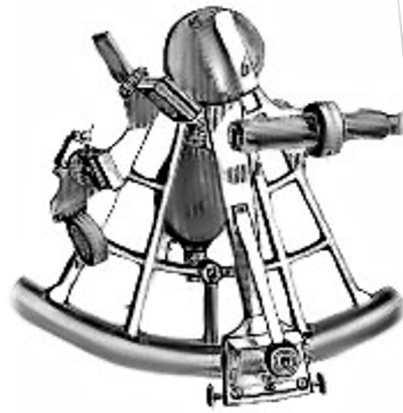


# The Navigator

April 2021



Last month's internal contest winners



First Place: Lanchester Armored Car, by Dana Mathes



Second Place:  
Aircraft engine, by Eric Syverson

Third Place:  
Bugatti, by Keith Rule





# ***OUR STILL “NEW” MONTHLY MEETING SPOT***

**Meeting:**

**Jordan Ford**

13010 N Interstate 35,  
San Antonio, TX 78233

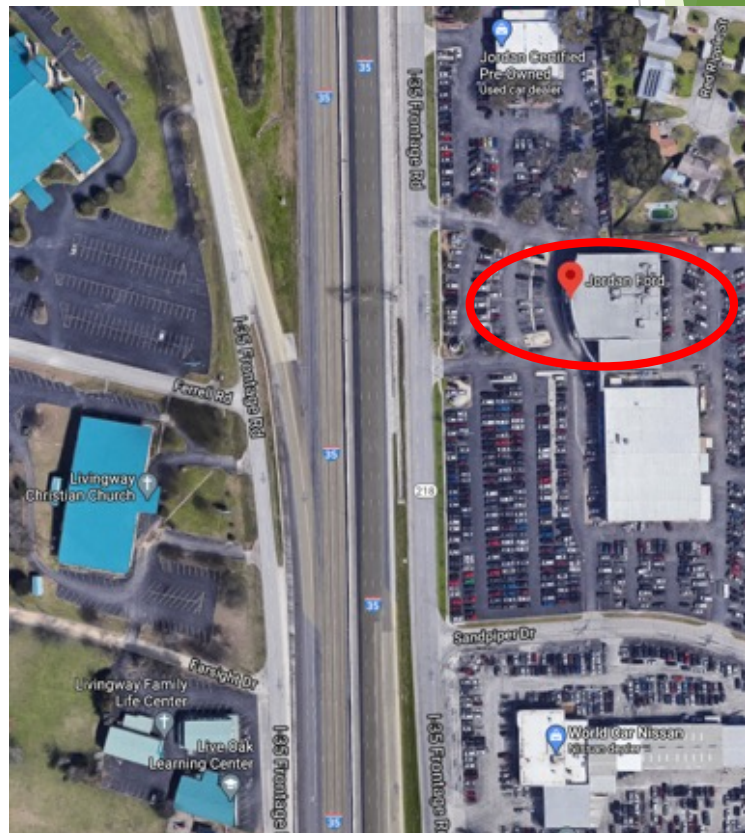
**Date:** Thursday,  
April 1, 2021

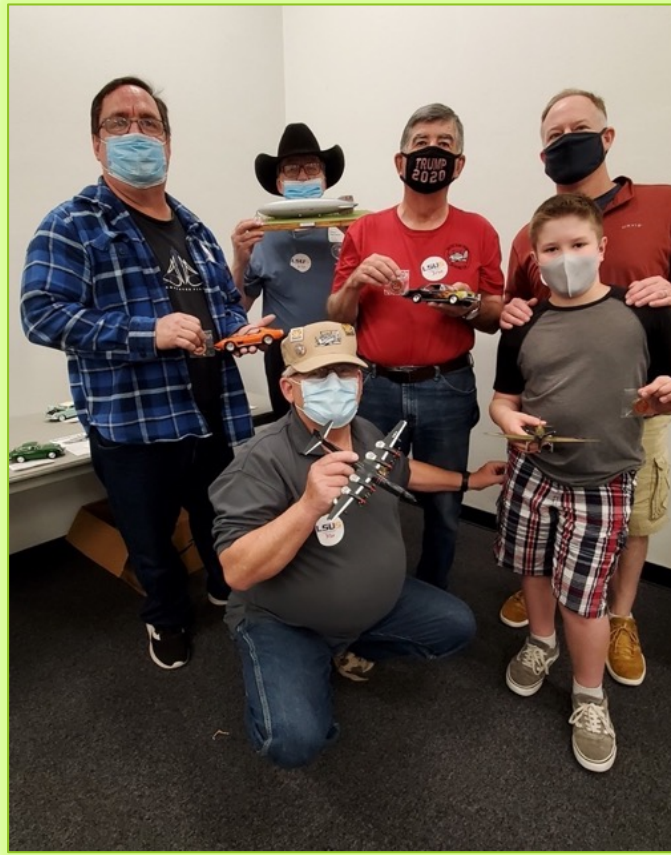
**Time:** 6:00 PM

**NOTE:** Masks and  
distancing are still in  
place

At press time, a video  
conference call setup  
may be in the process of  
being considered as an  
alternative venue for  
remote/online  
participants this  
Thursday evening.

Watch for an email  
announcement.





These are the Alamo Squadron members who attended the Regional in Louisiana last weekend.

**Keith Rule;**

Category 502 - Factory Stock: 2nd (52 Hudson Hornet)

Category 503 - Hot Rods/Street Machines: 1st (32 Ford 3 Window Coupe), 2nd (1966 Pontiac GTO)

Category 505 - Competition NHRA: 2nd (1966 Chevy Nova Super Street)

Category 506 - Large Scale: 2nd (1913 Mercer Raceabout)

Category 507 - Commercial: 3rd (Ford LTL 9000 Tow Truck)

**Eric Syverson;**

Category 213 - OOB: 2<sup>nd</sup>, FW190

1<sup>st</sup>, 1/32 Mig3

**Sam Syverson;**

Youth Aircraft - 1<sup>st</sup>, Hawker Hurricane

Youth Modeler - Best of Class

**John Kress;**

3<sup>rd</sup>, Hindenburg Zeppelin

**Mike Hintz;**

Factory Stock, 1st, LA Ferrari

Curbside, 2<sup>nd</sup>, McLaren 570s

Curbside, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Acura NSX

OOB, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Daniels California Corvette





A special shoutout to Samuel Syverson, Alamo Squadron youngest member, for obtaining the Best Young Modeler award at the **2021 RiverCon.**

He won Best Aircraft and Best Young Modeler.

# KUDOS!!





# Scale Models as Investment Assets

By Gerardo "Jerry" Escobedo

Investments. Market ups and downs. Bull Market VS Bear Market. Options, stocks. Selling... buying...

The world of money market is, in a mundane word, vast.

You'll never stop learning about it.

And you have countless of assets on which you can do your part on the investing world: equities, currency, commodities, bonds, real estate. But there is one more, one that sometimes it goes underrated: Plastic Model Kits.

And I'm not talking about buying model kit manufacturer's shares.

Indeed, after about 70 years of plastic models in the market (according to some documentaries, the plastic models from Aurora, Revell and Monogram started to hit the market in the late 50's and early 60's, with their startups on basements in the late 40's and early 50's), the plastic model kit commodity is something that only a handful of modelers are aware of: the return on investment for their kits.



Sir Peter Jackson with a Wingnuts model of the Pfalz D.IIIa

*The most expensive model kits in the market from a defunct model maker company??*

We can say, to begin with, that model kits are considered - by far of the population, not us plastic junkies - non-essential items. You cannot eat them, drink them nor wear them.

But they are assets, anyway.

What I've found is that scale model kits are becoming pricy, and that is because one main reason: manufacturers stopped making them.



I've seen re-injections of old kits and of old kits in new box designs, and they too get high ticket prices regardless. One example of that is the Millennium Falcon from Fine Molds (Japan), in both 1/144 and 1/72 scales. The 1/72 scale was released in 2006, but then Fine Molds lost their Star Wars license and sold their fine molds (pun intended) to Revell, who released the Millennium Falcon in 2015. So, even if it's the same mold, but with different boxing, name and plastic color (Revell is in cream colored plastic), the Fine Molds kit skyrocketed in price, so today, 2021, you can have your own at around \$400.00, and getting expensive by the day.

On the same channel, Fine Molds' Millennium Falcon in 1/144 scale doesn't get any cheaper. Right now, you can have your copy with around \$200. Revell also re-boxed it under its "Limited Edition" series, and that, too, is a good investment: \$180 at least (I didn't find any for sale in the USA, only in Europe).

Our hobby requires to spend... er... invest money. Many, many times we modelers need to pull money out



from our family's budget, and that means responsibility on how we spend that hard earned money.

And that is where business savvy enters: is that kit a good investment? Nah... we seldom think of that, and 99% of the time we buy a kit because one of these reasons:

- It's our core building subject.
- It's cheap - even if we don't need it or is not what we build.
- It's needed - regardless of the cost, we go down to the depths of our couches to find that last penny to pay for such an incredible model.
- It's on "sale", like in "because it's on the vendor's table" - specially at Model Fiesta or another modeling event.

The last reason would be that it is a good investment - we don't really need it now, we don't really build that subject, but oh yeah, it is like a NASDAQ stock: once in a lifetime opportunity.

But... really? How do you know?

Lately I found out that a model kit is a very good investment just when we find that eBay, Amazon or our dear local stores have the kit... at twice or thrice the price. Hey! What happened? Well, we can think of these reasons:





1. The model maker is out of business. Maybe it went chapter 9, or maybe the owners sold the factory, or maybe they got tired of it. I can think of Wingnuts Wing models, founded by Peter Jackson (Lord of the Rings, anyone?). There is a lot to say about WNW, but suffice to say that those kits, if they were expensive from the get-go, they are up to the clouds as of now (\$1,000 for the 1/32 Scale Gotha G.IV, from \$400 on May 2020 - not even Crypto currency is that aggressive!).
2. Loss of licenses. As I mentioned at the beginning of this article.
3. Loss of interest. One example is the Mexican modeling company LODELA. It started in the 60's with options for the pre-internet market in Mexico, and with a solid relationship with Revell Germany, and proprietary glue and paints. But then the owner died, and the family didn't want anything to do with the modeling company. So, they just pulled the plug.
4. Economic causes. Like anything else, a scale model company, its success or failure depends on the offer and demand fluctuations.

If you buy their models, they can continue doing them. If you don't, they stop their production. Even Wingnut Wings was a victim of this, regardless of their passion and love for WWI airplanes.

5. Not clear reason. We don't know if they are making it anymore, or if the company went south, or licenses went kaput; but we see that the model keeps on reaching prices never heard of. One example is some of the Bandai Star Wars models. I did some research and found nothing on what is the deal between Disney and Bandai, but Bandai stopped making many of those kits (if anybody of our valuable readers know, please email me). Example: Boba Fett model kit: once at \$25 or \$30 at the most, now you cannot see it for less than \$60.

So, what is your takeaway on this theme? Do you have any kits for the reason of investment? Do you plan to buy scale models as a means of investment opportunity?

Go ahead, and take a look at your stash, let me know what models you have that are now regarded as an investment asset. Send me photos and I will publish them in the bulletin for reference, and investment value!

Wingnut Wings 1/32 Scale Gotha G.IV New  
1 viewed per hour ★★★★★ 3 product ratings  
Condition: Used  
Price: **US \$1,100.00**  
\$46 for 24 months with PayPal Credit\*  
Best Offer:  
Ships from United States  
Shipping: \$38.75 Expedited Shipping | See details  
Item location: Temecula, California, United States

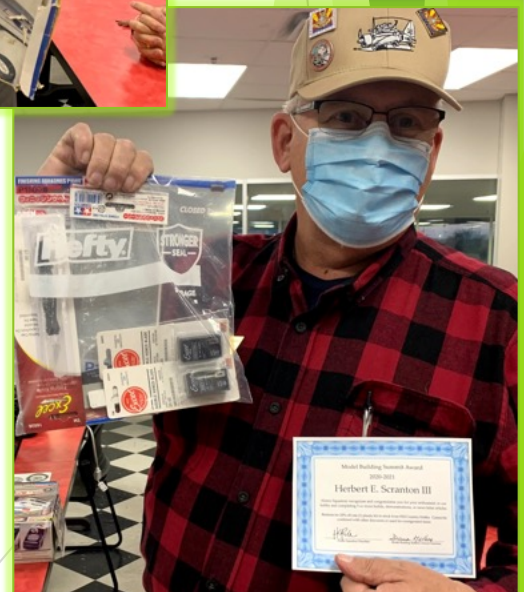
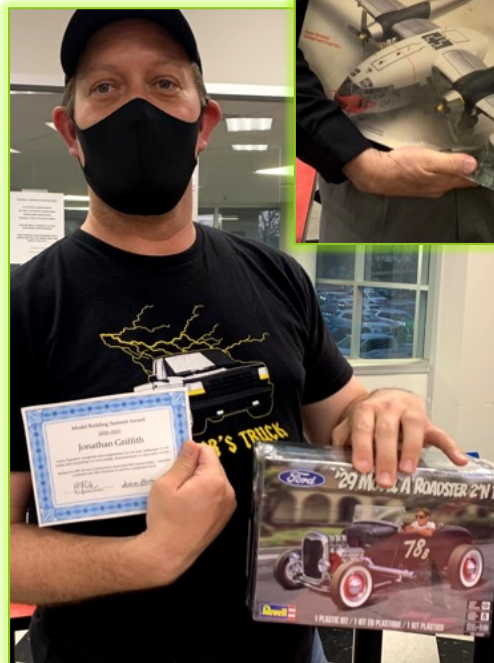
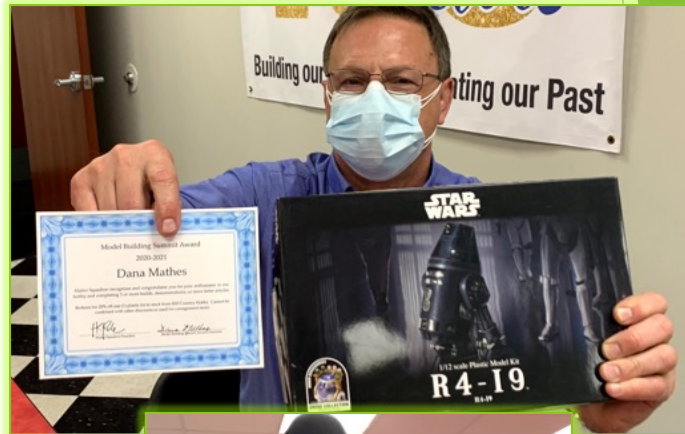


# MODEL SUMMIT WINNERS 2020-2021

These are the members that achieved points by building, review, and show models for 2020-2021.

Also those who contribute to the Alamo Squadron on newsletter articles, participation in Model Fiesta, demonstration sessions, and other club activities.

Prizes go from free models to 20% off at Hill Country Hobby model shop. Register for the 2021-2022 period on the next meeting!



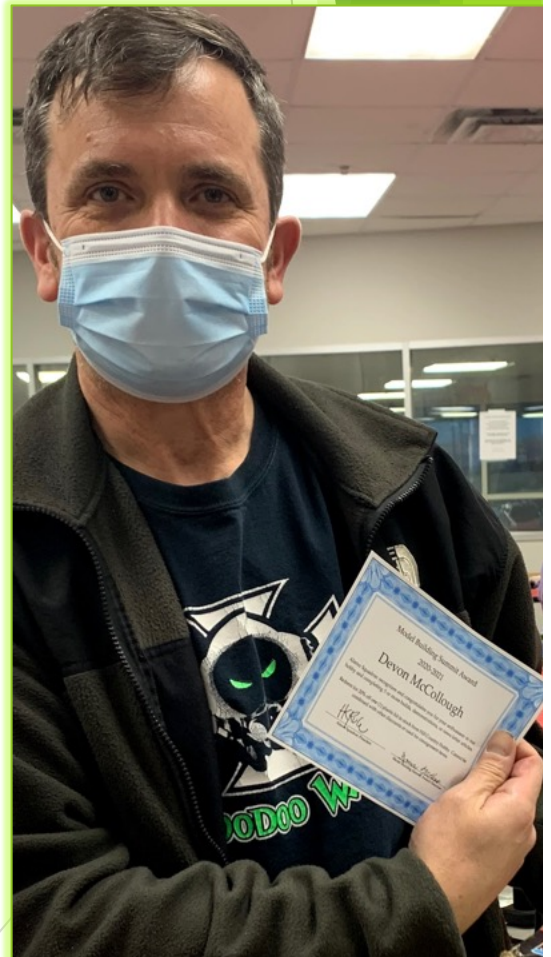
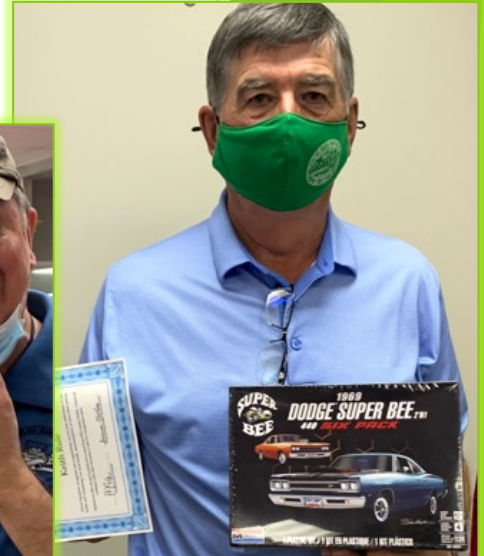




# MODEL SUMMIT WINNERS 2020-2021

## Winners:

- o Michael Buckley
- o Gerardo Escobedo
- o Jonathan Griffith
- o Charles Holsen
- o John Kress
- o Dana Mathes
- o Devon McCollough
- o Dick Montgomery
- o Len Pilhofer
- o Keith Rule
- o Herb Scranton
- o Don Weaver
- o Mark Verdi





# SHOW AND TELL

Jonathan Griffith demonstrating how to add super shine finish to your models.



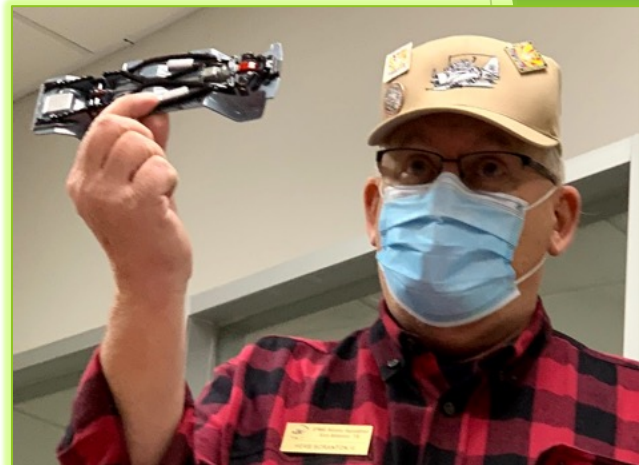
Mr. Griffith's 5-step process of super shinning models.







# SHOW AND TELL







# SHOW AND TELL





## In Search of Presenter Volunteers

As you know Alamo Squadron is resuming in-person meetings with the proper safety protocol. As you have seen from Keith's email, our meeting will take place at a new venue near Loop 1604 and US 281. That means that we have the opportunity to have demos again as part of our club meetings.

This note is an invitation for you to give a demonstration or lead a discussion of a modeling technique, a tool, research methods, painting techniques, or any other modeling-related topic you'd like to share with the club. Being hunkered down this year, there are bound to be many things the group has learned that can help the club advance its modeling skills.

If you'd be willing to present a 15-20 minute demonstration at a club meeting at one of the upcoming monthly meetings (Feb, Mar, Apr), please send a note back to me with a brief description of your topic.

Thanks for your consideration, Dana.  
[huskercat@gmail.com](mailto:huskercat@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Events

# IPMS Region 6 Events

All-new hyperlinks! Click them all!

Start Date	Name & Link	Contact	Location
May 8, 2021	<a href="#">ModelMania 2021</a>	Kenneth Jackson - <a href="mailto:KW.Jackson.1@hotmail.com">KW.Jackson.1@hotmail.com</a> (Their website has problems)	Stafford, Texas Region 6 - Southwest
June 12, 2021	<a href="#">OKCMetroCon 2021</a>	Richard Fisher - <a href="mailto:challenger@challenger-n-scale.com">challenger@challenger-n-scale.com</a>	Bethany, Oklahoma Region 6 - Southwest
July 24, 2021	<a href="#">Houston Automotive Modelers Society 14th Running of our Model Car Show and Contest</a>	Robert D. McQuown - <a href="mailto:robert.mcquown@sbglobal.net">robert.mcquown@sbglobal.net</a> (link sends e-mail) Event Website(link is external)	Spring, Texas Region 6 - Southwest



**August 18 - 21, 2021**  
**In the Fabulous City of**  
**LAS VEGAS**





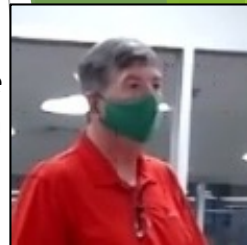
# Club Information

# Club's E-Board 2019-2020

**IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron:** The Club was founded in 1977 in San Antonio, Texas, for the enjoyment of building scale models and the camaraderie of the members.

The Alamo Squadron has been putting on 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 since 2013, the San Antonio Event Center.

President:  
Keith Rule  
rule1148@gmail.com



Vice-President:  
Dana Mathes  
huskercat@gmail.com



Treasurer:  
Christopher Settle  
csettle99x@yahoo.com



Photos by:  
Miguel Lopez & Jerry Escobedo



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

## ARTICLES!! ARTICLES!!

We need your writing skills for the newsletter!

All submission must be turned in by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to next month's meeting. Please, send your input to Jerry Escobedo:  
paperjerry3@gmail.com



## IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM

IPMS No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ If Renewing \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (required by P.O.): \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Membership ☐ Adult, 1 Year: \$30 ☐ Adult, 2 Years: \$58 ☐ Adult, 3 Years: \$86  
☐ Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17 ☐ Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals) How Many Cards? \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Canada & Mexico: \$35 ☐ Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order  
Payment Method: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order  
Chapter Affiliation, (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ IPMS No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**IPMS/USA**

Join or Renew Online at: [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org)

PO Box 1411  
Riverview, FL 33568-1411

The Alamo Squadron Newsletter is published monthly by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, for the information and enjoyment of the members of the 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 Jerry Escobedo:

[paperjerry3@gmail.com](mailto:paperjerry3@gmail.com)



## Support your Local Hobby Shops!

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



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[hillcountryhobby.com](http://hillcountryhobby.com)



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