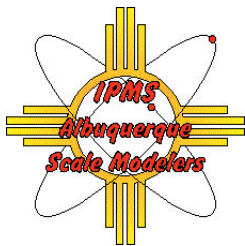


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://www.hobbies-n-stuff.com/asmweb.htm>

February 2004

PRESIDENT'S CROSSHAIRS BRIAN PECK

As I sit here writing my article, I am also working on the new Bf-109K-4 just released from Hasegawa. Last week when Tim at Hobbies 'N Stuff called and told me that "the K's are in," I zoomed over at my lunch hour to grab one up. I ran into Patrick Dick who happened to be there to pick up a 'K' also. After I got home from work that day, I immediately went to work on my latest project. I must say, the molding is very nice with crisp detail and it's engineered very differently from their earlier "G" version. The fuselage is divided into 4 pieces, sectioned off right behind the cockpit indicating more variants to come (anyone for a G-10 or G-14AS?). The first step was the cockpit. It appears to be the correct cockpit for a K-4 although I am still trying to confirm that. The cockpit went together smoothly. After sanding off the right side panel detail that was molded into the right forward fuselage half, I glued into place with the "K" version side panel. There was a gap between the cockpit floor and side panels that can be filled in with sheet styrene if one so desires. I used the Eduard color photo-etch seat belts, which were easy to work with. However, the next K-4 I do I will use the floor section of the Cutting Edge 109 Cockpit detail set that have the seat belts molded into the seat. I compared the two and the Cutting Edge floor and it looks the same as the kit floor.

After assembling the cockpit, the kit basically fell together with little hassle. The only glitch I came across is that the wing roots required a little bit of finesse to fit properly. I used filler sparingly since the fit was so good. After working on it most of this past weekend, I was ready to paint early Sunday afternoon. I chose the late war camo scheme RLM 75/76/83. Right now I am

letting the paint dry and waiting to color sand to smooth out the finish and apply the decals. I highly recommend this kit to any Luftwaffe buff and even to anyone looking to do their first 1/32 scale prop job. I even recommend it to those who are resisting doing large scale German stuff (*ahem...* Frank, this means you!).

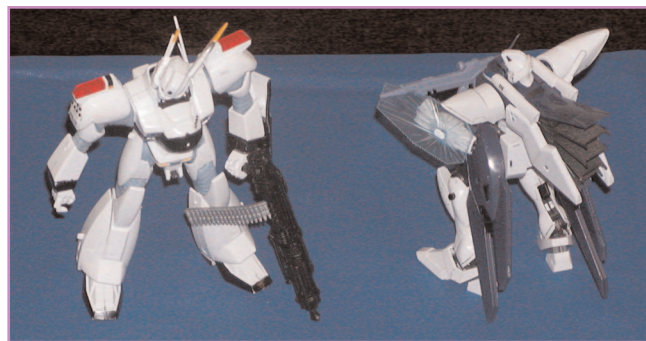
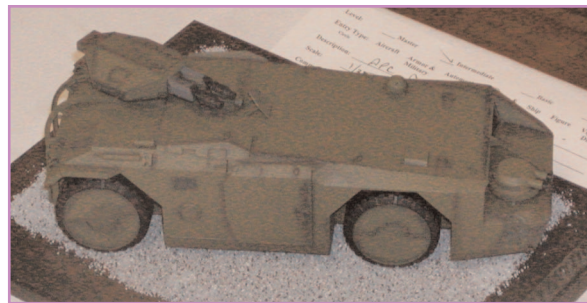
I would like to thank Stan and Helen from Hobbies 'N Stuff for donating \$120 in gift certificates for ASM's raffle contest. We will be setting them out on the raffle tables throughout the coming year. The next time you're by the shop, thank them for supporting the club. A big "Duuude" to Stan and Helen! Thanks Guys!

Don't forget that the February meeting is our first of



January meeting highlights, clockwise from left: a crowded and eclectic group of models graces the "Display Only" table; Keith Liotta defiantly building a model; the crowd mills about before the meeting starts.





January contest winners, from upper left: John Kendrick's *Zaku II*; Mike Blohm's *Jupiter C*; Rick Carver's *Aliens APC*; and Casey Dick's Gundams.

two swap meets this year. Bring all your goodies and trade them for someone else's goodies. At these swap meets you never know what will show up at the bottom of someone's stack of stuff, so bring your entire savings account money, car title or even the deed to your house just in case you find some you can't live without!

VICE-PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

FRANK RANDALL

Well, the first meeting of the year is now behind us. But the best is yet to come. I was looking at the upcoming events and planning what I want to build for the various contests and I am excited about the possibilities.

I also want to encourage everyone to try to participate in the special contests that some of your fellow members are sponsoring, so keep building and have fun!

IPMS NEWS and Contests

Modelfiesta XXIII: Saturday, Feb 28, Live Oak, Texas (Alamo Squadron—San Antonio, TX), web link <http://www.stic.net/users/alamosq/index.htm>

IPMS Grand Junction Scale Modelers Society, Grand Junction, Colorado, March 13 and 14, Palisade Veterans Memorial Community Center, 120 E. 8th Street, Palisade, CO. Contact Rich Bacher (970) 434-7454 (evenings only) or Rab520@earthlink.net

CONTEST CORNER

MIKE BLOHM

January Contest Results

The January 2004 meeting (Sci-Fi / Real Space / Fantasy Contest) had a turnout of 11 models that were

in theme, down slightly from what we had as entries in January 2003. We had three Junior entries, which were all Gundam-type anime figures. There were three entries in Basic, with a mix of both Star Trek and anime. The Intermediates had the largest amount of entries with four, and there was only one at the Masters level. I know there are a lot of Sci-Fi and Real Space fans out there, so we hope to see a bunch more entries next year (Make it so.!).

The best Junior entry was a very nice Gundam Savior built by Casey Dick. Casey also entered a Pat Labor battle suit. Taylor Liotta entered a huge, nicely done Zoid Death Sauren robot dinosaur figure that must have taken a long time to build.

The best Basic entry went to John Kendrick for his nicely detailed Zaku II mobile suit. Other entries included two nice Star Trek models by Tom Tagert of the starship USS Enterprise and the Enterprise's Command Bridge. Mention must be made here of Sam Blackwell's very nicely done Type 44 Japanese tank, which unfortunately wasn't a player in this Sci-Fi contest, but I'm sure that we'll see it again in 2004.

Rick Carver's nicely weathered Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) from the film "Aliens" won best Intermediate entry. Rick also entered a nicely done Xenomorph (Alien) head bust. Cecil Severs had two fine entries: the Millennium Falcon from "Star Wars" and the Fireball XL-5 from the series of the same name. John Guld had a nicely done sub-munition from a Cluster Bomb Unit which looked very Sci-Fi-ish, but unfortunately wasn't a player in this theme contest.

The best Masters entry went to Mike Blohm for his Jupiter C rocket with the Explorer 1 satellite, which was the only Real Space entry at the contest.

The Best Overall Entry for the January contest went to Rick Carver for his excellent "Aliens" APC.

Awards will be presented at the February meeting. Pictures of the top winners are included in the Newsletter; pictures of all the entries can be found in the Model Pictures section of the ASM Website

Copies of the 2004 Contest Schedule were passed out at the January meeting. If you still need a copy you can get one either from the ASM Binder at Hobbies 'N Stuff, or from me at the next meeting.

Changes to the contest points system were discussed at the January meeting. The points awarded for a "Best of Show" winner will be changed from the current 25 points to 150 points, and the points for the "People's Choice" winners changed from the current 25 points to 50 points. The club discussed whether a model that has placed at an IPMS Nationals Contest that year should be eligible to be entered later that same year at an ASM monthly contest. A vote was taken and it was the membership's decision that a Nationals-winning model *can* be entered later that same calendar year in an ASM contest, but not in following years.

Upcoming Contests / Events of Interest

February 6: Swap Meet—No contest

March 5: Theme Contest "Russia / Soviet Union." (Points Contest).

Any Russian or Soviet Union subject in any scale or era. Includes model subjects from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) (*i.e.*, Ukraine), but does not include any satellite nations; *i.e.*, Warsaw Pact. Subject must be depicted in Russian/USSR/FSU markings/dress.

Workshop: Making Tracks—Patrick Dick

Sponsored Contest: Best Russian Aviation and Armor subject—Tim Estes

Tim's ROE: Any Russian/Soviet aircraft (military or civilian-*lend/lease* included), or armor subject (including figures) from any time frame (wartime or peacetime). What I am looking for is unique presentation. In other words, something that is more than a subject just sitting on the table. Tell a story; surprise me with your diorama prowess! Prizes will be awarded to the best aircraft subject and the best armor subject. Depending on the types presented there may be a split between prop driven and jet aircraft and between tanks and figures.

April 2: Open Contest #1. (Points Contest) All scales, subjects and eras.

Workshop: Making Bases—Glenn Bingham

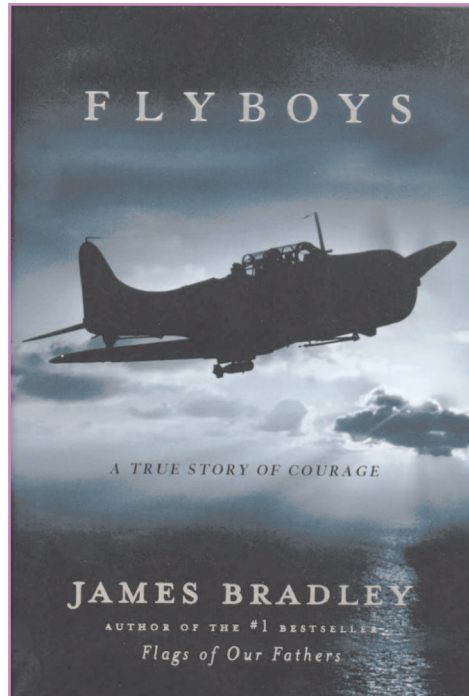
Sponsored Contest: Best 1950s U.S. Naval Aviation Subject (1/72)—Rick Carver and Don Smith.

Rick and Don's ROE: U.S. Naval Aviation from the 1950s, including the U.S. Marine Corps 1/72 scale only. All airplanes and helicopters from 1950 – 1959; can be front-line, training, or reserve units.

Plaques for winners in each division, plus a People's Choice. Entries will be basis for ASM Group/Chapter Entry at the 2004 IPMS Nationals in Phoenix.

BOOK REVIEW: FLYBOYS MIKE BLOHM

This article is a review of the book *Flyboys* by James Bradley (Little, Brown and Company, 2003).



What initially caught my interest in this book was the wording on the inside cover flap, which talked about nine American flyers that had been downed near the island of Chichi Jima in the latter months of WW II, that one had been rescued by submarine; and that the other eight had disappeared. It further stated that the fate of the eight flyers had then been covered up after the war by both the US and Japanese governments. I recalled the well-known tale of the rescue of George Bush, and thought that he might have been the rescued flyer, and it stirred my interest to want to know what had happened to the rest of these "flyboys."

James Bradley takes a very winding but interesting and informative path to get to the answer to that question. You get a history lesson in both US and Japanese politics and colonial and military practices, and how they affected the island of Chichi Jima as it existed in WW II. (Chichi Jima is near Iwo Jima.) The US decision to rely on air power versus ground power (Billy Mitchell's prophesy come true) in both the European and Pacific theaters is also given extensive coverage, and plays a central role in the book. Coverage is then given to the incidents that led up to Japanese aggression in China and the attack on Pearl Harbor. The early lives, military training and careers of the nine "flyboys" are covered in different segments throughout the book. Note that Bradley uses the term "Flyboys" for all the aircrews that answered the call to arms in the air services of both the US Army and US Navy/Marines, and does so with great respect for what they faced and accomplished.

One of the more interesting and thought-provoking sections covers the inhumanity of war. Each side's viewpoint is covered, and why each side thought they were justified in what they did. The book centers on the

harsh and often fatal Japanese treatment of prisoners of war. Bradley delves into why that mindset existed, resulting from an inflexible cultural hierarchy of obeying the emperor's orders (relayed by the officer corps), a brutal military training system, misdirected or perverted Samurai traditions; and the experience of having the Japanese homeland attacked by B-29 fire bombings with massive amounts of casualties. The American perspective is also well covered: that the fire bombings minimized US casualties and would cause Japan to eventually surrender, again saving Allied lives, regardless of how many civilian casualties occurred as unintended but necessary collateral damage.

All of this foreshadowing eventually leads up to what happened to the American prisoners on Chichi Jima, and how revelation of their fate got entwined in post-war politics. Bradley did extensive research, including interviews with surviving Japanese participants, in order to provide detailed coverage of what had happened to each of the captured Americans.

Flyboys is a very interesting if somewhat disturbing read. If you'd like to learn more about the Japanese military mindset during WW II, and would like to get contrasting perspectives from both warring sides on the US bombing strategy and the treatment of prisoners of war, then I would recommend this book to you.

MARS ROVER MODEL

JOE WALTERS

A free paper model of the *Spirit* and *Opportunity* Mars rovers is available for download online as a PDF file, which can be printed to your inkjet or other color printer, and from there you can build the little guy. Instructions are included.

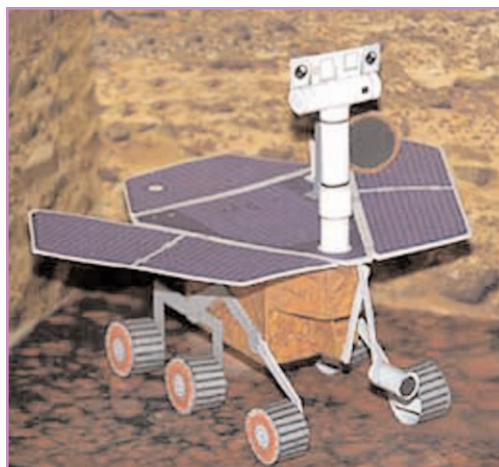
The link <http://www.lansbergen.net/eng/index.htm> will get you to page on a Netherlands web site, little of which is in English, but the link labeled *Mars Rover* leads directly to the PDF file; using your "download link to disk" function will put the PDF file on your hard disk and you can print it from there. Instructions—in English!—are included in the file.

The PDF file itself is located at the more direct link <http://www.warande.net/%7Eplaa/modellen/MarsRover.pdf> for those of you who like to do things the hard way.

Year 2004 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 9 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI, REAL SPACE & FANTASY
- 6 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 5 Mar** **Russia/Soviet Union**—Any kit/scale.
*Sponsored Contest: *Best Russian Aviation or Armor* (Tim Estes)
- 2 Apr** **Open Contest**—Any kit, any scale.
*Sponsored Contest: *Best 1950s US Naval Aviation* (Rick Carver & Don Smith)
- 7 May** **WWII—Pacific**—Any kit, any scale.
- 4 Jun** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2: BATTLES OF 1944**
*Sponsored Contest: *Best Fw 190* (Ken Liotta)
- 2 Jul** **Modern Marvels**—Any kit, any scale.
*Sponsored Contest: *Big* (Brian Peck)
*Sponsored Contest: *Fast Movers* (John Tate)
- 13 Aug** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 3 Sep** **Aces and Heroes**—Any kit, any scale.
- 1 Oct** **WWII—Western Front**—Any kit/scale.
*Sponsored Contest: *Babe Fest* (Ken Liotta)
- 5 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit, any scale.
*Sponsored Contest: *Best 1/700 or 1/720 Ship (no subs)* (Tom Perea)
- 3 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**
BETWEEN THE WARS
Plus: **Model of the Year**



CONTACT INFO

President:	Brian Peck	822-8577	oryen@msn.com
Vice President:	Frank Randall	299-3760	fcr40@aol.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Patrick Dick	890-4368	mcclanahandick@worldnet.att.net
Contest Director &			
Webmaster:	Mike Blohm	823-9404	BlohmM@aol.com
Member Pro-Tem	Jason Clevenger	299-1409	Lclevenger@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor:	Joe Walters	821-3751	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 the 20th of the prior month.