



# The Navigator

June 2020

The Newsletter of the Alamo Squadron IPMS Chapter

*The San Antonio chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society*

*A registered 501c-7 organization*

Team Lead for the National IPMS/USA Convention: 2020  
IPMS/USA Region 6 Chapter of the Year: 2016

IPMS/USA Region 6 Newsletter of the Year: 2017  
IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year: 1999 & 2005

## Stay-at-home, Stir-Crazy Newsletter Edition #2

We continue our separation get-togethers so this issue continues with remote/virtual offerings. We hope there are safe, healthy community actions but a guy/gal has to model when he has to model. This issue is another reflection of our cravings to snip, fit and glue. Many thanks for sharing your activities!

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FOR Modelers and BY Modelers ABOUT modeling...

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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*By Herb Scranton III IPMS #48314*

## *From the Dash Cam...*



Greetings Alamo Squadron,



Thanks to the work of Keith Rule we have a meeting place for June. The **River Crossing Golf Club** has graciously let us use their banquet room this coming Thursday. Looking forward to seeing you there.

The EB has been busy and we have made some minor changes to the monthly model contest and the model summit award program.

First change is to the monthly model contest. We are doing away with the quarterly themed contest. We noticed at the themed contest that there was a small turn out of models on the table and sometimes the models really did not fit the theme and on non-themed months there were a lot more models in the contest. We are a model building club and would rather see more of your wonderfully built models. We will still have the Model of The Year contest in January.

Our Model Building Summit Award program is to encourage our club members to first and foremost to build models, after we are a model building club and want to keep the emphasis on building models. Secondly, we want to encourage our members to participate in club function as well. Currently you get a point for every model you have done at least 50% of the work on it and completed during the current model summit year. That will not change. Members can get a point if they do a class, model of the month demo, or write an article for the newsletter. Again, this will not change. Some of our members do a lot of work behind the scenes and that takes away from their modeling time but are an important part of the club running smoothly, promoting model building, and making sure we show a professional face to the modeling community. Effective April 2020 the following positions will get one point for their support of our club and club functions; Newsletter Editor, Web Master, ABC coordinator, Model Fiesta Director, and his staff. EB members and lastly any member that works during our Model Fiesta or preforms a club function i.e. Annual audit of the club treasury, will get 1 point. The end of the Model Summit Awards will also change. All members that accumulate 5 points will get a Model Summit Award certificate and those modelers that built 5 models will participate in the raffle for prizes.

I am hopeful we will be able to meet back at Northside Ford in the near future, but until then River Crossing Golf club is availed to us. Hope to see you there or in the near future, I honestly miss Y'all.

Cheers,

Herbert E. Scranton III

President, Alamo Squadron

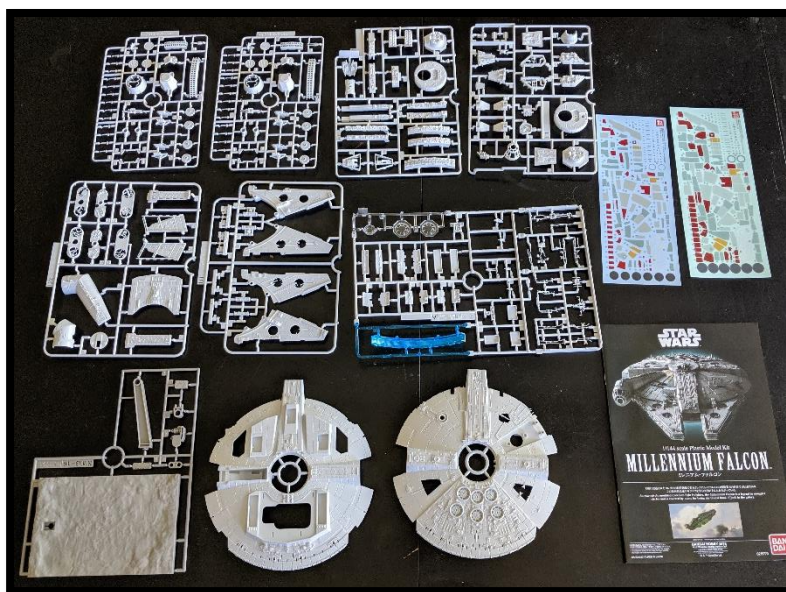
# KIT REVIEW AND BUILD

*Article and photos by Len Pilhofer IPMS #49932*

## Building and Finishing the Bandai Millennium Falcon

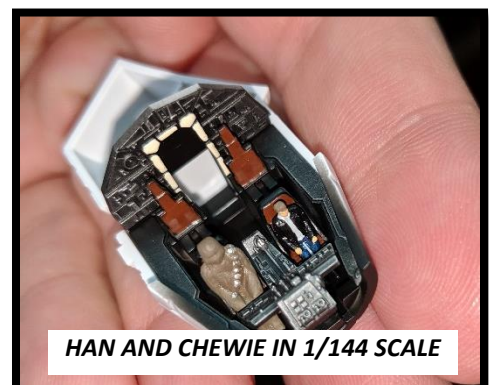
Like almost all modern Bandai kits, the 1/144 scale Millennium Falcon from the Star Wars tomb is a gem of a kit. It is reasonably priced, a good size that represents this iconic science fiction subject and is an absolute joy to build. What is even more fun is finishing it to appear as it has in six of the nine Star Wars films.

The kit comes molded in off-white with only a few in clear blue to represent the lights of the engine when in flight as well as a few clear parts to represent the cockpit and laser cannon view ports. While Bandai is known for its self-adhesive “stickers” for most of the kits this Millennium Falcon comes with both the sticker option as well as the more scale-modeler-friendly water slide decals. The kit is rounded off with a base used to pose the Falcon in flight.



I will not get too much into construction in this article because like most Bandai kits, it just falls together. You do not need glue or cement as all the joints are nicely engineered to utilize friction to hold them together. However, on a few key areas of the hull I utilized liquid cement (MEK) to ensure the joints did not separate.

The only thing I did to the inside of the kit was to finish the cockpit with Han and Chewie as well as adding a bit of detail to the laser cannon cockpits on both the top and bottom of the main hull.



I wanted to focus my attention with this build on the finish and weathering. After construction was complete, I applied a base coat of Mr. Hobby Mr. Finishing Surfacer 1500 Black. This is one of my favorite primers. Utilizing black on a model with as much surface detail as this kit - as well as deep and very



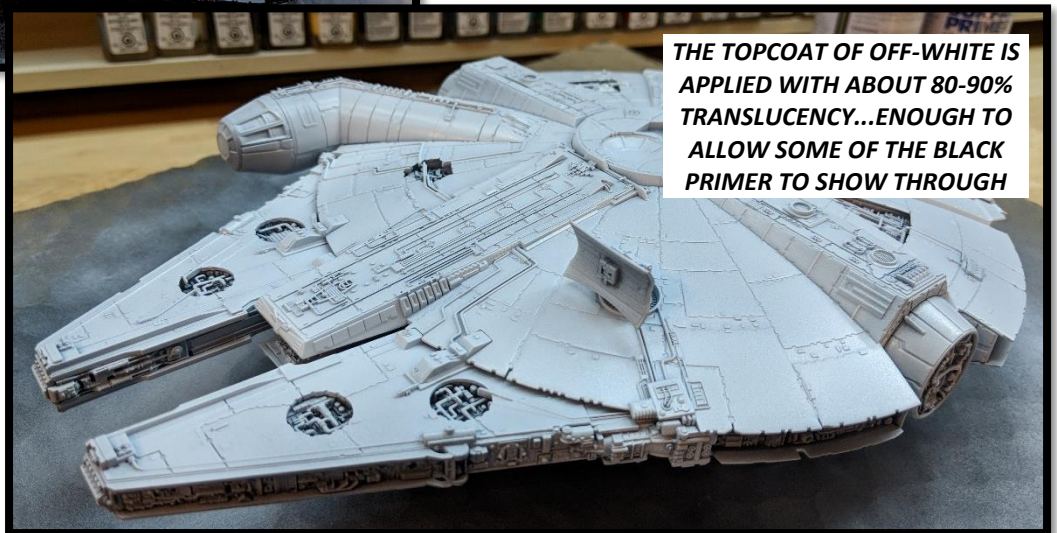
detailed - allows the black base to show through the topcoat of off-white and allow the rich detail to really pop and catch the observer's eye.



I applied a heavy, wet coat to the both the top and bottom as well as ensuring the primer reached all the deep recessed areas of the model. This is critical for the black basing effect to really work.



Once the primer coat had fully cured after a couple of days I busted out my Iwata RG-3L baby air gun to apply a smooth, partially translucent top coat of off-white. I utilized Tamiya acrylics thinned with Tamiya lacquer thinner. I made a special off-white formula by taking base XF-2 flat white and mixing-in several drops of XF-52 Buff. This gives a nice "dirty" look to the ship when the coat is on and cured.







The next step was a gloss coat of Vallejo acrylic gloss. I thin my Vallejo - which comes pretty thick - with 50/50 Vallejo Airbrush Thinner. This was also applied with the Iwata RG-3L baby air gun in order to give a wide, smooth finish to surface...perfect for applying decals...which is the next step.

The decals for this kit are of a very good quality. They went down without issue and when fully dried actually look like the colors were painted on...the sign of a good decal. Once the decals were dry I applied another coat of

Vallejo acrylic varnish...this time a satin flavor. The satin preps the surface for the application of an oil wash.

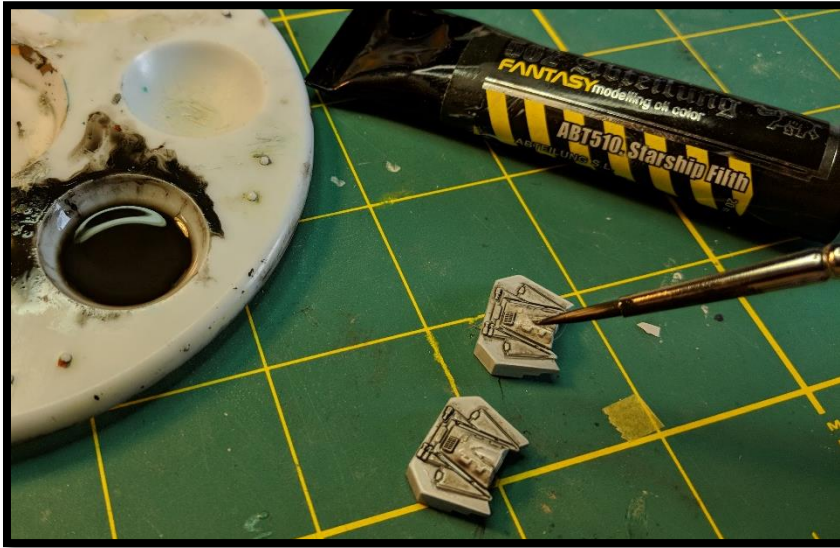


The oil wash is the best way to highlight the recessed areas of the ship and really make it pop. While the black-basing of the first step is good the oil wash really brings it out. I utilize Abteilung

oil paints thinned with the same brand of thinner. For this ship I utilized "Starship Filth"...rather



appropriate for the hunk-of-junk known as the Millennium Falcon. The oil wash is applied to the entire ship. Once dry, the raised areas are cleaned up with a paint brush damp with mineral spirits. The oil cleans up nicely and left to dry for a couple of days and then another coat of Vallejo Satin Acrylic varnish is applied to the entire model dealing in the oil paint/wash.



Once this coat of varnish is cured it is time to add more surface detail in the way of acrylic paint chips. All this really is just small dabs of acrylic paint (you could also use enamels...not a big difference) to the high traffic areas of the hull with a focus on the hull panel joints and edges. I utilized a gray Tamiya color that represents the primed hull underneath the top coat of white. This gives additional surface detail that draws the eye to a complex and detailed surface. Once this acrylic paint cures the surface is covered with one more coat of satin varnish.

The next step is to add rust and grime streaking with specially marketed thinned enamels from AK Interactive. Enamel paint is similar in its properties to oil paints in that they never completely dry...they can be manipulated with the addition of thinner to the surface. This makes enamels particularly good at streaking across a surface. The key to this effect is to use it sparingly and to clear most of the paint away leaving only subtle marks and effects for the eye to catch. Once these enamels are dry another coat of acrylic satin varnish is applied to help protect it from future handling.







coat of varnish was accomplished with Vallejo flat acrylic varnish and was applied in a similar fashion to the previous varnishes.

The final weathering step is to add some black pigment to the really dirty areas of the ship. I chose the engine vents on the back top-deck of the ship as well as the blaster cannons on both the top and bottom and a few select areas where venting from the various piping would occur. As seen in the photos my initial coating of the engine vents was a big heavy...too heavy for my tastes. I applied a bit of pigment fixer - a clear liquid that helps the pigment adhere to the surface. A generous amount of fixer helps clear away some of the heavy coating of pigments while fixing in-place the pigment that remained. The final top



the chance. The 1/144 Falcon became my first comission build by chance. Maybe I have a small business opportunity for the future? Hmmm...

The kit was now considered finished to my standards and is a wonderful addition to my sci-fi and Star Wars collection. It came out so good that after a recent ModelFiesta competition I was approached by an individual asking if I would be willing to trade my finished 1/144 Falcon for an unbuilt, new-in-the-box, Bandai Perfect Grade 1/72 scale Millenium Falcon. This 1/72 scale kit retails for \$400 so I jumped at

# WORKS IN PROGRESS

## Special Edition Part 2 – Home Doings

As we continued to hunker down, here are some additional works in progress and completions we hope to see in person in the near future.

From Gerardo Escobedo:

*"Millennium Falcon. It is a model from the tabletop game "X-Wings". I stripped the paint using brake fluid, then re-painted it again with AMMO by Mig paints and Tamiya Weathering powders."*



Three "live action" outdoor shots from Martin Robinette:



1. ← "Beechcraft V-tail Bonanza. Converted from a 7 window to a 5 window."



2. ↑ "Stearman WWII Trainer."

3. F-82G Twin Mustang (in progress in this pic, have since finished)" →





Three works in progress from Bob Stiegel (all are 1/72):



1. "A Trumpeter F-100C, just out of the paint shop."

2. "A Hasegawa MiG-27 Flogger D/J almost ready for paint."



3. "A Hasegawa Tornado GR-1."

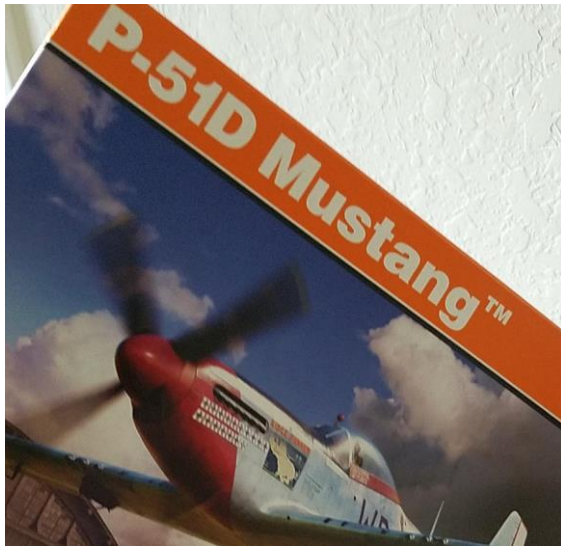
WIP from Don Weaver:



*"1/48 Otaki P-47D Razorback. Ready for decals and weathering. It will be finished as P-47 "El Shaf-Toe" assigned to 61st FS, 56th FG, late 43 to early 44. This will be my first attempt at an oil wash for weathering, so I will see how it turns out."*

WIP from Rowdy Bricco:

*"Eduard 1:48 scale P51D. I am currently rebuilding planes I've built before to see how my abilities have hopefully improved."*



*[Side Bar: I have received many fine photos of member's works in progress. I was asked if there were some guides on how to photograph closeups. Here are some videos I gleaned from YouTube that might be of help. Two of the videos are by Mr. Paul Budzik who Len Pilhofer as often cites during the online club meeting sessions.]*

<https://youtu.be/C8On6Pq9yBs>

[https://youtu.be/Af6\\_7S--NUc](https://youtu.be/Af6_7S--NUc)

<https://youtu.be/yXOsZVbclPl>

<https://youtu.be/SkKctq6gAwg>



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From Michael Buckley:

### Short Stirling WW II British Heavy Bomber

*"Just as the B-17 overshadowed the awesome contribution of the B 24 Liberator in WW II, so did the Lancaster eclipse the short Stirling, Britain's major heavy bomber responsible for the British long reach in the early phase of the war. Marked by very tall and complex landing gear, required to keep the propellers clear of the ground, and with a very long but very thin fuselage, the Sterling certainly had a clearly recognizable profile."*



*The Airfix Sterling model is the only depiction I could find. It's 72<sup>nd</sup> scale is deceptive until you*

*register the diminutive pilots, or better yet the tractor driver towing the supremely odd-shaped English standard bombs.*

*The model is well proportioned, but has a lot of flash to be removed, and many gluing surfaces are extremely narrow and difficult to join, particularly for the three-piece assembly of the 18 tiny bombs. For this effort, my usual model building time of 15 hours was exceeded by an additional four, due to the extraordinarily difficult fit of the spindly landing gear and all its covering panels---see detail photo under construction.*



*When completed, the grasshopper landing gear detail and the resulting high nose-up stance are the most distinguishing characteristics of the Short Stirling."*



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From Martin Robinette:

*"This was a quick weekend build of the Pegasus BF-109 (snap together). Still need to paint the antenna mast and do some weathering."*





From Julio Caro:



## MINICRAFT Models 1/144 scale Trans World Airlines McDonnell Douglas MD-80

*"I purchased this kit from EBAY about a year ago and I've been working on it (on and off, mind you) since then. Before I go any further, here are some details about the kit:*

**Manufacturer:** MINICRAFT Models Inc.

**Kit:** No. 14452

**Scale:** 1/144

**Comments:** Injection-molded, 54 parts, and decals

**Pros:** Most-wanted subject, accurate size and shape, alternate standard or "screwdriver" tail cones

**Cons:** Horrible decals that are extremely thin, translucent and don't quite fit as you'd expect.

*This is a simple kit to assemble. The parts did not have any flash on them and all fit relatively well.*

*The panel lines are appropriately raised and scribed. Assembly consists of basic fuselage and wing halves and so on. One nice thing about this kit is that each engine nacelle is a separate part, eliminating the pain associated with having to fix and sand its seams as it is often the case with other models. The wings went together well and include long tabs at the fuselage end making a positive and secure fit to the fuselage possible. I was not too keen on the only clear plastic part found on the kit - the cockpit window area. It went on okay, but I prefer to have it all as one part of the fuselage (just a personal preference).*



*Overall, the instructions are fairly clear and easy to follow. You have two tail cone options to choose from – standard or "screwdriver". I chose to go with the screwdriver cone. There is an aircraft registration number that goes with the version you choose.*

*Currently, I am working on getting the decals on. And true to what I have read about this kit, the decals are a pain! The latest Invisa-Clear decals for TWA's last livery (World Globe version as I like to call it) included with the kit are indeed extremely thin and translucent. They also do not quite fit as well as expected. As a matter of fact*

*(at least in my case) you can blow a gasket trying to work with them! I have already ruined the cabin*

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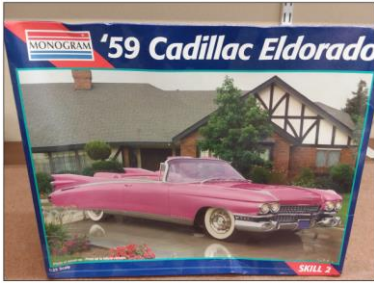
*window decals as they fold on you at the drop of a hat and easily break. As a result, I decided to create and use my own custom decals. At this time, I am waiting for the decal bonding spray to adhere and dry on my custom decal sheets. Once I finally get the decals on, I'll be able to complete the model by installing the vertical stabilizers and landing gear.*

*For now, that is about all I've got for this WIP. Hopefully, I will be able to finish it by the end of the week and have it ready to show at our next meeting. Who knows, if it turns out well, I may even enter it in some future contest! In the meantime, stay safe and healthy. And of course, happy modeling!"*



# Kit Review

## 1/25 Scale Monogram '59 Cadillac Eldorado Article and photos by Keith Rule



Several months ago, when Alamo Squadron was considering a Texas Theme Group Build for the 2020 IPMS Nationals, I was giving some thought to what I might contribute; a car model, of course. Being a big George Strait fan (I had seen him in concert 6 times before moving to



Texas), I remembered that his Twang CD of 2009 was shot in Gruene Hall '59 Cadillac Convertible. more Texas



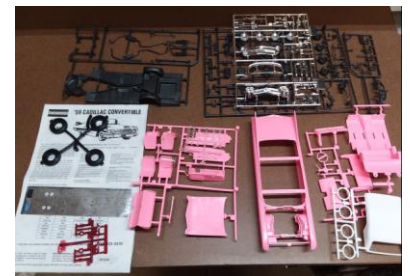
front of using a Eldorado What is than



Gruene Hall and George Strait!? I was not sure if this kit existed, but an online eBay search found one! I snatched it up. Alamo Squadron eventually decided this Group Build would be too much considering we were hosting the Nationals, but the kit still sits in my small stash. I intend to build it as one of three projects currently lined up on my bench.



The kit consists of 157 parts molded in black, clear, transparent red, chrome plated, white, and pink (of course). There are no decals, but a



there is curious sheet of stick on chrome pieces and license plate. Doubt if these will be used. I find the parts to be well molded with little flash. According to the box, this kit was released in 1995. The white sprue includes the optional convertible top and white sidewall inserts for the otherwise non-descript vinyl tires. A GM 390 engine with 3 two-barrel carburetors powers the flamboyant creation down the road.

Reviewing the instructions, I find the kit includes engine, chassis, interior, and body. I will be Persian Sand, obtained from produce factory correct colors in small manufacturers. I will have to do some research comes together well, I intend to enter it as local contests.



many detailed parts for assembling the painting the body the factory-correct <https://www.Paintscratch.com>. They quantities for nearly all auto for the correct interior color(s). If the build Factory Showroom or Box Stock in the



# **ON THE HORIZON**

## **Kit of the Month Submittals**

Each month club members are encouraged to bring one of their recent acquisitions to the meeting and open its box to let others peek inside. With a few brief comments and questions answered, we will get to know what is in the box and, chances are, rush home to order a copy. When you are ready to share your experience and thoughts, contact and coordinate with Club President Herb Scranton III at

## **2020 Monthly Club Contest Themes and Presentation/Demos/Programs**

Date*	Contest Theme <sup>1</sup>	Program <sup>1</sup>	Presenter
Jun 4	Review of Model Building Summit Award Process		
Jul 2	Whenever we get around to it hopefully, we will restart these sessions onsite and in person.		
Aug 6			
Sep 3			
Oct 1			
Nov 5			
Dec 3	White Elephant Gift Exchange	No Presentation	


\*First Thursday of each month.

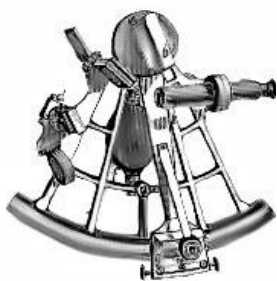
Source: <sup>1</sup> <http://www.alamosquadron.com/meetings.html>



## Upcoming IPMS Region 6 Area Club Events

*Provided by Dick Montgomery IPMS #14003*

Date	Title	Contact	Location	Address
June 6, 2020 <b>Canceled; Not Rescheduled</b>	Scalefest 2020 Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area <a href="http://www.ipmsnct.net/Scalefest.htm">http://www.ipmsnct.net/Scalefest.htm</a>	Randy Spurr- <a href="mailto:scalefest@gmail.com">scalefest@gmail.com</a>	Grapevine Convention Ctr.	1209 S. Main Grapevine, TX 76051
June 13, 2020	SoonerCon 2020 <a href="http://www.ipmsmetrokc.com/soonercon-2020.html">http://www.ipmsmetrokc.com/soonercon-2020.html</a>	(Building is named "The Cube" north of main church building.)  Richard Fisher – <a href="mailto:challenger@challenger-n-scale.com">challenger@challenger-n-scale.com</a>	Council Road Baptist Church –	7903 NW 30th Bethany, OK 73008
June 20, 2020	Northshore Scale Modelers Expo <a href="https://northshoremodelers.net">https://northshoremodelers.net</a>	Warren Dickerson – <a href="mailto:northshore.scale.modelers@gmail.com">northshore.scale.modelers@gmail.com</a>		Covington, LA 70433
July 11, 2020	HAMS 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Model Car Show & Contest An Automotives Show. <a href="https://www.ipms-hams.org/">https://www.ipms-hams.org/</a>	Rob McQuown – <a href="mailto:Robert.mcquown@sbcgloble.net">Robert.mcquown@sbcgloble.net</a>	Cypress Creek Christian Community Ctr.	6823 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379
July 29-Aug 1, 2020	<b>2020 IPMS National Convention</b>  Convention website: <a href="http://www.nats2020.com/">http://www.nats2020.com/</a>  IPMS-USA website: <a href="http://www.ipmsusa.org/">http://www.ipmsusa.org/</a> 4 Days of seminars, presentations, massive vendor area, local tours, great food, and model contest – All Located Deep in the Heart of Texas	 <b>COME AND MAKE IT</b> IPMS/USA NATIONAL CONVENTION SAN MARCOS, TEXAS JUL. 29 - AUG. 1, 2020  Convention Dir - Len Pilhofer – <a href="mailto:director.nats2020@gmail.com">director.nats2020@gmail.com</a>  Vendor Coord - Craig Gregory - <a href="mailto:vendor.nats2020@gmail.com">vendor.nats2020@gmail.com</a>	Embassy Suites & Convention Ctr.	San Marcos, TX (between Austin and San Antonio) 1001 E McCarty Ln San Marcos, TX 78666
March 28, 2020 <b>Rescheduled for August 15, 2020</b>	RiverCon IX Reboot <a href="http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/">http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/</a>	Andy Bloom – <a href="mailto:Bloom4him@hotmail.com">Bloom4him@hotmail.com</a>	LSUS University Center	One University Place Shreveport, LA 71111
April 18, 2020 <b>Rescheduled for August 22, 2020</b>	Route 66 Model Expo <a href="https://www.tulsaipms.org/">https://www.tulsaipms.org/</a> Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area <a href="http://www.tulsaipms.com">www.tulsaipms.com</a>	Greg Kittinger - <a href="mailto:greg.kittinger@gmail.com">greg.kittinger@gmail.com</a>	Bixby Community Center in Bixby OK.	211 N Cabaniss Ave, Bixby, OK 74008
April 25, 2020 <b>Rescheduled for Sept 27, 2020</b>	Modelmania 2020 Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area <a href="http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11">http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11</a>	Ken Jackson – <a href="mailto:kw.jackson.1@hotmail.com">kw.jackson.1@hotmail.com</a>	Stafford Center	10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX 77477



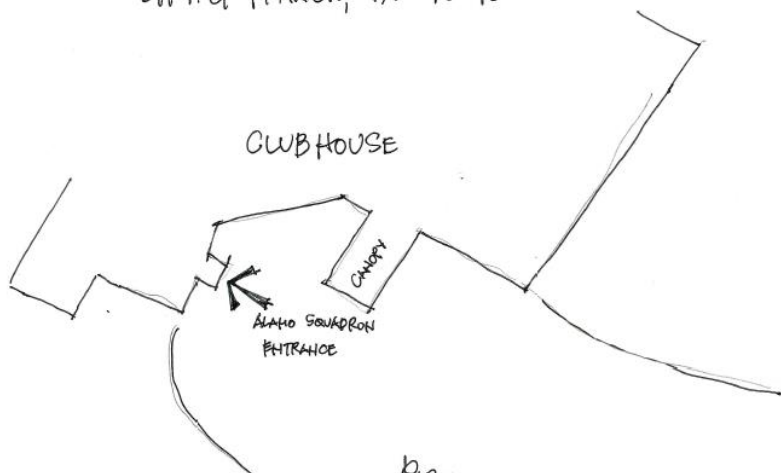
# **CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Next Club Meeting**



***Thursday. June 4 at 7PM***  
***Location, River Crossing Clubhouse.***

RIVER CROSSING CLUB  
500 RIVER WAY  
SPRING BRANCH, TX 78070



## **Newsletter Article Contributions**



Alamo Squadrons' newsletter, "***The Navigator***", is published monthly by the IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron club of San Antonio Texas intended for the enjoyment of the members of Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, product reviews, news items, and other hobby-related contributions are most welcome. Send written text files or photos and web site URLs as well as any overall comments/suggestions feedback to our editor, Sam Casas at [scasas002@satx.rr.com](mailto:scasas002@satx.rr.com).

**Next Issue: July 2020**

**Target Release Date: Sun June 28**

**Article/Photo Submissions Are Due: Fri June 26**



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# OUR FEARLESS LEADERS

## Executive Board 2019-2020

President	Vice-President	Treasurer
Herb Scranton III IPMS #48314	Keith Rule	Chris Settle

## About Alamo Squadron

**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 its 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 modeling skills and improve modeling techniques and is open and inviting to visitors/guests at all skill levels with a variety of modeling interests. Annual dues are \$12.00 a year paid to the Club Treasurer on September 1st of each year.



QR Code for the club website.  
Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our web site!

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



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

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# NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the hobby of Scale Modeling. Yearly membership includes a hard copy of the outstanding IPMS Journal mailed out six times a year, which is full of stories of interest on modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships and figures. There are full listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips articles and kit reviews. Being a member also allows one to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned Regional Contests and the world-famous National Convention held each summer. You'll also have access to the online Member's Forum where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops offer discounts to IPMS/USA members. Check out the [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org) website for more information.

**Note the change to the IPMS mailing address:**

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM			
IPMS No.:	Name: _____		
	If Renewing	First	Middle Last
Address: _____			
City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____	
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 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 1411	
Join or Renew Online at: <a href="http://www.ipmsusa.org">www.ipmsusa.org</a>		Riverview, FL 33568-1411	

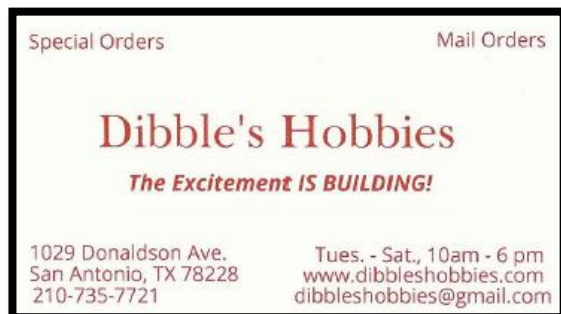


# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

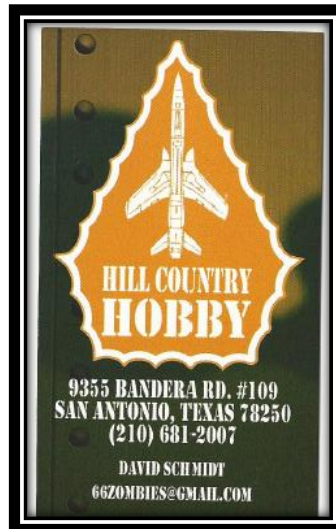
## **Support Our Local Hobby Shops...**

...for models, paints, books, decals, tools and all your modeling needs!

*(Call ahead to verify current store hours and onsite visitation rules.)*



Jeff, Mike and Joannie  
[dibbleshobbies@gmail.com](mailto:dibbleshobbies@gmail.com)



David Schmidt  
[66zombies@gmail.com](mailto:66zombies@gmail.com)

## **And our Meeting Site Sponsor:**





# ONE MORE THING...

How are your scissor cutting and Russian language skills, Comrade?

