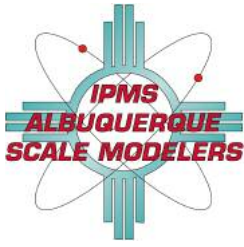


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<http://abqscalemodelers.com>

January 2009

JIM'S SPRUES & REVIEWS JAMES GULD

Time for your X-Ma\$\$ armor update, people. Not a lot to report since last month, but a few gems.

I got a sneak peak of the new Tamiya JagdTiger last weekend and it looks pretty nice and comes with both rubber band and link and length tracks. The texture of the armor plate is excellent and captures the look of the beast.

December meeting highlights, counterclockwise from upper left: The crowd milling about early; the business meeting in progress; smoe junior members do some modeling.

Atak has a new resin zimmerit set for the Dragon Brumbar.

Echelon Fine Details has some new decal sheets out.

MiniArt has some pictures and sprue shots of new figure sets of Commonwealth and Soviet Jeep riders.

Concord has a new book out on British Armor in NEW from D-Day to Arnhem.

AFV Club has a new Centurion with a dozer blade and a 1/48 251/1 C.

Accurate Armor has a few new modern resin





Model of the Year winners, clockwise from upper left: Gil Johnson's *T-34/76*, Dave Miller's *M1A1 Howitzer*, Chelsea Perea's *Chevy Impala*, and Victor Maestas's *USS Seawolf*

releases of English 6x6s.

SKP has an engine for the AFV Club 251 half-tracks.

Italeri has its L6 Italian light tank listed as an early 2009 release and announced models of a Crusader 40mm Bofors AA tank and a German 305 Tanker truck on an Opel Blitz frame.

Voyager has a bunch of new photoetch releases.

Cromwell Models has a bunch of new Churchill conversions for use with the new AFV Club kit.

Lion Roar has pictures of their new Zundapp KS750 motorcycles and a new resin stowage set for the upcoming Bronco Models Staghound AA armored car.

Legends Productions has some new resin stowage sets.

Azimut has a resin launch ramp for the Bronco Models V-1 kits.

Archer Transfers has some new ammo crate stencils for 105mm and for 37mm crates.

MK/35 has a resin Atlantic Wall bunker with a Panzer 2 turret.

Trumpeter has some new armor announcements including the new $\frac{1}{6}$ King Tiger for 2009.

Dragon/Cyber Hobby has some new announcements of figures and a German Sig33.

Tank Workshop has a bunch of new rail car releases and updates to earlier releases.

Griffon Models has some new photoetch releases for German armor.

Fruil Model has tracks coming out for the new L6 Italian light tank, the Russian SU-76 series of tanks and the BTR-50, PT-76 series of light armored vehicles.

As always keep up to date by checking out the PMMS web site.

SO YOU WANT TO BE MODELER OF THE YEAR

JOHN TATE

Some Tips for New Contestants

The results of the ASM points contest at the November 7th, 2008, club meeting provided me with a tenth win as Modeler of the Year (MOY), an undefeated streak that began in 1996, my first full year of competition in ASM. It has been a tough road, competing against some highly-skilled and capable modelers, but along the way I picked up a few strategies that helped ensure success. As this tenth MOY win is a good milestone for me to bow out of active points competition, I thought I would

take this opportunity to pass on a few tips to future contestants.

Tip No. 1: You Have to Build. Active competition means adhering to a regular building schedule, finishing two or more models per month and working steadily through the club's off-season (swap meets and special contests) to ensure three contest-worthy models on the table for each points contest. No, it isn't easy, and building models against the clock can be anything but fun. Add the regular demands of a normal life (job, family, chores) and building that many models per month becomes a real hurdle. This is where personal dedication comes in—like any competition you have to work hard if you want to win, and you'll find that finishing that many models per month requires focus, concentration and planning.

Tip No. 2: Build Outside Your Comfort Zone. Many of us have specific areas of interest in modeling: aircraft, armor, figures, dioramas, etc. However, in MOY competition you have to branch out into other areas to ensure you pick up enough points to win. I like building airplanes and tanks, but had to learn fast how to build dioramas, ships, figures, sci-fi, cars, even dinosaurs. Building in less-popular themes means you'll stand a better chance of picking up more points and outflanking your opponents. Also, with each unfamiliar model you build, you become more skilled as a modeler; the techniques you pick up building that ship model will help you with your next airplane kit.

Tip No. 3: You Have to Show Up. Sometimes finishing three models per month is the easy part. The next hurdle is ensuring your personal schedule is clear so you can attend that upcoming club meeting. When faced with tough competition, you'll find that missing even one points contest can put you at a disadvantage for months to come. I've won more than one MOY contest because a leading competitor missed a meeting. Dedication counts in attendance as much as it does in model-building.

Competing for MOY is not for everyone, and there many other fine ways to enjoy the hobby. But for those who put in the effort, the payoff is knowing you've competed against the best and won, becoming a better modeler in the process, not to mention having a carload of models you can bring to the next Regional contest. If you've got time, dedication and a closet full of unbuilt models, MOY competition might be for you. The field is

Year 2009 Contest Quick Reference Chart

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

- 9 Jan** **SPECIAL CONTEST #1**
SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
- 6 Feb** **ASM Swap Meet**—no contest.
- 6 Mar** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
- 3 Apr** **3 or More Engines**—any kit/subject/scale/era.
- 1 May** **SPECIAL CONTEST #2**
THIRD WORLD—Army, Navy, Air Force, etc. No Warsaw Pact, no NATO.
- 12 Jun** **Italiano**—Any kit/scale/subject/era built or operated in or from Italy.
Sponsored Contest: "Show Your Stripes" 65th Anniversary of Operation Overlord (Don Smith)
- 10 Jul** **Armored Cars**—Any scale, era, manufacturer.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Panzer IV & Variants" (ASM E-Board)
- 7 Aug** **1/48 Single-engine Props**—Any kit/scale/subject/era
- 11 Sep** **Best Sharkmouths**—Plane, Tank, Car, Truck, etc. Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Hellcat F6F" (Frank Randall)
- 2 Oct** **SPECIAL CONTEST #3**
BEST COMPETITION RACER OR ATHLETE FIGURE)
Sponsored Contest: "Best Porsche" (Patrick Dick)
- 6 Nov** **Open Contest**—Any kit/subject/scale.
Sponsored Contest: "Best Vietnam Subject '64 - '75" (Tim Wood)
- 4 Dec** **SPECIAL CONTEST #4**
XYZ PROTOTYPES
Plus *Model of the Year* competition!

open—who will be ASM's next Modeler of the Year?

THE OBI JOE PROJECT RICK CARVER

Correction! This program, described in last month's issue, will premier Friday evening, February 6, 2009, at the UNM Continuing Education Center at 8:00 P.M. (same night as our February meeting).

SCI-FI MODELING UPDATE JOE WALTERS

Yes, once again the newsletter has run short, so

I dig into some sci-fi modeling sources to fill the empty space!

First off, as you may know already, a new Star Trek movie is in production, and will open this summer. Everything in it is new, and we can expect several new kits and modeling projects from that source. Secrecy remains tight on the production, so specifics and designs are not yet released.

Speaking of Trek, "Round 2/AMT" has re-released the old 18" 1960s Enterprise kit, with a few changes guaranteed to raise eyebrows among those who remember building that kit back in Ye Olden Days. First, the controversial grid lines on the saucer section are removed, leaving a smooth surface! And the decal sheet has been extensively revised and expanded, as shown. A detailed review of this kit by Jay Chladek is available on CultTVMan's web site (<http://tinyurl.com/7qfjyc>).



And speaking of CultTVMan (Steve Iverson), all sci-fi modelers should be familiar with this source of knowledge and merchandise; he has recently posted several fascinating modeling videos on his youtube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/CultTVman>). Worth checking out!

Moebius Models (available on the web at <http://www.moebiusmodels.com>) is busy churning out new sci-fi kits. After coming out with that amazing huge Seaview model last year, this February will see the release of a new Flying Sub kit, in 1/32-scale and heavily detailed.



Due in "early 2009," the Iron Man Mark II figure kit represents the suit from the popular 2008 movie. A test shot is shown at left.

Back to the Seaview model for a moment, Voodoo FX (<http://www.voodooFX.com>) now offers a lighting kit for the mammoth sub model.

For all you Star Wars fans out there, SRS Prototyping (<http://www.srsprototyping.com>) is now shipping their Mon Calamari "Liberty" cruiser from *The Empire Strikes Back*.



There's a particularly dangerous web site out there for sci-fi modelers who wish to research scale issues; Jeff Russell's *Starship Dimensions* web site (<http://www.merzo.net>) shows virtually every



spaceship, giant creature, construct, and character ever to appear

on screen *in scale*. Wow, Babylon 4 was way bigger than Babylon 5... and you can even find the Sta-Puft Marshmallow Man and compare him to the Cloverfield monster. Some real-world items appear here (Empire State Building, Boeing 747, etc.) to really give you a feel for how big some of these things are meant to be; kinda neat to see the international space station next to the 2001 space station. You can spend hours here without noticing you've wasted a whole afternoon. You've been warned!

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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.