new scale for us (1/16) and getting a 2nd place with that was an achievement that we should be proud of. Thanks in particular for the Matilda build's win should go to Ken Liotta for the execution of his display and the work put into the entire entry, and definitely also to Jim Guld, who built a number of the most striking models, although all who contributed and suggested ideas (and there were quite a few) should be celebrated too—particularly those who repaired Jim's models after UPS used them as soccer balls. I have no doubt that a list of them will be forthcoming shortly anyway and maybe in this very newsletter.





Some notables that I can recall were Victor Maestas coming 1st with an astonishingly shiny B-25 in one of the aircraft categories (I'm still seeing purple spots *now*) and getting a number of other placings too. Others that I recall were top three finishes by Frank Randall, Larry Glenn, Ken Liotta, Partap Davis, and David Epstein all in the adult categories, and my own daughter Kathleen Humphries, who placed in two categories in the twelve-and-under section. Apologies to anyone that I missed there, as I am sure there are a number of you. I am equally sure that someone will provide, in this esteemed publication, a list of all trophies won for your delectation and delight and to fill in for my memory lapses.

Having looked at the entries in both the pre-teen and teen categories, there seems to be great hope for the future of the hobby. Something of a relief really and worth stressing I think, to counter the doom-mongers who I frequently hear saying that the hobby is dying. Yes, we are getting older and it was disturbing to hear my eleven-year-old tell me that she had trouble finding me as from a distance I looked like everyone else at the show; i.e., 5' ft 10", reasonably old, fat and balding... with glasses. Indeed, many of us could be seen squinting at the models on display and leaning unsteadily in to try and get a better view of something that could probably be seen from space, by anyone with normal eyesight... Thankfully, I had a wide selection of ridiculous t-shirts to help to some degree with identification and I would urge others to do the same at future conventions. It really helps people to find you if you aren't in khaki cargo shorts and a grey convention t-shirt.

Anyway, as I as saying before I strayed a country-mile away from the original point, from the evidence of this convention there are many younger modelers coming through to take our place, I am happy to say. The quality of the entries in the adult categories also were quite breathtaking, with some of the best models that I have ever seen in person on display, and many exceptional models that didn't place at all, such was the quality on show. The winner of the best ship was one of my personal favorites and congratulations on that beautifully scratchbuilt ½5 entry. Many of the dioramas were also excellent. The armor diorama with the sheep was another that caught my eye (although not from any unsavory attachment or interest in anything Ovine I should add—since I have some Welsh ancestry and bearing in mind their reputation, I thought I ought to make that clear…).





So, apart from the models, what were the other good points about the show? Well, there was a great chance to socialize with like-minded people from all over the world and chew the proverbial (and in the case of the hotel food, literal) fat. The vendor room was very good also, with some unusual and highly sought-after models on sale. There were also some good deals to be had, especially if you know how to haggle. If not, watch Monty Python's The Life of Brian and give it a go yourself next time. Although offering the vendors twenty shekels for a kit is probably not going to go down too well these days, and calling somebody "big-nose" may lead to some unpleasantness... There was plenty of space on the tables to put your models on, too, once you had registered, and the lighting in the model room was very good

as well—I brought extra lights for our chapter entry, but was happy to find that I didn't need them.

I felt, personally (and your experience may differ) that there were some problems too. Obviously not everything is going to go to plan and the hosting chapter(s) in Phoenix should generally be commended for the show that they put on. Some things could be better though—the heat and dust were ridiculous although, granted, the hosting chapter can't do much about *that*... But having to carry your models over an (at times) busy road to the convention center from the hotel was annoying and risked damage, especially for those who had large group entries or dioramas to move. The loading dock could surely have been made available? Also the initial registration was bordering on a fiasco apparently, with one of our members waiting *four and a half hours* to register on the Wednesday (first day of registration)! I'd have gone to the bar after the first hour myself, but that's probably just me... Even when I registered on Friday morning it took 45 minutes or so and there were only three people in front of me in the line. That has to be improved

and I am sure that the folks in Chatanooooooooga (is that enough "o"s?) will rise to the challenge. Maybe they will provide a better incentive to register online? More people on the registration desk? Practice the process with your own club members first to ensure that it works? A line for cash only payers? Distribution of forms, pens and clipboards at the door of the venue so that people can fill them in while waiting? An area to complete the paperwork and only allowing people to join the line once they have done so? Just thoughts off the top of my head anyway. They might work, they might not.

Whose idea was it to judge on Friday night too? That was disastrous to our FT Group build, as we had a couple of models that we were rushing to finish—if Friday night had been available to do that and the judging had been on Saturday afternoon as normal, then we would have had a bigger and better display. Also some of our attendees would have finished other models and been able to enter them. Obviously it's best to have your models built in plenty of time—everyone knows that—but finishing them in the hotel room the night before is a long-standing tradition, and one that should be maintained, I feel! We didn't find out about this until Friday morning and with some of our guys coming in to town that day, it was a real problem. This also resulted in some awards being dished out on Saturday morning which rather ruined the suspense of the award ceremony, I thought. It's probably easier for the judges and presenters to do this but I really don't think it helped many of the modelers and I for one think it was an idea that should definitely not be repeated. But maybe that's just me?

In addition to that, I thought that the hotel was over-priced and not as exclusive as it thinks it is. The cost of parking was bordering on extortion (\$36 to park overnight in one lot?!?) and the hotel parking lot was full when I arrived, which was also frustrating. Well, unless you paid an arm and a leg for valet parking. Funny how that's always available, isn't it? Other things that didn't go too well for me personally were the cost of registration (\$50? Really?) and the awards presentation. The guys running it did a good job with the audio-visual stuff (apart from the constant malware/virus alerts) and the guys reading the results did their best, but there are so many categories and splits now that my brain (or what is left of it these days) was oozing out of my ears by the end of the aircraft categories and I had to leave to get some fresh air. Even the armor results bored me, and that's what I build! Maybe at future events we could reserve and timetable half-hour slots each for aircraft, armor, ships, sci-fi, and miscellaneous and have a scheduled break between each one? I think everyone would be grateful for that. We could probably save time in the armor category too by just giving them all to Jim Wechsler straight away and leaving it at that! Also no-one was allowed in the model room to collect their models until the presentation finished, despite about fifty people waiting around to do exactly that. It seemed petty and unnecessary and it would have reduced the size of the ensuing melee if people could have removed their models when they wanted to. Maybe there was a good reason for that, I don't know, but if there was it would have helped if the guys on the door had known it and/or shared it. The trophies were frankly tiny and looked cheap too. Even the guys from California who seemed to win every single armor category, could have carried them all home in the pockets of their shorts. Hopefully theirs weren't as scratched up as mine was either. The trophies that is, not the shorts...

It's possible that these were only issues for me though. In which case, shove me in a trash can and call me Oscar. Despite this, it was still an enjoyable convention and I look forward to attending the next one. It's inevitable that whatever you do, you're not going to please everyone and I think we all understand and accept that. I probably won't get to Tennessee since I don't want to drive for a week to get there and trusting your models to the airlines may be a bit rash—if United can kill your dog, what will they do to your models?!? But the 2020 convention in Texas might be do-able and to all those making the journey, I look forward to seeing you there! It's seems like a long way away (in both time and distance) but it's only two years, so you'd better get your building trousers on. It'll be here sooner than you think. Anyway, thanks to Phoenix and congrats to the Texas chapter who will be hosting in 2020. We look forward to enjoying your hospitality and drinking all of your beer. Hopefully it won't be so bloody hot there either!

Actually if we ever get around to hosting another Nationals in Albuquerque, and I really think we should, then at least we know how to emulate the conditions. All we have to do is pack everybody in and set the building on fire... It will feel about the same!

BONUS PAGES! STAR TREK LAS VEGAS 2018 JOE WALTERS





Once again, on the same weekend as Nationals, the world's largest Star Trek convention took place in Las Vegas (Nevada, not New Mexico!).

As usual, there were no real model-related events at this particular show, but there was much to entertain sci-fi fans, whether they build models or not. And there were a few things of interest to the hobby, as you will see.

The show is a dense collection of guest stars (around 140 this time!), panels, presentations, concerts, parties, stuff to buy, autograph and photo-op sessions, displays, multiple dining options, and more—including one particular major news item.

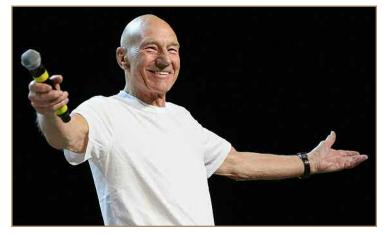
During the first few days of the five-day convention, the emcees repeatedly advised attendees to stay in their seats after William Shatner's Saturday presentation, as they had something special lined up for us. Boy, did they! They picked the right time, as Shatner *always* fills up the Main Events room. And they did a great job of keeping this secret, as there wasn't even the vaguest clue as to what was coming. After Shatner left the stage, a CBS spokesdroid took the stage.

[CBS was all over this convention, as the new *Star Trek: Discovery* series is on their new streaming service, and they sponsored much of this convention, with "CBS All Access" logos plastered on virtually every construct in the place.]

Apparently, CBS is quite happy with the response to *Discovery*, particularly (I presume) in the form of all those new paid subscriptions to that service, and wants to expand the franchise with an unspecified number of new Trek series. This statement was greeted enthusiastically, and the fellow went on to say

that he was here to announce the first of those series that would go into production. To make the announcement, he asked us to welcome a special friend to the stage. Out walked Patrick Stewart, to everyone's surprise: he was not even listed as a convention guest this year! The place *exploded* with cheering and applause.

Stewart reminisced for a time on how he got the part of Picard in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and some of his experiences during that time, and how he believed that, after *Star Trek: Nemesis*, the tenth film in the franchise, he was basically



done with the character (though he did do some voice work for some video games and such later). Then he said he recently received an email from CBS with an offer, to which (of course), he said no (audience laughter here). Then, he said, he was contacted again and a face to face meeting took place, during which they basically made him an offer he couldn't refuse. He looked out at a stunned audience and said: "Jean-Luc Picard is back." The place exploded again! No one could believe it! A new Trek series is coming, and it features Picard!

Details were few; this series takes place about twenty years after the events of *Nemesis* (please note that it now *is* twenty years after *Nemesis*...) and we shouldn't be surprised if Picard is no longer a Captain, and, for that matter, is no longer exactly the Picard we know. The series title was not revealed, nor its premise. Stewart said there were no scripts yet, but they have been developing storylines and such, so they're really in early early pre-production on this.

The show goes on! There were many other guests; here are a few.

First off, the theme of this convention was the 25th anniversary of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. In token of this, here is virtually the entire cast of the show onstage at once. Notably absent were Avery Brooks, who hasn't been doing conventions of late, and Nicole DeBoer. Perhaps they don't allow both Daxes onstage at once?





At right is Dina Meyer, who (among many other roles) played a Romulan commander in *Star Trek: Nemesis.* She had her own autograph table in the Dealer Room and was very approachable and friendly.

At left, William Shatner is always entertaining and energetic. He's pushing 90, and I have no idea how he manages to keep up his level of energy. He announced that, among other things, he has a Christmas album coming out. I can't wait—I intend to play that album until the family begs me to stop. I may not even get thru it once...







Signing autographs above is Jason Isaacs, who played Captain Lorca on the first season of *Star Trek: Discovery* (above right). You also know him from the Harry Potter films, where he played Lucius Malfoy. He tends to play very serious no-nonsense characters, but he is not like that at all. Very funny, very comfortable with an audience, and very evasive when asked whether he'll be seen in *Discovery* season two.

Below left is Anson Mount. He is joining the cast of *Discovery* for season two, playing Captain Pike of the starship *Enterprise* (you may recall Pike commanded the ship just before Kirk; as this series takes place around ten years prior to the original series, Pike's presence is consistent). He should be quite interesting in this role! His rather uncanny natural resemblance to Jeffrey Hunter (who played him in the original Trek pilot episode) can only help! You may know Anson Mount as Mr. Bohannon from the series *Hell on Wheels*, or as Black Bolt on the (now canceled) *Inhumans* series.

At bottom right, three of the *Discovery* series stars. Left to right: Doug Jones (Saru), Anson Mount (Pike), and Sonequa Martin-Green (Burnham). Jones is very tall and very wiry, which is why he so often



Costumes! They were everywhere and many were quite amazing. Here are a few samples.

























At upper left, Batman as a Borg. Disturbing concept, but amazing costume! The thing must have weighed a ton!

Top right: On the last day of the convention, we saw these two dressed as crewmen from *The Orville*, Seth McFarlane's

excellent parody of all things Trek. For some reason, we saw several more during that day.













Below, a lineup of contestants at the Saturday night costume competition. Yup, at mid-right, that's a full-bodied Tholian. Impressive!



Okay, okay, fine! Models! Though there are no modeling-related events at this show, there are dealers selling various models—some are legit kits we've seen elsewhere, others, well, maybe not so much. Still, there are many related items that are hard to find and many that are quite ubiquitous. And keen-eyed readers may notice some items that could be easily used to enhance dioramas and such!







Nice Infinity Gauntlet! If you look at their shelves, you'll see they offer some combination complete models and related posters, a clever bit of marketing.

Below, a display model of the *USS Glenn*, sister-ship to the *Discovery*. Using the same design as *Discovery*, this vessel figured into an early episode of that series, where it had to be abandoned and destroyed.



A company called Eaglemoss offers this model and many others. Really, it's the same model as their *Discovery* model (you can see both in the photo below), just with different decals, but only five hundred of these were made in a limited edition. I asked the fellow if this was a "convention-exclusive" piece, and he said, "Only if they sell out!" He said that any remaining models would be offered at the upcoming New York Comic Con, and since they were still being sold near the end of the show, I'm guessing they didn't sell out. I did pick up one for Matt Blohm at his request, though, and it looks pretty nice. About eight inches long, the level and quality of detail is superb. That is also the case for the myriad other models they offer.



At bottom, part of Eaglemoss's display. You can see they have highly-detailed and accurate models of virtually every vessel seen in every incarnation of *Star Trek* (including the recent movies), and some non-Trek entries are visible, too.



Speaking of display models, here are a couple of serious entries, both from *Star Trek: Discovery*. First up is the *Enterprise* as seen in the last episode of the first season of *Discovery*, Captain Pike's ship. Maximally detailed, and with an animated light display, this thing was almost three feet long. Want one? Check out the price tag at bottom right: a mere \$9000 will get you one!



How about the *Discovery* itself? Here you go, about the same size as the *Enterprise* above, super-detailed and with flashing and animated lighting, this was a real thing of beauty, and sported the same \$9000 pricetag. A third ship, the *Shenzhou* from the early episodes, was below, but I was unable to get a decent photo of it. Also \$9000.



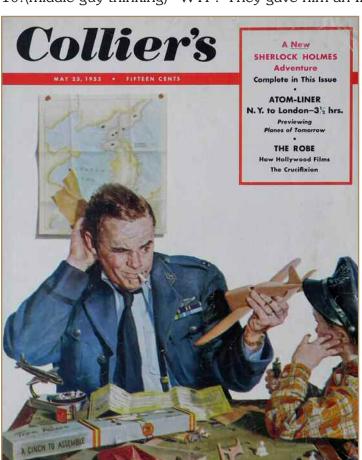
Next year's convention takes place from July 31 thru August 4. If you're interested, monitor the Creation website (https://www.creationent.com/cal/st_lasvegas.html) for news and guest listings as they appear.



Bonus Pages! Miscellaneous

Last month, we ran the photo at right and asked ASM members to submit captions. Only Brian Peck accepted this challenge, and he took it to heart, responding with the following *ten* captions!

- 1. "That fuselage has a large seam, it's junk!"
- 2. "Just think, in 75 years people will end up in a fistfight arguing about the blue color on that Jap plane, saying it's green!"
- 3. (from the guy on the left) "Did he not see that glue mark on the canopy?"
- 4. "Look at the new Tamiya zero, guys, I got it from Hannants!"
- 5. "That hinomaru is on upside down, dude..."
- 6. "That looks awesome! are you going to enter that in the next contest?!"
- 7. "The Revell of Germany kit is much better, Gerhard."
- 8. "Yeah, I got those detail parts direct from Verlinden when we passed by the shop."
- 9. (from the guy on the left) "Wow, he used the wrong cockpit paint color, it's not metallic blue!"
- 10. (middle guy thinking) "WTF? They gave him an Iron Cross First Class for that?"

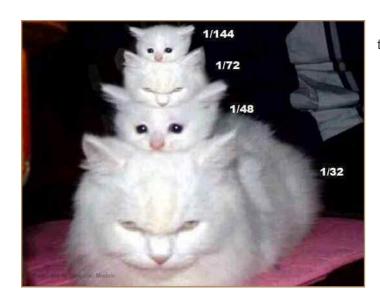




Well done, Brian! Okay, the rest of you, let's try this again.

Here at left is this month's entry; like the first one, it was submitted by John Tate. Please submit your extreme laugh-inducing captions to me by clicking here. Please use a subject line of "Captions" or some such, and I'll see to it your brilliance shine forth from our next issue!

Thanks!



Frank Randall sent this one (at left) in. He agrees that this could be considered either a *kit* build or *scratchbuilt*.







Her dislikes include feed tray stoppages, tracer flareout of her NVGs and premature fixed-wing strikes scattering her high-value targets.

Note to our out-of-town readers: don't feel bad if this means nothing to you. It's a purely local stroke of brilliance, and all of our local readers will fall out of their chairs laughing (and maybe crying) when they see it.













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The International Plastic Modelers' Society is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage of Dallas, Texas, in 1964, there are now IPMS branches all over the world.

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As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Members' Forum, where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the country offer discounts to IPMS/USA members. To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or join online (http://www.ipmsusa.org).

For any questions or problems regarding your membership application or renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Office Manager (manager@ipmsusa.org).

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