

# The Navigator

January  
February  
2023



LEE WASHBURN

MODEL OF THE YEAR WINNER



<http://alamosquadron.com/>



# *OUR MONTHLY MEETING SPOT*

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

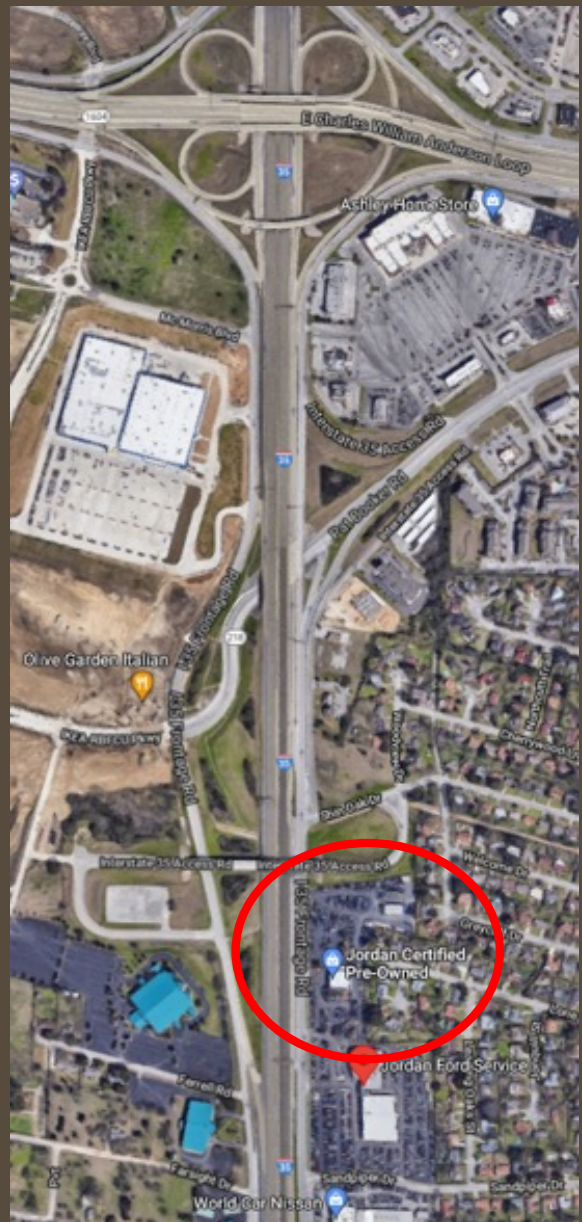
Date: Thursday,  
FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Demonstration: Judging Clinic part 2  
by Rob Booth

Model Contest Theme: OPEN

NOTE: Masks and distancing are  
OPTIONAL



# LEADERSHIP THOUGHTS

Congratulations go to Lee Washburn for winning the 2022 Model of the Year (MoY) contest with his 1/8 scale, scratch built model of the destroyer USS Pope. This was the 19th year the club has held the MoY contest, and the quality of the models gets better every year. Congratulations to all of the folks who placed in the 2022 monthly contests.

I hope you had the opportunity to read the latest edition of the IPMS/USA Journal. Our own Michael Buckley's article about his remarkable International Space Station build, "Orbital Alignment," was published as a four page spread. Well done, Michael!

Modelfiesta 41 is now only two weeks away. February 11 promises to be a great day for the club and the modeling community. The preparations are nearly complete. Based on the response to date, we will again have a very full vendor room and over 300 model kits in the raffle.

Please be sure to pre-register your models by Friday, February 3. See Modelfiesta.com for details. It is

easy to do, and it will save you time and money. We will also have a pre-registration station for your convenience at the February club meeting. So, if you would like assistance with pre-registration, bring in your completed model summary form and folks will assist you.

The election of the 2022-2023 club officer positions will take place in April, with nominations being made at the March meeting. The office of the President will be open. In addition, the ModelFiesta Contest Director role is also open. Please consider taking on a leadership position in our club.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 3. Bring your models for the WIP discussions. Rob Booth will lead another judging clinic in preparation for MF41. We will again be testing the trial judging protocol. The monthly contest theme is "Open." It promises to be a good time indeed!

See you soon,  
Dana Mathes





Members of the Alamo Squadron gathered at the New Braunfels Convention Center to make the initial preps for ModelFiesta 41.



# Model Fiesta Prep

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# MODEL FIESTA 41 INVITATION

IPMS San Antonio invites you to start the 2023 IPMS/USA Region VI contest season with ModelFiesta 41. It will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at the New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center (NBCC).

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Model contest registration: 9:00AM to 11:30AM with judging commencing immediately after registration closes.

Awards ceremony will begin at 3:30PM.

## Important Updates

We are making some significant changes to this year's contest due to scheduling constraints for the facility. As you may recall, during the Covid period our former venue was sold, and we had to relocate our event to the NBCC on short notice. Because events at the venue are scheduled several years in advance, in 2023 and 2024 we will not have access to the entire facility as we did in 2022. Another party will be using part of the facility on Feb. 11. The timing of the other event will not hinder our access to parking, but it will require that our participants exit the building earlier than normal. We will retain the same space for our vendors that we had in 2022, but our space for the contest will be constrained. Therefore, we are making changes to be able to conduct the contest in a smaller area.

1) We strongly encourage you to pre-register your entries. Please go to →

<http://www.modelfiesta.com/#registration>

Pre-registration will be open from November 21, 2022 until February 8, 2023. Our on-site registration will be done in the NBCC's lobby this year, so pre-registration will help to minimize crowding.

2) On-site Registration will close earlier, at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. The judging will then begin, and the contest room will be closed during the judging period. We plan to begin the awards ceremony at 3:30 p.m.

3) The contest category list has been condensed and simplified. The contest rules have been changed to clarify the definition of legacy kit builds. Please review the new contest categories and contest rules at:

<http://www.modelfiesta.com/#categories>

4) We are limiting each contestant to only one entry per category. Please note that this rule is in effect BEFORE the judges apply any split(s) to any given category. This is a good opportunity to build in categories you might not normally consider.

We want everyone to have a great time at ModelFiesta and we appreciate your help to manage this situation. Here are some important reminders.

**Safety.** Given the spread of the highly contagious COVID virus, please take prudent health safety steps for your safety and the health of others. Masks will be optional. We will have sanitizer stations for you to use throughout the day. If you are experiencing any COVID symptoms or have recently been exposed to someone known to have the virus, please consider postponing your visit until ModelFiesta 42 in 2024.

**Food.** There will be no food or drink sales at the venue. Restaurants and bakeries are within walking distance of the contest.

**ATM.** The facility does not have an ATM machine, so plan your cash holdings accordingly.

**Vendors.** Vendor registration will open on October 1, 2022. Vendors may set up on Friday evening, February 10, from 6-9 p.m. or on Saturday, February 11 beginning at 6 a.m. Club members will be available to help vendors unload their vehicles. Due to our facility constraints, vendors will need to be packed up and exit by 3:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Additional information is available at

<http://www.modelfiesta.com/#vendors>.

**Raffle.** We have over 50 model kits, paint sets, tools, and books in our raffle. Some of these kits are the latest releases from Tamiya, ICM, Takom, Bandai, and Aoshima. Raffle tickets are \$5 each.

**Donations.** Alamo Squadron is collecting kits, modeling supplies, and reference materials for US military veterans. Please consider a generous donation. A Models 4 Troops bin will be available for your donations.

**More Information.** Additional information regarding ModelFiesta 41 is available at <http://www.modelfiesta.com/#home>.

We look forward to seeing you at ModelFiesta 41

**Dana Mathes**  
**President, IPMS San Antonio**



# MODELFiesta PRE-REGISTRATION AT THE MEETING

## ATTENTION MEMBES!

A the February 2 meeting, we will have a couple of computers ready for you to pre-register the models you are going to enter to ModelFiesta.

This is a pilot to test the viability of having a near all-electronic registration process in the future.

Please bring the information of the models you want to enter, and we will help you in the process of pre-registering them.

IPMS Alamo Squadron  
**ModelFiesta**  
Model Registration Summary Form (MRSF)

Contestant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ IPMS #: \_\_\_\_\_

ModelFiesta Staff Only  
Contestant Number: \_\_\_\_\_

ID	Category	Scale	Model
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			
I			
J			
K			
L			
M			
N			
O			

Alamo Squadron MRSF ver 1.5  
Additional phone numbers are required if the model is to be entered in the competition after the show. Please provide  
IPMS Alamo Squadron



# JUDGING CLINIC BY ROB BOOTH



Towards a Better  
Judging Process



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# MEMBER'S ARTICLES AND MODELS IN NATIONAL MAGAZINES

Our own Michael Buckley's article about his remarkable International Space Station build, "Orbital Alignment," was published as a four-page spread in the current IPMS Journal. Well done, Michael!



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# MODEL OF THE YEAR CONTEST

USS Pope 1/8 by Lee Washburn



Renault "Alpine" 1/24 by David Auth



1992 Mustang "Summertime" by Jonathon Griffith



Hawker 800A 1/72 by Mario Fernandez

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M4 Sherman Ealy 1/35 by Chris McLain



FW-190 V-12 Kanguruh 1/32 by Rob Booth



Bekins Moving Tractor & Trailer 1/25 by Keith Rule

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# Three at a Time

**By Keith Rule**

It's not unusual for me to have two projects going at the same time. But I got over ambitious and had three going at one time: Italeri's 1/25 scale Lamborghini Miura, Tamiya's 1/20 scale Tyrrell Yamaha 023 Grand Prix Racer, and Revell's 1/25 scale '49 Mercury Special Edition kit. I will not bore you with the common building processes involved. Instead, I will attempt to entertain you with some of the more interesting and challenging things that happened.

## **Italeri's Lamborghini Miura**

The first thing I do with a kit is go through the instructions, cut parts off the sprue, check fit, glue halves together, and do mock-ups. This gets me familiar with the kit. It also reveals problems and challenges. The problem with this kit was headlight fitment. These headlights lay flat, which is typical of sports cars. When the base for the headlight unit and the headlight itself were mocked up, the clear headlight lens was not close to fitting. After some experimentation, I ended up scratchbuilding the pocket for the headlight unit.

Another thing I do after reviewing instructions, cutting parts, and checking fit, and doing mock-ups, is write my own instructions supplementary to the kit instructions.

What I'm really doing is building the kit in my mind, finalizing color selections, and making a set of steps to completion. Once this is finished, I have a document I can trust. I am no longer questioning my next step to completion.

This kit included a representation of the engine, but I decided to build it curbside. While writing my instructions, I decided on a base color of MCW (Model Car World) Bright Green Metallic Enamel with MCW Black Enamel racing stripes and MCW Silver Enamel pinstripes down the center. A friend from the Lake Charles club suggested that I try MCW paints and I have been using them exclusively for body airbrushing ever since. MCW also makes a 2K Enamel Clear Coat that is the best clear coat I have ever used outside of the risky 2K automotive clear coats that require excessive protection and ventilation (i.e garage only, gloves, goggles, and ventilator).

I have quit using Bare Metal Foil for extensive chrome trim. It's a pain and I think Molotow Chrome looks better. I decided on black window trim for the Lamborghini, which I masked and airbrushed with Tamiya Semi-Gloss Black Acrylic Lacquer over the MCW 2K Clear Coat.

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## Tamiya's Tyrrell Yamaha 023 Grand Prix Racer

This is the first open wheel racer I have ever built. I chose a Tamiya kit because of their reputation for excellence. I found two Youtube videos building this kit. These provided much information about the build and the extra details that could be incorporated into my own instructions. I added wiring, a few scratchbuilt parts, and some photoetch trim and engine supports.

Now for the best part! Being a Tamiya kit, the instructions called out Tamiya Acrylic Lacquers for the blue and white paint scheme. I had the dark blue, light blue, and white in stock so I thought "Great. I'll use those paints". After masking and airbrushing the paint scheme, I decided to put all the decals under the MCW 2K Clear Coat that I have come to rely on. The first light coat sealed the decals. The second coat was heavier attempting to build up the gloss, but the 2K clear coat caused the underlying acrylic lacquer to reactivate, ruining the finish and the decals! Oh my! An internet search found an aftermarket replacement set of decals by Indycals. Now I could proceed with the brake fluid bath and the subsequent

preparing of body parts for repainting. I ordered MCW Enamels for the new paint. The Indycals were excellent. I even used them for the light blue and black/white stripe graphics at the cockpit. These went under the clear coat, but the remainder of the decals went on top of the clear coat, carefully cutting each individual letter whenever possible.

The hardest parts was cutting and shaping the windshield from acetate. After several failures, I was able to get the right shape and curvature. The curvature was achieved by wrapping the flat acetate around a pencil size rod and dipping it in hot water. This takes some experimentation. The windshield is held in place with some carefully place CA.

The only other notable thing about the build is the extensive use of aftermarket carbon fiber decals from Scale Motosports. These are plain sheets of carbon fiber requiring several hours of making patterns and cutting and fitting. The carbon fiber decals were sealed with the 2K clear coat.







### Revell's '49 Mercury Special Edition

In the model car world, this is an iconic kit. The chopped top and extra custom parts make this kit an excellent subject for a street rod or custom build. I had never built this kit, so now was the time to build an early model street rod. After reviewing the kit, I again wrote my own instructions supplemental to the kit instructions.

I often look at on line photos for inspiration. This led me to scratchbuild from .020 sheet styrene the polished metal side trim separating the MCW Blue Fire Enamel and Pearl White Enamel paint scheme. The polished metal finish is airbrushed Molotow Chrome set aside for 10 days and sealed with Special S-02 Chrome Sealer. The pinstriping on the hood and trunk are from the kit and are

under the MCW 2K Clear Coat. The chrome window trim is masked and airbrushed Molotow Chrome.

The engine compartment and interior are detailed to the max. The steering wheel and interior and exterior door handles are aftermarket photoetch. The air cleaners are also aftermarket.

As with all my models, the door panel lines are applied with a .20 Rotring Isograph Pen and black watersoluble ink.

Hope you enjoyed,  
Keith Rule



# SHOW AND TELL

Rob Booth



*Alamo Squadron members in action!*

Don Weaver



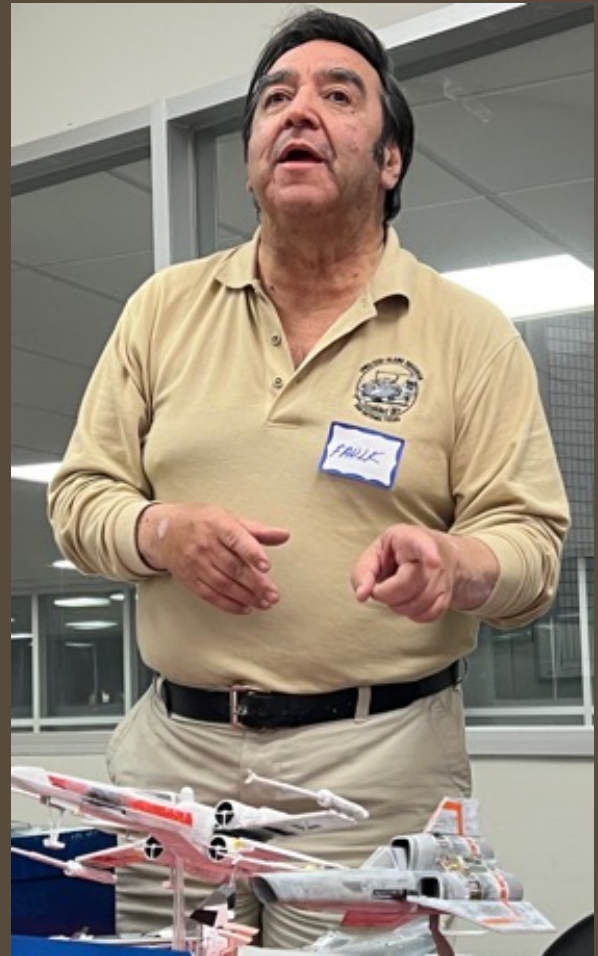
David Auth

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Kent Knebel



Rene Faulk



Devon McCollough



# Work in Progress Table







# Work in Progress Table

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# alamo squadron on youtube



It's here!!

The Alamo Squadron YouTube Channel...

With meeting talks, seminars, demonstrations, and more!

Watch our first video... **NOW!** Just CLICK on the image below, prepare some popcorn and enjoy!



The first video features Lt. Col. Mark Verdi (retired) with the seminar that gave us on the November meeting, about Modern US Armored Vehicle Details, part 1.

Edited by our own Webmaster, Mario Fernandez, Mark talks about some hidden details on American armor vehicles (well... the things that he is ALLOWED to tell anyway!). Way too interesting for armor and non-armor modelers alike.

Be sure to LIKE, SUBSCRIBE and click on the Notification Bell for more seminars, talks, demonstrations and other fun activities of the Alamo Squadron Modeling Club in San Antonio, Texas!

Again... click on the photo, or click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwiR92TVZWg>

Gerardo "Jerry" Escobedo  
The Navigator Editor<sub>19</sub>



# “Never Get Off The Boat”

**Tamiya 1/35 PBR  
Mk2 Patrol Boat  
River  
by Michael  
Buckley**

In the movie “Apocalypse Now” after a terrifying encounter with an Asian tiger in the jungles of Vietnam, and upon his mad dash to the River Patrol Boat for which he served as crewmen, “Chef Hicks” played by Frederick Forrest screamed this memorable phrase “**Never get off the Boat**” to his crewmates, later to be repeated by “Capt. Willard” played by Martin Sheen, in a dramatic voice-over. The phrase now has vernacular meaning — **Don't step out of the proven, trusty path.**

This model was built with an 18 hour time expenditure under an absolute deadline for my son Christopher's birthday present.

The Tamiya kit has as expected superb fit and parts detail, with the exception of the very spindly supports Bimini roof — maybe scaled correctly but really need structural rigidity as they are easily broken with the slightest touch. Beyond that, the detail and humor in some of the parts including three bottles of beer, miniscule binocular set, well detailed grenade rifle, and a superb 50 caliber machine long barreled guns, are to be commended. The possible exception are eight-piece scale figures. Why eight pieces were required for each of four crew I can't imagine, and large gaps are inevitably the result of fitting their arms to reach up the machine gun handles.

The overall paint scheme was hand painted first - then overcoated with my trusty Iwata to correct that mistake. Successive lighter tones and some inspirational other colors hopefully provided the worn patina such a craft would achieve on the muddy Vietnam riverine environment in which it was expected to perform. With basically jet ski engines the PBR had shallow draft could turn very quickly but as it was made of fiberglass, had little firefight armor and was easily shot up by the guerrilla tactics of the Vietcong.

My completed model is certainly not competition material with some obvious alignment and gluing errors but is a faithful replica of a prototype fighting vessel concept—which along with its lessons learned in combat and given the emphasis on littoral combat in today's Navy — ought not to be forgotten.





Stern gunner's 50  
Cal + mate loading  
Rifle Grenade

Stern oblique with  
Ammo boxes  
scattered on floor  
with Binoculars atop  
gas can —look for it



Bow Twin 50's  
and hi-power  
searchlight in  
front turret.  
Stern single 50-  
cal pedestal and  
Grenade auto  
launcher below  
flag



## ALAMO SQUADRON

The San Antonio Chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society

### WELCOME

This is the home on the web of Alamo Squadron, the San Antonio chapter to the International Plastic Modelers' Society. Discover the many models, activities and events the club is happy to build, support, organize and promote.

Established in 1977, the Alamo Squadron is a social organization in which all modelers and modeling interests are accepted and invited to join in the fun and enjoyment of making models, as well as the camaraderie of helping others enjoy this wonderful hobby. We are proud to have served the Central Texas community for over 45 years, as well as supporting other hobby clubs in Texas, Mexico, and the Southern United States by cultivating and promoting a general interest in the scale modeling hobby.

Please feel free to browse through our resources and visit us at one of our monthly meetings as well.



[NAVIGATOR](#) | [MEETINGS](#) | [ABOUT](#) | [NETWORK](#)

**BULLETIN  
BOARD**

**MEETING  
MINUTES**

**NEXT  
MEETING**

# Whole New Website

By Mario Fernandez

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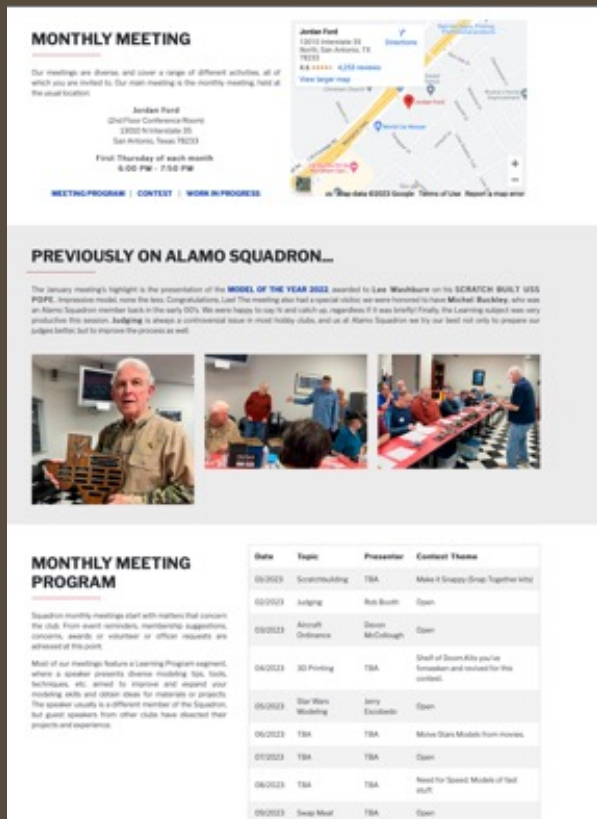
Fifteen years ago, I was a young, naive, and energetic 24-year-old college Junior, who wanted money for his own and decided to get a job. I was analyzing my options – the usual: waiting tables, call centers, etc. when a classmate of mine heard I was looking for a job and was about to quit his. He thought it was a good idea to recommend me as his replacement. Only problem was, he was a full-blown wizard in Adobe FLASH and an experienced webmaster for an up-and-coming marketing agency.

I was hired on the spot and realized an hour into the job that my classmate had left saying that If he was a wizard, I was Gandalf. Hardly. I had barely web mastered a handful of sites in my junior High days. However, all of them were either personal projects or dumb things a young teenager would post (back when there were no cell phones, let alone social networks) – not websites for an actual marketing agency. I decided to keep my mouth shut and punch the gorilla in the mouth. If others can do it, why can't I? I did have some experience as web master, after all. Yet, my main motivation was a chip on my shoulder.

A couple of years earlier, I was fired from another job. Bad. So bad, in fact, that the employer escorted me out the door. As an immature youngster I blamed it on their lack of support. My mother had none of it and told just about everyone I was laid off because I was lazy. At some point, it clicked. I wasn't lazy. My attitude was. And I decided that it would never – EVER – happen to me again. Three years later, I was as a graphic software engineer, specialized in web design and head webmaster for that marketing agency. I left in '09 to pursue my actual career – flying. I became a Commercial Pilot and have been flying ever since. Fast forward to today. I moved to San Antonio, and immediately tagged up with Alamo Squadron. I've been a regular Model Fiesta participant since '04 and always thought it was hard for me to even sniff an award here. Just like before, I learned to change my attitude – this time towards model building. I wanted my models to look as good as the ones here, regardless of build duration or who's judging – starting with myself. I like to think I've gotten close to that level, but there is always something to learn, something to try.

So, when the position of Volunteer Webmaster was requested in an Alamo Squadron monthly meeting, I jumped on it. It was a way not only to give back, but an opportunity to get back in the mud – and most importantly – to catch up technologically. At this point I would like to thank Dana Mathes, Len Pilhofer, and the rest of the E board for the opportunity. Len showed me the ropes of the site and handed me the keys right away. To my surprise, the website structure and programming was EXACTLY at the point where things were starting to head to back in '09 when I left. Therefore, the immediate learning curve was non-existent, but the website's future would have a steeper one.

The screenshot displays the Alamo Squadron website. The top section features 'MODELFIESTA 41' with a large image of a model airplane and 'AWARDS' listing winners for 1998, 2003, 2004, 2017, 2021, and 2022. Below this is the 'New Braunfels Club/Connection Center' address and date 'February 11, 2023'. The middle section promotes 'The Navigator' newsletter, showing its cover and a list of past issues (2002-2008). The bottom section is titled 'MEETINGS' and includes a photo of a group of people at a meeting.



I decided to first put my toes in the water with the <http://www.modelfiesta.com> website. Back in the agency we brainstormed by browsing multiple website templates.

This eliminates the tendency of wanting to duplicate somebody else's and allows you to target specific things that you want yours to have. Once these are selected, determining the size of the site is key. Sometimes, the elements you want to use aren't ideal for the size of your website. For instance, an artist portfolio website has very little text, while a company's needs to have just the right amount. An Event website? That needs to have ALL of it. And since Fiesta – the San Antonio festival means Party – I decided to make a very dynamic website, utilizing the Fiesta colors, but restricting the dynamics for graphic elements only.

At this point, the curve began to steepen. Thankfully, my younger brother – a non-Modeler, non-Aviation, my Polar opposite, yet able of mutual telepathy guy – who has his own IT company was kind enough to troubleshoot me whenever I ran into a wrinkle. And, after the Modelfiesta website, he said “why don't you try THIS?” He showed me Bootstrap Version 5.0, which is the newest framework for building responsive, mobile-first sites. It is SO new in fact – less than a year old at the time of writing this – that half of the elements from previous versions are still being adapted or replaced. With this it was time to go for the Alamo Squadron website. The process was similar, look around for templates, determine the site map, select what information to combine, what to split up, etc. I wanted this site to be as close to an executive company website as possible, but at the same time maintain a fun and dynamic feel to it. After a month's work, it is completed and launched just before New Year 2023.

I am thankful for the opportunity to help – not just to Alamo Squadron, but others to fulfill their goals. There's always a model subject you haven't tried. A project you never dared to start. A goal you never thought you could do. Yet it all starts with taking that first step. Like **Dick Montgomery** once said to me “Even Rembrandt started somewhere...and look at how his work turned out!” Sometimes, all we need is a little push. Or a shove, like my mom once did to me. Yet, you can't argue with the results. I am happy and proud of being a part of this and look forward to help any other way I can. like Mr. Lennon and Mr. McCartney famously said:

*“And in the End, the love you take is equal to the love you make.”*



# Club's E-Board 2021-2022 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.



[Alamo Squadron Facebook CLICK HERE](#)

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Vice-President:  
Devon McCollough  
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Treasurer:  
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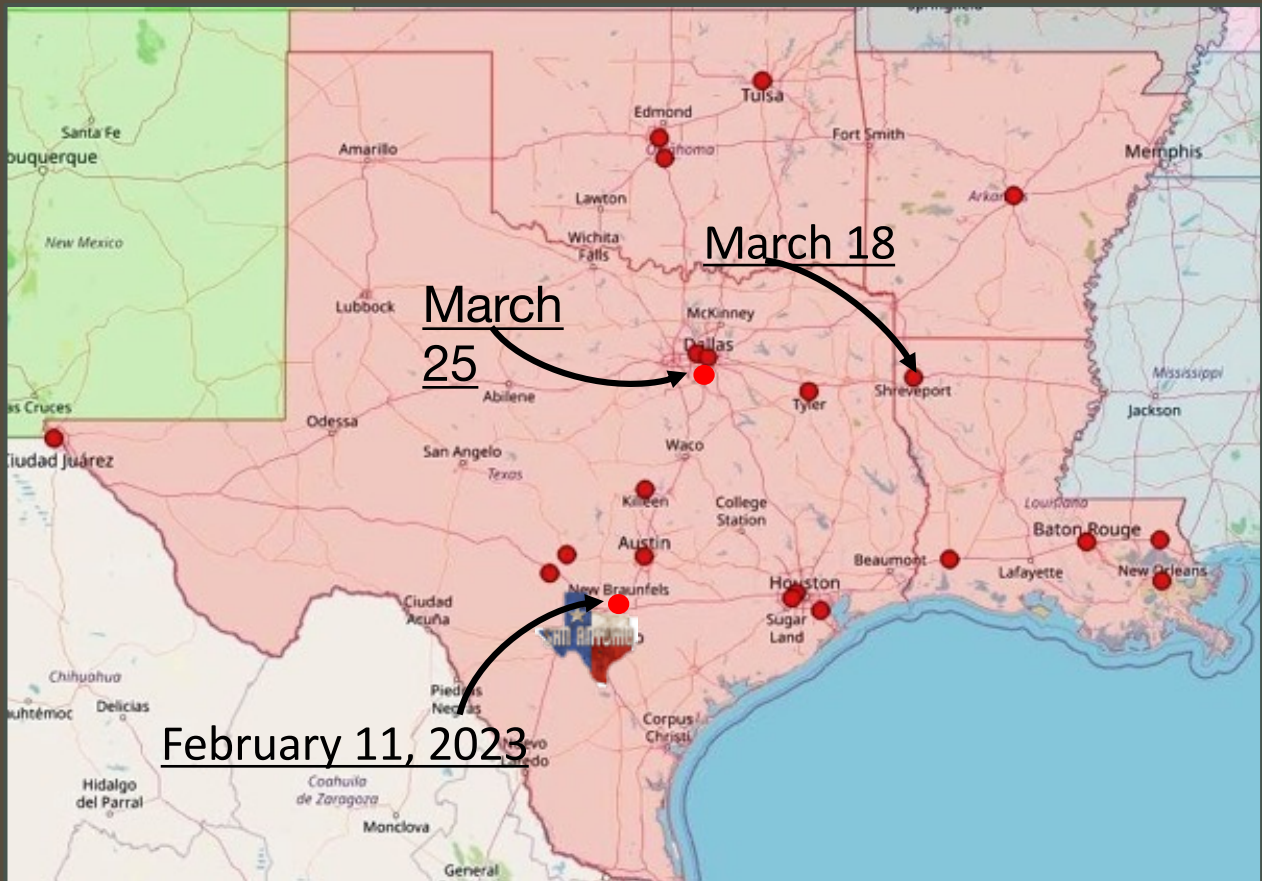
Editor:  
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# IPMS Region 6

## Events

**Click** on the date on the map to go to the event website!



CLICK HERE!








The Alamo Squadron Newsletter is published monthly by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, Texas, 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)

## IPMS Membership


**International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA**  
**Membership Application / Renewal Form**

New ☐ Renewal ☐ IPMS #:

Name:

Address:

City:  State:

Zip Code:

Phone:  E-Mail:

Chapter Affiliation, if any:

<b>Junior</b> (17 years or younger)	\$17.00	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Date of Birth: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
<b>Adult</b> One year	\$30.00	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	
Two years	\$58.00	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	
Three years	\$86.00	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	
<b>Canada &amp; Mexico</b>	\$35.00	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	
<b>Foreign</b> Surface	\$38.00	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	

**Family** (1 set of Journals)  ← Adult fee + \$5.00 # of cards?

Your Signature:

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:  
 Name:  IPMS #:

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Cash ☐ Amount:

Check ☐ Check #:  Amount:

Billing Address, if different than above -

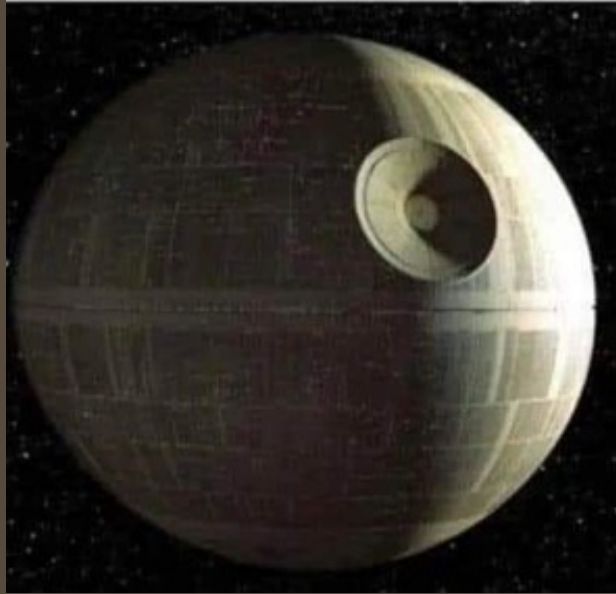
Address:

City:  State:

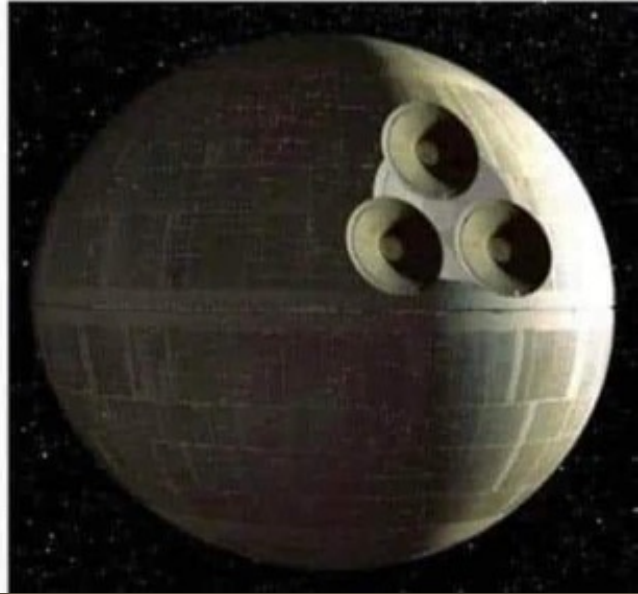
Zip Code:

Applications should be printed and mailed to: IPMS/USA, PO Box 1411, Riverview, FL 33568-1411

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