

THE NAVIGATOR

The Official Newsletter of the Alamo Squadron Modeling Club

April 2024

President's Corner - By Keith Rule



Spring is upon us. Let's keep those model building spirits at a high level.

The election of the 2024-2025 club officer positions will take place in the upcoming April meeting. The nominations made at the March meeting are **Keith Rule (me); President, David Auth; Vice President, and Don Weaver; Treasurer**. Nominations can still be made at the April meeting. If elected, this would be my second year as President, David's first year as Vice President, and Don's third year as Treasurer. With a service limit of three years, Don will have fulfilled his service next year, and Alamo Squadron will be looking for a new Treasurer.

The criteria for officers as described in our Constitution and By-Laws document is as follows:

1. The individual must be an active Life or Adult (dues current) member who has been a member of the club for at least one year.
2. The individual shall live within a 150-mile radius of the Alamo Mission.
3. The individual must display the ability and willingness to discharge the duties of the respective Executive Board position.
4. The individual must be a current member of IPMS USA and remain so during the term of office on the Alamo Squadron Executive Board or join

IPMS USA prior to the date upon which the election for office of Alamo Squadron is conducted and remain a member of IPMS USA during the term of service on the Alamo Squadron Executive Board.

5. The individual must be an active model builder.
6. Members shall serve no more than three consecutive terms as an officer (either elected or appointed), being eligible for additional service after at least a one-year hiatus.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday, April 4, starting at 6:30**. I remind you that the meeting has been moved from Jordan Ford to a new location at 2411 Pat Booker Road, Universal City, TX 78148. This is Jordan Ford's ancillary facility. Please remember to bring your own chair. I will be presenting a demonstration on "**Decals and Carbon Fiber Decals**".

April means it is time for the **Model Summit Award** drawing. If you have accumulated the necessary points in our Model Summit Program by building models, writing articles for the Navigator, and serving the club, you will have the opportunity to draw kits, tools, and supplies.

The monthly contest theme is **Open**.

See Ya', **KEITH**

this issue

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By Lee Forbes, IPMS/USA 2297

Model Fiesta XV Commemorative Decal

This past December 2023, our Chapter Contact, Brett Scholten, was contacted by a Bill Gilman who lived in England, and was seeking information about the ModelFiesta XV Decal that depicted the P-38 “Fatty PattyAnn” flown by then Captain, and later Major, Robert McDermott, 429 Fighter Squadron, 474 Fighter Group, 9th Air Force, during WWII. Bill was seeking information about that decal on behalf of Scalemates.com. Brett contacted Dick Montgomery to ask if he had a copy of the decal, and Dick referred him to me. Not only did I have two copies of the decal, but I had a lot to do with the research behind the decal.

ModelFiesta XV was held at the Live Oak Civic Center, Live Oak, TX on Saturday, February 17, 1996. At that time The President of Alamo Squadron was the late Phil Sanders, who incidentally was also the Contest Director for ModelFiesta XV. I was still employed at United Services Automobile Association (USAA) here in San Antonio. I

can't recall exactly how it came up, but Phil asked me what I thought about creating a commemorative decal to be given to all registered contestants who entered models at the upcoming ModelFiesta XV. I told him that it might be a good idea, but who would pay for such a venture? His response was

that he knew someone at SuperScale International, Inc. and would contact them to see if he could get them to sponsor the decal. At the time Super Scale was one of the leading aircraft decal companies in the plastic modeling world. Before he contacted the

company, we discussed what airplane and pilot we wanted to feature in the decal. After evaluating a number of possibilities, I suggested my former “Big Boss”, Robert McDermott, the immediate past President and CEO of USAA. He had flown the P-38 in WWII and was in the 9th Air Force that operated primarily on the continent after D-Day and they didn't get all of the “press” that the 8th Air Force did in England. We agreed that we'd go with General McDermott's P-38

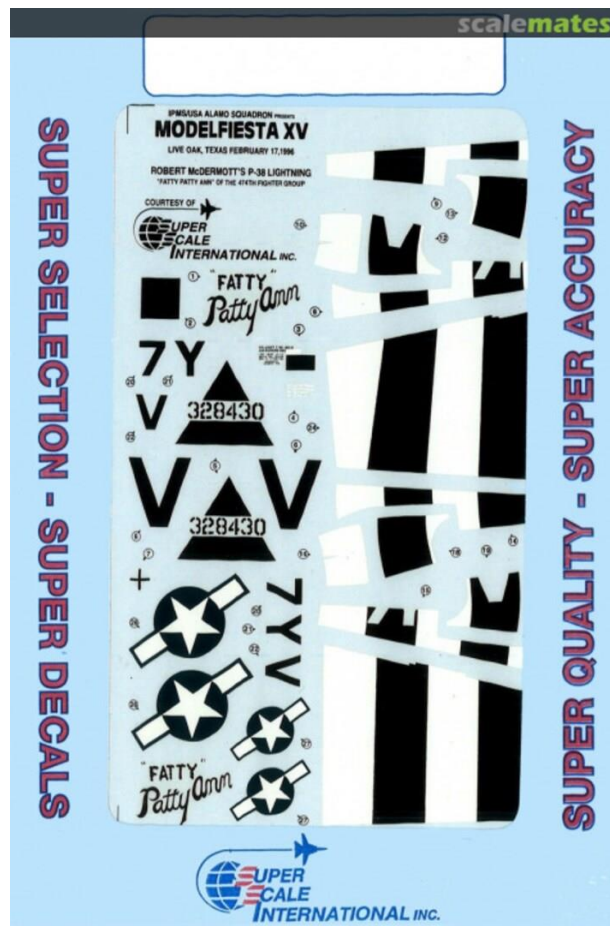


“Fatty Patty Ann” named after his firstborn daughter. He was still very active in community and civil affairs in San Antonio, and he had a lot of name recognition both within and outside of the State of Texas. We also agreed that the decal sheet should be in 1/48 scale because that was the predominant scale that aircraft modelers were building in at the time. It was further agreed that I would contact General McDermott and present our proposal to him and hopefully gain his approval and gather the necessary research on his P-38 for Phil to present to SuperScale International Inc. management and hopefully sell them on sponsoring the project for ModelFiesta XV.

As a sidebar, several years before General McDermott retired as President and CEO in 1993, he had remodeled his USAA Office and he wanted to have a model of a Wright Flyer to display in it. His Executive Officer, who knew that I was a plastic aircraft modeler at the time, contacted me to determine if I could build a model of the Wright Flyer for the “Boss” and it was needed in less than two weeks prior to a Board of Directors meeting. I knew that I couldn’t do it in that amount of time, so I contacted Dick Montgomery and asked if he knew of anyone in Alamo Squadron who had a model of it or had the time to build it. Dick

knew of a founding member of Alamo Squadron, Phil Frizzell, who had a model of the Wright Flyer (rigging and all) in his collection. To make a long story short, I contacted Phil and persuaded him to part with it for \$300.00 for General McDermott’s credenza and delivered it to General “McD” personally and he was very appreciative. In fact, we talked for about 30 minutes, and he told me all about flying his P-38 “Fatty PattyAnn” in WWII and having a few close calls. That was the only time when I worked there that I had any “one-on one” time with General McDermott.

Now back to the story of the ModelFiesta XV decal. One of the “perks” that General “McD” had as Retired President and CEO of USAA was a private office complete with personal staff, driver, and security at an off-USAA location in San Antonio with emphasis on security. Once again, I contacted my friend who was the Executive Officer to the new USAA President and CEO and obtained the details on how to make an appointment with General McDermott to discuss the ModelFiesta XV decal proposal. After being vetted I met with him several times to obtain background from his personal flying records and photographs of his P-83 from different angles showing the camo and personal



markings. It was a new P-38J model and was finished in natural metal with late war national markings, and D-Day Invasion stripes on the top and bottom of the wings and the bottom only of the twin booms. The Squadron markings and his personal markings were black. The only other colors were the olive drab anti-glare panel in front of the windscreen and medium blue spinners and gondola nose cap. When I arrived for my first appointment with him, he immediately recognized me as the guy who had procured the model of the Wright Flyer for him, and it was still on display in his office. Needless to say, he was very supportive of the proposal and fully cooperated by providing me with the information and photographs necessary to create a decal sheet. The additional appointments were to get his final approval of the biography that I prepared to accompany the proposed decal, and just chat. He loved talking about his service in the 474th Fighter Group on the continent until the end of the war.

Once I had obtained all the research material and photographs necessary to create a decal, I turned everything over to Phil Sanders for his use in contacting whoever he knew at SuperScale International, Inc. My part in the project was concluded. I never knew who Phil contacted at SuperScale nor had any idea what Phil said, or didn't say for that matter, but whatever he did say must have been convincing. We'll never know what he promised because he's no longer here to ask him, but SuperScale International Inc. came through and a couple of months before ModelFiesta XV, they shipped to Alamo Squadron one box of decals in their standard 6"X 9" blue envelope packaging sized box. It was about 10" tall so you can

guess how many decals were provided and they donated the cost of production, and it didn't cost Alamo Squadron a penny.

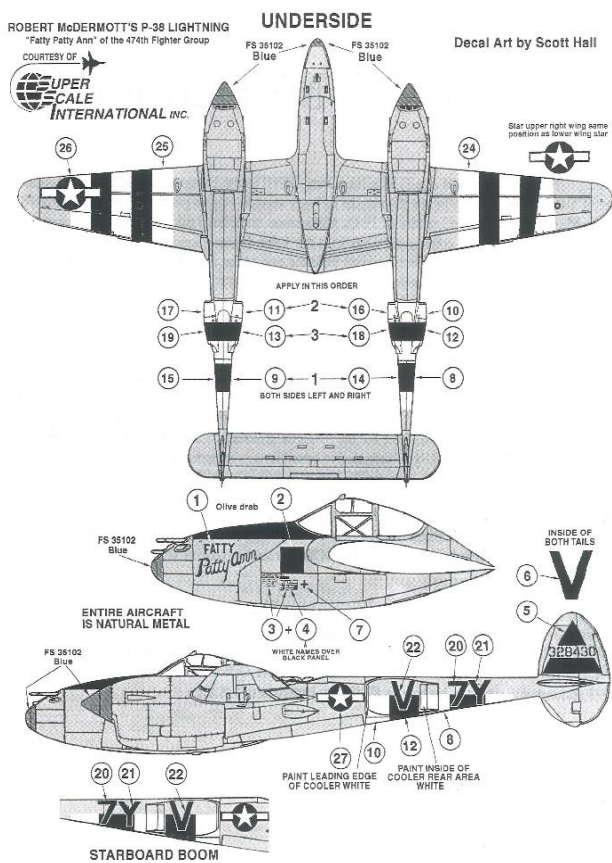
Incidentally the blue envelope packaging did not contain any number or identification of the decal. The identification was printed on the decal itself. We provided all ModelFiesta XV registered contestants with a copy of the decal and had enough for at least another ModelFiesta after that. The remaining decals left over were given to interested Club members. I pulled off two copies that I kept all these years and generally forgot about them until Brett Scholten contacted me this past December.

Following the conclusion of ModelFiesta XV, Phil Sanders built a model of General "McD's" P-38 "Patty PattyAnn" and I made arrangements to have it mounted on a walnut base, complete with a brass inscription, and Phil and I made a final appointment with General McDermott to present the model to him at his office. He was extremely grateful and became emotional upon receiving the model from us. We also provided him a dozen copies of the ModelFiesta XV decals. He proudly placed the model on his credenza right next to the Wright Flyer that I procured for him years earlier. Several years later I made some repairs on General McDermott's damaged P-38 model, but that's another story.

Now it's time to tell the rest of the story in near real time. After Brett contacted me and learned that I had two copies of the ModelFiesta XV decal we agreed to meet so that he could scan each component of the decal: General McDermott's biography, the decal instructions, the actual decal, and the SuperScale International, Inc. blue envelope

packaging. He emailed me the scans and I, in turn, forwarded them to Bill Gilman in England and he received them just before New Years and was very appreciative for receiving the decal scans. In my acknowledgement to him, I asked if he could provide me some background on Scalemates.com and how he learned about the ModelFiesta XV decal. That resulted to a series of e-mails between us in which he provided me with several interesting facts about the organization he represented and the story behind his interest in the ModelFiesta XV decal.

Belgium. The initial idea was a 'Facebook for Modelers,' but it has evolved into much, much more than that. It is a huge database of all things related to modeling (kits, detail sets, decal sheets, paints, tools, books, brands, shops – you name it. Currently it has over 550,000 entries). There is a Facebook-like social media stream. It also has a fantastic stash manager. Tim and some others in Europe do the coding of the site, but the data is contributed by modelers like you and me, in much the same way as Wikipedia entries are created. It's amazing. To date, I've made 86,514 entries or edits to the Scalemates data base (It keeps track). I'm the 8th biggest contributor. (It keeps me out of the bars. Well, most of the time.) You must be a mate (member) of the site to contribute or maintain an inventory of your stash. But that is easy – and it is free. I encourage all modelers to join up and take advantage of its resources. Here is the FAQ page to learn more: <https://www.scalemates.com/faq.php>.”



“Poke around on the site and you can learn more. As far as the ModelFiesta XV decal sheet goes, there was already an entry for it by someone else, but the accompanying photo was not good. I did some searching and found your club associated with that event and sent an email to see if anyone could provide a better photo or scan. And you did – thank you!”

“The finished entry on Scalemates for the ModelFiesta XV decal sheet can be viewed here:

<https://www.scalemates.com/kits/superscale-international-modelfiesta-xv-robert-mcdermott-p-38-lightning--745454>”

The following are some selected extracts from Bill's emails that you may find interesting:

“Now, about Scalemates-it's not my website, I'm just a contributor. Scalemates was founded by Tim Vereecke, a modeler in

I hope you found this article interesting, because as far as I know Alamo Squadron is the only IPMS Chapter to ever create a commemorative decal sheet in conjunction with any of its hosted Region 6 model contests. It's hard to believe ModelFiesta XV

was nearly 28 years ago, but as they say, "Time passes fast when you're having fun!"

Lee

Robert F. McDermott

Robert F. McDermott served as a P-38 pilot during WWII in the European Theater of Operations -- one of his many challenges in his 25 years of military service. Upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in January of 1943, McDermott completed pilot training and was assigned to fly combat. He flew 61 combat missions with the 429th Fighter Squadron, 474th Fighter Group, and the Ninth Air Force from March of 1944 until the end of the war. During this period he was promoted to Captain and then Major serving as the Group Operations Officer. His aircraft, "Fatty Patty Ann," was named in honor of his first born daughter, Patricia Ann, and is the subject of this commemorative decal sheet.

The group landed at RAF Warmwell, England, March 12, 1944; Neuilly, France, August 12, 1944; St. Marceau, France, September 2, 1944; Peronne, France, September 9, 1944; Florennes, Belgium, October 1, 1944; Strassfeld, Germany, March 31, 1945; and Langensalza, Germany, April 22, 1945 until the end of the war in Europe. The Group flew it's first combat fighter sweep over France on April 25, 1944. It also provided cover for the invasion crossing on June 5-6, 1944. After moving to the Continent in August, 1944, it participated in operations in support of ground forces. The Group bombed and strafed such targets as airfields, hangars, railroads, bridges, highways, barges, ammunition depots, fuel dumps, gun emplacements and troop concentrations. The Group received a Distinguished Unit Citation for a mission in France, August 23, 1944, in support of a joint air-ground against retreating German forces in the Falaise-Argentan area. McDermott received the Bronze Star and Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters for his service with the 474th Fighter Group in WWII.

He retired from the Air Force as a Brigadier General in 1968 and began his second career at United Service Automobile Association (USAA), becoming President in 1969. Under McDermott's leadership, the relatively small, San Antonio based insurance company grew to a world class financial services company. He retired as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board in 1993 and remains active in his role as Chairman Emeritus of USAA.



By Keith Rule



This kit has been in my small stash since 2020 with a note on the box “missing headlight lenses”. I checked the kit and everything seemed to be there. Headlight lenses from the spare parts box fit just fine. I don’t remember where the kit came from.

Initial mock-ups revealed two basic problems; 1) the rear wheels were too far forward rubbing against the wheel opening, and 2) the kit provided no way made to mount the windshield to the body. The modeler was supposed to just “glue it on”. The wheels are aftermarket, so they would require some fabrication to mount them. While doing this, I was able to mount the wheels slightly off-center to the axle “pushing” them to the rear. I thought about pinning the windshield to the body with short pieces of staple but couldn’t figure out a good place for the pins. The room for error drilling pins into the windshield frame and body was too small to risk. In the end, I simply attached the windshield frame to the body with 1 mm two-sided tape. It’s the same tape I use to install windows and windshields.



Other highlights include [House of Kolor](#) paint, [Model Car World Finishes](#), open trunk, hood scoop and roll bar from eBay, and scratch built interior door panel covers and floor mats.

Shelby Cobra Instructions

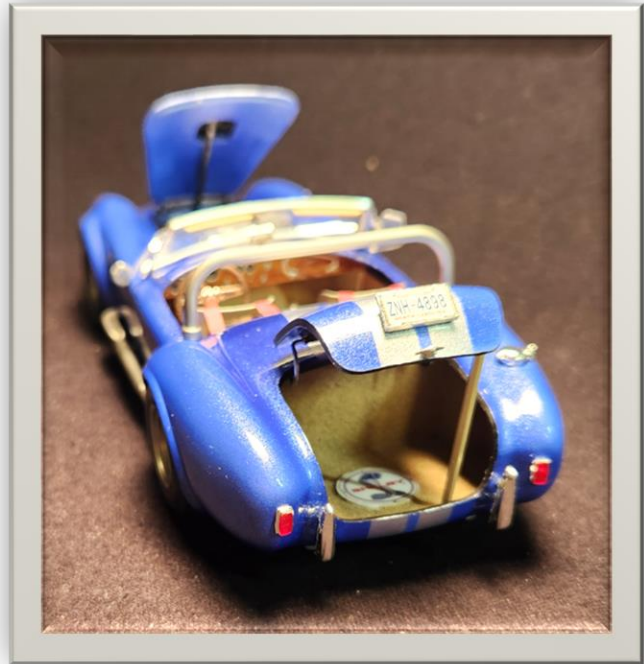
Review online photos for ideas and inspiration.

1. Mock-Up body components, check fit to interior, chassis, etc.
2. Airbrush test spoon with one half HOK Orion Silver and HOK Lapis Blue to see if Lapis Blue will cover Orion Silver. Then airbrush MCW 2K Clearcoat to check compatibility.
3. Remove injection pin marks bottom of hood. Sand body to dull with 400-1000 as needed.
4. Size badging decals downloaded to PowerPoint. Make adjustments to raised badging points on body as needed.
5. Scribe and prep panel lines.
6. Pin hood pins to hood.

7. Fit front bumper and trim piece to nose.
8. Cut rear bumpers from frame and fit to body.
9. Cut out trunk and make hinge.
10. Cut hole on hood and fit hood scoop ordered on eBay to hood.
11. Attempt fabrication of windshield frame after styrene channel arrives from Hobbylinc.
(This DID NOT work).
12. Fit roll bar ordered on eBay to body.
13. Tape off for future glue.
14. Tamiya Gray Primer inside and outside of body, hood, and trunk. Putty, sand, repair as needed.
15. Tamiya Gray Primer at roll bars and lake pipes.
16. Tamiya White Primer inside and outside of body, hood, and trunk. Putty, sand, repair as needed. Airbrush test panel.
17. Tamiya White Primer.
18. Airbrush inside of hood, trunk, and body HOK Lapis Blue and mask. Airbrush firewall, bottom of interior tub, and test panel Lapis Blue.
19. Airbrush inside of hood, trunk, and body at door panels Tamiya Gloss Clear
20. Airbrush inside of body, firewall, bottom of interior tub, and test panel Tamiya Flat Clear.
21. Documentation photos
22. Airbrush color coats.
 - Airbrush HOK Orion Silver at body stripes if test spoon showed that Lapis Blue would cover. Mask Orion Silver stripes and airbrush Lapis Blue
 - If above did not work, mask and airbrush HOK Orion Silver stripes. Mask Orion Silver Stripes and airbrush Lapis Blue.
 - Light continuous coats building up the color.
23. Check edges of hood, windows, etc. for color coverage. Correct with brush painting as needed.
24. Airbrush clear coat.



- Using MCW 2K Enamel Clear Coat mix 2 parts clear to 1 part hardener to 1 part Mr. Hobby Leveling Thinner. Spray 1 Medium Coat. Cure several hours or overnight.
- Check for debris and sand out.
- Apply badging decals.
- Spray 1 wet coat. Cure several hours or overnight.
- Check for debris and sand out.
- Black ink panel lines with Rotring Isograph.
- Repeat for 1-3 more coats until happy with gloss.
- Sand debris to flat with 3000. Polish with Meguiar's Ultimate Compound using Dremel and wool polishing attachment. Polish with Meguiar's Ultimate Polish using Dremel and wool polishing attachment.
- Apply Meguiar's Yellow Wax.



25. Experiment on test panel and weather inside of body and bottom of interior tub with black washes and powders. (didn't do this)
26. Clean and polish clear windshield with Meguiar's Ultimate Compound and Dremel. Finish with Meguiar's Ultimate Polish with Dremel and Meguiar's Yellow Wax.
27. Documentation photos.
28. Airbrush lake pipes gloss black/Mr. Hobby Super Iron.
29. Attach windshield frame 1 mm wide two-sided tape.

Engine & Compartment

1. Review kit instructions.
2. Make color selections on kit instructions.
3. Cut fan belt from pulleys. Pin alternator to engine.
4. Airbrush parts Tamiya Gray Primer.
5. Engine and firewall holes and pins per kit notes.
6. Airbrush parts per kit notes.
7. Apply 427 Cobra decals to valve covers.
8. Add decals to firewall?

Chassis

1. Review kit instructions.
2. Make color selections on kit instructions.
3. Airbrush front and rear suspensions Tamiya Gray Primer and selected colors.

4. Assemble front and rear suspensions test fitting to frame.
5. Build trunk space.
6. Modify disc brakes to fit axles and wheels after wheels arrive.
7. Airbrush parts Tamiya Gray Primer.
8. Airbrush parts selected colors.
9. Assemble and light weathering with washes, powders, and oils.



Interior

1. Review kit instructions.
2. Make notes on kit instructions.
3. Airbrush parts Tamiya Gray Primer.
4. Dash
 - Fit decals to openings or drill out.
 - Remove gauge rings.
 - Wood finish with oils
 - Install wire gauge rings
 - BMF trim at glove compartment
 - Molotow trim
5. Airbrush and brush paint parts per kit notes.
6. Apply decal to steering wheel.
7. Apply tan flocking per kit notes.
8. Attempt fabrication of door panel “pouches”.
9. Install seats with red Simpson racing harnesses.
10. Attempt fabrication of Cobra floor mats with Cobra decals



By Alan Larrumbide

Date	Event	Location
March 23	Metroplex Car Modelers Association Showdown 2024	Plano, Tx
April 13	Tigerfest 29	Metairie, La
April 20	Route 66 Model Expo	Tulsa Ok
May 4	Houston Model Mania 2024	Safford Tx
May 18	CALMEX 37	Sulphur, La
May 25	2024 Scalefest	Grapevine, TX
June 15	OkieDokieCon 2024	Bethany, Ok
June 22	SummerCon	Convington, La
July 27	2024 Space City Shootout Model Car Contest and Scale Automotive Expo	Seabrook, Tx
November 9	Austin Scale Modelers Society 2024 "Capitol Classic"	Williamson County Expo Center 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor TX
January 4 2025	Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43	New Braunfels Civic Center 375 S. Castell Ave New Braunfels, TX.



Navigator Newsletter

The Alamo Squadron Navigator Newsletter is the regular monthly source of information for our club members. Published on the Sunday before the meeting it will include the club proceedings and the president's vision which will allow the member to be informed and prepared. To expand the enjoyment of the hobby will include articles on related topics, tools, techniques, builds, human interest, synopsis of the monthly demo, and future events.

May Schedule

Issue	Content Deadline	Publish Date	Club Meeting
May	21 April	28 April	2 May

Local Hobby Shops

1

<u>Dibbles Hobbies</u> 1029 Donaldson Ave, San Antonio, TX 78228 (210) 735-7721	<u>Hill Country Hobby</u> 9355 Bandera Rd Ste-118 San Antonio, TX 78250 (210) 681-2007
<u>Anime Tokyo</u> 3333 Wurzbach Rd Ste 105, San Antonio, TX 78238 · (210) 519-5752	<u>Toy Hunters</u> 14910 Nacogdoches Rd Ste 106, San Antonio, TX, United States, Texas (210) 598-0034

<u>Hobby Town</u> 1309 N Loop 1604 W Vineyard Shopping Center, Suite 101 San Antonio, TX 78258-4769 (210) 236-5527

MARCH MEETING CONTEST WINNERS



**First Place:
Tamiya 37 mm Anti-Tank Gun
by Chuck Blair**



**Second Place:
AMT 1963 F-100 Pickup Truck
by Herb Scranton III**



**Third Place:
Tamiya F4U-1 "Soccer War" Corsair
by Juan Noltenius**



The Alamo Squadron had two more strong showings at recent events. Below are samples of winners at the River Con in Shreveport LA., and the Showdown in Plano TX. This list is just a sample of the winners. I will work on all-inclusive lists or links to winners in future issues. Alan



River Con



Showdown

