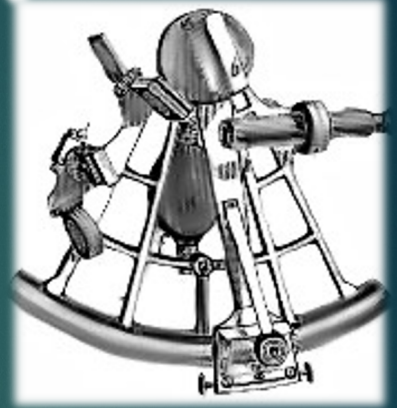


# The Navigator

July 2021



## MODEL FIESTA NEW HOME:

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS



JANUARY 8, 2022





2

# ***OUR NOT SO “NEW” MONTHLY MEETING SPOT***

Meeting:  
Jordan Ford  
13010 N Interstate 35, San Antonio,  
TX 78233

Date: Thursday,  
July 1, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

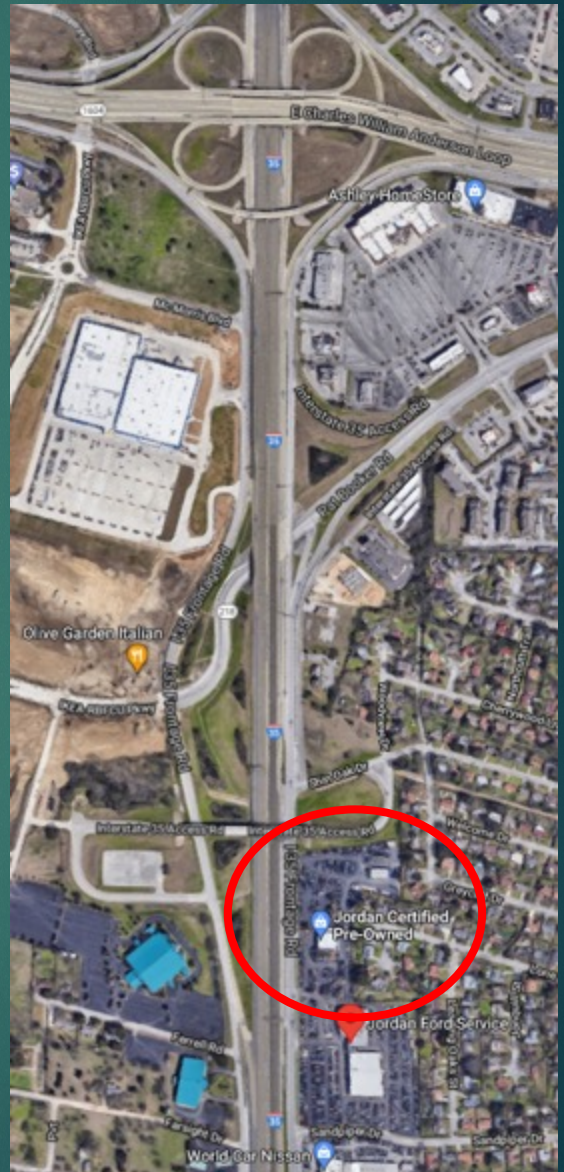
Demonstration: New Tool Discussion  
led by Eric Syverson

Model Contest Theme: 1939-1945

NOTE: Masks and distancing are still  
in place

At press time, a video conference  
call setup is considered as an  
alternative venue for remote/online  
participants this Thursday evening.

Watch for an email announcement  
for information over ZOOM .







3

# LEADERSHIP THOUGHTS

Your Executive Board (E-Board) has spent a great deal of time this past month responding to our contest venue situation. As you know, the venue we have used for the past several years was sold and is being re-purposed. Many club members suggested potential alternate venues. Special thanks go to Eric Syverson, Dick Montgomery, Rob Booth, Craig Gregory, Jerry Escobedo, and John Kress for the time they spent this past month visiting potential venues. The Model Fiesta Planning Team came to a unanimous decision and selected the **New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center** as the venue for our 2022 contest. Because of availability constraints, our date, January 8, 2022, will be earlier than usual. We feel that the quality of this venue will enhance the reputation of our club. It is well situated for attendees coming from outside San Antonio as it is right off Highway I-35.

The rental cost of the Civic/Convention Center is quite reasonable. We will only have access to parts of the facility in 2022 and 2023 due to prior scheduling. However, in 2024 and beyond we will have the entire venue to ourselves. We'll need to be creative as to how we use this venue that is smaller than what we have become used to, but I feel confident that we can continue to put on an excellent contest.

I hope you can join us in person or virtually for our next meeting on Thursday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. Eric will be leading a discussion concerning tools. Please bring in one of your most recent tool purchases to show the club.

Our monthly contest theme this month is "1939-1945." So, bring in those WWII subjects.

See you soon,

Dana Mathes

*Hum... nope, we won't decorate our Model Fiesta new venue as a "Quinceañera Fiesta"... or who knows?*







4

# INTERNAL CONTEST MODELS

Keith Rule's  
Space  
Shuttle  
Discovery in  
1/72 scale



Stan Spooner's  
Churchill 1/48  
Tamiya with  
custom storage  
and tarps



The 1/35 scale  
Saladin Armored  
Car by Dana  
Mathes



Chris McLain's TARDIS  
as a 3D printed kit

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5

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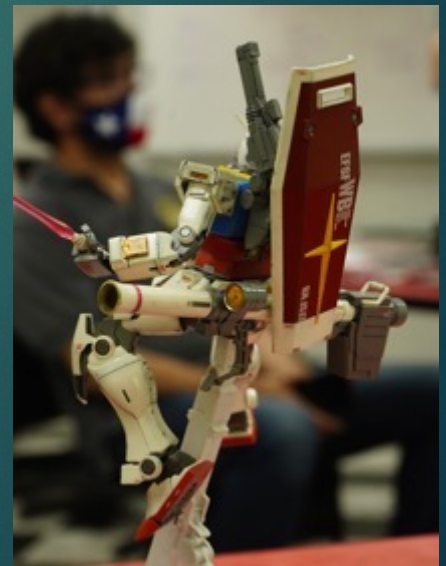
Messerschmitt  
Me-163 B in  
1/48 scale from  
Revell by Rob  
Booth

K.I.T.T in  
1/24 scale  
by  
Jonathon  
Griffith



Mr. John Kress'  
Tiger I in 1/48  
scale

Jerry Escobedo's  
Gundam RX-78-2  
The Origin in  
1/100 scale







6

# PERFECTION IN ITS PLACE

by Eric Syverson

I recently read an article by Dana Mathis titled Negative Modelling. It examines the large amount of time we can spend fixing "mistakes" or correcting things in a build, seemingly moving backwards trying to make things better. The conclusion was that the "negative" time is in fact "positive" because it's when we learn and better ourselves the most as modelers. It is a crucial time that can make our models much, much better. Our skill, he points out, is largely determined by the depth of the hole we can dig ourselves and the model out of.

But when does "negative modeling" become truly negative? Or can it? I wondered about this. I remembered a recent conversation I had with fellow modeler Len Pilhofer. It began something like this: "Len, I really need to figure out a way to build more models. It's the only way I'll get better. I'm spending too much time on the stuff that most will never notice. I'm not experiencing several builds a year like others seem to manage with ease."

Yes, I am a slow builder. One per year if that. I want things to be exactly as I want them to be. So much so that I really take my time fixing things. Fixing things that are inaccurate. Fixing things that lack detail or realism. Fixing my mistakes. Fixing things I did that just aren't good enough to satisfy the vision of what I set out to accomplish. Things that maybe a judge wouldn't like either. I really won't move on from a piece or step until it is just so.

There are those that have it really bad though. They have something called the Shelf of Doom. A model just isn't cutting the

mustard. The enjoyment starts to wane. They "temporarily" place it on a shelf. They move on to another model entirely! And the same thing happens! Again and again and again!

And dare I say it? There are those that have it really really bad. Yes even worse if you can believe it! Perhaps you have suspected they exist in your own club. They never seem to have anything on the Works in Progress (WIP) table. They never seem to start anything. It looks nice in the box. Perhaps they have concerns that their work might be subpar. They're taking a break even. But just until they learn enough to be ready to start so that the next build will be able to meet their expectations and the expectations they suspect or expect others to expect! Expectations!

Do you identify with any of this at all? Truth be told, I see a part of me in all three examples, so please don't take offense because absolutely none is intended. My motives are pure! So if you identify with this at all, read on and maybe heal thyself. If not, read on anyway and be amused at those of us that suffer negative modelling to the point of perfectionism. Maybe together we can put perfection in its place.

## Len's Response

Len's response was so simple and quick. No hesitation. It was like he knew I was going to ask the question. His response: "You need to know when to stop. You need to set your goals with a build, with a step. What you want to accomplish. What you want to learn. Then move on. That's it." Well no duh thanks Len.

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7

Now in all actuality that was not my reaction but I do suspect some readers will respond that way. Perhaps their loss! Sometimes the truth, the solution, is so simple that we miss it. Even when we hear it. And I think Len nailed it. I thought about what he said on the drive home and I've thought about it much since. Lets take a look at some of the implications of what Len said. Maybe it can bring more freedom and enjoyment to modelers that have the perfection bug.

### Perfection is not Necessarily the Enemy

The major implication of Len's advice, for me at least, is that perfection is not the enemy if you know it's your goal and it's what you want. But how many of us even sit down and take inventory of our goal(s) before we start a model? How many of us begin a model with perfection in mind and don't even realize it? I do. Do I even want perfection to be the goal? Do I want it to be the goal every time I build? That just sounds exhausting. Time consuming. Un-fun. My point is, who sets out shooting for perfection every dagum time when it's not even achievable and not even know they're doing it? Perfectionists do. I've done that a lot.

I'm not saying that we shouldn't shoot for perfection. What I am saying though is if we do, it should be a calculated goal, understanding that it is not achievable, understanding the time and effort required, and perhaps not do it with every model. It will be slow. But with this approach and understanding, it may be a bit less frustrating. Perhaps we'll enjoy the journey more. Perhaps we'll enjoy all of it.

### Perfection is Not Achievable

I mentioned above that perfection is not achievable. How can we "know when to stop" or "move on" if we're shooting for something that isn't even achievable? Perhaps excellence is a better goal for a model? Excellence is achievable. You know it when you see it too! But it is not perfect.

Make excellence the goal for a model, for a step, for a part, instead of perfection. This may speed things up a bit and bring a bit more joy to a build. Heck, what you see as excellent someone else may see as perfect. We are our own worst critic after all.

I know that the pursuit of perfection yields amazing results, but this hobby is also about the journey. Changing the mindset a bit could help put perfection in its place. Shoot for excellence, not perfection.

### Different Models, Different Goals

I always build 1/32 WWII aircraft. I always embark on one build at a time with the largely nebulous and unconscious goal of perfection. That was me. But I am changing my approach.

Yes I am still working on one 1/32 WWII aircraft and the goal is perfection but I'll accept excellence now. This is the model that I want to be a show stopper. That's my plan anyway. And it can take as long as it needs and I don't care. I'm going to redo things and repaint things and not worry about the time it's taking because it fits within its goal. It is a conscious goal now. I have weighed the commitment and I'm ok with that.

But now I am also working on a 1/72 resin concept plane with vacuform canopy and metal undercarriage. Few parts and new mediums and gloss paint. The goal for this build is just to learn and have fun!

Finally, I am going to start my first wood ship model, a 1/48 Model Shipways that was a gift. As soon as fall hits and the garage cools down to start a small wood working area where I can sand and cut wood. Another new medium, the goal for this one is to learn as much as I can as a newbie shipwright! I am reading about building wood ships now and enjoying it!





And finally, finally, I am going to build the venerable Revell USS Arizona with my 11 year old as a fun fun fun project.

And finally, finally, finally I might try a weekend build or maybe a month long weekend build. An oldie but goodie that fits pretty good and learn some rigging along the way. Maybe paint only after major assemblies are together. Something to bring to a show with no expectations. That might be fun. Or maybe just start something else when it looks fun to do so.

Now, if you had asked me last year if I would be working on more than one model, or building anything other than a 1/32 WWII aircraft and trying to make it perfect, I would have said you are crazy.

#### Knowing How to Start

Does a degree of perfectionism keep you from your bench? Do you have to be in the perfect mood? Do you have to be at the perfect energy level? Does it have to be at a perfect time of day when you're at your best? Do you need to have a perfectly good working area? Do you not have the perfect tools? The perfect subject? The perfect ventilation? The perfect paint? The perfect airbrush? Have you not finished all your other responsibilities fully first?

Is any form of perfectionism keeping you from your bench? Let me ask you something: Do things have to be perfect for you to go to work everyday?

Here's the great irony: I go to work everyday and produce, often doing things that I wouldn't do if I didn't have to, but I do it because it is work, and yet I can't get to the bench as often as I want even though I want to do that work and I have the time to do it. Why? I mean, I'd rather be modelling. But I can go to work everyday and produce but can't get to my bench and produce?

There will never be a perfectly good time to model.

I'll say it again: There will never be a perfectly good time to model.

Even when you're retired I'd bet.

There is a perfectly good time to go to work. Like, every time I'm supposed to. Even if things aren't perfect. It's scheduled. It's expected. Whether or not things are perfect to do so is really not even a consideration. So why is it a consideration with work that we want to do, as in modelling?

So schedule it. Kinda like work is scheduled. Do you see where I'm going with this? Schedule your bench time as if it's work. Only this is work you want to do. And know that the only thing that will make it the perfect time to model is that it is scheduled.

Going forward I'm not going to wait for the perfect time to model to go to my bench. Going forward I'm going to treat modelling as work. Work I want to do. It will be scheduled, just like all other work I do. Only this is way better. Because this is work I want to do.

#### The Perfect Summary

I would venture to guess that we all struggle with perfectionism in modelling to one degree or another. From the build to just getting to the bench, perfectionism is getting in the way of the fun and enjoyment that we knew when we were kids doing this. It is a great regret I have with my 11 year old - that our perfectionism as a community has him looking at his builds in a way I never did when I was his age. This is largely my fault. All my stuff has had to be perfect and so he thinks that "this is the way". I wonder how much fun he is really having, and how much more fun he could be having.

So bring on the Revell Arizona. We're going to schedule build time. We're going to have fun. We're both going to learn. The build won't be perfect but the time together surely will.





9

# SHOW AND TELL

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Chris McLain

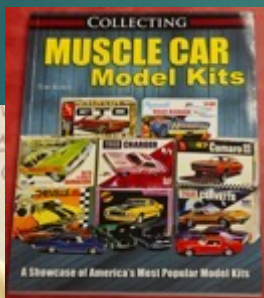


Don Weaver



Chuck Blair

John Kress



Herb Scranton





10

# SHOW AND TELL



**Jerry Escobedo-Sainz**



**Craig Gregory**



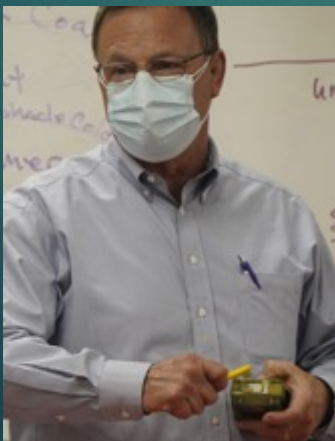
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**Brett Scholten**



**Rob Booth**



**Dana Mathes**





11

# MEMBER'S SHOWCASE

Alamo Squadron had a large turn-out of members at the Houston model show and received 16 awards.

The following members attended the show; Rob Booth, Jerry Escobedo, Mike Hintz, John Kress, Herbert Scranton III, and Charles Stone. The following members also attended and received the following Awards;

Mike Holsen

2nd Place, Fictional vessel/vehicle, Girl on Flying Cycle

3rd Place, Military Vehicle, Fully Tracked, No Interior, 1936-1945, 1/35 scale, Airfix Steward Honey Tank, British

Dick Montgomery

2nd Place, Figures 120mm & Larger, Roman Gladier

Eric Syverson

1st Place, Miscellaneous, Inside a Biplane

Sam Syverson

2nd Place Category 900, Juniors, 1/48 Scale Hawker Hurricane

Keith Rule

3rd Place, Category 101, 1913 Mercer Raceabout

2nd Place, Category 103B, Porsche 935

3rd Place, Category 105, 33 Willys Coupe

2nd Place, Category 105, 32 Ford 3 Window Coupe

2nd Place, Category 106, 66 Pontiac GTO

2nd Place, Category 108, Bugatti Royal Napoleon

1st Place, Category 108, 48 Cadillac Lowrider

1st Place, Category 110, 56 Ford F-100

3rd Place, Category 111, White-Freightliner & Trailer

1st Place, Category 111, Ford LTL 9000 Tow Truck

BEST OF AUTOMOVE- 56 Ford F-100

Several of our members helped out with the judging and everyone I talked to said that it was a great show and had a good time.

Cheers

Herb Scranton III

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12

# MEMBER'S SHOWCASE

Also, I have some contest results to report. I competed in the OKCMetrocon contest in Oklahoma City, OK last weekend. My results are below. I had two best of class awards and have attached the photos.

1/32 Jets: F-4D Phantom II, 2nd

Trucks: Granddad's Pickup: 1st, Best of Class - Automotive

Armored Vehicles (judged with the AMPS System)

- Lanchester Armored Car, Gold Medal (Advanced), Best of Class - Armored Vehicles

- Chieftain Tank, Gold Medal (Advanced)

- Hypothetical SPG, Gold Medal (Advanced)

Dana Mathes







13

# MEMBER'S SHOWCASE

## Results from the Northshore Scale Modelers Expo held in Covington, Louisiana

This contest was held on June 26, 2021 at the American Legion Hall in Covington, LA by the North Shore Modelers. Normally this contest runs about 200 models. This year, almost 400 models were entered. Modelers came from as far away as the Florida panhandle and central Texas. Dick Montgomery and Dana Mathes from our club attended. Their results and photos are as follows:

### Dick Montgomery

1/32 and Larger Props - 2nd Place, Pfalz D XII

### Dana Mathes

1/32 and Larger Jets - 1st Place, Best Aircraft, F-4D Phantom II

1/35 Closed Top AFV - 1st Place, AAVP7A1 Amtrac

1/35 Armored Cars & Halftracks - 2nd Place, Lanchester Armored Car

Trucks - 1st Place, Granddad's Pickup

Sport, Torpedo, Patrol Craft - 3rd Place, River Assault Boat

Thanks,

Dana Mathes



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# IPMS VOTING IS OPEN

14



Click on the IPMS logo to vote!

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For members of IPMS/USA:

Voting for the IPMS E-Board is now open. Don't worry, you have plenty of time. Voting terminates on the last day of August.

The first order of business is to find your IPMS membership card and to check the expiration date for your membership. Make sure it is valid through August 2021. If you don't know either of these data points, I can help you to recover that information. You can view the "Candidate's Biographies" here:

<https://voting.ipmsusa3.org/page/2021-candidate-biographies>.

You can cast an electronic ballot here: <https://voting.ipmsusa3.org/content/voting>

Traditionally, the next IPMS Journal to reach your mailbox should contain a paper ballot which can be mailed in. A third path to casting a ballot is available to those who are attending the

upcoming IPMS National Convention in Las Vegas. There will be an opportunity to cast a paper ballot while you are at the convention.

For **Alamo Squadron** members, there are two candidates who will be familiar to you. **Len Pilhofer** is standing for the Presidency, and **Rob Booth** is standing for the position of IPMS Secretary.

Len and Rob are supporting John Bonnani for the position of 2nd Vice President. So what we have here are the Three Musketeers!

As the Alamo Squadron Chapter Contact, and as a former IPMS Officer, (3 offices actually) I have some familiarity with the offices and the responsibilities placed on those who hold office. If you have questions of this nature, please feel free to ask me.

Please, PLEASE, PLEASE be sure to cast a ballot well before the voting deadline!

Dick Montgomery  
Alamo Squadron  
Chapter Contact







15

# PRESIDENT LEN PILHOFFER



Click on the IPMS logo to vote for Len!

While I am a recent member of the society, I am a life-long modeler with memories of gluing plastic together when I was as young as 6 years old. The biggest frustration as a young modeler was not having the resources to learn how to improve my techniques. Beyond just experimenting with what I had on-hand to improve my modeling, there was nowhere to turn. After a twenty-plus year career in the U.S. Air Force I settled down, quickly got back into scale modeling, and discovered IPMS/USA. When I attended a local show and a few of the chapter's meetings I quickly realized what a fantastic resource this is for expanding my skills. I have a passion for learning new styles and techniques to improve my modelling as well as passing on what I have learned to others; be they seasoned experts or a beginning modeler. It is this desire that interested me in joining IPMS/USA as I see the society as a large classroom where modelers can learn from each other. This vision is motivating me to run for the office of President of this great society.

If elected, I will approach the office of President with a view of how to improve the learning environment of local meetings, shows, and the national convention. I want to ensure that when a member leaves an IPMS event they say to themselves that it was worth attending because they learned something new in the hobby. What can the national IPMS/USA organization do to help local clubs promote this learning environment? In addition, what can the organization do to improve the annual national convention to promote learning in scale modeling? I wish to pose these questions to the national executive board should I be elected as well as pose these questions to the membership at large. The executive board will take these recommendations, see what is feasible, and execute.

In addition to fostering a better learning environment my experience as a national convention chairman left me with many ideas of improving the process from bidding to planning and executing. There are many aspects of the national convention that can be streamlined and taken on by the national executive board. This will decrease the burden on local clubs and in-turn, hopefully increase the number of clubs willing to step forward to host a convention. There are many parts of the country that have not seen a convention in many years and some that have never hosted one at all. I, along with other members of the executive board, will take a deep look at what can be improved in this regard.

Thank you for your time and I humbly ask for your support in the upcoming IPMS/USA national elections.



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16

# SECRETARY ROB BOOTH



Click on the IPMS logo to vote for Rob!

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My name is Rob Booth. I recently retired as a Director of Preconstruction Services, capping a long career as a Project Manager and Estimator in the commercial construction industry. Like the process of building a scale model from a kit, my day job consisted of producing a unique, high-quality finished product from many differing components according to a set of illustrated instructions that were not always sufficient for that purpose. A key to success in those efforts was the ability to clearly communicate and document the process, like what is required of the IPMS/USA Secretary.

I have been an IPMS/USA member since 1994 when I joined Alamo Squadron, the San Antonio chapter. I remain an active chapter member and served as the chapter President in past years. My certification as a Qualified Nationals Judge was earned in 2013. I was nominated by Alamo Squadron for consideration as the first IPMS/USA Member of the Year in 2019, for which I am very humbly proud. I was awarded that distinction at the 2019 Convention in Chattanooga. I'm also a founding member and currently the President of IPMS-Tex Hill – the Texas Hill Country Scale Modelers. I actively participated in the preparation of two bid proposals to host the IPMS/USA National Convention, including the postponed 2020 "Come and Make It" Texas Nats, now re-scheduled for 2023. I serve as the Awards Coordinator and the Decal Coordinator and serve as a "behind the scenes Co-Chair" to assist Convention Chairman Len Pilhofer whenever and wherever necessary to pull off that event.

I, and others from that team decided to step up and campaign for positions on the IPMS-US E-board to try to improve the Nats Convention bidding and hosting process, and contribute to the betterment of the Society. I believe the Secretary has an important role to play in assembling and documenting that information with the rest of the E-Board to ensure continued success and improvement. Thank you for your consideration. I will act on and appreciate the confidence of your vote.







17

## Upcoming Events

# IPMS Region 6 Events

All-new hyperlinks! Click them all!

Start Date	<u>Name</u>	Location
Saturday, June 26, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Northshore Scale Modelers Expo</u></a>	Covington, Louisiana
Saturday, July 24, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Houston Automotive Modelers Society</u></a>	Spring, Texas
Saturday, September 25, 2021	<a href="#"><u>21st Annual Sprou-Doo "Across the Sea and Stars"</u></a>	Jacksonville, Arkansas
Saturday, October 2, 2021	<a href="#"><u>2021 Capitol Classic</u></a>	Austin, Texas
Saturday, October 9, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Cajun Modelfest 34</u></a>	Baton Rouge, Louisiana



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18

# Club's E-Board 2021-2022

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## Information

**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:

Dana Mathes

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



Vice-President:

Eric Syverson

[esyver@zoho.com](mailto:esyver@zoho.com)



Treasurer:

Christopher Settle

[csettle99x@yahoo.com](mailto:csettle99x@yahoo.com)



Photos by:

Miguel Lopez & Jerry Escobedo

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







19



**IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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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.: \_\_\_\_\_

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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:  
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20



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