

The Navigator

The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

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



May 2017

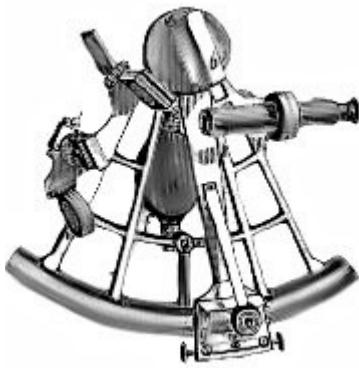
IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year:
1998-1999 & 2004-2005

Modelmania 2017

Show Report From Houston



Houston's Vince Barrale
Takes Us for a Tour of His
Model Production Studio



President's Column

By Len Pilhofer

IPMS #49932



President's Message – May 2017

Greetings Alamo Squadron. It is with great excitement that I am writing you from this part of The Navigator in my inaugural column as President of our club. Thank you all for your support during this last round of club elections. I am a relative newcomer to IPMS and Alamo Squadron so it makes this honor even greater...greater that all of you have placed your trust in me to lead one of the leading IPMS chapters in the country, if not the world, to continued growth and greatness. I am not only excited about the coming year in our club but I am very excited about our hobby in general. While many may bemoan the slow death of our hobby...perhaps for many years now...I have seen nothing but growth. This growth I am talking about are the seemingly endless modelers that I come across from everywhere from here in San Antonio but in the many, many corners of the world brought to all of us via the internet. Each time I bring up You Tube to check out one of my favorite modelers and see the work they are doing, "The Tube" suggests even more videos of modelers and techniques I have not seen before. It never seems to end. On the commercial side of things, we keep seeing better and better kits year after year. Model companies may have changed in the past several decades (Monogram was my fave growing up) but no matter the company, there are those pushing the limits on what they offer in new kits. They are just better...and this makes model building even more enjoyable. Shall I go on about all the tools and finishing products out there? Nah...no need to...you get the picture.

Against this backdrop of growth and evolution in our hobby I want to bring the best out of San Antonio scale modeling and make our little community here in South Texas on par with some of the best communities here in the US as well as around the world. I want Alamo Squadron to be known as a place where modelers of any age, interest, or skill can join and be a part of a quality educational community. Each of these modelers bringing their skills and talents to the mix and as a result, all of us becoming better model-

ers. In addition to this journey of learning we build friendships that last a lifetime.

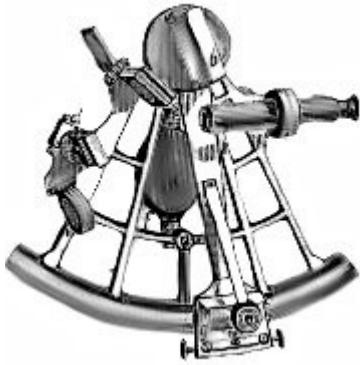
Recently I bumped into a gentleman at Hill Country Hobby who owned and airbrush but had not used it yet. After striking up a conversation I offered to help him start. He invited me over to his house about a week later and after a couple of hours of hands-on he was airbrushing like a pro. I was excited to see a new member of our hobby moving up to the next level in learning.



I have received comments and requests to grow our programs into more robust learning experiences...similar to the Adult Build Classes that we already execute on a regular basis. I am excited about these ideas and hope to grow them into an overall learning program that will be a flagship example for IPMS and the greater modeling community.

What I ask of you? If you share my vision of making our modeling community a better one I ask that you join me. Look for areas you can help...whether it be a particular modeling skill you can demonstrate to others or your skills in programming html, and thus utilizing technology to reach our members as well as future members. We have the potential of being an even better club and I invite you along this journey.

~Model On.



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:

11 May - Craig's
8 Jun - Craig's

25 May - Len's
22 Jun - Len's

More dates to fill out the rest of 2017 will be announced soon...



Web Page Bios

Len Pilhofer is putting together member bios on the club web page. This is a way for members to learn a little bit of modeling-related information of their club-mates in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and techniques in modeling genres and areas. In no way is this mandatory and only if you wish to share

your info with other club members should you participate. Be aware that whatever we post on the webpage is public to the world...there are no security controls on our website. Here is a link to the bios already on the site: <http://alamosquadron.com/members.html>

If you wish to have your bio published please reach out to Len at president@alamosquadron.com

Members

Dick Montgomery IPMS# 14003

Home History Meetings Build Class Newsletters ModelFiesta Members Gallery Constitution Contact Us Links Calendar

Profession/Job: Retired Public School Teacher

Association with Other Modeling Clubs: IPMS SWAMP in Sulphur, LA
IPMS Tex Hill Chapter-Texas Hill Country Scale Modelers, Kerrville, TX
San Antonio Armor Brigade

Modeling Areas of Interest: I build a little of everything with a focus on WWII 1/48th scale Aircraft and Sci-Fi Spacecraft

Modeling Skills: Mediocre modeling skills but I do have a nice model inventory database and reference system in Excel

Accolades: IPMS Regional Coordinator of the Year, 2003-2004
Alamo Squadron Founder's Award (Recognition as a plank-owner; a founding member of Alamo Squadron)
Premiere Award(s) at various IPMS National Conventions
Silver Medal (Austin AMPS Event, 2009)
Numerous 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards over many years at events in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas
Served IPMSUSA as Regional Coordinator for Region 6
Elected twice as IPMSUSA Director of Local Chapters
Elected as IPMSUSA Secretary

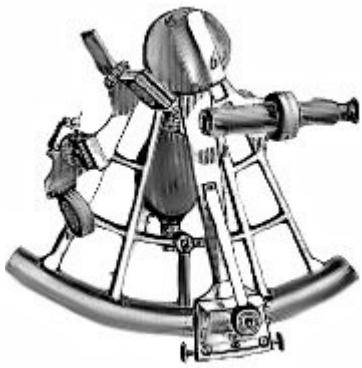
[Back to Members page...](#)



Monthly Contest Schedule

The internal club contest schedule for the rest of the Alamo Squadron year (up through the next elections) is as follows:

June 2017	Open
July 2017	Open
August 2017	Open
September 2017	Things That Float
October 2017	Open
November 2017	That 70s Model
December 2017	Christmas Party
January 2018	Model of the Year
February 2018	Quarterly: TBD
March 2018	Open
April 2018	Open



Club Announcements

April Club Contest: Open Subject

First Place: Rob Booth
1/72 Hawker Typhoon

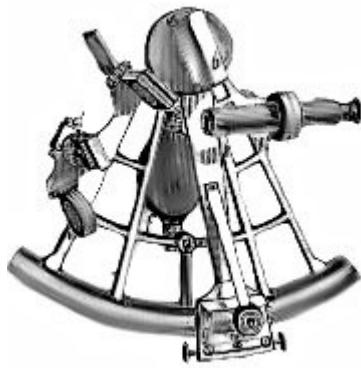


Second Place: Ron Steward
1/72 B-17F w/ Me-109



Third Place: Dave Herron
1/48 Spitfire Mk. I





Cover Story

ModelMania 2017

Story by Len Pilhofer
Photos by Rob Booth

The last weekend of April found many members of Alamo Squadron attending IPMS Houston's annual show: ModelMania. This year's show, ModelMania 2017, was an absolute success and was enjoyed by all that attended, especially the dozen or so Alamo Squadron folks that made the drive that day. A huge thanks and job well done to Team Houston...we'll be back next year for sure!

The model contest tables were filled with many reaching full capacity. The vendor area was just as busy and as you pulled up to the Stafford Centre one could not help but notice all the modelers leaving with their arms full of newly acquired kits and related goodies. Of the Alamo Squadron members that attended ModelMania several came away with hardware for their modeling walls at home. These members were, along with their winning categories:

Henry Nunez

501 Figures 54mm & Smaller

2nd: German Officer Eastern Front
3rd: Fallschirmjager Italy

503 Figures 120mm & Larger

1st: Panzer Grenadier Ardennes 1945

2nd: SS Sturmann France 1940

805 Dioramas (Figure Vignette)

1st: Planning the Ambush

2nd: US Army Combat Engineer

Rob Booth

201 Box Stock

3rd: 1/48 Trumpeter Mig-3 (early)

211 1/72 Single Engine Prop – Inline

2nd: Hawker Typhoon Mk IB

216 Scratchbuilds, Vac-u-forms and Conversions

1st: 1/72 Me-210 V-1

217 Hypotheticals

1st and 2nd: pair of Ku-4 "Katsudori" Ram Jet Fighters

702 Collections

"Best Spitfire" ISA: collection of 6 1/72 Spitfires

John Kress

106 Street Machines (1949 to present)

3rd: Bullitt 1968 Mustang GT

Charles Stone

210A Jet –

1/48 Scale

Single Engine

1st: Saab Viggen

Eric Syverson

205 Aircraft

1/32 & Larger

1st: Hobby Boss Il-2M3 ~

Sturmovik

White 6



Dick Montgomery

206 Origins to 1935 All Scales

2nd: WingNut Wings Fokker D.VII

Dana Mathes

304 1/48 Scale Military Vehicles

1st: Panther G

307 Fully Tracked No Interior (post 1945)

2nd: PzH 2000

705 Triathlon

2nd: PBR Mk II, D8H bulldozer, M41A3

Len Pilhofer

210B Jet – 1/48 Scale Multi Engine

2nd: F-15C

604 Gundam

1st 1/144 RGM-89 Jegan

2nd 1/144 RX-78-2



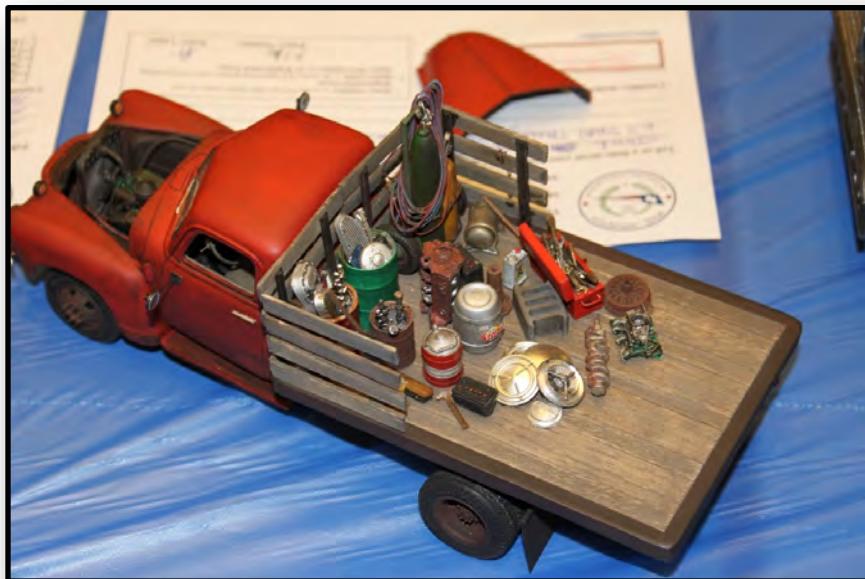
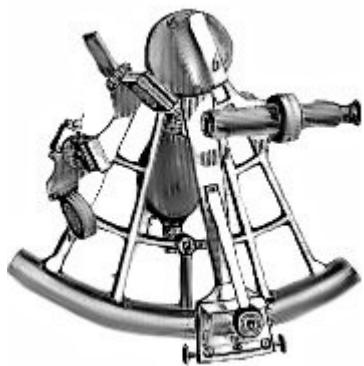
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ModelMania 2017



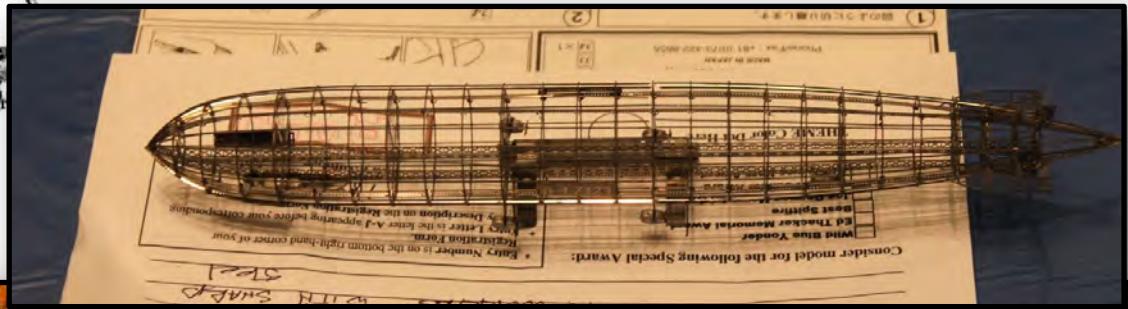
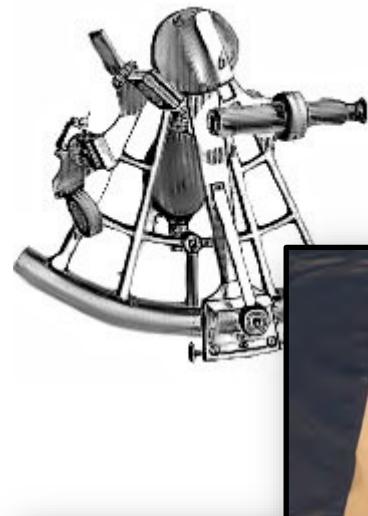
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ModelMania 2017



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ModelMania 2017



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ModelMania 2017





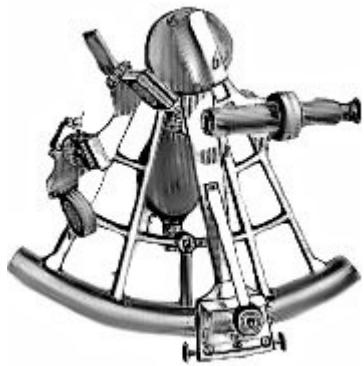
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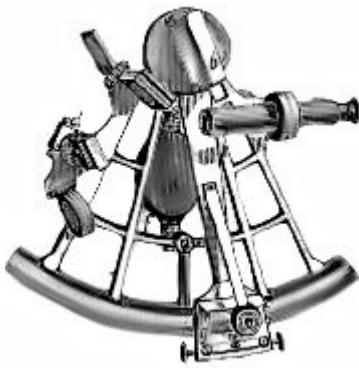
ModelMania 2017



Cover Story

ModelMania 2017





Feature Story

Model Production Studios

Story and Photos by Vince Barrale, IPMS Houston

Everyone has their own model work space. It can vary from a temporary TV Tray, that you set up each night after dinner, to an entire Man Cave, work room that the wife isn't allowed into. We all work within our means to keep our hobby moving forward. I know someone, a school bus driver, who builds from a box he keeps under his seat between hauls. I have worked off TV Trays before, and sometimes the space restraint can force you to be a better modeler. Here are some examples of modelers work space. I have also found that cleanliness or organization is not indicative of great results.



Let's review the essentials:

Flat top table space to glue models together. This can be anything, but if you use the dining room table, be sure to cover it and clean up after yourself, if you want to stay married.

Painting facility, airbrush, spray can etc., normally done outside or in the garage, especially if you still use enamels or lacquers.

Storage space / closet for all your unbuilt kits and supplies. This often is restricted to whatever you can fit under the bed.

If you choose to take pictures, a light controlled space or dining room table if needed.

Hopefully a place to display your finished work, shelves or cabinets that your wife will allow in the den. If you are lucky enough, some wall space to hang one or two of those well earned special awards.

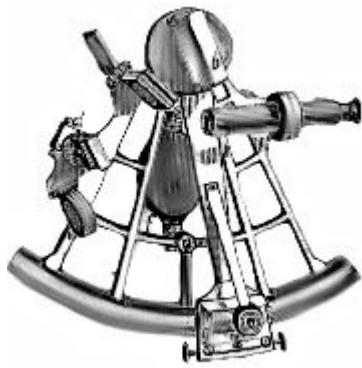
If you had more room to work, paint, display your models and trophies, would that make you a better modeler? Maybe, maybe not, but you would probably complete more of those models you have half built. Lets jump to the fantasy world, where you have whatever space you need:

Bedroom or Den, outfitted with several dedicated work spaces for model building, Ventilated spray booth for painting and finishing, electronics work station, TV / Computer set up and even a space for a guest / student modeler.

Shelving for in process projects. All with sufficient lighting.

Closet full of shelving, plastic tubs of spare parts, drawers for all your tools, paints finishing supplies, wiring, lighting etc.

Separate bedroom for research materials, photo



Feature Story

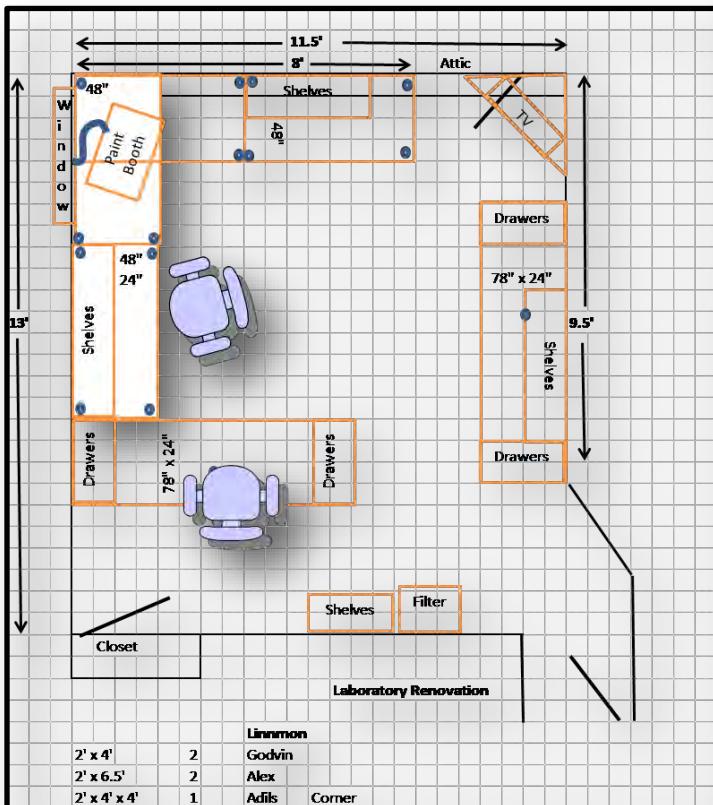
Model Production Studios

booth, shelves of unbuilt models, racks of aftermarket accessories and supplies, closet full of parted out kits.

ANOTHER room set up for several club members to build, flat screen TV, DVD player, lots of room and lighting.

A Dining Room, converted to a Museum with track lighting, sliding door lighted glass display cases to protect your finished models. Wall and shelf space for all your awards and trophies.

It is not a fantasy. It can be done and not detract from the living space in general. Don't get any ideas about offing the wife and kids in lieu of model building. Here is how it was done. Use every rack, shelf and closet nook you can fit out.

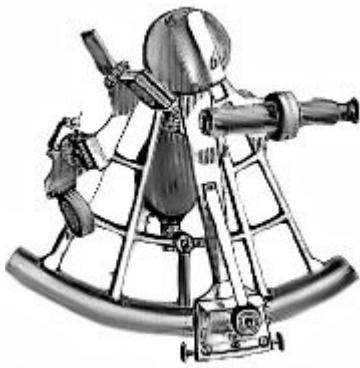


Rough room layout and selected components from IKEA. Where multiple work stations are available in a small space, I recommend Hard Wood floors and a good rolling desk chair to roll smoothly from station to station. This eliminates several folding chairs that can get in the way.



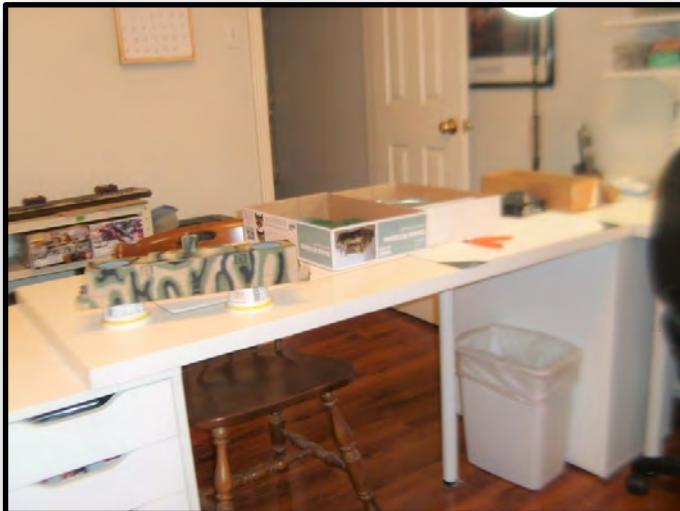
General Building station with guest space. Lots of lighting is essential. I recommend the high output desk lamps for open areas and LED strips for under





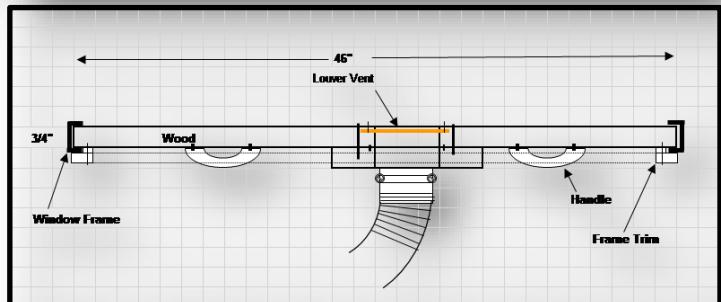
Feature Story

Model Production Studios

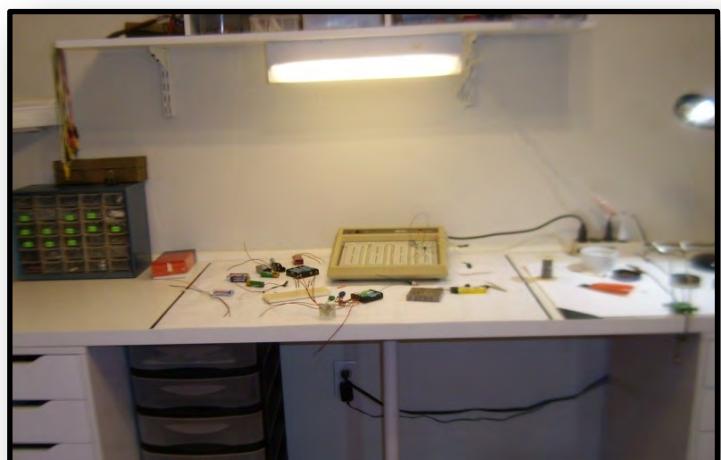


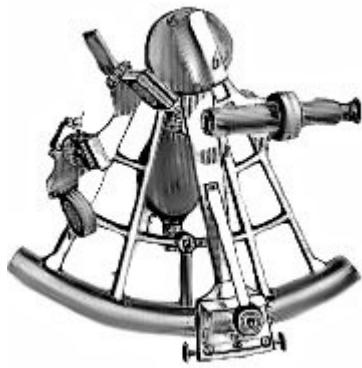
cabinet lights. Lots of drawers, They will get filled with something. A trash can, and any appropriate wall decorations that will help inspire your modeling efforts.

Spray booth with custom window exhaust fitting. See attached drawing for making the window insert. Again, good controlled lighting is needed. Protect your clean work areas with replaceable covers, or old desk blotters.



Electronics Lab for special effects. This will vary by builder if you use lighting and fiber optics. Protect your table top especially in your welding or soldering space.





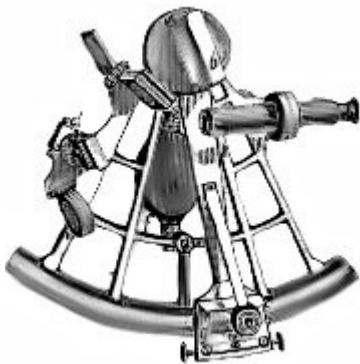
Feature Story

Model Production Studios

In process project storage. I normally rotate through 20 at a time, only starting something new from the schedule when I have logged out a completed project into the museum. Rotating your work keeps it fresh, not getting bored during a long build project.



Closet of 40 years collected spares. These tubs of parts are sorted, classified and labeled, Aircraft, Armor, Structural etc. as well as leftover specifics such as Shermans, M113s, Panthers etc. of which I can build several from any box from spares and leftovers alone.



Feature Story

Model Production Studios



Store rack of details and accessories. The rack I saved from my old hobby shop. Now filled with resin and plastic accessory kits, Evergreen, Plastruct components, figure sets and parts etc.

E-Bay Photo Booth. Comes with 2 halogen lamps. This sets on an antique drafting table.

Racks of books / research materials.





Feature Story

Model Production Studios

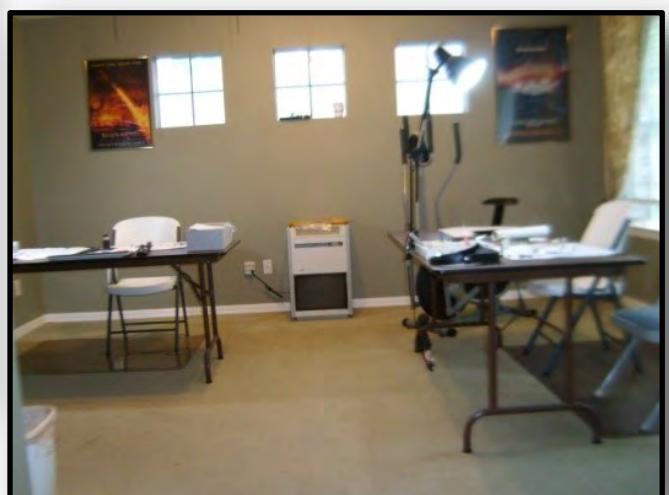
New Kits to be someday opened. I do NOT pull the cellophane off until I am ready to begin work. Many of these are on my schedule as far out as 2020.



Closet full of Junked kits, mostly collection leftovers. These are not worth building as is or missing parts. Might someday be the basis of Sci Fi creations.

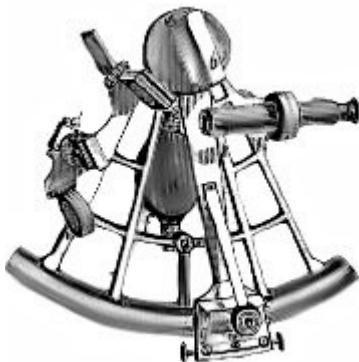


Guest studio for small build parties. After re-arranging furniture into the guest bedroom, I remodeled this arrangement for several people to enjoy a day of glue sniffing. I often use this area myself to set up several projects to move from place to place on a rotating basis while being able to catch my weekly TV shows in the evening and exercise during commercials.



Museum cases. A collection of curio and store fixture cabinets generally arranged to contain model subjects by category and production programs, such As WWII German, Allied, Israeli, Modern, and more recently added a WWI case to fill up. The others are Sci-Fi related, many which require power connections or battery packs.

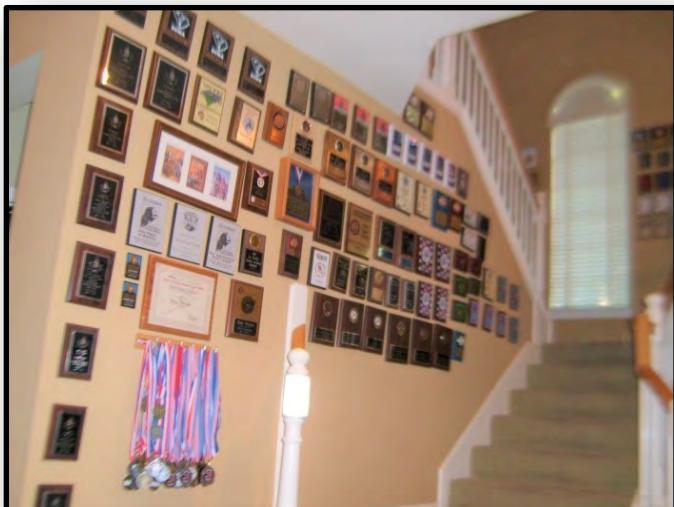




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Model Production Studios

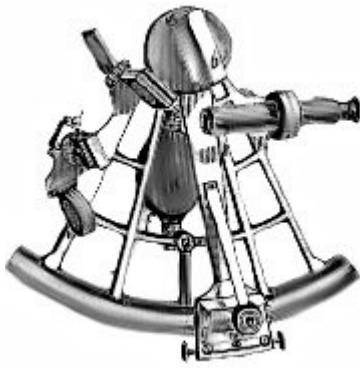
Awards walls. I started at the bottom of the stairs and worked my way up the landing. There are also stand up awards in the Museum room on top of the cabinets. Now I have had to extend the wall space into a spare room.



Garage work station for bases and ground working. This is where the dirtiest work is done, sanding, staining wood bases and applying sculpta-mold, Woodland Scenics and other assorted scenery to the bases.

Yeah, that's a lot to take in, but worth the effort. Next report will be on what can be accomplished with all of this space including organization, project tracking, planning and contest lists.





Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 4th, 2017 at 7:00PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

June 3, 2017
ScaleFest 2017
Grapevine Convention Center
1209 South Main St
Grapevine, TX 76051
<http://www.ipmsnct.net/>

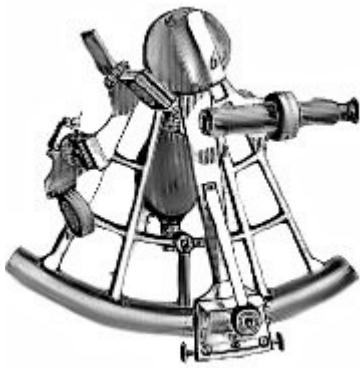


June 10, 2017
SoonerCon 2017
Council Road Baptist Church
7930th NW 30th
Bethany, OK 73008
<http://www.ipmsmetrookc.com/soonercon-2017.html>



August 12, 2017
HAMS Eleventh Annual Model Car Show & Contest
Cypress Creek Christian Community Center
6823 Cypresswood Drive
Spring, TX 77379
<https://www.ipms-hams.org/annual-contest/>





About Alamo Squadron

Executive Board 2017-2018



President:
Len Pilhofer
IPMS #49932
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 on November 17th, 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.

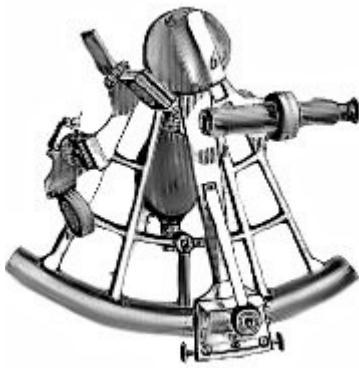


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Final Words...



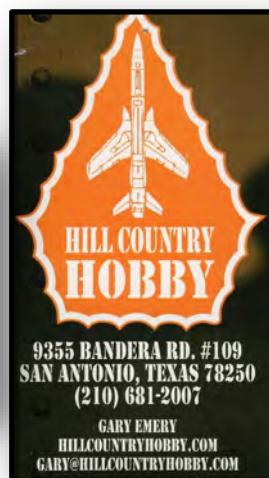
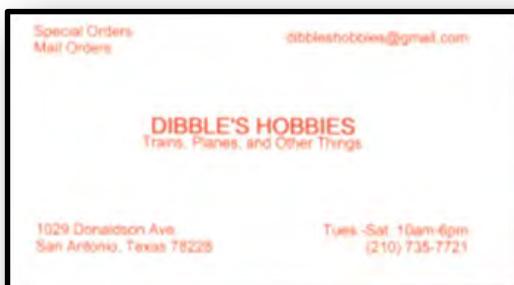
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Phone: _____	E-mail: _____		
Signature (required by P.O.) _____			
Type of Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 1 Year: \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 2 Years: \$58 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 3 Years: \$86 <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17 <input type="checkbox"/> Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journal) <input type="checkbox"/> Canada & Mexico: \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or International money order			
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craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com

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