



# The Navigator

**The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron**

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



**December 2018**

IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year: 1999 & 2005

IPMS/USA Regional Chapter of the Year: 2016

IPMS/USA Regional Newsletter of the Year 2017



**Best Diorama: Ballon d'observation by Phillipe Moretti**  
**Photo by Rob Booth**

*Ballon d'observation – Camp de Souge  
Martignas sur Jalle – 1917*

## **Inside This Issue:**

- **Kit of the Month: Kinetic T-Harrier**
- **History of Alamo Squadron: Into the Next Century**
- **A Visit to the Royal Air Force Museum**
- **Alamo Squadron Model Summit Update**





# President's Column

By Herb Scranton III

IPMS #48314



## President's Message: December 2018

Wishing you a safe holiday with friends and family. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual Christmas party. Bring your favorite goodies and a wrapped gift for the white elephant exchange. The Grinch will most likely be there, but have no fear he really has a big heart. Hope Santa is good to everyone and there is some new plastic thingies under the tree. I keep asking Santa for a 1/1 1970 Torino Cobra or a Mustang, but I keep getting a 1/24 Cobra or Mustang.

## Happy New Year

The Alamo Squadron has had a very good year. We hosted the Region 6 model show at Model Fiesta 37 with a record number of entrants and models on the tables. Len Pilhofer and Dick Montgomery and many others made our awards ceremony outstanding by presenting a slideshow of the winning models.

Model Fiesta 38 is shaping up to be another success. We have been meeting since August and planning is going well. We have a new Director in training Mark Verdi, who is highly motivated. Thanks Mark.

Our club members participated in many model shows in Region 6 with great success. Our members worked as judges and volunteered whenever needed. We had a lot of fun, made or reaffirmed friendships with our sister clubs, and took home lots of trophies.

Two of our members got national recognition from IPMS. Lee Forbes received his 20 year pin for 20 years as an IPMS judge, well done Lee. Dick Montgomery earned a very rare privilege of Life Membership in IPMS for his outstanding contributions to IPMS and modeling in general. I would not be in this position if it wasn't for Dick's arm-twisting, I

mean encouragement and much appreciated guidance. Kudos Dick for a lifelong dedication to modeling, IPMS, The Alamo Squadron.

Many of our members attended the IPMS Nationals in Phoenix this August. Len Pilhofer made a superior presentation to IPMS for the 2020 Nationals. At the Saturday evening awards banquet it was announced that we were awarded the 2020 Nationals to be held in San Marcos. This is a group effort lead by Len Pilhofer, Dick Montgomery, Rob Booth ....and many members in Region 6. Great job gentleman. Charles Stone was awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> place for his 1932 Ford Vicky diorama.

I am looking forward to a new year with all you wonderful modelers. Without you collective efforts this club would not be as successful as it is. Thank you for a great year.

Cheers, Herbert E. Scranton III, President Alamo Squadron.



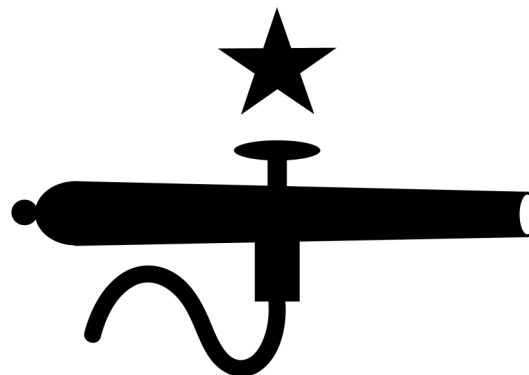




# Club Announcements

## ModelFiesta 38

ModelFiesta 38 planning continues this month with successful meetings that ironed out the details of a new Pre-Registration feature of the shows. Look for details at upcoming meetings and well as e-mails from the event director, Len Pilhofer. Also new this month is the first listing of the Individually Sponsored Awards (ISA) for ModelFiesta 38...they are posted to the ModelFiesta website: [www.alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta](http://www.alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta). The date of the show will be Saturday, February 16th 2019. As with previous shows will be looking for a large volunteer contingent to help out the night before and during the day of the show. Len will be bringing this up at future meetings but for now keep your calendars free for those 2 days in February.



**COME AND MAKE IT**  
IPMS/USA NATIONAL CONVENTION  
**SAN MARCOS, TEXAS**  
JULY 29 - AUG 1 2020

## December Birthdays

Be sure to wish the following members a Happy Birthday for the month of December: Lee Washburn, David Walker, & David Schmidt. They get a birthday present AND a Christmas present...yay!

## Monthly Contest Schedule

December	No Contest - Holiday Party
<b>January</b>	<b>2018 Model of the Year</b>
February	Open
March	Open
<b>April</b>	<b>It's Broken</b>

## Monthly Program Schedule

December: White Elephant Gift Exchange  
January: Figure Painting with Henry Nunez  
February: IPMS Judging with Rob Booth  
March: Ship Rigging with Lee Washburn  
April: Polishing Enamel Paints with Herb Scranton III

## Alamo Squadron Build Days

The next Alamo Squadron Build Day is Saturday, 5 January, 2019 from 12:00-4:00 PM. The intent of these build days is to move more of the social and building aspect of our meetings to a more conducive environment...and what better environment than a hobby store! There will be no set format but if a member wishes to see a first hand demo on a certain technique then this is the perfect opportunity to make it happen. We hope that many club members will take the opportunity to participate. And added bonus is that we will be able to recruit for Alamo Squadron while at this establishment answering any and all questions of passers-by.



Craigory teaches a new modeler how to handle an airbrush at a recent Alamo Squadron Build Day



# Club Announcements

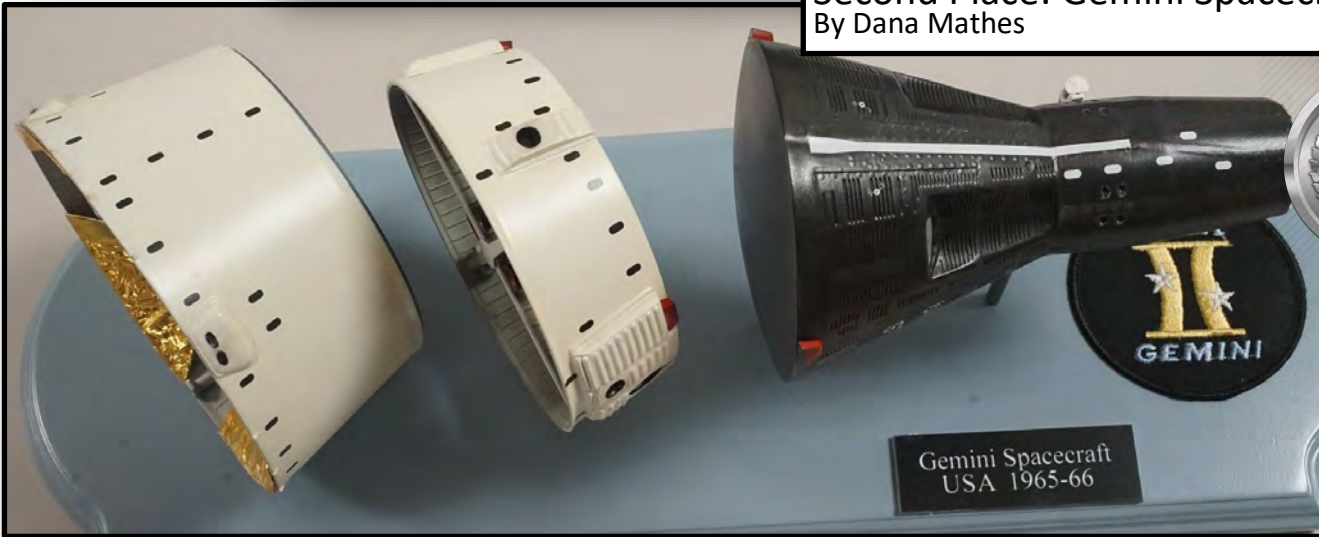
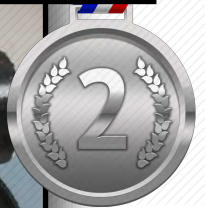
## November Contest Results Theme: Out of Your Element

Photos by Miguel Lopez, Jr.

First Place: Sopwith Camel  
By Keith Rule



Second Place: Gemini Spacecraft  
By Dana Mathes



Third Place: Camaro  
Samuel Syverson







# Kit of the Month

## Kinetic 1/48 Scale T-Harrier

Presented By Len Pilhofer

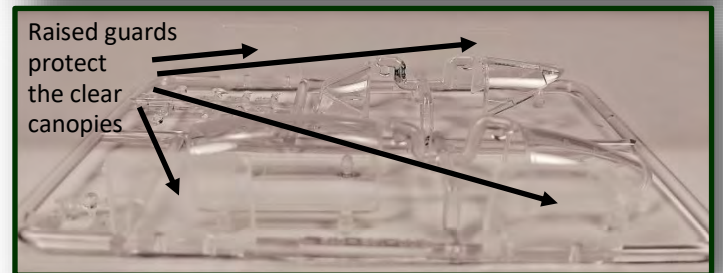
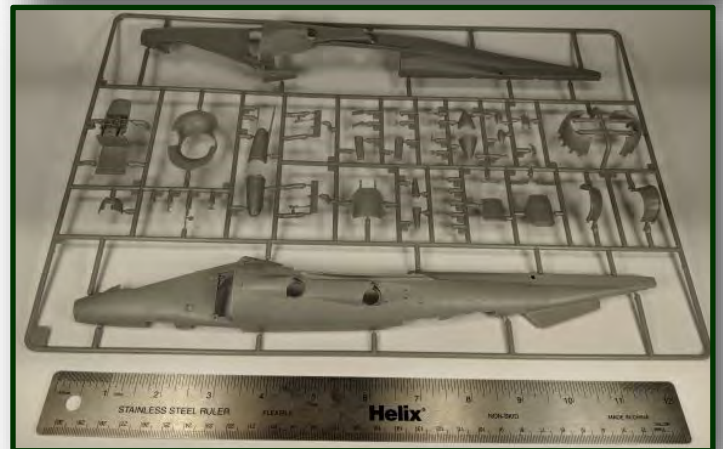
In keeping with this month's theme of modeling in the United Kingdom I thought I would do an in-box review of a recent Kinetic release: the 2-seat training Harrier in 1/48 scale.

This is an impressive kit of an aircraft rarely seen...a two seat version of the iconic British Harrier. The molding are extremely clean as I did not observe any flash on any of the parts while on the sprues. Upon close inspection the engraving on the surfaces of the model are very well done; very crisp and clean...weathering the painted model will be a joy.

A feature that I am seeing more and more of in modern kits is the clear parts sprue - especially those with an aircraft canopy - being molded with raised guards on the sides of the sprue. This is meant to keep the plastic bag in which the sprue is stored from rubbing on the clear canopy over time and thus saving the modeler some time in clean-up of a potentially marred canopy. Bravo Kinetic!

The kit can be made into 10 different versions with decals for each. Clear and concise instructions tell you exactly what parts are appropriate for which country and version. For example, the recognizable nose of the Mark 3 Harriers is included but only appropriate for a couple of versions. Decals are included for all 10 versions/markings to include Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, United States Marine Corps, Spanish Navy, and Royal Thai Navy. The decal sheet is quite impressive.

In all, I can highly recommend this kit from a detailed inspection of the box and its contents...you definitely get your money's worth.



The kit includes a very impressive decal sheet



# Alamo Squadron Summit Award

## An Update by Craig Gregory

In March of 2016 IPMS Alamo Squadron introduced a new club participation activity to its membership. The Model Building Summit Award was created to inspire more model building and participation in activities within the club. The mission statement isn't complicated (on purpose) and is adaptable the match our club's needs as they change.

### Purpose:

Promote model building and enthusiasm among club members.

### Summary:

Club members complete various modeling projects or participate in club sanctioned activities within a single calendar period and are recognized for completing at least 5 builds.

### Details:

Participation is open to all club members. Projects considered for a Summit Award require basic gluing, surface preparation and finishing. Any amount of aftermarket accessories, modifications, kit bashing or scratch building may be used. Participation in club sanctioned activities also count as builds. Sanctioned activities will be announced prior to the event and include volunteering to help out at ModelFiesta; for example. There are no subject categories. Any modeling project is allowed. Only projects completed in the current building period will be recognized. Projects may be started prior to the current period, but at least 25% of the build must be completed in the current period. Completed modeling projects are presented at a monthly club meeting. (Completed projects may also be presented at the first monthly club meeting after the end of the building period.) The building period begins concurrently with the first monthly club meeting following ModelFiesta and ends one calendar year later.

The climb for the summit begins at 0 at the beginning of each building period. Prizes that may be available from sponsors or donations will also be awarded.

Original the program only recognized modeling projects completed in an award period. Later the scope was expanded to recognize special club activities: contributing to the club newsletter, providing manpower to club sponsored events; for example.

Enthusiasm and participation has grown since its introduction in 2016.

The annual award period, March through February, is synchronized to the yearly ModelFiesta model contest our club hosts. Since many members will be finishing their contest entries and providing manpower for ModelFiesta, February is the optimal time to capture Summit Award efforts and tally the results. During or March meeting, everyone completing 5 activities is randomly chosen to draw one item from a pool of prizes. In addition, Hill County Hobby generously provides a certificate for 20% off one item to each participant reaching the summit.

### Program myths:

My model is bigger so I earn more points for my model

My models are better, I always win at contests, so I earn points for my model

I completed twice as many builds as needed, so I get more prizes.

The purpose of the program is to recognize and award club members who participate in club activities. The program is implemented around a flexible mission statement. A program sponsor is the custodian of a log where participants in the Summit Award enter the qualifying activities. The sponsor is not an auditor of the log; we respect the honorability of our club members.

Program Period	# Participants	# Models	# With 5 Builds
2016-17	15	66	7
2017-18	20	102	9
2018-19 (In Progress)			

The sponsor maintains interest in the program with repeated announcements during club meetings and positioning the log book near our works-in-progress and monthly contest tables. In addition he updates a tri-fold poster board with current participant tallies.





# Texas Yanks in King Arthur's Court...er, Contest

## IPMS UK Scale Model World Report

Story and Photos by Rob Booth  
IPMS# 37548



**S**ome of you in Alamo Squadron have attended the annual summer IPMS-USA National Convention and Contest, and experienced the “national championship” of scale modeling here in the US. The rest of you will get that opportunity in 2020 when our group of Region 6 clubs host the event in San Marcos. It is a truly inspiring, if not overwhelming experience of the best of the best that modeling can be ... in this hemisphere. Those who attend are usually motivated to take their modeling skills to the next level with a new purchase from the world’s largest travelling hobby shop that is the Nats Vendor Room. It is modeling nirvana. Imagine that same experience on the world stage and you can begin to comprehend the Scale Model World experience that is Telford. Dick Montgomery and I were both fortunate to attend this year.



Telford, UK is an international business center about 35 miles northwest of Birmingham, in the west midlands of England. Every year in early November, the best modelers from around the world bring their works to compete with each other on the competition tables of Scale Model World, hosted by IPMS-UK in the International Centre in Telford. They are joined by modeling clubs from all over the UK and Europe displaying their works outside of the competition table on hundreds of “club tables”, and modeling related vendors from all over the world displaying the latest of their offerings. It is the US Nats on international steroids, growth hormones and multi-national vitamins all in one!

Both Dick and I had attended the event in the past, so we knew what to expect of the experience. Except that this time, we brought plastic to compete with. Well, I took plastic. Dick took along a resin Alien bust that had run it’s prize-winning course through US competitions. I packed up eight of what I thought were some of my best efforts in 1/72 and 1/48 aircraft in my proven Styrofoam block and plastic bin carrier system to make the jump (non-stop, I might add), from Austin to London’s Heathrow airport. Before the trip, Dick and I made contact with some gents from the UK that we had judged with at the Nats in Phoenix this year and inquired if we colonists were ever allowed to participate in the judging of the competition models at Telford. I’m not sure if we were relieved or terrified to find that yes, we would be welcomed.

I made the drive from Kerrville to Austin the afternoon of Thursday, November 8, and boarded the Boeing 777-200 series British Airways aircraft at about 6:15PM for a 6:55 departure. The BA gate





# Texas Yanks in King Arthur's Court...er, Contest

## IPMS UK Scale Model World Report

agents and flight attendants were keenly interested to find out what was in my clear plastic tub, and were more than willing to accommodate my tiny styrene Air Force with a ride in the first-class cabin wardrobe closet during the trip. Unfortunately, I was not allowed to ride in First Class with them ... We took off, and with a serious tailwind, made the trip in about 8 hours, 15 minutes or so, well ahead of the planned 9-1/2 hour flight time. I was an hour earlier than my planned rendezvous for the Heathrow Express train to Paddington Station with my son. I zipped through British Customs, collected my baggage, and caught the express to Paddington to meet him there.

Fortunately for me, my son Brandon married a lovely young woman from Worcester, UK several years ago, and chose to go and live there near her family. Worcester is a convenient hour or so drive south of Telford. Close enough to make the drive up and back for the day without having to get a hotel room, which are in very short supply during the show. We awoke early Saturday morning and motored up to Telford to the International Centre parking garage and made our way into the show. IPMS members enjoy free admission, and as Brandon waited in the very long line to get in, I took my entries upstairs to the contest room and checked in with Competition Secretary Tony Horton.

I scattered my eight entries in the appropriate class locations and admired the other entries. Wow, talk about world-class modeling! While it didn't seem there were as many models on the table as there are at our(US) Nats, the overall quality of the entries does seem up there. Published info says that there were over 1100 entries from 26 countries. Dick and I both volunteered to judge, and were welcomed to participate. Speaking from experience, the contest staff suf-

fers the same headaches at this major event that we do here in the states. Finding enough qualified judges to properly evaluate all the entries in the allotted time period is difficult.

Dick was placed on the Sci-Fi judging team, and I drew the honor of judging 50+ 1/144 scale aircraft with Graham, my British judging counterpart. The IPMS UK judging system is based on assigning points in three areas to a given entry. Models are scored for up to 40 points on "build quality", 30 points for "finish", and 30 points for "realism". While the system ends up with a Gold, Silver and Bronze (1,2,3 places), and an opportunity for



Rob's 1/48 Bf-108 earned a 1st Place in Category 25

"Commended" entries that rank close to the winners totals, it seemed to me to be significantly more time consuming than what we're used to here in the States. It took nearly three hours to examine all those tiny little planes, and they were all EXCELLENT models! After finishing the judging, I surveyed my entries to see if the other judges liked anything I put out. To my shock, my 1/48 Bf-108 "Andes Crossing" Taifun had a "Gold" certificate next to it in the Civil Aircraft





## Texas Yanks in King Arthur's Court...er, Contest IPMS UK Scale Model World Report

category. I nearly fell over, as I never expect to place at our Nats here in the States, let alone against the world-class competition at Scale Model World. Now, lest you think I might get the “big head” over this, there were only two entries in the category, and none of my other entries even garnered a “Commended” when compared to more numerous and awe-inspiring categories. Still, any award at this level is a humbling acknowledgement of a well-done kit, which I doubt I will ever experience again.

The rest of Saturday consisted of a couple of hours scanning the club displays and hundreds of vendors in the four huge halls that house the rest of Scale Model World. The real emphasis of this show is on the display tables that are set up and manned by various local IPMS affiliates from across the UK and Europe. There are literally thousands of models for viewing from around the world. There are also hundreds of modeling related vendors from around the world. The usual international kit manufacturers such as Airfix, Zouki-Mura, Revell, Italeri and Eduard are well-represented, along with specialty after-market manufacturers of every kind. I picked up a 1/32 Bf-109E from Eduard, along with another 1/48 Bf-108 (I had left the instructions necessary for my “box stock” entry at home on my hobby desk) and several set of decals from the Kits-World booth. Special Hobby’s tables took my money for two 1/72 P-40 marks to fill out my collection of Warhawks. Another stop at the Kits-World decal table to procure markings for the P-40s, and I was done. I wanted to get lots of other stuff that I saw, but there’s only so much extra space in the suitcase. Brandon and I rejoined Dick and headed over to the adjacent shopping mall for a late lunch/early dinner before heading back to Worcester for the night.



Scale Model World's Senior National Champion 2018: Oeffag  
-Mickl G Series Flying Boat G-6 by George Tenediotis



Scale Model World's Best Civilian Vehicle 2018: Lancia Delta  
S4 WRC by Patrick Watson



Scale Model World's Best Military Vehicle 2018: Skoda Yugo-  
slavia Tank by Ondrej Smekal



## Texas Yanks in King Arthur's Court...er, Contest

### IPMS UK Scale Model World Report

Sunday's activities consisted of a couple of hours of photographing the models after a little later arrival than Saturday, followed by the Awards Ceremony for the contest at about 11:00. We made another pass through the modeling masses in the Vendor/Club Display halls, where I couldn't resist a couple of more small purchases of tools and publications. I gathered my entries mid-afternoon and exhausted, I had a long nap as we headed back to Worcester after the show. It was an amazing experience that I hope to have a few more times before I hang up my Mag-Eyes for good. Perhaps some of you in the club will consider joining up for a group excursion to Scale Model World in the years to come. The trip is not as expensive as you might think ... that is if you can hang on to your wallet's contents at the vendors tables.



Scale Model World's Best Sci Fi 2018: Dragonfly  
by Roger Brown



Scale Model World's Best Figure 2018: Chef D'Escadron de Chasseurs, 12th Reg, 1806 by David Lane



Scale Model World's Best Ship 2018: HMS Hood 1891  
by Jim Baumann





# Feature Story

## History of Alamo Squadron: Into the New Century

by Dick Montgomery IPMS # 14003



**A**s Alamo Squadron celebrated the arrival of the New Millennium the signs of a strong and stable club were visible. ModelFiesta had continued to be a very successful event. ModelFiestas 15 through 19 had averaged 554 entries and each had resulted in a profit sufficient to host the next year's show. (The average entry count of 554 is based on the entry numbers of 4 of the events, with the entry total for the fifth event, ModelFiesta 17 not having been recorded.)

Contributing to the stability of the club, the location for club meetings remained fixed in one location, that being the HEB Central Market (for those not familiar with San Antonio, HEB is a grocery store chain) on Broadway, not far from the San Antonio Zoo. The membership of the club was consistently in the 40 to 45-member range throughout the years covered in this article.

During the first five years of New Millennium, the list of those serving as club officers showed six members that held office for the first time, while only two offices were assumed by members who had previously served on the Executive Board. Many hold the view that having new faces appearing on the Executive Board is a sign that the club is in good condition and has a wide range of members with leadership skills that are important to all organizations like modeling clubs.

In September of 2000, Rob Booth served as President, Jim Stroud as Vice President, and Lee Forbes as Sec/Treasurer. As the newly installed President, Rob laid out those goals which the E-Board would pursue over the next year. Bob Carr was producing the club newsletter but was searching for someone to assume that role. Lee Forbes was encouraging members to volunteer for service at those duty stations that must

be manned at each ModelFiesta event, especially at the ModelFiesta to be held in February, 2001. That ModelFiesta would also be labeled as the IPMS Region 6 Regional Convention, one of several Regional Events that were hosted by Alamo Squadron.

In November of 2000 several items of interest found their way into the club newsletter. Chris Lenahan proposed that the club support the Elf Louise Project (a city-wide effort to gather donations of gifts for those less fortunate in the greater San Antonio area each year in December). In a later newsletter, Chris reported that the club had donated some 30 kits and various supplies and toys to Elf Louise. Lee Forbes announced that shirts and caps sporting the Club Logo would be available for order. If memory serves, these items were black with the Logo being printed in yellow. Today, you can spot the "old-timers" because, on occasion, they still wear these vestments.

At the December meeting Lee Forbes nominated Bob Carr as the first recipient of the Alamo Squadron Distinguished Service Award. The nomination was supported by the membership and the DSA was awarded to Bob at the January 2001 meeting. The December meeting for the club usually includes a White Elephant Gift Exchange and that activity served as the "program" for the December meeting.

In the first four months of 2001, newsletters from those months mentioned the build-up to ModelFiesta repeatedly. Volunteers were encouraged to step forward and the club received updates from the ModelFiesta leadership team on a routine basis. Bob Carr was still searching for someone to assume the Editorship of the newsletter. In the April 2001 issue of the Newsletter, a brief article announced that an "Advisory Board" had been created. The purpose of this Board was to offer suggestions and comments



# Feature Story

---

## History of Alamo Squadron: Into the New Century

regarding the planning process for the annual Model-Fiesta event. Three members with extensive leadership experience with ModelFiesta were appointed to the Board, those members being Lee Forbes, Paul Lemmon, and Dick Montgomery. A “How To” manual was assembled and made available to future ModelFiesta Leadership Teams. Unfortunately, the manual was not consulted by those running the shows, and, in time, the manual simply disappeared. (Today, there is a wealth of information regarding the organization, planning and execution of ModelFiesta available to the Leadership Team. Content was provided by Rob Booth and Len Pilhofer, with contributions from Dick Montgomery. This documentation is in digital format and will not disappear as did the “Manual”).

In July 2001 the Newsletter contained an article which covered a nomination, put forward by Lee Forbes, for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Distinguished Service Award to be presented to another Alamo Squadron member. Bob Carr had been presented with the inaugural DSA, and this 2<sup>nd</sup> award went to Dick Montgomery.

In October 2001, a new E-Board was elected. James Surratt was elected as President. John O’Brien was chosen to serve as the Vice President, and Lee Forbes was elected to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer.

In March of 2002, A slight change in the club’s procedures for its monthly in-house contest was made. Starting with those models winning a 1<sup>st</sup> place in the monthly contest, and Best Model of the Year award would be presented, chosen from those 1<sup>st</sup> place winners over the previous monthly contests. The first recipient of this award was Joe Bianco for an A6M1 Seiran. Also reported in the March Newsletter was that Dick Montgomery had been appointed as the new Region 6 IPMS Coordinator. (In 2002 the IPMS Chapters in IPMS/USA had been divided into 12 re-

gions. Region 6, then and now, includes chapters in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and parts of Kansas.) Alamo Squadron now was the home chapter for a person serving in a “staff role” for IPMS. It was a “1<sup>st</sup>” for Alamo Squadron, but other Texas clubs had been “home base” for Region 6 Coordinators as well.

Sept 2002 marked another “election cycle” and in this instance, the current E-Board was re-elected to serve a second term. Again, the Presidency went to James Surratt, with John O’Brien serving as V.P., and Bob Carr serving as Sec/Treasurer. As it turned out, this would be the last time that Surratt and O’Brien would hold office. Bob Carr served several terms on future E-Boards.

Two of the more serious problems all clubs face, at some point or other, are: how money is handled and by whom, and the disruption in club activities caused by personality clashes. 2003 saw the surfacing of one of the problems that many chapters face. Quoting from the “Presidential Soapbox” penned by President James Surratt, *“The reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated. Due to extreme differences of opinion, I as president had stepped down in the month of May. After a few chats with a couple of members, and some passing of time, I decided to fulfill my term as president.”*

So, 10 months into his 2<sup>nd</sup> term as President, James Surratt was considering his resignation. After some advice and comments by unnamed members, he decided to finish out his term. Kudos to Surratt for this decision. It is a bumpy road for all concerned, included the club as a viable organization, when an officer must leave, or decides to leave their position prior to the regularly scheduled elections. Surratt’s name does not reappear as an officer and, if memory serves, he





# Feature Story

---

## History of Alamo Squadron: Into the New Century

stepped away from club membership at the end of his term or shortly thereafter. In the view of this writer, Surratt found a positive and viable solution to this “personality clash”.

In the following election cycle, October of 2003, Joe Bianco was elected as President, Tony Ivone served as Vice President, and Bob Carr served as Sec/Treasurer.

Between November 2003 and April 2004, Bob Carr’s desire to find a volunteer to take over as Newsletter Editor was finally fulfilled. Records show that Carr had served as Editor of the Newsletter from June 1993 to Nov 2011. Records are not precise as to the exact month that Bob began his service as editor, and when that service came to an end. The first and last dates could slide a few months both earlier to start and later to conclude. Bob did an outstanding job with the newsletter and his time and effort are very much appreciated by those who were members at the time. Art Nicholson took over as newsletter editor and the first newsletter on file under his watch is the April 2004 issue.

One of the articles in the April 2004 issue reported that there were 680+ entries at the 2004 ModelFiesta, with at least 700 individual models on the contest tables. This number contrasts with a total of 659 entries, this number being reached by a hand-count of entries listed on the entry forms that were available for such research after the contest had concluded. In the pages following there will be additional comments on this “entry count” as well as some other information regarding model entry numbers for Model-Fiestas 20 through 25.

A significant model-related activity was mentioned in some of the newsletters in 2004. Tony Ivone and Lee

Forbes had designed a program to help new modelers learn the techniques and skills that would help them develop their ability to build models at a high level of quality. The “ABC” program (Adult Building Class) taught the “basics” of model building, these skills and techniques being demonstrated by an instructor. Over the years the ABC certainly made a difference in the abilities that some new modelers were able to master, and served as a “gateway” to club membership for a large number of the participants who joined Alamo Squadron due to their experience in the ABC.

The September 2004 newsletter mentioned that Dick Montgomery was awarded the IPMS RC of the Year Award at the IPMS National Convention in August of 2004. Alamo Squadron could now claim to have been the birthplace of the ABC and the home chapter of the RC of the Year, 2004. In fact, the President of IPMS, Dave Morrisette, asked Alamo Squadron to provide a “Concept Paper” on the ABC for possible use by IPMS in the future.

In October 2004, another election cycle saw Tony Ivone elected as President, Lee Forbes as Vice President and Bob Carr as Sec/Treasurer. This would be the final office in which Tony Ivone and Bob Carr would serve. Tony and his wife relocated to Florida. Tony, however, soon joined a model club in Florida and, in fact, was appointed as IPMS Regional Coordinator for Region 11. As mentioned earlier, there are two issues which cause disruption within many clubs, those issues being personality conflicts and money.

It was during the time frame from 2001 to 2006 that the 2<sup>nd</sup> of those critical problems mentioned above took place. An issue arose regarding the club treasury. In this case, money was not missing, but the records for income, deposit, and management were



# Feature Story

---

## History of Alamo Squadron: Into the New Century

brought into question. At one point, the club administration turned to the IPMS Regional Coordinator for input. The RC was Dick Montgomery, and there was some information shared with those who attended a meeting with the RC. Research by the RC had found that of the 20+ IPMS chapters in Region 6, a number of them had reported issues with their treasuries. In some cases, club money was being used for non-club related activities. In most cases these funds were reimbursed to the club, but not in a timely manner, not with club consent, and certainly not in every case. , the RC shared that In other cases, a club member had simply absconded with the club treasury. The situation in Alamo Squadron certainly did not reach the level of “disquiet” that was seen in other chapters, but what became clear were a number of conclusions: that the Executive Board needed to be aware of the club balance, and that any use of club funds needed the oversight and approval of all three E-Board members; that such transactions should be based on a published budget, and that a statement regarding the club’s financial status should be made available to the membership at each and every meeting.

A club meeting was set aside for open discussion of this issue, and Rob Booth was asked to serve as the moderator for this meeting. The result was that it was clearly determined that no money had gone missing, and that club deposits would be made in such a manner that the club balance would be reported by the bank, at the amount that was determined to be correct and accurate.

At the end of this meeting it was clear that club finances and the management of those finances should be made an “open” issue to the membership, and that oversight by the EB was critical. Rob did a superior job making sure that the outcome of this meeting pro-

vided a positive path forward for the club and its leadership. To this day, members will hear the Treasurer give an oral report to the club’s financial “balance”, and if questions are asked, the E-Board is expected to respond with facts and numbers. Other changes in procedure are a bit less noticeable, but still “on record”. Lastly, the ModelFiesta leadership Team must submit a proposed budget to the E-Board and then stay within that budget or seek the approval of the E-Board to increase the budget. During the next few years an effort to amend the Constitution is codify procedures such as what was mentioned above, were incorporated into the C&BL. The club, to this day, continues to operate under these requirements.

### **ModelFiesta 20- Feb 24-25, 2001**

ModelFiesta 20 served as the IPMS Region 6 Regional Convention for 2001. The site for this two-day event was the Live Oak Civic Center located just to the east of the intersection of Loop 1604 and I-35N, in Live Oak, Texas. The entry numbers for this event are not recorded in the archive. The Event Director was Lee Forbes with Dick Montgomery serving as the Registrar and Paul Lemmon as the Vendor Coordinator. Also serving on the leadership team were Rob Booth, Jim Stroud, Paul Lemmon, Bob Carr, and Gordon Ziegler. The contest theme was, “It Changed the Future- Key Historic Turning Points”. As mentioned, this event was a two-day event, taking place on Feb 24 and 25, 2001. While no “total entry” number is recorded, there were 77 categories in the contest. Only 2 categories had no 3<sup>rd</sup> place awarded (due to lack of at least 3 entries) and one category with only a single entry.

One of the lessons learned at this event was that a one-day event worked better than a two-day event, a les-





# Feature Story

---

## History of Alamo Squadron: Into the New Century

son that was reinforced by a review of ModelFiesta 25, which was also a two-day event. Attendees were far more numerous on the first day, and many vendors had packed up and departed either prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, or very early on in the course of activities on the second day. Of course, this is not the case for a National Convention.

### **ModelFiesta 21- Feb 23, 2002**

ModelFiesta 21 produced some good numbers. There were 175 entrants, entering a total of 522 entries. As with ModelFiesta 21, the event was held at the Live Oak Convention Center. Clint Hill was to serve as the Event Director, but due to an excessive “real world” work load, Clint stepped away and the job of Event Director was handed over to Tom Gaj. Joe Bianco served as the vendor coordinator. Lee Forbes served as the Chief Judge, and Tom Gaj doubled as the Registrar. The contest theme was, “The 50's: Any subject from 1950 to 1959”.

### **ModelFiesta 22- March 8, 2003**

The total entry count for ModelFiesta 22 is recorded as 602. Of the entry numbers recorded in the archive, this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> ModelFiesta which broke the “600 entry” barrier. The Event Director was Tom Gaj, with Joe Bianco serving as Vendor Coordinator. No mention is made in the archive as to who served as the Registrar or as the Chief Judge. A collection of images was made during this event with almost every entry in every category being recorded “on film”. The theme for ModelFiesta 22 was, “Spies- A real world or fictional entry, related to intelligence, recon, surveillance or espionage.”

### **ModelFiesta 23 – February 28, 2004**

Live Oak Civic Center served as the site for ModelFiesta 23. Tom Gaj and Joe Bianco once again served

as the Event Director and as the Vendor Coordinator, with Paul Lemmon serving as the Chief Judge. While an entry count of 680+ was reported as the total entry count, the number of entries was later calculated at 659, as determined by using the actual model entry forms that were archived after the event. The number of entries was the 3<sup>rd</sup> time ModelFiesta had breached the “600 barrier” and would set the record for entry numbers until ModelFiesta 37 (Feb 28, 2017) hit a new high of 817 entries. (It should be noted that 3 ModelFiestas between MF-23 and MF-37 do not have total entry counts recorded in the archive.) The theme for ModelFiesta 23 was, “Squeaky Clean/Spit & Polish”.

### **ModelFiesta 24 – Feb 19, 2005**

As with previous ModelFiestas, ModelFiesta 24 took place at the Live Oak Civic Center. The Event Director was John O'Brien, his first event as the Director. The Vendor Coordinator was Joe Bianco and the Registrar was Tom Gaj. The Chief Judge was Lee Forbes. The theme for MF-24 was, “60th Anniversary -The End of WWII anything that flew, floated, drove, shot or walked in 1945”. Total entry count was 481, although in some reports it was given as 485. One of the topics discussed by the club after the event was the rather dramatic reduction in the number of entries. The price of gas was identified as a potential cause, as was the misty weather on the day of the event.

### **ModelFiesta 25 – February 18-19, 2006**

This was the last two-day event planned and organized by Alamo Squadron. Attendance on the second day, the 19<sup>th</sup>, was basically limited to those entrants who had models in the contest. The Event Director was John O'Brien. Bob Carr served as the Vendor Coordinator. Jeff Fawcett served as the Registrar. The event photographer was Paul Lemmon. The Publicity



# Feature Story

## History of Alamo Squadron: Into the New Century



Lee Forbes and Doolittle Raider Lt Col Dick Cole judge a model of the USS Hornet....the very ship that Lt Col Cole flew from enroute to Tokyo on 18 April, 1942



ModelFiesta 22—Best Axis Entry

Director was Art Nicholson and the “Results Coordinator” was Jenell O’Brien. Bob Carr handled the purchase of the various office supplies needed to supply the event staffers and the entrants to complete their paperwork. The entry count was documented as 435 entries. That number represented the lowest entry total since ModelFiesta 9 in 1990. No ModelFiesta since MF-25 has reported less than 510 entries.

During the years 2001-2006, Alamo Squadron successfully faced two major challenges and continued to provide an enjoyable environment for modelers in the San Antonio area. ModelFiesta took some steps forward, as indicated by entry numbers, also facing a couple of years in which turn-out was noticeably lower than expected. Members continued to step up and volunteer to serve on the E-Board and serve on the Leadership Team for ModelFiesta. Many members volunteered a considerable amount of their ModelFiesta time serving as Registrars, Vendor Assistants, managing the Raffle/Door Prize table, and in countless other jobs.



ModelFiesta 24 Single Engine Prop Entry





# Feature Story

## Visiting Royal Air Force Museums in the UK

Story and Photos by Rob Booth  
IPMS# 37548



While in the UK for Scale Model World last month, Dick Montgomery and I had the opportunity to visit two of the Royal Air Force Museums (there are several) in the UK, the Imperial War Museum at RAF Duxford, near Cambridge, and the RAF Museum near Colindale in North London. I spent a couple of days after Scale Model World with my son and daughter-in-law doing some touristy things around the Worcester area where they live. On Wednesday, the three of us drove about 3 hours from Worcester to Cambridge and picked up Dick Montgomery at the train station, where he had traveled up from London. We arrived at the IWM about lunch time, and grabbed a quick bite at the museum canteen before starting our tour.

### DUXFORD

The Imperial War Museum is actually a group of several collections of military hardware in multiple exhibit buildings at RAF Duxford. The facilities include the AirSpace, a Flying Aircraft hangar (for their active aircraft), Historic Duxford (replicating the WWII control facilities), Air and Sea (housing maritime aircraft and sea-going vessels), the Battle of Britain exhibit (aircraft specific to the RAF and Luftwaffe during that period), Conservation in Action (where they are restoring airframes), the 1940 Operations Room, the American Air Museum and the Land Warfare Museum (lots of tanky things). Each collection is a separate museum, and just happen to share Duxford as their home. I am assuming the modest entry fee is shared for upkeep and expenses.

As with most museums of this class, there is really more to see than one can take in in a short day. While We decided to start in the Land Museum, where we took as many photos of tanks, tracked vehicles, jeeps, ambulances, towed guns and other ground fighting implements as we could. There were repre-

sentative vehicles from several countries across several war campaigns across many years. It was a tread-head paradise.

After getting a lifetime worth of armor walk-around pics, we proceeded to the American Air Museum. The usual suspects were on display, including a B-52, SR-71, F-4, B-25, B-29, P-51, P-40, and many other aircraft. An interesting fact we learned is that all of the aircraft on display at the AAM are “on loan”, and still owned by the USA. Apparently “owning” such expensive hardware would generate astronomical value tax considerations for the museum’s foundations.

Next on our tour was the Battle of Britain display. This was a well-done display of the primary aircraft involved in the early days of WWII and some other significant historical aircraft. Included are a crashed Bf-109E, Spitfire, Hurricanes, a V-1, Fw-190, Mig-29, DE Havilland Vampire, Gloucester Javelin, British F-4 Phantom and others. Several more reference photos, and then it was on to the next collection.

We skipped the Air and Sea hangar and were not able to visit the restoration hangar, so we moved on to the AirSpace building. An overwhelming assortment of aircraft from across history, this hangar ate my remaining camera battery life and I had to resort to judicious shots with my cell phone camera. We climbed through the Concorde test airframe with its hundreds of miles of exposed wiring and cabling. Imagine flying from London to Bangor, Maine in just under three hours!

As the afternoon wore on and it began to get dark, Dick and I said our goodbyes to Brandon and Hannah, and caught the train back to London. We still had another day of RAF collections to see on Thursday.



# Feature Story

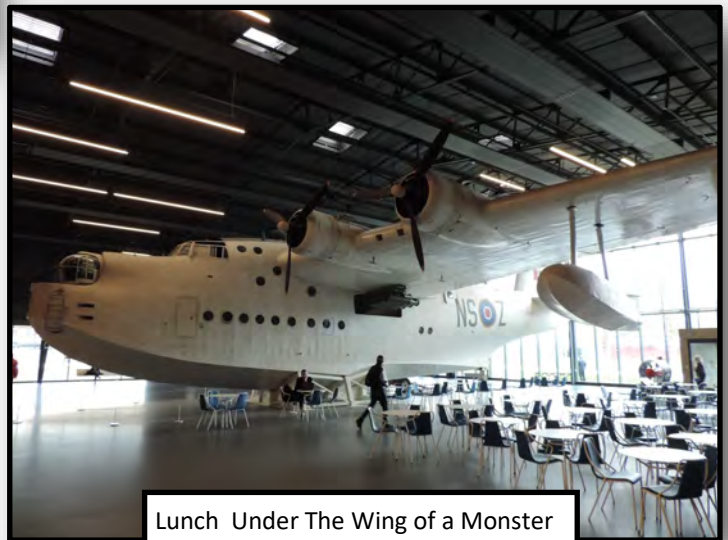
## Visiting Royal Air Force Museums in the UK

### RAF MUSEUM - LONDON



Early on Thursday, Dick and I caught the Tube (the underground rail system) for a ride up to the Colindale area to tour the London RAF Museum. A short walk from the station, and we found the main gate and made our way inside the facility. As in Duxford, there are several exhibit buildings to go through, but this museum is “owned” by the RAF and the British Government, so admission is free to the public. There are six exhibit hangars at this facility that house everything from a Bleriot XXVII to a current F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Making our way through the entry/gift shop/cafeteria in Hangar 1, we admired the huge Shorts Sunderland which provided an area for dining adjacent to the snack bar. Our first hangar visit was the WWI flight exhibit that included many examples of early flight. Most impressive to me was the Albatros DV replica – a beautiful and streamlined airframe for its time.



It took about 3 hours for Dick and I to make our way through the various hangars before our camera batteries were exhausted. Having made our way through British Aviation history, we headed down the street to our final stop before returning to base in central London.







# Feature Story

---

## HANNANTS – LONDON

A short half-block walk from RAF Museum - London is the LHS facility for Hannant's world famous on-line modeling megastore. I must admit to a twinge of disappointment as I walked through the well-stocked aisle in the unexpectedly small facility. I had assumed a much larger facility would be in store. In reality, that was a good thing, as the suitcases were already at near-maximum capacity for the trip home. I grabbed a couple of rare decal sheets and another Special Hobby 1/72 P-40, the M/N version to add to my growing Warhawk collection.

After completing a walk-through of the floor-to-ceiling shelves of nothing but plastic and aftermarket for all manner of scale models, we made our way to a local pub for a quick bite to eat before catching the Tube back to King's Cross station.

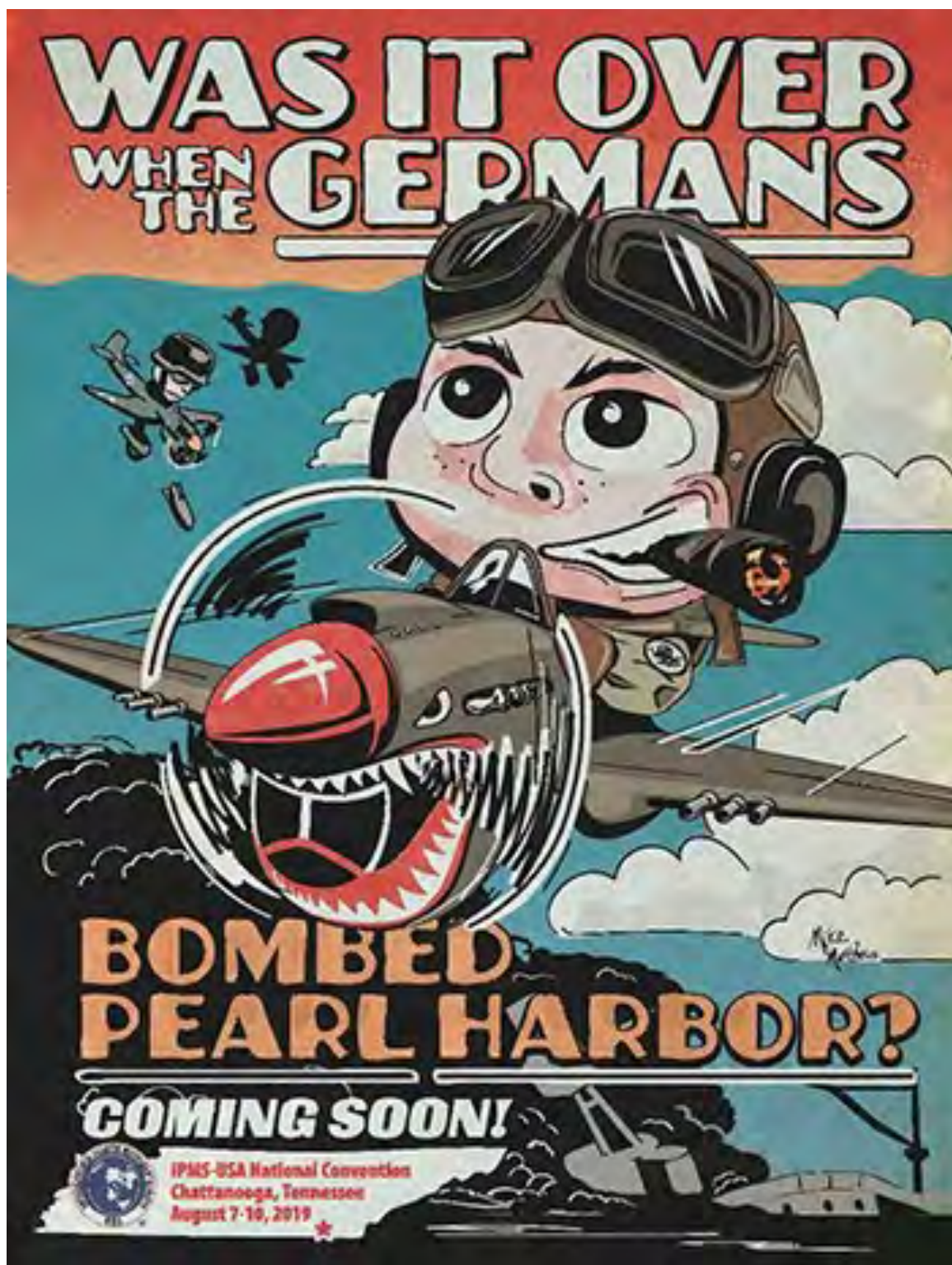
My final evening was spent carefully packing all my goodies in the luggage, carefully surrounded by clothing to prevent breakage. After an early morning wake-up call, Dick and I split a taxi ride to our respective Heathrow terminals, and headed back to God Bless Texas! It was a great trip I hope to repeat again soon.





# Save The Date!

IPMS/USA National Convention 2019: 7-10 Aug 2019







# Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

***Next Meeting: Thursday, December 6th, 2018 at 7:00PM***

***Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio***

**January 27, 2019**

**CALMEX XXXIII**

**Lake Charles Civic Center**

**9000 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70602**

**<http://www.ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html>**



**February 16, 2019**

**ModelFiesta 38**

**San Antonio Event Center**

**8111 Meadow Leaf Drive**

**San Antonio, TX 78227**

**<http://www.alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta>**



**March 30, 2019**

**RiverCon VIII 2019**

**Bossier City Civic Center**

**620 Benton Rd**

**Bossier City, LA 71171**

**<https://www.facebook.com/RiverConIPMS/>**



**March 30, 2019**

**Tulsa Modelers Forum Contest**

**Bixby Community Center**

**211 N. Cabaniss Ave, Bixby, OK 74008**

**<https://www.tulsaipms.org/>**



**April 27, 2019**

**ModelMania 2019**

**Stafford Convention Center**

**10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX**

**<http://www.ipms-houston.org/>**







# About Alamo Squadron

## Executive Board 2018-2019



**President**  
**Herb Scranton III**  
IPMS #48314  
president@alamosquadron.com



**Vice President:**  
**Jose Valdenegro**  
IPMS #50490  
vp@alamosquadron.com



**Treasurer:**  
**Dana Mathes**  
IPMS #43781  
sec-treas@alamosquadron.com

**IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron** was founded on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 in 2013, the San Antonio Event Center.



QR Code for our Web Site  
Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our web site!



QR Code for our Facebook Page  
Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our home on FB

[www.alamosquadron.com](http://www.alamosquadron.com)





# Final Words ...

Alamo Squadron's newsletter, "The Navigator", is published monthly by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, Texas for the enjoyment of the members of Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, reviews, news items, and other hobby-related contributions are very welcome. Send text file, photos, and web sites as well as feedback to our editor, Len Pilhofer: [pilhofer@hotmail.com](mailto:pilhofer@hotmail.com)

<http://www.ipmsusa.org/>

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM			
IPMS No.:	Name: _____		
Address:	(If Respending) First Middle Last		
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone:	E-mail:		
Signature (required by PO): _____			
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 Journals) How Many Cards? _____			
<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			
Payment Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order			
Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____			
If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number: _____			
Name: _____		IPMS No.: _____	
<b>IPMS/USA</b>		PO Box 56023	
Join or Renew Online at: <a href="http://www.ipmsusa.org">www.ipmsusa.org</a>		St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023	

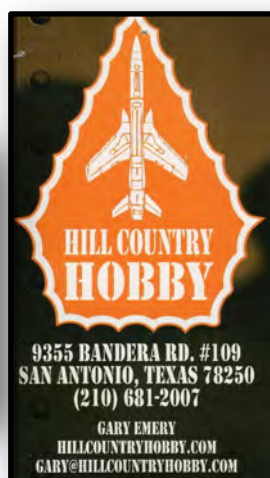


## Support your Local Hobby Shops!

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



Email: [dibbleshobbies@gmail.com](mailto:dibbleshobbies@gmail.com)



<https://www.hillcountryhobby.com>



<https://www.hobbytown.com/san-antonio-tx/l108>