



The Navigator

The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

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

March 2017



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



Mark Schachter's
Award winning Sea Fury



**Craig Gregory's
Eggplane Review**





President's Column

By Dick Montgomery

IPMS #14003



President's Message – March 2017

ModelFiesta 36 was, by all accounts, a great success. You'll hear more numbers at the meeting, but we had high entry totals with 653 entries registered by 167 entrants. Thanks to Len and his team for doing an excellent job organizing and then conducting the event. To all those who volunteered their time to staff the General Admission area, Registration area, Raffle/Door Prize area, Vendor area, Seminar Planners, Awards design and procurement, and the team that assembled the Winner's List and published the PDF of winners, place, and image of winning model on the club website. Thanks to Jim Coatney for his advice and counsel. Thanks also to the judges, many of whom were from other modeling organizations. Your expertise and time are very much appreciated. As successful as ModelFiesta 36 was, it is time for the club to move to some other upcoming business.



First on that list is the Ford Challenge. Herb Scranton will be sharing the process he will use to gather the Ford models to be donated to Northside Ford. This is a perfect opportunity to say "Thanks" to Northside Ford for their continued support of Alamo Squadron.

Another upcoming activity is the Car Fest in early April. At the February meeting, when the subject of

staffing a space at this car show was put forward, we had about a dozen volunteers indicate their willingness to volunteer some of their weekend time. Le will have more information on this event at the March meeting.



March marks the beginning of our election cycle. Nominations for President, Vice President, and Treasurer will be solicited at the March meeting. One can self-nominate, or members can nominate others for office. Please be aware that before you nominate someone for office, you should check with that person to make sure they will accept the nomination. There are some Constitutional issues regarding nominations and elections, and the requirements for those who nominate and those who seek office, but we will address those issues at the March meeting.





Club Announcements

Bachelor Build Nights

Craig Gregory and Len Pilhofer will continue to host build nights/meetings for 2017. The focus of these meetings is to build models as well as comradery with a secondary goal of watching, discussing, 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.



Build night dates for the first-half of 2017 are as follows. All dates fall on a Thursday night. If you wish to host a BBN please let Len or Craig know and we can add to the dates listed here:

9 Mar - Craig's
 23 Mar - Len's
 13 Apr - Craig's
 27 Apr - Len's
 11 May - Craig's
 25 May - Len's
 8 Jun - Craig's
 22 Jun - Len's

Model Building Summit Award Program

The March club meeting is the finale, a celebration, of the 2016-17 Model Building Summit Award. We will

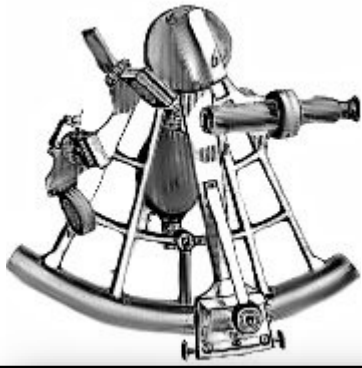
be recognizing those who completed at least 5 builds. It is also your last chance to enter your completed builds for the 2016-17 period. Builds entered in ModelFiesta 36 satisfy the requirement to show the completed model at a club meeting. If you have not shown your completed build at a club meeting or ModelFiesta 36, you must show it at the March meeting.

As part of the celebration, please bring all your 2016-17 entries to the March meeting (not a requirement); whether your completed 5 or not. Let's get a look at what everyone has accomplished one last time. This is not a competition; it's a judge free zone.

Each modeler who reached the summit (5 builds or more) receives a 20% discount coupon from Hill County Hobby. They are also entered into a drawing for a model kit.

Current summary:

Modeler	Builds
Charles Stone	1
Craig Gregory	9
Dana Mathes	5
Dick Montgomery	5
Gerardo Escobedo-Sainz	3
Hayden Reyes	2
Herb Scranton	3
Jerry Reyes	3
John Kress	1
Len Pilhofer	7
Mark Smith	1
Michael Buckley	6
Mike McKenney	3
Peter Ortensie	15
Victor Martinez	2



Club Announcements

February Club Contest: "The Ford Challenge"



First Place: Mike Holsen
Ford Mustang II



Second Place Place: Herb Scranton III
Bn Cdr's M151A2



Third Place: Charles Holsen
Ford Tri-Motor



HobbyTown USA

GUNDAM BUILD CONTEST!

March 25, 2017

AWARD CATEGORIES:

Best in Show • Your Vote
Juniors (12&Under)
Teens (13-18) • Out of Box
Custom (Modded or Painted)

Entry fee: \$2

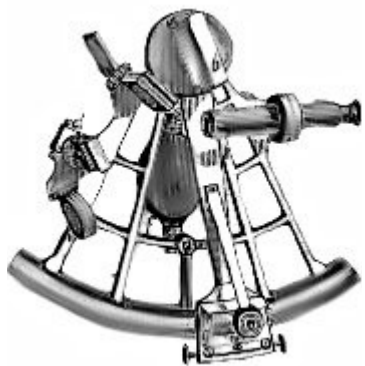
All entries get a coupon for the store.

All junior entries win a prize!

Entry period: 11:00-12:30

Judging period: 2:00-3:00

Pick up: 3:30-4:30



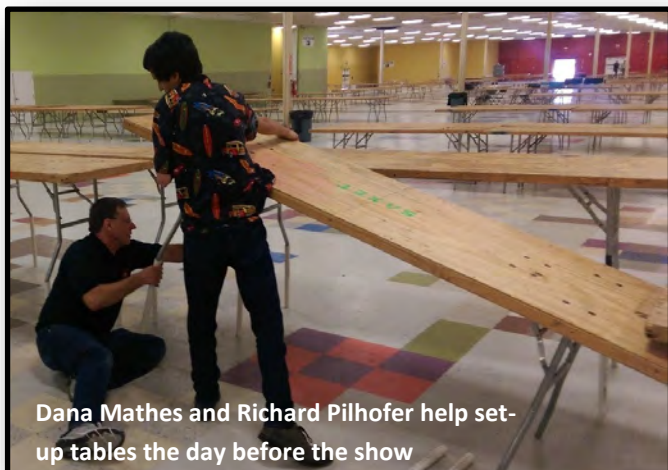
Cover Story

ModelFiesta 36 Show Report

Story by Len Pilhofer, ModelFiesta 36 Event Director

Photos by Len Pilhofer, Matt Neerman, and Charles Holsen

I PMS Alamo Squadron held its 36th annual model contest and show on Saturday, February 18th, 2017 at the San Antonio Event Center on San Antonio's far west side. When analyzing numbers from past ModelFiestas, Alamo Squadron has set a record with the number of entries on the contest tables.



Dana Mathes and Richard Pilhofer help set-up tables the day before the show

Continuing a tradition started last year Northside Ford participated by not only sponsoring the Automotive class plaques they also displayed current Ford F-150 and Mustang vehicles at the show entry. Thanks also go out to our other awards sponsors including: the Aircraft Class sponsored by the American Fighter Aces Association, the San Antonio Armor Brigade, an armor focused modeling group here in town, for sponsoring the Armor awards, our own Craig Gregory for sponsoring the Space/Sci-Fi Class, Lee Washburn for sponsoring the Ship Class and Lee Forbes for sponsoring the Collections Class. Additional sponsors included Dibbles Hobbies for sponsoring the Theme Award Trophy and Hobbytown USA of San Antonio for sponsoring the Best of Show trophy.

Gerry Escobedo managed a wide array of presenta-



tions by presenters such as Henry Nunez on figure preparation and painting as well as a seminar on Gundam and Gunpla (short for Gundam plastic) by Dustin Word. Rob Turner returned with his seminar on paper modeling and Alamo Squadron's Rob Booth gave a seminar on what IPMS judges look for when analyzing models in a competition. Cudos to Lee Forbes for once again rounding up a distinguished group of military heroes for us to visit with, including retired Col James Sullivan on his historic record setting flight between NY and London in the USAF's SR-71. Retired





Cover Story

Alamo Squadron Model of the Year



Best Armor

Col Bob Ryan talked about his visit to the Strategic Air Museum in Kiev, Ukraine and Lt Col Jason Green of Randolph's 558th Flying Training Squadron gave a brief on the USAF's Remotely Piloted Aircraft training program. The star of the show was retired Lt Col Dick Cole, the last surviving Doolittle Raider.

We have many outstanding modelers from around the IPMS Region 6 area that participate regularly at Modelfiesta. This year was no exception in that several award-winning entries came from the IPMS chapters in the Houston, Austin, NCT and Rio Grande Valley



Best Space/Sci-Fi

areas, along with strong showings from Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. We also sent a lot of winning hardware home with our friends from Monterrey, SLP, Torreon and Mexico City.



Best Ship

There was a total of **653 entries** by **167 competitors** at this year's Modelfiesta. This stands as a record for Modelfiesta as the highest number of entries to date. It is important to note this is the number of entries and does not break down the individual models entered in the Collections categories. On the vendors side of the event center there was **111 tables** occupied with vendors...another great number for the show.

Winning entries by class were as follows:

Young Modelers: "Mad Max: Fury Road" by Zachary Burger of New Braunfels, TX

Aircraft: 1/48 scale Hawker Sea Fury FB 11 by Mark Schachter of Seattle, WA

Armor: 1/35 scale "Ambulance Jeep" by Lonnie McIntosh of Abilene, TX.

Automotive: '61 Chevy Impala by Freddie Pena of Houston, TX.

Figures: "Kat" by Tom Williams of Frisco, TX.

Ships: "Olav Tryggvesson" by Rick Warring of San Antonio, TX.



Cover Story

Alamo Squadron Model of the Year



Mark Schachter custom builds a box for each of his masterpieces. Here is the box for his Sea Fury that rode on his lap on the flight down from Seattle.

Space/Sci-Fi: “Atomic Iron” by Vince Berrale of Houston, TX.

Collections: “Panzer Four” by the San Antonio Armor Brigade.

Miscellaneous: “Mercedes Benz 540K Engine” by Paul Berrena of San Antonio, TX.

Theme Award: “Krupp 420mm Big Bertha” by Tom Moon of Houston, TX

Best of Show: 1/48 scale “Hawker Sea Fury FB 11” by Mark Schachter of Seattle, WA

All of the feedback we have received about the show from around the Region 6 “hobby circles” has been extremely positive, and we look forward to continued



Matt Neerman, Mike Holsen, and Charles Stone judging 1/72 scale armor



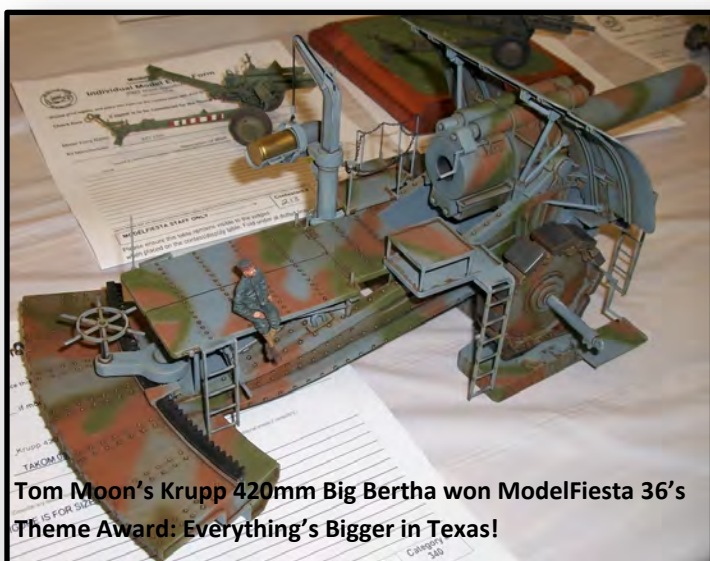
Cover Story

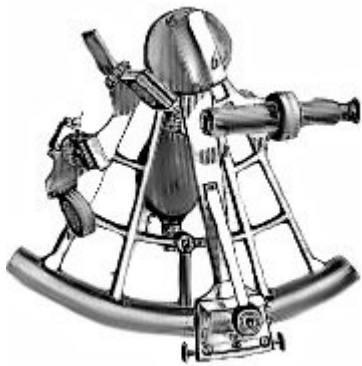
Alamo Squadron Model of the Year



Dana Mathes – Awards Coordinator, Gerry Escobedo who put together the seminars and presentations, and Mike Goolsbee managed our new Raffle prize format (that ended up making a profit to help with next year's show). A final, huge thanks to Dick Montgomery and his team for leading a new effort of documenting every entry into Excel spreadsheets and linking these to photos of every model entered in the contest. The results of their work is a slide show depicting every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entry of all 68 categories, best of class winners, ISA winners, and Theme Award and Best of Show winners. This slide show can be viewed via Alamo Squadron's web site.

strong participation at our show next year. Initial preparations are already underway for ModelFiesta 37 and planning will kick-off starting in June of this year. I want to add a personal thanks to all of the guys – and a few gals - from Alamo Squadron who showed up to help out, from vendor move-in on Friday night to assisting us with break-down and cleanup on Saturday after the show. My special thanks to the entire ModelFiesta 36 Committee: Herb Scranton: Admissions/Registration Coordinator, Rob Booth as our Chief Judge, Craig Gregory who took care of our Vendors,





Member How-To

Workspace Lighting

Story and Photos by Craig Gregory
The Mobile Modeler
IPMS #49320



One of the tools that we overlook, or overlooks us, is a good light source for our workspace.

My “official” modeling workspace is a converted computer desk/cabinet. I have a 24” florescent light mounted above, facing the work surface. The plug is routed along the top and sides of the cabinet to a power strip. I can operate the light either from the light or the power strip. The light is 23” from my work surface, and for me, provides perfect elimination. I purchased the light from Walmart.



I also have a battery powered white LED light I purchased at a little housewares store in Beijing. The light source is a 4 x 8 rectangle of LEDs, plugs into an 110v or 240v AC source for charging; and can be used while plugged into a power source. The batteries last at least an hour (I haven’t tested it for longer than an hour.) When folded for travel it is approximately 6” x 3” x 2”.

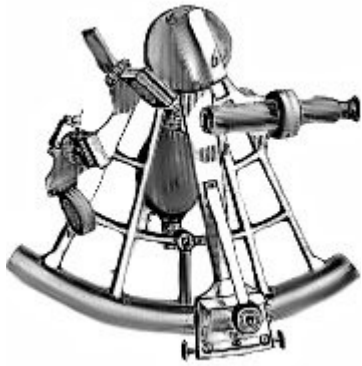
My eyes are not what the used to be; a bright white-colored light source is not an option



I would classify myself a social modeler; I always look for opportunities to model with my friends and peers. I have two light sources that I carry with me when modeling remotely.

I bought an OttLite from Walmart; it can be found in the sewing section. It has a 6” florescent bulb that is approximately 14” above the work surface. The light source can be positioned in various angles and plugs into any 110v AC source. When folded, the bulb is actually protected for transportation.





Feature Story

Zen and the Art of Modeling

by Tim Rentz IPMS#42010



This article is about how to get the most enjoyment out of modeling - and it has a lot to do with focusing your attention and challenging your skill just enough, but not too much.

Have you ever been so deeply engrossed in modeling that you lost track of time? Been so focused that you didn't notice yourself getting hungry, or having a foot go numb? Have you ever felt a rush of ecstatic glee when that difficult seam, airbrush pattern, decal, or eyeball turned out just the way you wanted? If so, you may have experienced "flow," a state of intense happiness that totally consumes you.

I noticed many years ago that how I felt had a great deal to do with what I was paying attention to, and the more intensely I paid attention, the more it would determine how I felt. Think about the guy that cut you off in traffic and gave you the finger when you honked at him: Can you feel some irritation? What about getting your first car? Was it a hot rod? Or a slow old slug like mine was? What about going on your first date? What base did you get to? Does that bring on a different mood? How do you feel when you open the box of model kit you've been fantasizing about? Looking at the parts, already imagining how they'll go together? I'm feeling happier right now just thinking about it. Building models is a great source of enjoyment for me, and I want to get as much fun out of it as I can. When I'm modeling, I try to give it my undivided attention and try to get in the zone where that model is my entire universe.

The principles I'm going to describe are largely based on the work of a Hungarian-American psychologist with an unpronounceable name: Mihály Csíkszentmihályi.

Look him up if you're inclined. His studies on "flow," "optimal experience," or "how to develop ecstatic happiness," focus on just a few key factors:

1. Intensely focus your attention. Concentrate entirely on the present moment, and on the task you are doing. Reduce distractions. We only have so much attention, and if it is occupied by TV in the background, think-

ing about what you have to do tomorrow, or the bad drivers you recently encountered, you will have less attention focused on model building, and it will be less fun. Nothing wrong with doing twelve modeling projects at once, as long as each little thing you do is ALL you're doing in that moment. Focusing attention takes practice. Meditation and mindfulness exercises can help develop this skill.

2. Engage in a skill that gives you immediate feedback. For example, when you're playing a piano, you know immediately if you hit right key or the wrong one. Playing video games, or assembling, painting and decaling models fit into this category too.

3. Challenge your skill level just enough, but not too much. If the modeling task is too easy, it may be boring, if it's too hard it may be frustrating, or cause you anxiety. But if it's right at that level where you're pretty sure you can do it but its pushing your skill nearly to the max, then you may be able to get into the Zen zone.

A trick to focusing attention that I sometimes use is to literally slow down. Going in slow-mo can break you out of autopilot mode and help you to focus on what you're doing. Try it: Next time you are building a model, move your hands slowly, breathe slowly and concentrate on what you're doing. See and feel every detail of the parts you're working with. See if it makes a difference. Happy Modeling!





Build Review

Eggplanes: How to practice a new modeling technique without ruining your next masterpiece

Story and Photos by Craig Gregory
The Mobile Modeler
IPMS #49320



The Hasegawa Eggplane Series is just plain fun. They assemble quickly, are generally well engineered, and for me provide an immediate platform to practice my budding modeling skills. Since, then I have built a few successful projects with the skills learned in the ABC and practice on my Eggplanes. The F-2 & T-4 “ADTW 60th ANNIVERSARY” box are my 4th and 5th Eggplanes.



amazing; the fit is so good that it leaves one uniform panel line around the entire cockpit deck.

The basic airframe was assembled and ready for finishing in 30 minutes; landing gear, the windscreen and armaments were left unattached for painting. There were minor seam repairs to the fuselage and molding imperfections. The model was ready to paint with about 2 total hours of work.

Kawasaki T-4

The Kawasaki T-4 is a subsonic intermediate trainer used by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force and by the Blue Impulse aerobatic team. My goal for this build is to try to use the primer coat as my final finish coat and to repair and accent the panel lines. The press-fit engineering is excellent. The fit between the fuselage halves (A1 & A7) and the cockpit module (C5) is

I painted the wheel wells, landing gear and inside of the gear doors flat white. The model can be build gear up as an option; I used the optional closed doors (C8 & C9) to protect the painted wheel wells. I painted the entire airframe with lite grey primer. I masked and painted the instrument panel area flat black. I applied the instrument panel decal, attached and masked the canopy, and the applied another coat of primer.



Build Review

Eggplanes

Booya, a completely assembled and painted airframe in a day.

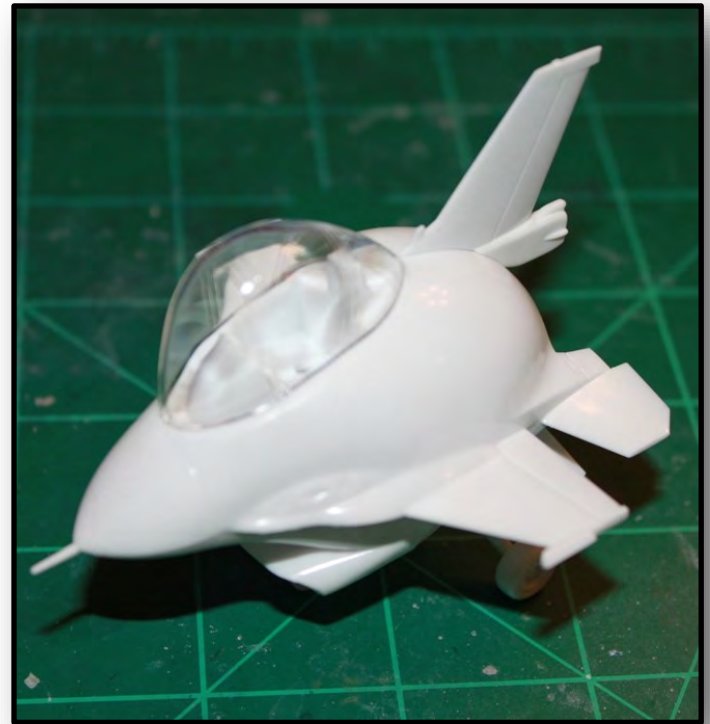
I allowed the model to completely dry for a few days and applied a few coats of Future before applying the decals. The anniversary edition of the F-4 has tangerine orange trim on the wing tips, horizontal stabilizer tips and horizontal stabilizer tip. I could not get the decals to wrap around these tips and meet with their corresponding halves. I cut away or removed the tip portions of the decals, masked and painted the tips. The landing gear, bombs and jet exhausts were detail and attached.

Mitsubishi F-2

The Mitsubishi F-2 is a multirole fighter developed for the Japan Air Self-Defense Force. It was developed from the F-16 under a joint contract with Lockheed Martin. I have a Hasegawa 1/48th F-2 with a complex Anime decal scheme in my stash; my goal for this build is to practice applying large decals to curved surfaces.

The airframe is simple enough and was assembled in less than 10 minutes; landing gear and the windscreen were left unattached for painting. The assembly of the engine inlet (A8) and lower fuselage (A9) resulted in a large seam that required considerable work to fill and conform to a smooth transition. The model was ready to paint with about 2 total hours of works.

I masked the cockpit area and painted it with gray primer. I masked and painted the instrument panel area and canopy flat black. I then painted the airframe and all subcomponents flat white, except for the jet exhaust (A12). I allowed 2 days for the paint to dry completely before attaching the canopy; I was concerned that the canopy would fog. I mask the entire canopy to protect it from further painting. I ap-



plied two coats of Future in preparation for applying the decals.

I found applying large decals to the compound surface of an egg impossible. My results were totally dissatisfying and a disappointment. Do not despair; Hasegawa has included extra decals that can be applied over the three color paint scheme of red, white and blue.

After applying decals, 20, 29, 30 and 31, I stopped and removed the decals by lifting them with transparent tape and carefully scraping the remains off with a hobby knife. I then masked and painted the three color paint scheme. I allowed the model to completely dry for a few days and applied a few coats of Future before applying the decals. I sealed everything with another coat of Future.

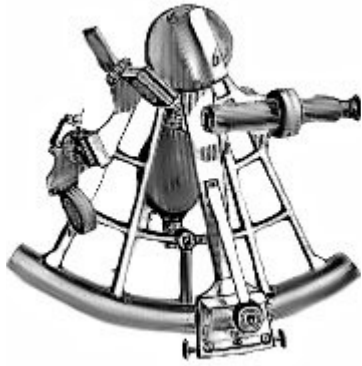


Build Review

Eggplanes

I now have built five Eggplanes. I have learned or honed a skill on each one of them. They are always a non-stressful fun build.





Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 2nd, 2017 at 7:00PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

March 4, 2017

Showdown 2017

Dr. Pepper Star Center

12700 N Stemmons Frwy

Farmers Branch, TX 75234

http://www.themcma.net/Club_Contests.php



March 11, 2017

RiverCon VI

Bossier City, LA

<http://www.ipmsrivermodelers.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>

April 29, 2017

Modelmania

Stafford Centre

10505 Cash Road

Stafford, TX

http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11





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.

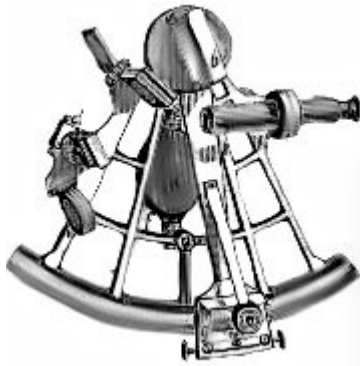


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Final Words...



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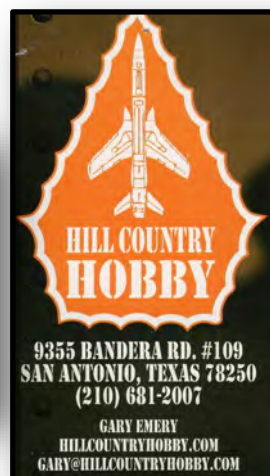
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For models, paints, books, decals, tools and more!



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