

The Navigator

The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

*The San Antonio chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society
A registered 501c-7*



December 2016

IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year:
1998-1999 & 2004-2005



Have Yourself a Very Gundam Holiday!



In This Issue...

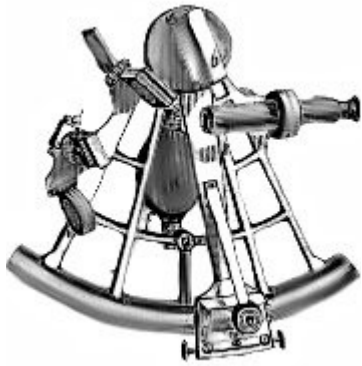
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**79 Days to
ModelFiesta 36!**



**Inside: The Final Installment of Len
Pilhofer's F-15C "Grim Reaper" Build**



President's Column

By Dick Montgomery

IPMS #14003



President's Message – December, 2016

The December meeting (Dec 1st) is rapidly approaching and that means a significant shift in the meeting agenda. It's celebration time and we will forego the WIP and monthly contest, saving those activities for the January meeting. Our primary activity at the December meeting has been the White Elephant Gift Exchange and the sharing of snacks, food, and beverage.



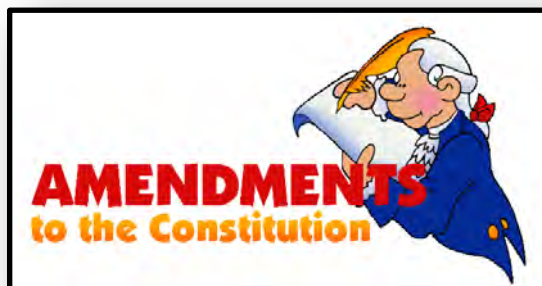
The club will provide some soft drinks, ice, and cups. Each member is requested to bring "snackage" for five people. Bringing chips? Please bring a sufficient amount for five persons. Bringing little sausages? Please bring a supply sufficient for five people. Bringing a sheet cake? Well, certainly that will handle more than five. We'll also have some paper towels, plastic-ware, and paper plates on hand.

The White Elephant Gift Exchange is always entertaining. Please bring a hobby-related item, wrapped to conceal the contents. If you bring kids, friends, spouse, etc, please bring a gift for each so that they can participate in the Gift Exchange as well. We al-

ready have a small supply of extras but a few more would not hurt. The rules of the Exchange will be explained at the meeting and most of you have participated in this activity before, so you know how it works.

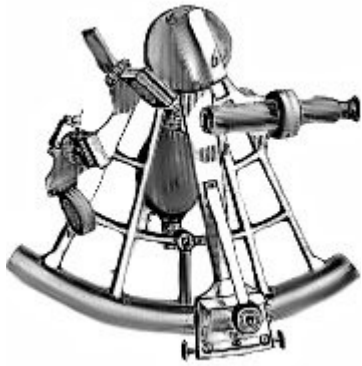
At the end of the evening, it is suggested that any unclaimed gifts be collected and donated to the IPMS Support the Troops program. I can get them mailed off to the Director of the program so that they can be redistributed prior to Christmas. If you wish to donate your White Elephant gift at the end of the program, I'll be happy to add it to the "donation" box.

We must conduct some business prior to the festivities. There is an amendment to be considered. The amendment was presented to the membership at the November meeting. We will provide the Constitution Review Committee some time to summarize the amendment and to address any questions regarding the proposed wording, and then conduct a vote. The vote, by rule, is limited to those dues-paid members who are present, and requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass. The amendment will be shared with the membership via email prior to the meeting. Please note that the proposed wording has already been shared in



November, shortly after the November meeting, but we will share it again.

Please remember to drop by the Reception Desk at Northside Ford and express your thanks to the Receptionist for the use of the Conference Room.



Club Announcements

ModelFiesta 36

As of November 1st we are 79 days from ModelFiesta 36, scheduled for February 18th, 2017 at the San Antonio



Event Center. The theme for ModelFiesta 36 will be **“Everything is Bigger in Texas: A Big Model or a Big Subject”**. The MF36 committee met in mid-November and covered such items as venue set-up, selection of the awards vendor and tweaking small issues with the awards presentation software. The venue set-up will remain very similar to MF35 with only minor adjustments to accommodate the computer and data entry team. The club is finding significant savings by choosing a new awards contractor for 2017’s show. The next MF36 planning meeting will consist of another full-up, all day test of the awards software in order to make sure all computer data entry and photographers are comfortable with the software. In addition, this second test-run will ensure all problems discovered in the first test-run were successfully addressed. This next meeting for the second full-up test will be for a limited audience and staff members but will, as always, be open to any club member who wishes to see how progress is coming with the show. If you wish to participate, please reach out to Len Pilhofer and let him know.

CALMEX XXXI

Our good friends in Lake Charles Louisiana have extended a very friendly invitation for Alamo Squadron members to attend their upcoming show in Lake Charles. The show will be the 28th of January, 2017 at Recreation District One Multipurpose Complex in Westlake, LA (just across the river from Lake

Charles). Last year’s show boasted 480+ models on the table. Let’s get out there and help them break 500!

Club Internal Contest Themes:

Dec: Holiday Party—No Contest
Jan: **Model Of the Year Contest**
Feb: **Ford Challenge**

Club Program

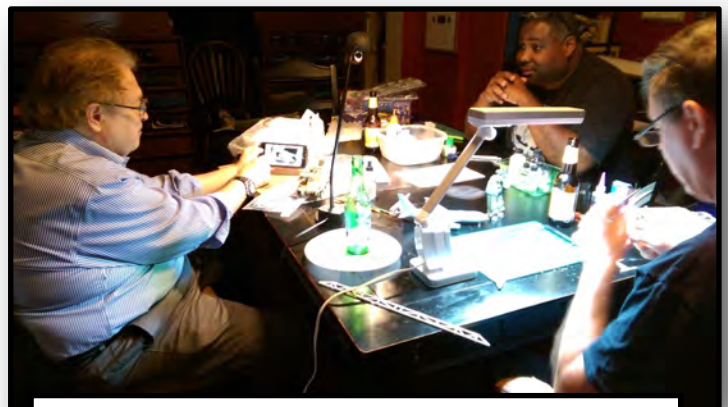
The following is the club meeting program for the rest of the “club year” (i.e., up through ModelFiesta month):

December: White Elephant Gift Exchange
January: Ship Building Tips by Lee Washburn
February: Automotive Finishing by Paul Barrena

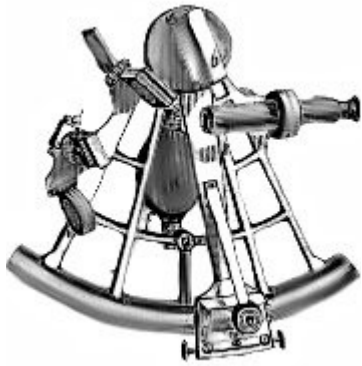
Bachelor Build Nights

Craig Gregory and Len Pilhofer are continuing to host build nights/meetings for Alamo Squadron members. The focus of these meetings is to build models and comradery with a secondary goal of watching and learning different techniques. There will be no official club business at these meetings, only modelers sitting with their kit, building it, and talking about any topic you desire. Each build night will run from 5-9 PM.

Remaining 2016 schedule: 15 December @ Craig’s



A good turnout for last month’s Bachelor Build Night



Club Announcements

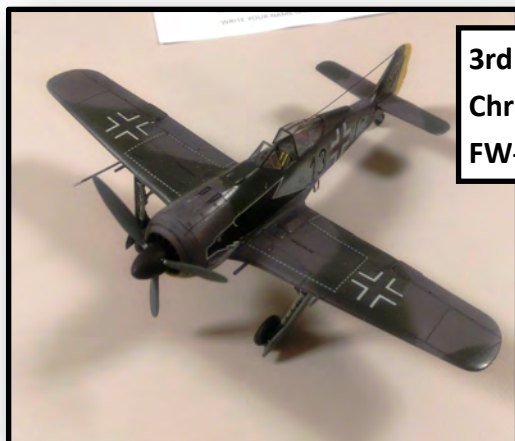
Internal Club Contest Results for November



1st Place: Charles Stone, M-1 Abrams



2nd Place: John Kress, 1968 Bullitt Mustang GT



**3rd Place:
Chris Lenahan,
FW-190A3**

Alamo Squadron Model-of-the-Year

The Alamo Squadron Model Of The Year contest is slated for our first meeting of the new year: Thursday, 5 January, 2017. In this contest, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from the 2016 monthly contests are invited to bring their winning models back to the contest table one more time to compete with the best of the best. Alamo Squadron archives (i.e., Len's notes) show the following winners and their models from 2016:

Michael Buckley: C-119 Flying Boxcar, F-86 Sabre

Carl Allsup: Z-39

Pete Ortensie: '56 T-Bird, A-6E Intruder

Chris Lenahan: FW-190A3

Charles Stone: JA-39 Viggen, M-1 Abrams

John Kress: Bullitt Mustang GT

Rick Stanley: '63 Corvette Stingray

Lee Washburn: Liberty Ship

Dana Mathes: USS Montauk

Rob Booth: Spitfire PI XIX

Len Pilhofer: StuG III, Pzr II C, X-Wing Fighter

Since the archives (i.e., Len's notes) have known to be "if-ey" from time to time if anyone knows of a winning model they had on the table that is not listed above then please go ahead and bring it to compete.

Judging will be the same as all other monthly and quarterly contests and the winner will have their name engraved on the Alamo Squadron Model of the Year plaque.



Model of the Year Award



Cover Story

Have a Gundam Holiday!

Story, Model and Photos by Len Pilhofer

Gundam also referred to as the Gundam Series, is a science fiction media franchise created by the Japanese animation studio, Sunrise that feature giant robots (or "mecha") called "mobile suits", with titular mobile suits that carry the name "Gundam.". The franchise started on April 7, 1979, as an anime TV series called *Mobile Suit Gundam*, which was revolutionary in that it defined the real robot genre of anime by featuring giant robots in a militaristic war setting. The popularity of the first TV series and the merchandising that followed spawned a franchise that has come to include works released in numerous media. Titles have appeared in the form of multiple television series and original video animations, movies, manga, novels, and video games. The franchise has also led to the creation of one of the biggest toy and hobby franchises in the Japanese toy industry. *Source: wikipedia.org*

finished model still survives. In fact, I had forgot about it until a day the club was holding a meeting over my house. The Gundam topic came up and someone pointed to my shelf and mentioned "hey Len, you have one up there". "Oh yea, I do...how about that" I said to myself. This reminded me how deeply I had fallen into armor building over the past several years and pretty much forgot about everything else!

Around this same time HobbyTown here in San Antonio had started hosting a monthly Gundam build day at its store. Myself a few others from the club decided to go check it out. We each bought a kit and had a seat with the many other (and younger) Gundam builders. Digging into my kit brought back memories of my first Gundam build 20 years ago while there was excitement all around me as the younger builders, who also had a step-up in their knowledge of Gundam lore, excitedly built their kits as well.



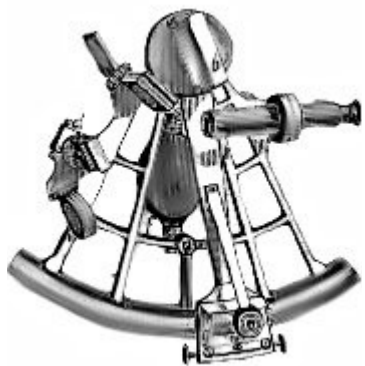
My first Gundam: The RX-78-3

I had no idea what I was getting into when I picked up my first Gundam kit while living in Japan almost 20 years ago. Up to that point I was a fan of sci-fi modeling and had done a few Japanese Macross fighters as a kid in the '80s. This kit seemed really cool even though I had never seen any

An important thing to note here as that these kits are some of the best engineered I have ever seen. So good that no glue is needed (although using glue would certainly enhance the strength of the build) and seamlines are smartly hidden behind overlapping pieces. In addition, all the joints are held by vinyl grommets like those we are accustomed to in Tamiya armor kits and every piece comes molded in its final color, therefore there are many multi-colored sprues in each kit. This allows the younger builders—the primary market for these kits—to build them straight from the box with the final result being pretty impressive.

The kit I picked up that day was a Bandai **RGM-89De Jegan**. I had no idea what any of this meant but the ever-friendly Gundam builders assured me this was a kit that represented a special operations Gundam force. Hmmm...pretty cool. As I started the build I decided to finish this kit in a similar fashion I would with one of my traditional 1/35th scale armor kits by applying similar techniques. In the pictures that follow I documented my steps along the way with the final results at the end.

of the shows referenced above. It was a Bandai kit—this company still has a lock on this genre today—and I must admit I was very impressed with how well engineered the kit was and how well it went together. After 20 years and several moves around the world the

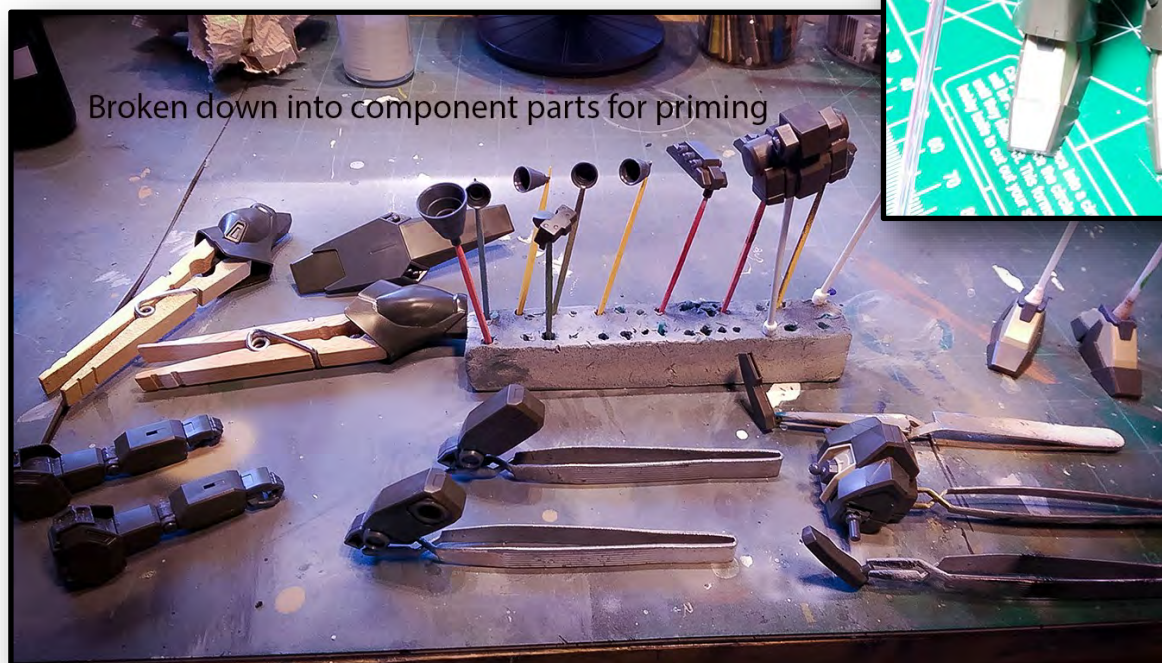


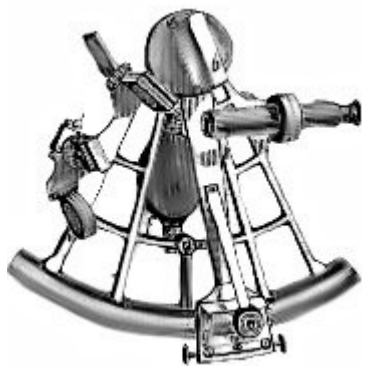
Cover Story

Have a Gundam Holiday!



The Bandai RGM-89De JEGAN in 1/144th scale

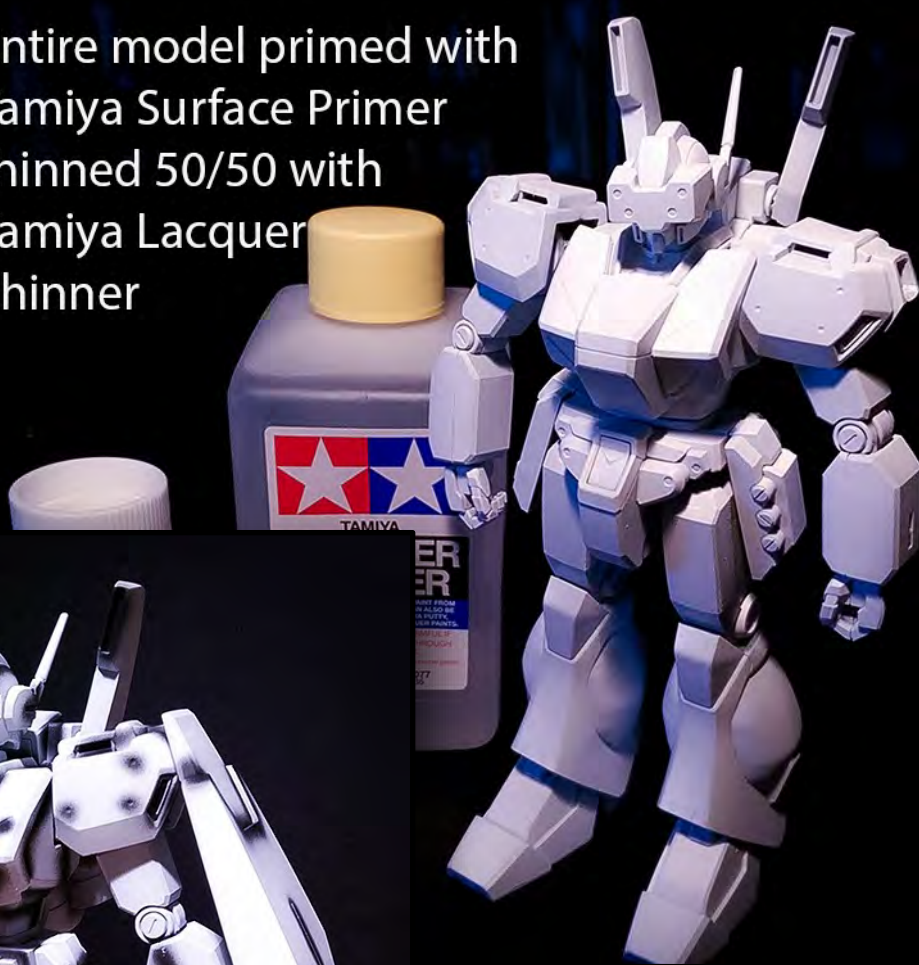




Cover Story

Have a Gundam Holiday!

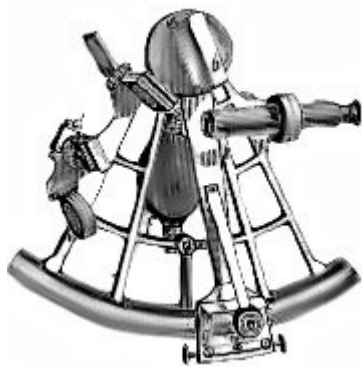
Entire model primed with
Tamiya Surface Primer
thinned 50/50 with
Tamiya Lacquer
Thinner



Pre-shading done
with Tamiya XF-1:
Flat Black.

This enhances
the shadows
in later coats
of paint.





Cover Story

Have a Gundam Holiday!

Base coat is airbrushed with Tamiya XF-52: Olive Drab. Highlights added (to create contrast) at the center of each panel are XF-52 with a slight amount of XF-15: Flat Flesh. Tan areas are airbrushed in XF-57: Buff. Joints and hands are handpainted with Vallejo Model Color 70.868: Dark Seagreen. Exhaust bells are airbrushed with Vallejo Model Air 71.065: Steel and night-vision visor eyes/sensors hand-painted with Model Color 70.946: Dark Red.



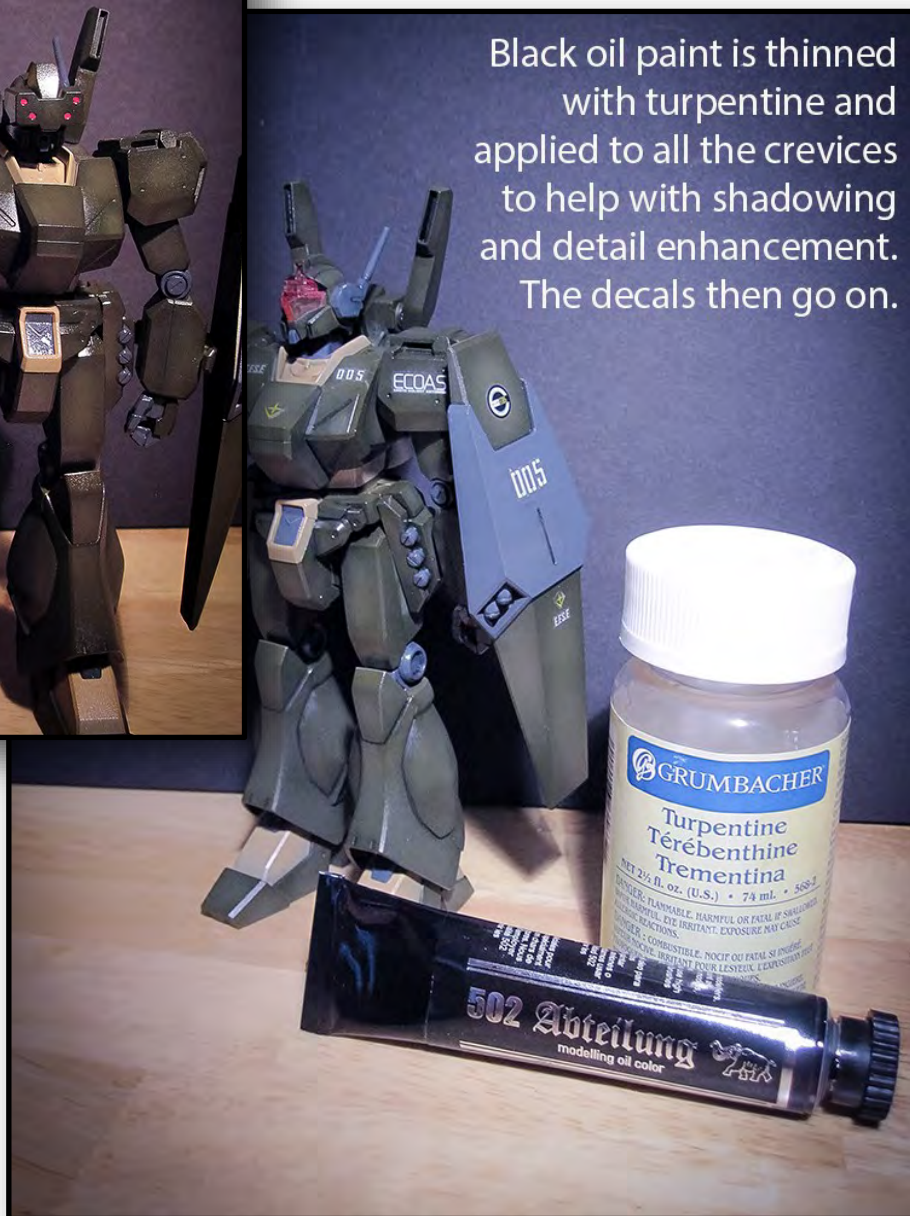


Cover Story

Have a Gundam Holiday!



An airbrushed coat of Pledge Floor Care preps the surface for decals (stickers in this kit) and an oil wash.



Black oil paint is thinned with turpentine and applied to all the crevices to help with shadowing and detail enhancement. The decals then go on.



Cover Story

Have a Gundam Holiday!

An airbrushed coat of Model Master Flat Clear Lacquer helps bring down the shine and prep the surface for the application of paint chips.



Paint chipping is achieved through the application of Tamiya XF-84: Dark Iron on all the edges of the model.





Cover Story

Have a Gundam Holiday!

Dark Steel pigment from AK Interactive is applied with a Q-Tip to the edges of the model to further simulate "wear-and-tear" of the paint. MiG Black Smoke pigment is applied to the exhaust bells.



Microscale Krystal Klear is applied to the "eyes" of the night-vision head-set to create a glass appearance.





Cover Story

Have a Gundam Holiday!





Feature Story

Building a Grim Reaper: Part 4

Story, Model and Photos by Len Pilhofer

IPMS #49932



Last month I covered several steps in Part 3 of building the Great Wall Hobby F-15C in 493rd FS colors, “The Grim Reapers”. These included painting and decaling as well as canopy work on the “front office”. The next few pages show some hi-resolution images of the completed build...ready to be delivered to its intended recipient. Like I had mentioned in the first installment of this

series this was the first aircraft I have tackled since 2006 when I took a several-year hiatus from the hobby. I am very much impressed with the Great Wall Hobby version of the F-15C along with all the after-market items from such companies as Eduard, Aires, G-Factor, and Caracal Decals.



The exhaust nozzles from Aires are stunning and really make the back-end of any F-15 kit stand out.



Feature Story

Building a Grim Reaper



I opted to use the recipient's call sign instead of his rank and name on the side of the jet. Prototypical? No...but a heck of a lot more personal.

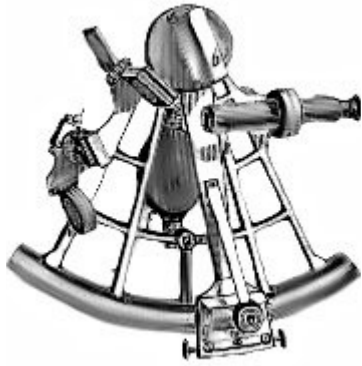




Feature Story

Building a Grim Reaper





Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 1st, 2016 at 7:00PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

January 28, 2017

CALMEX XXXI

1221 Sampson St

Westlake, LA 70669

<http://www.ipmsswamp.com>



February 18, 2017

ModelFiesta 36

San Antonio Event Center

8111 Meadow Leaf Dr

San Antonio, TX 78227

<http://www.alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta>

March 11, 2017

RiverCon VI

Bossier City, LA

<http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org>



April 8, 2017

Super-Invitational 2017

New Orleans, LA

<http://ipmsneworleans.wix.com/flyingtiger>

April 8, 2017

Tulsa Modeler's Forum Open Contest

Bixby Community Center

211 N. Canbiss Ave

Bixby, OK 74008

<http://tulsaipms.org/Contest2017.htm>





About Alamo Squadron

Executive Board 2016-2017



President:
Dick Montgomery
IPMS #14003
president@alamosquadron.com



Vice-President:
Herb Scranton III
vp@alamosquadron.com



Treasurer:
Dana Mathes
IPMS #43781
sec-treas@alamosquadron.com

IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron was founded in 1977 in San Antonio, Texas, for the enjoyment of building scale models and the camaraderie of the members. It is a hobby-centered social organization which, at its core, is focused on scale modeling of all kinds. It is an excellent source of information for those who wish to enhance their modeling skills and improve their modeling techniques, and is open and inviting to visitors and guests. Dues are \$24.00 a year, due to the treasurer on September 1st of each year.

Alamo Squadron has been hosting ModelFiesta since 1981. Locations have included the Wonderland Mall, a Holiday Inn, the Seven Oaks Motel & Convention Center, the Live Oak Civic Center and the new location for 2013, the San Antonio Event Center.

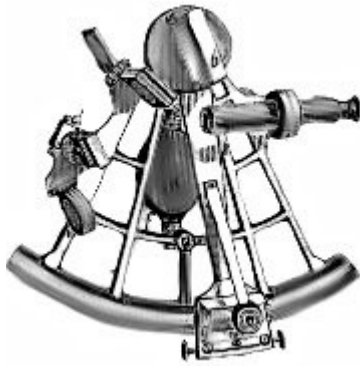


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Final Words...



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| Address: | _____ | | | |
| City: | State: | Zip: | | |
| Phone: | E-mail: | | | |
| Signature (required by PO): _____ | | | | |
| Type of Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 1 Year: \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 2 Years: \$58 | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 3 Years: \$86 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals) | | How Many Cards? _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada & Mexico: \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Foreign: \$38 (surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order | | | |
| Payment Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order | | | | |
| Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____ | | | | |
| If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number: _____ | | | | |
| Name: _____ | | IPMS No.: _____ | | |
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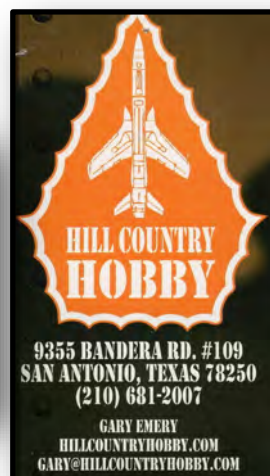
<http://www.ipmsusa.org/>

Support your Local Hobby Shops!

For models, paints, books, decals, tools and more!



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