

The Navigator

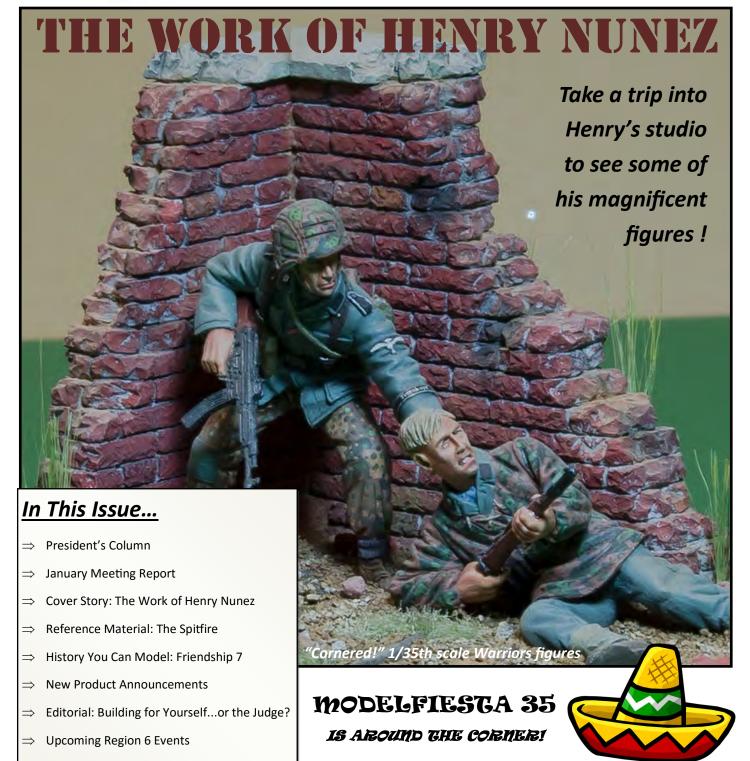
The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

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

February 2016



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





President's Column

By Dick Montgomery



wap Meet!

The February "Program" will be a Swap Meet. Table space might be a little thin, as our host facility seems to have lost some tables during the recent high water incident. You are welcomed to bring a card table if you wish. Arrive early, set up your gear and feel free to begin swapping items as soon as you are ready. You are advised to bring plenty of change to make those business transactions go a bit more smoothly. Please leave a table for the officers to set up their "officer gear" in the usual spot. At about 7:15, more or less, we will call the meeting to order and take care of the usual business.

ModelFiesta 35

Rob Booth will provide us with the final update for ModelFiesta 35. ModelFiesta requires "boots on the ground" so please volunteer some of your time to work at the show. Rob and the ModelFiesta Team have done an awesome job this year. With excellent ideas being put forward by members, a significant number of changes are being incorporated into ModelFiesta, some changes won't really be visible to guests and visitors while other changes will be readily apparent. I wish to thank Rob, in particular, and also the ModelFiesta Team for the effort and work they've put into the event. I especially want to thank the general membership for taking a significant amount of "ownership" in the event, as witnessed by the ideas and suggestions that have been put forward regarding ModelFiesta. This level of enthusiasm and leadership is characteristic of a dynamic organization and shows that Alamo Squadron has a very bright future. Well done, Gentlemen. Very well done.

Model Build Summit Program

Craig Gregory will present an idea (another one of those ideas from the membership!) that he is calling the, "Model Build Summit Program". In short, Craig is suggesting that a program be set up to "promote model-building and enthusiasm amongst the membership." It's a grand idea and rather simple to manage, and, if the membership agrees, could be launched at the February meeting.

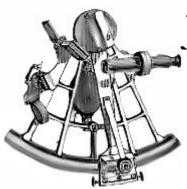
Congratulations to Dana Mathes

Dana took "Model of the Year" honors at the January with his "Self-Propelled Gun". Competition was fierce and that is a sign that Alamo Squadron has some excellent modelers among its members. We'll get the MOY trophy from Kent and get it to Dana ASAP.



Dana Mathes' Trophy-Winning 1/35th scale Hypothetical Self-Propelled Gun

The upcoming Alamo Squadron meeting is at Northside Ford, 7:15PM, Feb 4th. See you there!



January Meeting Report

Model Of The Year

Photos by Len Pilhofer

Big congratulations to all the participants who competed in the Model Of The Year Contest. This contest wraps up Alamo Squadron's 2015 internal club competition circuit with the best-of-the-best competing for the squadron's trophy. As Dick mentioned in his column Dana Mathes won the trophy with his Hypothetical Self-Propelled Gun. Here is a quick look as some of the other participants and their work.



Jerry Escobedo's paper P-40 Warhawk in Soviet colors

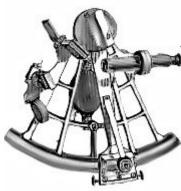




Mike Goolsbee's A4D (C-47) above, and T-33 below



Rick Stanley's Cessna Skyhawk



January Meeting Report

Model Of The Year

Photos by Len Pilhofer



Paul Barrena's Mercedes Gull Wing Truck (below) and Chevy Dual Cab Pick-Up COE (left)



Len Pilhofer's Standardpanzer E-100





turned.

Member Profile

Text and Figures by Henry Nunez Photos by Len Pilhofer





Evolution Figures' Quasar Series 1/20th scale Sturmscharfuhrer

Tommy's War 54mm Private, 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, Le Cateau 1914

started building models at about the age of 8 years old. My mother would receive S&H Green stamps at the grocery store and she then would give me a stamp book and stamps to fill it. When my book was full she would then take me to the local S&H Green stamp store to redeem my stamps for store merchandise. I would go to the toy section and pick out 3 plane kits for a book of stamps. As I got older, planes and ships were replaced with armor and figures (Monogram Military Series) where I probably got started in figures. In time sports became my new interest replacing models until the 90's when the interest in models re-



Member Profile



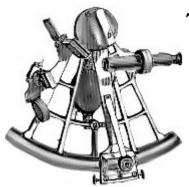
bout 97% of my modelling is based on figure painting. I am very selective when choosing a figure to paint. I look for extreme detail in every aspect of the figure as well as the subject matter. Excellent sculpted figures will help you be a better figure painter. I primarily build and paint resin figures but also work in metal and plastic as well.





"A Letter Home" 1/35 Warriors Figure with Custom Dioramics well

1/16th Alpine Private, 4th Marine Division, Saipan, 1944



Member Profile





Andrea Figures 54mm Jeb Stewart in metal

he subject I primarily build and paint is WW2 with emphasis on the German army. I find the German army very intriguing and a challenge to paint especially the many camouflage patterns introduced by the Wehrmacht and SS. A lot of research goes into my German camo patterns as to the time period during the war it was introduced and used. In college, I minored in History with an emphasis on the American Civil War and World War Two. I have recently collected a few Civil War figures and hope to get started on them in the near future. I have been painting modern camouflage lately which I find challenging and fun.



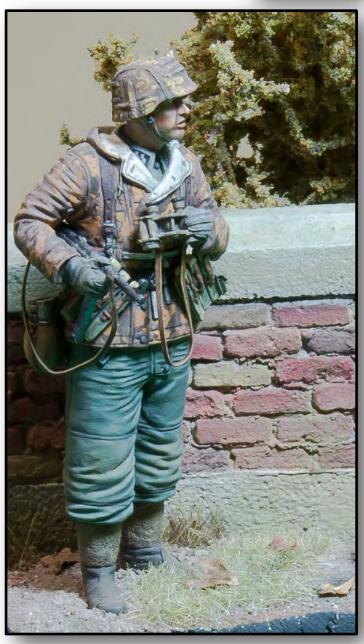
Member Profile





1/35 Alpine US Infantryman, 9th Armored Division, Ardennes, 1944 (face done in Reaper acrylics)

paint figures of different scales like 1/35, 54mm, 75mm and 1/16 as well as building vignettes and dioramas. I really enjoy joint projects which I recently have collaborated with fellow modeler Bob Bethea of Austin. One of our projects made the cover and story of the AMPS Boresight Magazine. I have recently discussed this with local shows in introducing the subject as a category in their shows.



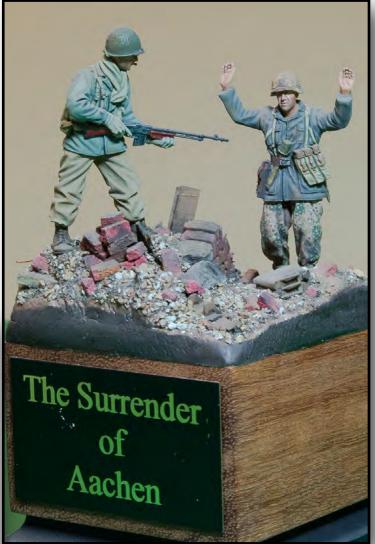
1/35 Alexander Miniatures (with Alpine head) SS Untersturmfuhrer, Eastern Front, 1945

Member Profile



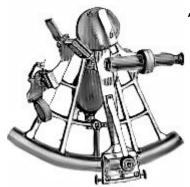
prefer to paint in acrylics using Vallejo and Andrea paints. People have asked me about painting in acrylics which they find sometimes difficult. I simply tell them to be patient because acrylics are very temperamental. Acrylics dry very quickly so time is a factor when painting with them. You have to layer the paint where oils you blend them since they dry very slowly allowing you a longer painting time. I use paint pallets with wells where I deposit the paint(s) I plan to use. I have learned to master acrylics and work fast. Bob Bethea introduced me to wet paint pallets but I just couldn't get into using it. Use what makes you comfortable.





1/35 Warrior Figures

1/16 Alpine Panzer Leutnant Grossdeutchland 1944



Member Profile



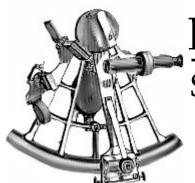


SS Panzer Grenadier – 1st SS Panzer Division Kampfgrupppe Piper Ardennes 1944 1/16th scale Alpine figure

n closing, modelling is an art and a hobby and nothing else. You enter contests to show off your artistic work and skills. Have fun, learn from the best and build, build and build to be a good to great modeler and if you don't place or win just remember one saying that I have learned to live by, "YOU PAY YOUR MONEY AND YOU TAKE YOUR CHANCES".

"No Quarter": 1/35 Alpine German NCO with Hornet Head (insert), Stalingrad Figures Soviet soldier





Reference Materials

Spitfire!



Article and Spitfire Models By Lee Forbes

Photos by Len Pilhofer

t our January 7 Meeting several members, and 5 including me, spoke about some of our and variety references concerning our area of color

favorite references concerning our area of modeling interest. As most of our members present know, I've been fan of Spitfires and other RAF fighter aircraft for most of my adult modeling life, and as my good modeling friend, Fred Horky knows, that been quite a while now. And, I've been true to my favorite scale, 1/72, all these years. In fact, I've taken my Spitfire/Seafire Collection to numerous contests throughout IPMS Region 6 and have won many 1st Places with it as well as placing 3rd at one of our IPMS/USA National Conventions a few years back in the Individual Collection Category. I digress, let's talk about some of the references I often refer to when building Spitfires.

The first one is called SPITFIRE THE HISTORY, by

Eric B. Morgan and Edward Shacklady, and is published by Key Publishing Ltd., P.O. Box 100, Stamford, Lines, PE9 IXQ, England. My edition was the third Impression dated 1989. The book weighs around five pounds and contains 634 pages, including the index. This book appeals to the scale



modeler as well as aeronautical engineers. It contains loads of background information on the evolution of every mark of Spitfire produced starting with the Supermarine Type 224 and concludes with the Spiteful

and Seafang; countless engineering drawings; black and white photos of actual aircraft; several pages of color plates regarding camo and markings; and incase you're interested, it contains all of the serial numbers for every mark ever produced! It's an expensive book. When I procured my copy it was around \$100.00.

The next three references that I'll discuss were purchased during one of my trips to the IPMS/UK National Convention in Telford, England. I had the good fortune to attend the Telford show in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006. As an aside, this show is a must on your "bucket list". These references are called ON TARGET PROFILES and are published by the Aviation Workshop Publications, Ltd., Brook Barn, Letcombe, Regis, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9JD, United Kingdom. They are also affiliated with a

larger business entity call the Model Alliance.

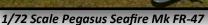
My favorite ON TARGET PROFILE is number 4. It is titled Spitfire Mk I to VI in the European Theater of Operations, by John Freeman, along with the series editor, Neil Robinson. It contains 34 pages of boundless information and color profiles of



each type from the Supermarine Type 300, to the HF Mk VI. The pages are printed in high quality gloss paper and depict single sided profiles and at least one plan view with top, bottom, and left and right profiles, of each Mark. The printed colors are as close to the actual colors as I've ever seen in print medium. Each individual aircraft profile depicts the camo layout, squadron markings, and frequently the name of the

Reference Materials (Cont.)





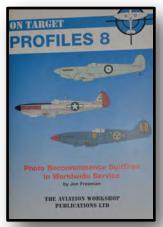


1/72 Scale Matchbox Spitfire Mk X

pilot who flew the airplane. So you have all the information you need to model a particular subject. Not only idoes that feature exist, but you can get 1/72 and 1/48 scale decals of the featured plan view Marks. And yes, I purchased two sets of the 1/72 scale sheets.

Another ON TARGET PROFILE I refer to is number 8. It's titled Photo Reconnaissance Spitfires in Worldwide Service, by Jon Freeman. It features 50 pages of information that applies to all of the PR Spitfire Marks. The quality of the publication is equal to that described above concerning ON TARGET PROFILE 4. This PROFILE contains the same type of color profiles and plan views, but also contains color

and black and white photographs of PR Spitfires in action. You are also introduced to such colors as Camotint, Light Pink, PRU Mauve, Sea Green, and other lesser known colors used on the PR Spitfire Marks. There is also section depicting PR Spitfires in the markings of other nations, most of these are PR Spit-



fire Mk XIXs and are in painted in PRU Blue.

The final ON TARGET PROFILE in my collection is profile number 5. It's titled Supermarine Seafire Mk Ib – Mk 47, by Jon Freeman and series editor, Neil Robinson. It contains 46 pages of information about Seafires which were by and large navalized versions of Spitfire Marks. For example, The Seafire Mk Ib started service as a Spitfire Mk Vb and while the Seafire Mk IIc was produced as a Navy fighter, it

was a derivative of the Spitfire Mk Vc. The same was true for later Seafire Marks. Most Seafires lost

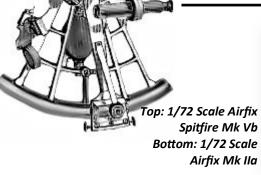
some top speed compared to comparable Spitfires Marks when beefed up landing gear and tail hooks were added to their gross weight. In this publication we are introduced to the use of colors suited for flying over water. The Temperate Sea Scheme of Extra Dark Sea Grey and Dark Slate Grey over Sky Type



S being the most common. Later SeaFire Marks were painted Extra Dark Sea Grey in different applications over Sky Type S. In my opinion this reference is probably the best compendium of information on Seafires that has been published to date. Lastly it is of the same quality and accuracy of colors as the other ON TARGET PROFILE series. But, sadly no decal sheet accompanies this Profile.

The last British publication I use is titled CAMOU-FLAUGE & MARKINGS, RAF FIGHTER COM-MAND, 1936 – 1945, by James Goulding and Robert Jones. The book contains 294 pages of outstanding reference material on all of the Fighter Aircraft the RAF used before and during WWII, including US Lend Lease types. The book was published in the US by Doubleday & Company, Garden City, New York in 1971 and retailed for \$14.95 at that time. I don't recall where I purchased my copy, but it might have been Half Price Books, because I only paid \$7.95 for it that was annotated on my copy in pencil. For my

Reference Materials (Cont.)





money, this is the "Bible" for fans of RAF Fighter types. It contains black and white photographs, color plates, plan view drawings showing left and right profiles and bottom colors and markings of each fighter type featured in the book. You get exact layouts for the disruptive type of camouflage used by the RAF with measurements in feet and inches for the placement of standardized markings for various time periods as the war progressed. Frankly, I can't say enough good about this reference. As you might have suspected the authors' research conducted did not in-

CAMOUFLAGE & MARKINGS

R.A.F.
Fighter
Command,
1936–1945

clude Fleet Air Arm fighter types, but the ON TARGET PRO-FILE number 5 mentioned above, fills that void very nicely. No doubt this book is probably out of print, but if you ever locate a copy at a model contest or a book store specializing in out of print books, buy it, you won't regret it!

The last Spitfire reference that I spoke about is "Made in the USA" and it's one we're all familiar with. It's the SPITFIRE IN ACTION BOOKLET AIRCRAFT NO. 39 by Jerry Scutts (who I believe is a British Author) and contains 58 pages of great information. It's published by Squadron/Signal Publications Inc., 1115 Crowley Dr., Carrollton, TX 75011-5010. My booklet was copyrighted in 1980. This booklet is loaded with black and white photographs, color plates, and lots of

drawings depicting the wing shapes and armament of the various Marks. All of the information any fan of Spitfires/Seafires needs is contained in the booklet, but in a condensed form. Several Marks have completes descriptions of performance specifications that will be of interest to those individuals who relish this type of data. I don't recall how much I paid for this booklet, but it less than \$10.00 as I recall. I don't

know if this booklet is still in print or not, but you can probably find a copy at a model contest in the vendor area. I still use this



reference a lot when I'm in a hurry to look up something quickly about a particular Spitfire/Seafire Mark.

That was just a sampling of my Spitfire References. I have another 33 books and booklets in my RAF Collection, not to mention nearly all of the Osprey Fighter Aces series of various WWII English Aces and their Fighter Types. And one of my prizes is a reprint of a July 1940, Pilots Manual for the Supermarine Spitfire Marks IIa and IIb, and it's only 26 pages long cover to cover, with detailed photographs of the cockpit and instrument panel pointing out the location of everything needed to fly it from takeoff to landing. Compare that to our modern "Dash One's " as they're known today that weigh 10- 20 pounds and include countless checklists that pilots have to go through to fly these mega million dollar machines.

ModelFiesta 35



Members of Alamo Squadron: Beat the rush!
Register your entries early starting at 8:30AM the
morning of the show.

Registration documents available for download at http://alamosquadron.com



IPMS/USA ALAMO SQUADRON Presents



modelfiesga 35

The International Contest Of Texas

Show Theme:

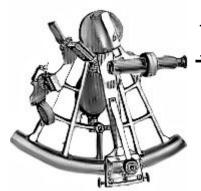
"Bib-Beisheel"

74 Categories! 246 Trophies to win!
"Best-Of" Awards, Individual Awards,
Alamo Sqd Memorial Awards,
Out-of-Box Challenge Awards!

Event Director: Rob Booth MFDirector@alamosquadron.com Vendor Coordinator: John Kress MFVendor@alamosquadron.com

Saturday, February 20, 2016 9:00AM - 5:00PM

San Antonio Event Center 8111 Meadowleaf Drive San Antonio, TX



Friendship 7

History You Can Model

ercury-Atlas 6 (MA-6) was the third human spaceflight for the U.S. and part of Project Mercury. Conducted by NASA on February 20, 1962, the mission was piloted by astronaut John Glenn, who performed three orbits of the Earth, making him the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth.

The Mercury spacecraft, named *Friendship 7*, was carried to orbit by an Atlas LV-3B launch vehicle lifting off from Launch Complex 14 at Cape Canaveral, Florida. After four hours and 56 minutes in flight the

spacecraft re-entered the Earth's atmosphere, splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean and was safely taken aboard the USS *Noa*.





ments are today on display in the Science Museum in Pretoria.

Source: www.wikipedia.org



John Glen enters Friendship 7
Photo: wikipedia.org

Modeling Options

Horizon Models and Dragon Models produce the Mercury spacecraft Friendship 7 in 1/72 scale. Both are currently available from various suppliers and sources.



Horizon's offering of Friendship 7 in 1/72 scale provides two models of the capsule that you can model in one of 3 states: launch, orbit, or re-entry



<u> Upcoming Releases</u>

Keep your eyes peeled for these upcoming releases from several quality manufactures:

Revell Germany

1/72 Spitfire Mk.IIa

1/72 Eurofighter Typhoon / Batch 3

1/32 H145M LUH "KSK" Helicopter

1/32 F/A-18E Super Hornet

1/32 Messerschmitt Me262B-1 Nightfighter

1/450 Admiral Nelson Flagship, HMS Victory

1/144 Flower class corvette HMCS Snowberry

Academy

1/72 scale F-16C

ICM

1/72 FW 189A-1

1/72 FW 189A-2

1/72 Dornier Do 17Z-10 night fighter

1/72 Dornier Do 17Z-2

1/48 153 winter version

1/48 I-16 type 24

1/48 AT-7C/SNB-2C Navigator

1/35 Tiger II Henschel Turret

1/35 T-34/85

1/35 Soviet AC-40-137A Fire Truck

1/35 1917 Model T Ambulance

1/35 Japanese Infantry

Italeri

1/32 Modern Pilots, Ground Crew and Accessories

1/32 F-35A Lightning II

1/48 H-21 Shawnee

1/24 Mercedes Benz Actros GigaSpace truck

Special Hobby

1/72 Mirage F.1CG

Great Wall

1/48 T-33A







Building For You...Or The Judge?

Editorial—By Len Pilhofer



he 2016 contest season is kicking-off and as "team sport" (unless multiple parties all contribute to to hold, for the 35th time, one of the biggest shows in the country. Many of us have spent the last year building for this upcoming show with a goal of entering our very best efforts and hoping that we come away with some hardware. This is a natural feeling and I think it is human nature to want to be recognized as well as be praised for a job well done. Competition in any form brings this feeling to the forefront for all to see and this is not any different in our style of competition. Judging subjectiveness aside, usually the "best" model in a category wins a trophy and thus one is recognized by, and stands out amongst his or her peers.

But isn't modeling a solitary endeavor? It rarely is a



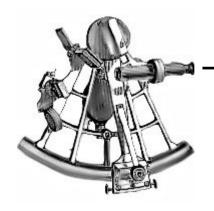
Photo courtesy of Daily New

most of you know Alamo Squadron is about the same piece) and the success/failure at any show or event rests solely with the builder. So this begs a question...who exactly do you build for? If you are building for your enjoyment do you even care what other people think? Do you build to impress judges and thus impress your peers? Or, are you on the other end of the spectrum: if you are happy with your build then that is the prize itself.

> In my opinion, the key is inner-reflection and understanding one's self; understand what motivates YOU. Why do you build models? Relaxation yes, but many things can give us relaxation. Why models when their potential complexity can actually cause a deficit of relaxation?

> Where do I stand? I tend to model to a standard that I recognize as raising myself to an improved level when compared to my previous work (see last month's editorial). However, I would be lying if I did not think about what a judge will think when I execute a build. More specifically when working on armor I cannot help but wonder what a judge will see when he/she peeks into my open hatches or the see-through engine grills on the back deck. I also almost always do a double-check of glue marks as well...for the judges!

There really is no right answer to this question and just as judging can be highly subjective, so can the answer to this question. However, I hope I brought some thoughts to light and maybe Team Alamo Squadron can ponder this as a group. To me, what is more beneficial to a modeling event is not the trophies that one can win but the bringing together of folks of like minds and goals into a single event. The fruit of this event will be the learning that one walks away with. There is no price that can be placed on this experience.



Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan 7th, 2016 at 7:15PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

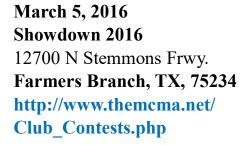
January 30, 2016

CALMEX XXX
Recreation District 1 Multipurpose Center 1221 Sampson St.

Westlake, Louisiana

http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html

February 20, 2015
Modelfiesta 35
8111 Meadow Leaf Drive
San Antonio, Texas
http://alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta.html



March 12, 2016
RiverCon V 2016
620 Benton Rd
Bossier City, LA, 71171
http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/









About Alamo Squadron

Executive Board 2015-2016



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



Vice-President: Henry Nunez IPMS# 49498 vp@alamosquadron.com



Treasurer: Lee Washburn 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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QR Code for our Facebook Page Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our home on FR







Final Words...





Alamo Squadron's newsletter, "The Navigator", is published monthly by IPMS/ USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, for the information and enjoyment of the members of Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, reviews, news items, ads to buy, sell or trade, and other contributions are very welcome. Send text file, photos and web sites to the editor, Len Pilhofer: pilhofer@hotmail.com

Support your Local Hobby Shops!

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



eMail: dibbleshobbies@gmail.com





http://www.hobbytown.com/txsa

http://www.hillcountryhobby.com/

Do You Like to Build Models?

Alamo Squadron, a plastic modeling club located in San Antonio, invites you to join us at one of our upcoming meetings. Alamo Squadron is open to all modelers of all skill levels. Our mission is the *educational advancement of scale modeling skills*. Alamo Squadron is a chartered chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society/USA. IPMS/USA has become a 5,000 member, all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting our modeling hobby.





Alamo Squadron's

Club Meetings are held monthly. Typically, each monthly meeting has a modeling contest, a "Works-In-Progress" segment in which members' current projects are displayed, and a featured demonstration by one of our members of a modeling technique or skill. The purpose of the monthly membership meeting is to have fun and share knowledge; club business matters are held to a minimum.

For the modeling novice, Alamo Squadron offers the Adult Building Course. The ABC is for new modelers, or those

experienced modelers who wish to enhance and practice their skills. When ABC is in session, participants meet once a week for 2 hours.

Each year our club hosts ModelFieSta, one of the largest plastic modeling contests/events in the Southern United States. Currently the event attracts 100+ competitors, 650+ modeling entries, 125+ vendor tables. For one day in February, ModelFiesta is the largest hobby shop in Texas!

Contact via e-mail at <u>President@AlamoSquadron.com</u> or visit our home on the web at: http://alamosquadron.com



Fill out this form and leave with one of our members; we'll get back with you ASAP on the information you requested

Name: Phone: Email:	My Interests Aircraft Armor Automotive Ships Space/Fantasy Figures	Email me information on Club Meetings Adult Building Course ModelFiesta
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