

*IPMS FAME CITIES
NEWSLETTER*

AKRON/CANTON, OHIO

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President

Mike Meredith (meredith@seifert.com)

Vice President

Jerry Royer (drgnfly@neo.rr.com)

Secretary

Rick Slagle (IPMS34473@hotmail.com)

Treasurer

Joe Staudt (jstaudt@neo.rr.com)

Newsletter Editor

Bob Ulrich (bulrich@neo.rr.com)

Chapter Contact/Webmaster

Bill Weckel (bill@pacificairwar.com)

Next meeting January 17

Green Public Library

INSIDE

Model and Christmas Party coverage.

Scalecoat II Paint Review

Another year has passed, and our chapter seems to be going strong, although the December contest was not our finest hour (see below). Fame Cities has enjoyed overall good attendance at our meetings, our treasury is strong, and our members have done quite well as a group at contests up to and including the Nationals.

I know that new President Mike Meredith will try to build on this stellar resume in 2007. Much work has already been done by Bill Weckel in upgrading our website from the already impressive site put together by Steve Brooks. Thank you, Steve, for your efforts. Mike will also be presenting the idea of Fame Cities holding an invitational type contest of our own. We are coming up on ten years in existence, so it may be high time we did that. Such an undertaking involves a lot of work, and will require an effort by all of us.

2007 promises to be another good year for Fame Cities, and for modelers in general. The release schedules already announced are very exciting, with some kits that have been badly wanted for years finally making it into the pipeline. Combined with a dazzling variety of aftermarket products and an unprecedented wealth of reference material, these are golden days for plastic addicts like us. The biggest problem is finding money for all this great stuff. Let's see, I could take a part time job, which would let me buy more kits, but then I wouldn't have time to build them.....

DECEMBER CONTEST

The month of December brings Ralph Nollan's National Guard and Reserve contest, which has become a traditional year end event. Unfortunately, the 2006 edition of this contest did not see good support from the membership, with only one entry on the table. This was the poorest contest turnout our history, and Scale Scribblings challenges you guys to do better next time. If nothing else, bring an older model that fits the contest parameters. Our contest sponsors go out of their way to organize these events and provide awards, so its up to us to support them.

The winner, by default, of this year's Guard/Reserve contest was a Hasegawa 1/48 F-16C built by Bob Ulrich. The kit is marked as a Colorado Air Guard machine from Operation Iraqi Freedom. Additions to the kit include Aires cockpit, wheel wells and radar unit, Steel Beach intake cover, and some scratch built items. Decals are by Fox One.



HASEGAWA F-16C

Scale Scriblings

January 2007 Vol 3, Number 1

DECEMBER MODELS



Two more 1/48 scale targets.... I mean, tanks, by Al Imler

Panzer IV



Stug III



Bill Weckel's sharp little KI-27



Hasegawa's new P-400 Airacobra built by Bob Ulrich



An ME-109 by Mark Smith



Mike Meredith brought this F-4G in 1/48 scale.



Another view of the contest winning F-16C

WORKS IN PROGRESS



Mark Smith's 1/72 Wildcat



A Tamiya P-47 by John Keller. Opinions varied whether this was a work in progress or a flight diorama with a crudely made masking tape pilot.

CHRISTMAS FEAST 2006



Fame Cities' other December tradition, a Christmas feast, was again a popular event. Pizza, drinks, veggies, and desserts of all descriptions filled two tables and everyone's tummies. Thanks to Treasurer Joe Staudt for again picking up the main course, and thanks to all who brought in the extras which we eagerly loaded onto our plates.

A new feature of the 2006 party was a drawing for a number of gift certificates to Amer's Hobbies in Boardman. These were funded in partnership by Amer's and Fame Cities, and the Grand Prize of a \$100.00 certificate was won by Jim Cook. Many thanks to Ken Patterson for his generous support.

Jim Cook and son decide what to buy with their Grand Prize while Rick Green confers with Ed Kinney.



Mark Smith and Jim Bates check out the models.



The feast after the first run through by the members - there was plenty left!



No, that's not the super-sized sandwich from Quizzno's, it's an actual sub! Andy Miday was torn between eating and caressing his Gato Class submarine.



A portrait of stuffed modelers after hitting the food tables.

SCALECOAT II A Short Product Review

While on a recent trip to Amers Hobby Shop in Boardman I noticed that Ken Patterson carries a line of paint that I had heard of but never tried, namely Scalecoat. This is a lacquer type paint aimed at the railroad modeler, and many of the colors duplicate those in the Floquil railroad line. Scalecoat's Aluminum shade quickly caught my eye, and I asked Ken for more information. He had nothing but good to say, but cautioned that it is imperative to use Scalecoat's proprietary thinner. I purchased the Aluminum shade and a bottle of thinner.



Photo 1. Scalecoat II sprayed directly on plastic with an unpainted part for comparison

One of my questions for Ken was how Scalecoat reacted with plastic, so my first test was to simply spray some on an old kit, in this case a Hasegawa F4-F. I mixed the paint to Scalecoat's recommendation, 1/3 thinner to 2/3 paint, and sprayed it at about 10psi in light coats. The result is shown on photo 1. The paint showed no ill effects on the plastic at all and dried quickly to a matt aluminum finish. The finish was a bit too flat looking, but a light buff with tissue paper left a smooth surface resembling oxidized metal. As a final test I turned one part over and flooded it with the thinned mixture. There was no sign of any reaction with the plastic.



Photo 2&3. Good results obtained with Alclad Aluminum and Airframe Aluminum. Note the slight lifting of the paint on the right hand side.

The next question was durability. After about 12-18 hours of drying time I applied Tamiya tape to the surface, and had no lift off. I then applied standard Sherwin-Williams masking tape, also with no lift off. After these results I was later surprised that Tamiya tape did slightly lift some Scalecoat during my Alclad tests. This may have been an anomaly, since it only occurred in one spot.

All this made me wonder if Scalecoat would be a good base for Alclad. I tested four different shades of Alclad directly on the Scalecoat finish: Aluminum, Airframe Aluminum, Dark Aluminum and Duraluminum. The Alclad did not affect the Scalecoat finish in any way when sprayed in light coats at 10psi. After a short time (just a few minutes) I was able to apply heavier coats of Alclad with no problems. The results were somewhat mixed, as photos 2 through 5 show. Alclad Aluminum looked great, as did Airframe Aluminum. Dark Aluminum looked OK, but not as good as the others. Note that for some reason the Dark Aluminum actually looks better in person than the photo would lead you to believe, but you will have to take my word for it. The Duraluminum was the least satisfactory, basically looking almost the same as the Scalecoat finish.



This was admittedly a quick and dirty trial done under the deadline of getting this issue in print, but I found the results pretty encouraging. For a dull silver/aluminum finish Scalecoat is a good alternative, with excellent durability and at a lower cost than Alclad. It also works well with some Alclad shades.

Scalecoat is available from Amers Hobby Shop, and as mentioned it comes in a variety of colors mostly geared to model railroading. Like Floquil's line, however, many of those colors are useful to the military modeler as well, and the basic colors such as black and white obviously have wide applicability in any field of model building.

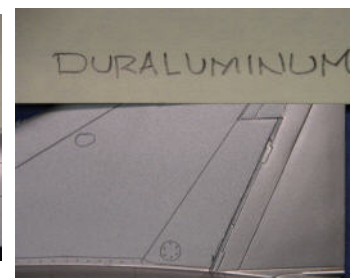
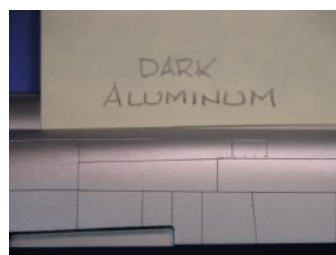


Photo 4&5 Less encouraging results with Alclad Dark Aluminum and Duraluminum