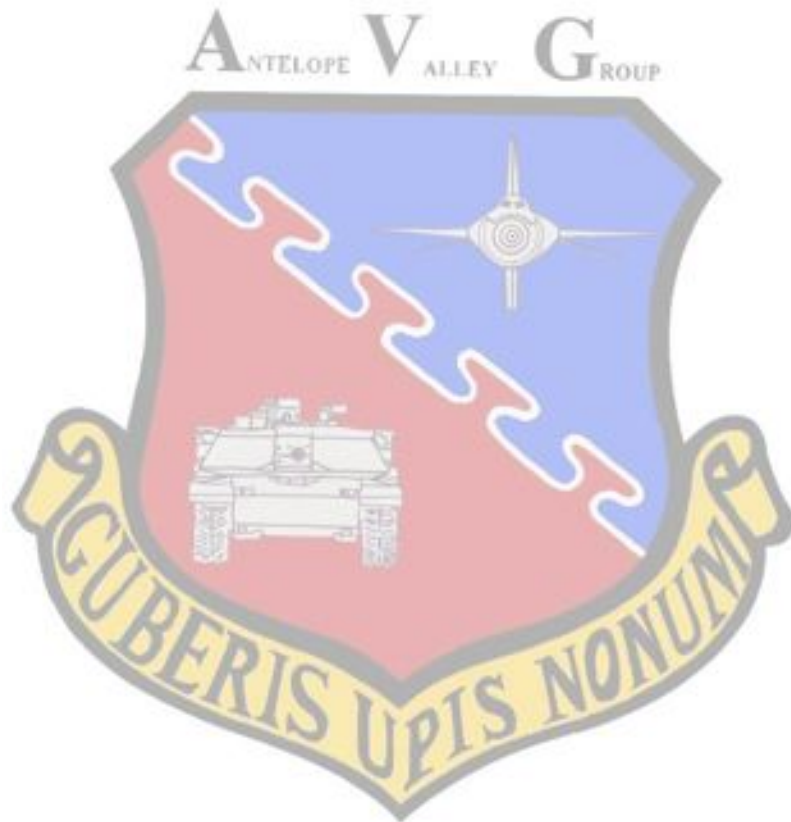


# The Smoking Hole

A Publication of the Antelope Valley Group IPMS  
**Volume 21, Number 11**



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## 2016 Club Officers

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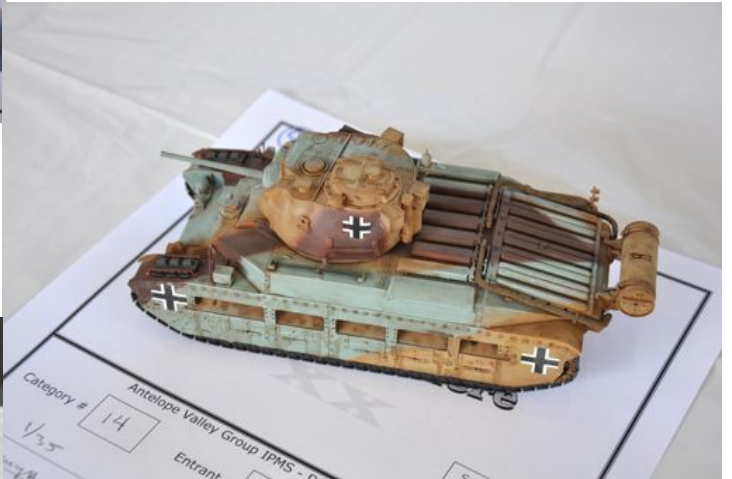
[mgraham4@bak.rr.com](mailto:mgraham4@bak.rr.com)

## Club News and Business

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2016, 1:00 PM AT ROSAMOND LIBRARY

### Desert Classic XX:

Our 20<sup>th</sup> annual contest (hard to believe!) is now in the history books. Turnout was up slightly from last year (despite an accident on the I-5, which made travel from LA challenging), with about 200 entries. Members of several other IPMS chapters attended, including Orange County, the Fremont Hornets and Fresno. Overall, the contest seemed to run smoothly, despite a slight mix-up with the trophies.







We did not do as well financially as in past contests, however. Nillo should have a report for the members at the meeting.

## 2016 Meeting Schedule

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
16 Jan	Member Dues Collected	Rich R. / John		
20 Feb		Rich M. / Robby		
19 Mar		Luis / Niilo		
16 Apr	In Club Contest "If It Floats..."	Rick / Jim		
21 May	Project build meeting	Mike / Tracy		
18 June				
16 July		Steve/Nick		
20 Aug	In Club Contest "Shelf of Doom" Judge's Clinic	Rich R. / Bill P		
17 Sept	Judge's Clinic			
15 Oct	Judge's Clinic			
5 Nov	2016 Desert Classic			
19 Nov	2017 Club Officer Nominations			
17 Dec	Christmas Potluck Gift Exchange 2017 Officer Elections	Everyone!		

## The Tool Crib

No report this month.

## Club Demos

Let me know if you'd like to do a demo for the club and I'll highlight it in the newsletter. Henry promised to present another couple of installments in his series "Things Under Wings" next year.

## Member Show and Tell



Name:

Niilo Lund

Time To Build:

Kit & Scale:

Revell Russian Spy Trawler

1/142<sup>nd</sup> scale

Aftermarket Items:

Paints Used:

Comments:



Name:	Rich Ribaldo
Time To Build:	About 30 hours
Kit & Scale:	Estes Little Joe II  1/45 <sup>th</sup> scale
Aftermarket Items:	Accur8man printed color body wrap
Paints Used:	Alclad II Aluminum, Dark Aluminum, Semi-Matte Aluminum. Testors red, black & gray. Tamiya Bright White Spray paint.
Google tells us that...	<p>“Little Joe was an unmanned United States solid-fueled booster rocket used for eight launches from 1959–1960 from Wallops Island, Virginia to test the launch escape system and heat shield for Project Mercury capsules, as well as the name given to the test program using the booster. The first rocket designed solely for manned spacecraft qualifications, Little Joe was also one of the pioneer operational launch vehicles using the rocket cluster principle.</p>



The Little Joe name has been attributed to Maxime Faget at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. He based the name on four large fins which reminded him of a slang term for a roll of four in craps.

A successor, Little Joe II, was used for flight testing of the Apollo launch escape system from 1963–1966 for five unmanned tests of the Apollo spacecraft Launch Escape System (LES), and to verify the performance of the Command Module parachute recovery system in abort mode. It was named after a similar rocket designed for the same function in Project Mercury. Launched from White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, it was the smallest of four launch rockets used in the Apollo program”.

I really enjoyed building this rocket. I missed getting this one as a kid but Estes’ re-pop of this classic Centuri Rockets Little Joe allowed me have one after all these years. It’s a very nice kit and stands an impressive 23” tall when finished. A modeler of limited to intermediate skills can build this kit into a great replica. The Accur8man color skin kit makes a scale appearance even easier with little





painting.

Who knows? Maybe someday the International Plastic Modelers Society will have to morph into the International Scale Modelers Society, or as Bill Presley suggested the *“International Three Dimensional Artists Society”* just to keep up with all the mixed media kits out there. Resin, metal and even 3D printed parts are a reality in model building right now, so paper and who knows what else will be common in days and kits to come.

One thing is for sure; we’ve come a long way from carving models out of a block of wood with a knife. Now the question of “when is a plastic model not really a plastic model” is something we all need to think about.



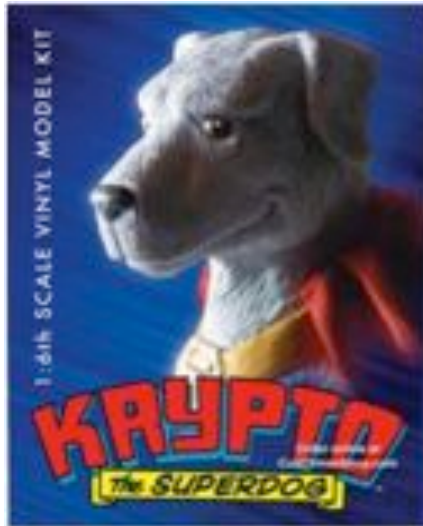
Name:	Rich Ribaldo
Time To Build:	About 6 hours
Kit & Scale:	Moebius “Krypto, the Superdog” (Built as my pal “Harry”)  1/6 <sup>th</sup> scale
Aftermarket Items:	None!
Paints Used:	Tamiya acrylic white. Testors black, red, gold, tan, brown.
Comments:	<p>Wikipedia tells us that...</p> <p><i>“Krypto, also known as Superdog, is a fictional character. He is Superman's pet dog in the various Superman comic books published by DC Comics. Krypto's first appearance was in a Superboy story in Adventure Comics #210 in March 1955. Krypto's breed is never specifically given in the comic books and he is drawn as a white dog of generic pedigree. On Krypton, convergent evolution led to the emergence of analogous species to Terran cats, simians, birds and dogs.</i></p>



*which were domestic companion animals as they were on Earth. As explained in his first appearance, Krypto was originally the toddler Kal-El's dog while they were on Krypton. Jor-El, testing prototypes for the rocket that would eventually send Kal-El to Earth, decided to use Krypto as a test subject. However, Krypto's rocket was knocked off-course; the rocket drifted through space for years until it eventually landed on Earth, where Krypto was reunited with the now-teenaged superhero, Superboy. Due to the environment (Earth's yellow sun and lower gravity), Krypto possessed the same powers and abilities as his master, although his physical abilities were proportionate to his smaller size and species, similar to an ordinary dog vs. a human."*

My friend Harry wasn't rocketed to Earth from Krypton, but the minute I saw him in a shelter in Downey he was destined to be my buddy. His energy and personality go "far beyond those of mortal canines" and like most Parsons and Jack Russell terriers he can occasionally fly.

This kit was everything I could ask for in a relaxing and very fun build; no decals, no clear parts, no filling and polishing, no cockpit to detail, no weathering and no aftermarket parts. And in the end I had a model of my canine buddy, Harry!



Before going any further let's set the record straight: I'm not a figure painter, just a guy who tried to paint a figure. Figure artists (and that's what the good ones really are) stand a "breed apart" (couldn't resist!) and they have my eternal respect. I thought that if I made an attempt at a figure that was supposed to look like a cartoon character I couldn't get into too much trouble. So modeling "*Harry, disguised as a mild-mannered Parsons Russell Terrier living in the High Desert who fights a never ending battle for treats, naps and the American way*" seemed like it would be a load of fun.

Mobeus' "Krypto the Superdog" kit has a whopping three parts. You get a vinyl head, a vinyl body and a cloth cape. That's it! The kit needs nothing but paint as the head simply snaps into the collar trapping the cape in place.

As presented in the kit, Superman's pal Krypto is simply overall white and wears a red collar and cape. I thought it would be fun to paint him up to look like what my pal Harry would look like as a cartoon "*Hound of Steel*". Harry is mostly white with some brown on his ears and part of his face. One feature I made sure to capture is



Harry's "Egyptian Pharaoh" eye markings that make him look like he's wearing black eye liner around and trailing back from his eyes. A little shading for shadows and some highlighting in the brown fur was all the detail painting that was required.

To add a little personalization I removed the Kryptonian "S" from the collar and made Harry his own stylized "H" from sheet styrene.

The wooden base is a pre stained and varnished piece from Scott Durling. Scott appears at a number of kit shows and has a variety of display bases and acrylic covered display cases available in popular sizes. He also makes custom bases and cases to order. I added some Woodland Scenics static grass and a few shades of ground cover for Harry to sit on and made a Superman style script "Harry" name plate for the front of the base.

I enjoyed building this kit immensely. It was a fast, stress free project with a high fun factor. Special thanks go out to our own Jim Abercrombie "Figure Jedi Master" for a few tips on my first figure. I highly recommend this kit to anyone looking for an unusual build that needs a break from the angst of

	<p>accuracy and detail. This is an especially good project for getting kids involved with model building.</p> <p>With a little thought and the right colors “Krypto” could probably look like your four legged friend, too.</p>
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## Calendar

03/04/2017	IPMS Silicon Valley Silicon Valley Classic	Napredak Hall 770 Montague Expressway San Jose, CA
03/05/2017	Pasadena Modelers Society Valleycon 2017	Peterson Automobile Museum 6060 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA
03/19/2017	Kit Collectors Exposition and Show	UFCW Local 324 Union Hall 8530 Stanton Ave., Buena Park, CA
05/06/2017	Best of the West-Vegas-Con 2017	East Side Cannery Resort & Casino 5255 Boulder Highway, Las Vegas, NV
07/09/2017	Kit Collectors Exposition and Show	UFCW Local 324 Union Hall 8530 Stanton Ave., Buena Park, CA
07/26-29/2017	IPMS National Convention	LaVista Conference Center 12520 Westport Parkway, La Vista, NE
09/23/2017	REDCON 2017	Orleans Hotel and Casino 4500 W. Tropicana Ave., Las Vegas, NV
11/12/2017	Kit Collectors Exposition and Show	UFCW Local 324 Union Hall 8530 Stanton Ave., Buena Park, CA