

The Navigator

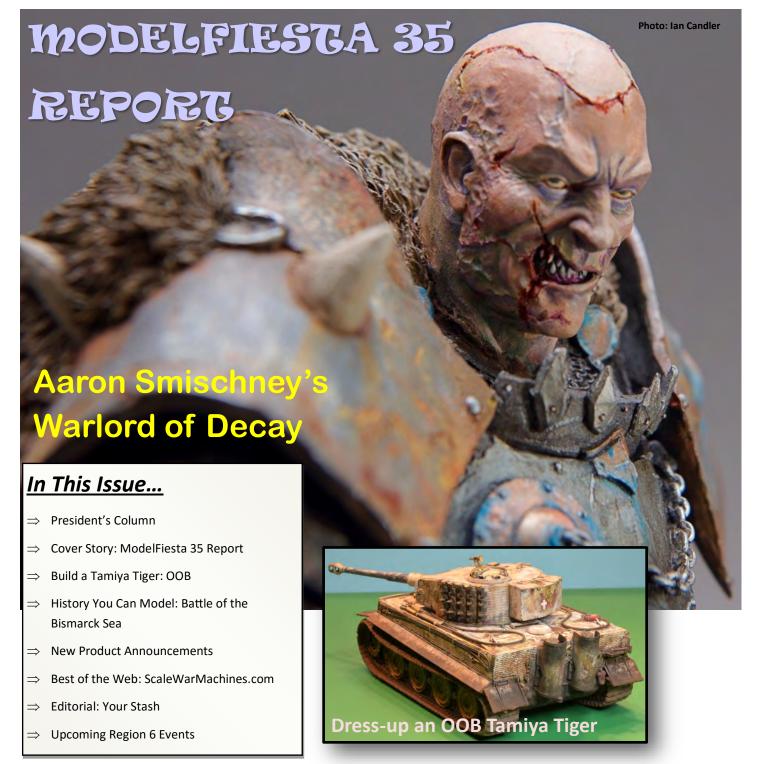
The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

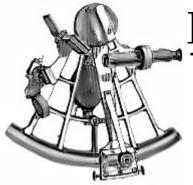
The San Antonio chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society A registered 501c-7

March 2016



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





President's Column

By Dick Montgomery

IPMS #14003



ModelFiesta 35

odelFiesta 35 will be history by the time the March meeting rolls around, and after having attended a number of the ModelFiesta planning sessions I feel confident that the event will be a spectacular success. Led by Rob Booth, the committee has done an excellent job preparing for this event, and with the backing of Alamo Squadron members, and members



of a number of other area clubs, everything was set inplace. A significant effort was made to set up a data tracking system that will provide some important numbers re-

lated to attendance, and there will be a report assembled for use by the next group to lead and direct ModelFiesta.

Thanks to all who participated and thanks to all who gave of their time and talent to work at ModelFiesta 35.

Business at the March Meeting

We have one major item of business at the March meeting: nominations for the three E-Board positions will be accepted. That part of the C&BL that deals

with nominations and eligibility for office have already been shared via email, and that distribution will be repeated again before the meeting. And then at the meeting we will describe the conditions of eligibility once more.



A New Adult Build Class Director



Craig Gregory has kindly consented to take over the Directorship of the ABC program. The Adult Build Class is an excellent approach to the acquisition and improvement of those

basic skills and techniques that are applicable to most modeling subjects, and it is an enjoyable way to meet fellow modelers. Thanks to Craig for accepting this important responsibility.





ModelFiesta 35 Report

By Rob Booth, Director, MF35

Photos by Len Pilhofer, except where noted

PMS Alamo Squadron held its 35th annual model contest and show on Saturday, February 20th at the San Antonio Event Center on San Antonio's far west side. While this year's contest was not the record-setting event we had hoped for, there was unanimous consensus that the overall quality of the entries on the tables continues to get better and better every year.

Adding to the event this year was participation by Northside Ford, displaying current Ford Truck and Mustang vehicles at the show entry, along with spon-



soring the Automobile Class and a "Best Ford Mustang" Awards. We also want to thank our other awards sponsors including Aircraft Sponsor – the San Antonio Aviation Heritage Foundation from whom we will see a large presence at next year's show, the San Antonio Armor Brigade for sponsoring the Armor awards, Hobbytown USA for sponsoring the Kids and Theme awards, our own Craig Gregory for sponsoring the Space/Sci-Fi categories, Lee Forbes for sponsoring the Collections categories, and of course Dibble's Hobbies who sponsored this year's Best in Show award.



Gerry Escobedo managed to come up with some interesting "how-to" presentations by Bob Bethea on figure painting and diorama techniques, and somehow convinced Alex DeLeon to let go of some of his award-winning scratch-building secrets. He also convinced his friend Rob Thomas to share some paper modeling techniques. Kudos to Lee Forbes for once again



rounding up a distinguished group of military heroes for us to visit with, including America's last Fighter Ace, Steve Ritchie, who attended with his lovely wife



Marianna. General Ritchie gave an informative speaking presentation about his experiences flying the F-4 Phantom II in the Vietnam conflict, and Marianna followed with a rousing talk on what it means to her to



be an American Citizen, following her upbringing in Communist Romania.

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



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

By The Numbers:

There were a total of 552 entries by 147 competitors at this year's Modelfiesta. Aircraft entries totaled 149, Armor at 93, Automotive at 132, 16 Collections, 19 Dioramas, 59 Figures, 16 Ships, 29 Spacecraft/Sci-Fi, and 11 Miscellaneous entries, with 6 of those from our new Paper Models category. Although overall entry numbers were down from average, perhaps the highlight of the contest was the surprisingly large number

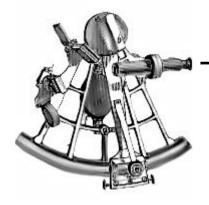


of entries in our Young Modelers categories. We had a total of 28 entries from the youngsters this year. In fact, we had to split our pre-teen category 3 ways! Based on the quality of the winning entries, we have some future contest winners coming up right behind us.

Winning entries by Class were as follows:

Aircraft: A beautiful 1/32 Tamiya F-4C by Hector Cantu from Torreon, Mexico

Armor: Alex DeLeon's stunning 2 Pound Portee Deluxe, which also took the "Kit-Bashed" theme award.



Automotive: Charbel Perez Caram from Mexico City picked up another win for his Union Jack emblazoned 2006 Mini Cooper.

Dioramas: Austin's Figure Master Bob Bethea won the Diorama class with his "Dinnertime 1863" civil war piece.

Figures: A bust of a fantasy warlord entitled "Warlord of Decay" earned Austin's Aaron Smischney the Best Figure award, and was also was judged our "Best in Show" entry.

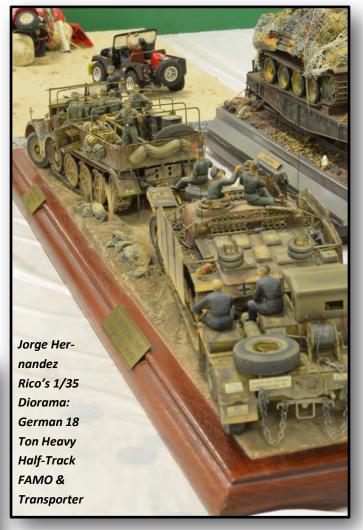
Ships: Rick Cotton from Katy walked away with the Best Ship award for his USS Saratoga.

Young Modelers: San Antonio's Thomas Pecina added another Best Young Modeler award to his stash with a 2006 Corvette Z06.

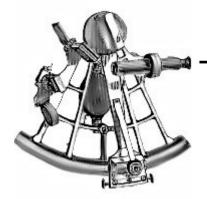


Best Open Class Subject went to a Dilophosaurus dinosaur entered by Hugo Garcia from Edinburg.

All of the feedback we have received about the show from around the hobby world has been positive, and



we look forward to continued strong participation at our show in the future. Preparations are already underway for MF36 and Alamo Squadron's Executive Board is already close to naming a new director for MF36. I want to add a personal thanks to all of you guys from Alamo Squadron who showed up to help out, from vendor move-in on Friday night to assisting us with break-down and cleanup on Saturday after the show. My special thanks to the entire Modelfiesta 35 Committee: Len Pilhofer – Admissions/Registration Coordinator, Tom Moon from IPMS-Houston for





stepping in at the 11th hour to take over as our Chief Judge, John Kress and Craig Gregory who took care of our Vendors, Dana Mathes – Awards Coordinator, Gerry Escobedo who put together the seminars and presentations, Pete Ortensie who ran a very efficient

raffle table, and the indefatigable Herb Scranton and Mike Goolsbee, who were everywhere all the time.







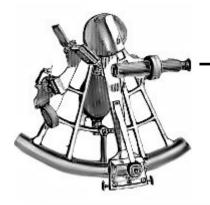
Tamiya Tiger: Straight from the Box

Story, Photos and Model by Len Pilhofer



ModelFiesta 35 offered the challenge of building a Tamiya 1/35 Tiger straight-from-the-box (OOB). I decided to take up the challenge a see if I could dress up a very basic kit into something that catches the eye. My "palette" was Tamiya's Late Version Tiger, Kit #35146.





Almost all Tigers produced in late 1943 and into 1944 came out of the factory with applied zimmerit. Tamiya does not include this in the kit but the instructions suggest that you use putty to simulate the layer of zimmerit. Fellow modeler Bob Bethea turned me on to Aves' Apoxie Sculpt which is a two-part compound. I have to admit this stuff works great and with the use of Trumpeter's zimmerit pattern roller the zim went on easier than I expected.





I wanted to chip away the armor yellow base coat to show some of the primer coat (RAL 8012) underneath. A thinned, airbrushed coat of Vallejo ModelColor 70.914 followed by a coat of Vallejo's Chipping Medium (aka hairspray) did the trick.



After the application of Tamiya XF-60 I chipped some of it away to show the red primer underneath. Not too much and focusing on the outer edges and corners is key. I then added the red-brown camo pattern (Tamiya XF-64) also over a coat of chipping medium.

The zimmerit presented the challenge when applying the markings... especially the tank's tur-

ret number and the Balkenkreuzes on the sides of the hull. I had recently picked up some PE airbrush stencils from Alliance Model Works and specifically those of Schwere Panzer-Abteilung 506. This battalion had the distinctive cat posed in a "W" on the rear turret cargo box. More eye candy to dress-up this basic Tiger!











The next step was an experimentation with a technique I had read about but not tried up until now: oil paint rendering. This technique has been pioneered by Mike Rinaldi and you can read about how to do it in his Tank Art series of books. I wanted to use this technique to simulate the dirt and grime on the bottom of the hull and side skirts before I put on the white wash. The white wash would be heavily chipped so I wanted some of the dirt/grime to show through this layer. I utilized MiG's line of 502 Abteilung oil paints and I was very impressed with the quality of these paints. This OPR layer was followed with some standard acrylic paint chipping with both Tamiya and Vallejo acrylic paints.



Many tanks and ground equipment of all sides in WWII applied white washes in the winter and the German Tigers were no exception. I was aiming for a Spring 1944 look when Schwere Panzer-Abteilung 506 was operating in Poland and doing their best to halt the Soviet push to the west. In order to accomplish this I turned to my trusty hairspray (the Vallejo facsimile) and then sprayed over that with a light dusting of Tamiya XF-2 (Flat White) mixed with a tad bit of XF-57 (Buff) in order to give it a "dirty white" look.



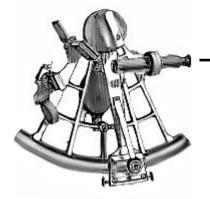




It is very rare to see a combat archive photo of a Tiger without mud on it. Perhaps the late Otto Carius knew what he was talking about when he titled his autobiography: "Tigers in the Mud". I wanted to take this aspect of the Tiger and apply it my miniature. In order to create mud I utilized regular plaster, MiG Pigments (Dark Mud), MiG Acrylic Resin, sand, and water. Mixed all together this makes a pretty convincing mud facsimile. I applied this mixture to the entire lower hull, to the tracks, and speckled it on to the fenders and mud guards.



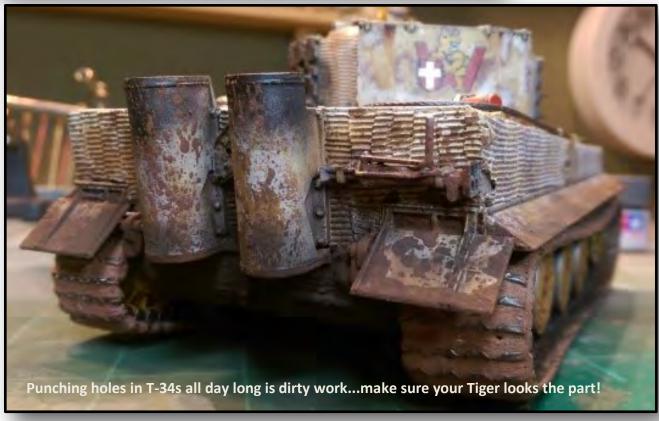




Hmmm...need to get this barrel painted...



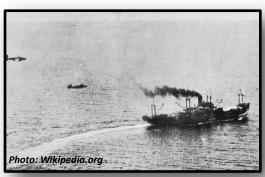
The ever elusive and sometimes dismissed "black barrels" of the **German Panzerwaffe is** hotly debated in armor circles. In my copy of "Tigers In Combat I" the chapter on Schwere Panzer-Abteilung 506 shows a photo of a late production Tiger with a black barrel. German barrels were primed with a black lacquer and not the red oxide like the rest of the tank. Sometimes these barrels were quickly replaced in the field with no time to paint the standard armor yellow of the time. I wanted to apply this to my Tiger as well and give it a more interesting



Battle of the Bismarck Sea

History You Can Model

he **Battle of the Bismarck Sea** (2–4 March 1943) took place in the South West Pacific Area during World War II when aircraft of the U.S. Fifth Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force attacked a Japanese convoy carrying troops to Lae, New Guinea. Most of the task force was destroyed, and Japanese troop losses were heavy.



B-25s execute a strafing run on a Japanese transport

The Japanese convoy was a result of a Japanese Imperial General Headquarters decision in December 1942 to reinforce their position in the South West

Pacific. A plan was devised to move some 6,900 troops from Rabaul directly to Lae. The plan was understood to be risky, because Allied air power in the area was strong, but it was decided to proceed because otherwise the troops would have to be landed a considerable distance away and march through inhospitable swamp, mountain and jungle terrain without roads before reaching their destination. On 28 February 1943, the convoy – comprising eight destroyers and eight troop transports with an escort of approximately 100 fighters – set out from Simpson Harbor in Rabaul.

The Allies detected and shadowed the convoy, which came under sustained air attack on 2–3 March 1943. Follow-up attacks by PT boats and aircraft were made on 4 March. All eight transports and four of the escorting destroyers were sunk. Out of 6,900 troops who were badly needed in New Guinea, only about 1,200 made it to Lae. Another 2,700 were rescued by destroyers and submarines and returned to Rabaul. The Japanese made no further attempts to reinforce Lae by ship, greatly hindering their ultimately unsuccessful efforts to stop Allied offensives in New Guinea.

Major Paul I. "Pappy" Gunn and his men at the 81st Depot Repair Squadron in Townsville, Queensland, modified some USAAF Douglas A-20 Havoc light bombers by installing four .50-inch machine guns in their noses in September 1942. Two 450-US-gallon fuel tanks were added, giving the aircraft more range. An attempt was then made in December 1942 to create a longer range attack aircraft by doing the same thing to a B-25 medium bomber to convert it to a "commerce destroyer", but this proved to be somewhat more difficult. The resulting aircraft was nose heavy despite added lead ballast in the tail, and the vibrations caused by firing the machine guns were enough to make rivets pop out of the skin of the aircraft. The tail guns and belly turrets were removed, the latter being of little use if the aircraft was flying low. The new tactic of having the B-25 strafe ships would be tried in this battle. Source: www.wikipedia.org

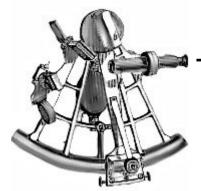
Modeling Options

While there are several current, in-production kits of the B-25 in popular aircraft scales, the version that would most represent the B-25s that flew in this famous battle is the B-25C/D. Several years ago Accu-

rate Miniatures released this version in 1/48th and you can still find this model at swap meets and even on line from dealers that handle out-of-production kits. You can



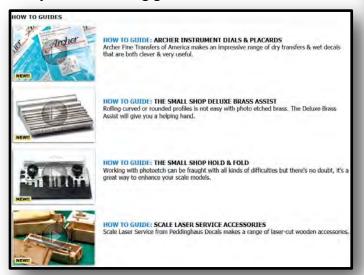
also take a later version (such as the H or J) and backdate it with a little bit of research and the right references.



Scale War Machines

Best Of The Web

cale War Machines is site out of Great Britain that specializes in bringing new techniques and new products to the spotlight that us modelers tend to look for. It focuses on covering techniques and new products for just about every scale-modeling genre out there to include tanks,



vehicles, artillery, trains, Sci-Fi, naval, and figures. They really do a good job of creating video content and getting it up on the web rather quickly. The videos are of a high quality and executed with good production values in both audio and video. They are detailed enough to cover the main points but not overly long or get off-track.

Other content includes walk-arounds of the real-deal and this would add nicely to anyone's reference collection. Also included are reviews of new publications and a select number of new kits. Unique and kitbashing projects are also covered primarily in photo and text form but there a few vides covering these interesting and informative topics.

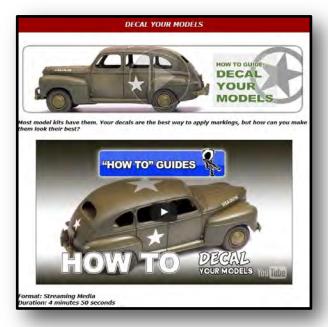
When you have the time to browse some video content this site is highly recommended and you just might



find yourself inspired to try something you have not attempted yet in your scale modeling journey.



Be sure to check out Scale War Machines' YouTube channel if you only wish to focus on video content.





Upcoming Releases

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

Fly Hawk Models:

1/700 WWII Royal Navy Aircraft Set #1

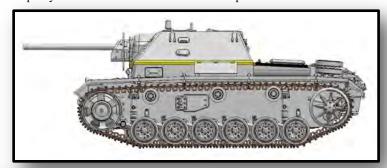


1/8 scale Flash Gordon and the Martian -- the original Revell kit. Made from original tooling, molded in white with original box art. Includes two figures and base.

Dragon Models: 1/35 Su-76i - Smart Kit

Germany and the USSR employed a large number of captured enemy vehicles during WWII because of shortages in their inventories. Sometimes they also created hybrids by combining domestic and foreign components, and one example of this approach was the SU-76i self-propelled gun (SPG) used by the Soviets. Of interest, 'i' denotes Inostrannaya (or 'foreign'). This vehicle based on the chassis of the Panzer III or StuG III featured a Soviet 76.2mm F-34 main gun. The Russians captured a large number of Panzer III/StuG III armored vehicles, many at Stalingrad, and Factory No.38 added an enclosed superstructure to the hulls. They were first issued to tank and SPG units in the fall of 1943. However, the following year they were withdrawn from frontline service and relegated to training use. One source estimated that 611 SU-76I SPGs were converted.

Dragon has produced an exciting 1/35 scale kit of just such an SU-76i SPG in Soviet service. It is logically based on Dragon's famous and highly accurate Panzer III chassis and hull, and of course the model features a brand new fighting compartment as was installed by Factory No.38. This superstructure features intricate bolt detail, and accompanied by two new storage boxes in both sides. Naturally, the correct gun and mount are also included. This was an unusual armored vehicle used by the Soviets, but Dragon has beautifully recreated this 'crossover SPG'. It takes the best of German chassis and Soviet weaponry to create a brand new vehicle for the pleasure of modelers!







Ebbro 1/24 Citroen DS19

<u>Your Stash</u>

Editorial—By Len Pilhofer, IPMS# 49932



've been reading some online forum posts recently regarding the topic of model stashes and many folks from around the world have chimed-in on the topic. As you



can imagine there is a full spectrum of opinions from those who buy and build one kit at a time all the way to those that only collect unbuilt kits. I tend to be on the latter part of this spectrum and am always looking for more space to store my "goodies".

I think the biggest driver for me in keeping a rather large stash (several hundred) is the ability to walk into my closest and see which kit calls out to me to be built. More specifically, how am I feeling at the time when it comes to start a new kit? A lessor factor, but still a factor, is wanting to ensure I don't miss out on the release of a new kit that I know I will want to get to someday; future availability always crosses my mind. While I know I can't buy every kit that comes out I can focus on the ones that I will most likely (and hopefully) build.

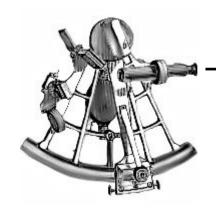
However, a big lesson that I have learned is that while you may think things will not get "better" with regards to this hobby they usually do. For example: When I was stationed in Japan from 1996-99 I grabbed every Tamiya aircraft and armor kit I could get my hands on. They were offered at a great price and the only shipping and distribution costs were local to Japan. I've always been proud of my Tamiya stash but then something started happening: better kits started coming out about 10-15 years later. The Tamiya kits are still superior in engineering and fit but the detail needed to really make the kit stand out was outdated. Kits from "new-comers" such as Dragon, Trumpeter, Meng, Takom, were taking center-stage and becoming more

desirable due to their included details and complexity. My prized Tamiya kits were destined to the consignment shelf or even Alamo Squadron's holiday party! But, back in the 90s no one had a crystal ball to show me how things would pan out. In fact, back in those days with the growing popularity of personal computers and video gaming there were those who were predicting the demise of this hobby.

Where do you stand? What drives you and your decisions? Do you even think about what your limit is? Do you even like to have a stash or are you a more efficient person who likes to keep your bench" clear of any unbuilt kits? Let's have a coffee and discuss...



There is no way this guy is married.



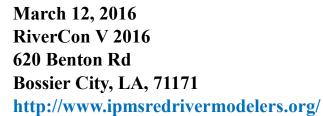
Upcoming Events

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3rd, 2016 at 7:15PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

March 5, 2016 Showdown 2016 12700 N Stemmons Frwy. Farmers Branch, TX, 75234 http://www.themcma.net/Club Contests.php



April 9, 2016
Great South TigerFest XXIII
St Jerome Knights of Columbus Hall
3310 Florida Ave
Kenner, LA 70064
http://www.ipmsneworleans.wix.com/flyingtiger

April 9, 2016
Tulsa Modelers Forum
Bixby Community Center
211 N Cabaniss Ave
Bixby, OK 74008
http://tulsaipms.org/Contest%202016.htm

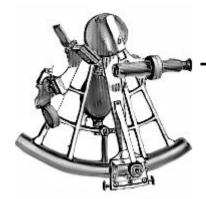
April 23, 2016
ModelMania 2016
Stafford Convention Center
10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX 77477
http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11











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 FB







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