

# IPMS Binghamton Ramblings

## International Plastic Modelers Society

### August 2015

#### Club Officers:

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#### Editors Corner:

Remember when there was an airshow every year at Link Field and Wilkes-Barre airports? Now either have an airshow budget in near sight. I miss the sound, smells and sights of a good airshow. All the pictures in this article are the editors, except for the Thunderbird F-16, which was from a Website. 👍



*US AirForce Thunderbird F-16 Fighting Falcons*

## Thunder Over Niagara Falls By Walt Bogumil

Marco Mendez and I traveled the four hour trek to Niagara Falls IAP to see New York state's only airshow appearance of the US Air Force Thunderbirds. We held our club

meeting under the tail of an F-15e Strike Eagle, with aircraft flying overhead. It was 85 degrees, hot, sunny and humid. We were cooked by the end of the day, well done. 50K plus air enthusiasts attended the airshow. Many aircraft were at this airshow for less airplanes are deployed overseas at this time, according to a pilot.

Demonstration aircraft kept the sky full of aerial activity. The distinctive sound of the Merlin-Rolls Royce engine defined the silver P-51 Mustang. A T-6/SNJ and the Trojan Horsemen, a team of six T-28's, put on a good acrobatic performance. The AV-8b Harrier deafened the crowd with its' loud engine while hovering and super heating the runways concrete with its' exhaust. The AV-8b also displayed it's unique flying and hovering capabilities. A rare flying Mig-17 was spitting out lots of flames from its' engine, Sidewinder waiting. The host unit, 914 Airlift Wing C-130's executed a parachute extraction of Hummer at 1000 feet over the runway. The US Army Golden Knights Parachute Demonstration team thrilled the crowd with their death defying drops. The main star of the show, the US Air Force Thunderbirds, loved to surprise the crowd with low level Zooming from behind. Their engines roar was amplified by the humid air.



Niagara Falls 914 AW, 136 AS C-130 "Spirit of Western New York", Note the Nose and tail markings

The Tarmac was covered with "Grey Military Heavy Metal". Modern airpower was well represented with just about all types of aircraft in the US arsenal. Here was the US Air Force presence: C-17 Globemaster II from Stewart AFB, C-5 Galaxy, C-130 Hercules, KC-10 Extender, KC-135 Stratotanker, B-1 from Dyess Texas, B-52 Stratofortress, A-10 Warthog, F-15 Eagle, F15e Strike Eagle, T-38 Talon (two Tone Grey), HH-60 and MQ-9 Reaper (full scale replica). Here was the US Navy/Coast Guard presence: FA-18 Hornet, AV-8b Harrier, E-2 Hawkeye, Goshawk II and USCG Helicopter. The World War II warbirds were fewer but well represented by: C-45 Beech, C-47 Dakota, SNJ, Stearman and BT-13 Valiant (looked brand new). A rather sharp looking L-39 Albatross was painted up in VX-4 Evaluator's markings.

Since all the cars were parked on any available piece of grass, you could get right up close to the usually un-accessable gate guard aircraft: RF-101 and F-4.

Marco had a great time. He had never seen a Thunderbirds performance. He was impressed with the AV-8B Harrier and A-10 Warthog. The MQ-9 Reaper was small, compared to a manned aircraft, but bigger than I thought it would be. The Reapers wings are 6 feet above the ground, when on its' landing gear. This 1/1 scale replica was from Syracuse's 138 Reconnaissance Squadron.

The USAF Security Forces were ever present, but very welcome. There were many constant walking patrols in pairs, armed with live ammo (Red Taped) M-16's, pistols and body armor. I felt quite safe with their presence. This was the first time I went through a metal detector to get into an airshow. This is understandable in today's state of international affairs.

Six years later, I finally got to a good airshow. It was worth the long ride and being cooked on the concrete "Baster Oven". Really, it was great to be back. The smell of kerosene and the roar of jet engines, through hearing protectors, is the "**Sound of Freedom**".



Marco Mendez in his Happy Zone

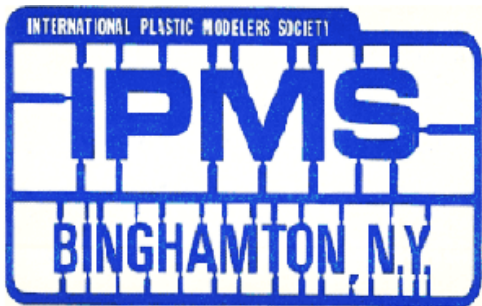


**MQ-9 Reaper replica in 1/1 Scale, Note the enhanced weapon load capability (Above)  
RF-101 Voodoo Gate Guard (Below)**



**IPMS Meetings** - 19 Sep 2015 @ 10:00 AM / 1000 Hours  
17 Oct 2015 @ 10:00 AM / 1000 Hours

Endwell Firehouse, Back Room  
Endwell Firehouse, Back Room



*IPMS Binghamton Models*



A-4 Skyhawk and P-51 Mustang by *Marco Mendez*



Thunder Chicken used to be painted on the units F-101's & F-4's.

