

THE NAVIGATOR



IPMS ALAMO SQUADRON | SAN ANTONIO, TX

Feb 2025



LEADERSHIP THOUGHTS

by Keith Rule



Model Fiesta 43 is now in the books. We had 419 contest entries, 140 display entries, 138 con-

testants, 46 vendors, 134 tables sold. Alamo Squadron members were busy all day with our new open judging, registration, vendors, raffle, and make and take. We had people travel from several states. We had visitors from the Plastic Posse Podcast and Model Geeks Podcast. Both gave us rave reviews. It was a well-run event and I am proud of our club's teamwork and efficiency. Well done, Alamo Squadron. My

thanks to all of you for your help. model Fiesta 44 is scheduled for January 3, 2026.

Dana Mathes served as our Head Judge implementing our new Open Judging System where entries are judged against a standard for Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medals. With 419 entries, 71% received medals, of which 20% were Gold. We had 41 judges who averaged 7.3 minutes per entry. Dana continues to work with the Lead Judges analyzing and improving the Open Judging System.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 6 at 2411 Pat Booker Road, Universal City, TX 78148. Keith Rule (me) will be presenting a demonstration on "[Masking Graphics on Model Cars and Trucks](#)".

We will continue to judge Contest Models with our point system, and, of course, we will have Work in Progress.

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WINNER'S CIRCLE **MODEL FIESTA 43**

By **JULIO A. CARO** | **NOTE:** Award submissions are listed in order of date received.







WILLIAM KNEBEL | *Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43*

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		German Luftwaffe Air-field Support Field	N/A	920 – Military Themed Diorama	 GOLD





JULIO A. CARO | *Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43*

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		F16 Fighting Falcon SA Gunfighters 149 th Fighter Wing	1/72	220 – 1/72 Scale Jet-powered Aircraft all eras, all types	 BRONZE
2		MIG-19 Interceptor Cuban Air Force	1/100	210 – Small Scale Aircraft (smaller than 1/72 scale), all eras, all types	 BRONZE
3		F9F-2 Panther (ATU-206)	1/72	220 – 1/72 Scale Jet-powered Aircraft all eras, all types	 BRONZE





JOHN KRESS | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		Battleship Yamato 15 Ton Main Anchor and Stern Anchor	1/16	930 – Miscellaneous Mechanical	 BRONZE
2		Boeing F4B-4	1/72	215 – 1/72 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	 BRONZE
3		Sherman in the Rain	1/48	920 – Military Themed Dioramas	 BRONZE





HENRY NUÑEZ | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		U.S. Combat Medic	1/35	605 – Small Scale Human Subjects (55mm & smaller)	 GOLD
2		SURROUNDED! Bastogne, December 1944	1/35	920 – Military-Themed Dioramas	 GOLD

GERARDO (JERRY) ESCOBEDO | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		Admiral Hipper War Ship	1/350	510 – Intermediate Scale Powered Surface Vessels (1/350 to 1/400 scale)	 BRONZE
2		RX-78 Gundam Jach na'atik u yaakun ka'an (Great Guardian of the Sky)	1/48	810 – Perfect Grade (1/60) Gundams	 BRONZE







BRETT P. SCHOLTEN | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		WARHAMMER Engineer Tech-priest	N/A	110 – Junior Modelers (13 to 17)	 SILVER
2		WARHAMMER Imperial Knight Armiger	N/A	110 – Junior Modelers (13 to 17)	 BRONZE



KEITH RULE | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		1932 Fords Collection	N/A	910 – Personal and Group Collections	 GOLD
2		1958 Cadillac	N/A	420 – Factory Stock Cars and Pickups	 SILVER
3		Chevy II Wagon	N/A	440 – Custom Vehicles	 SILVER
4		Shelby Cobra	N/A	425 – Hot Rods/Street Machines – Road Legal	 SILVER
5		BMW 500 with Sidecar	N/A	450 - Motorcycles	 BRONZE

ROB BOOTH | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		Oshkosh USMC M1240 MATV	1/72	310 – 1/72 Scale Military Vehicles (1/72 and smaller), all eras, all types	 GOLD
2		FW-190D-20 "Yellow Ten"	1/72	215 – 1/72 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	 SILVER
3		F-16 Aggressor Egg Plane	N/A	930 – Miscellaneous Mechanical	 BRONZE



JUAN NOLTENIUS | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		Kawasaki Ki-61, id HIEN (Tony)	1/72	215 – 1/72 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	 BRONZE



DAVID AUTH | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		Land Rover Series III	1/24	445 – Trucks, Commercial and First Response Vehicles	 SILVER
2		Honda S2000	1/24	425 – Hot Rods/Street Machines – Road Legal	 BRONZE
3		MGB Rally Car	1/24	435 – Competition Vehicles, Closed Wheels	 BRONZE
4		Nissan 2000 Fairlady	1/24	435 – Competition Vehicles, Closed Wheels	 BRONZE



JIM NORTON | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		F4U-1 Corsair	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	 GOLD



DANA MATHES | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	 GOLD



STAN SPOONER | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	 GOLD



BOB BETHEA | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	 GOLD









ERIC CHOY | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	 GOLD


ROB BOOTH | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	 GOLD

BRANDO PORTER | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		Austin Armored Car	1/72	310 – 1/72 Scale Military Vehicles (1/72 and smaller), all eras, all types	 GOLD
2		Matilda Tank	1/48	315 – 1/48 Scale Military Vehicles, all eras, all types	 GOLD
3		Lockheed P-38 F/G Lightning	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	 GOLD
4		StuG III Tank	315	315 – 1/48 Scale Military Vehicles, all eras, all types	 BRONZE

JOE BIANCO | Alamo Squadron Model Fiesta 43

#	Photo	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1		A6M2-N "Rufe"	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/ Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	 GOLD Best Aircraft Award
2		Spitfire Mk I	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/ Rotor Driven Aircraft	 GOLD Best TAMIYA Model
3		RAF P-47 Thunder- bolt	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/ Rotor Driven Aircraft	 GOLD
4		P-51 Mustang (Chuck Yeager)	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/ Rotor Driven Aircraft	 GOLD



WINNER'S CIRCLE MODEL FIESTA 43

Awards Summary List

#	Name	Model/Subject	Scale	Category	Award
1	BOB BETHEA	FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	GOLD
2	BRANDON PORTER	Austin Armored Car	1/72	310 – 1/72 Scale Military Vehicles (1/72 and smaller), all eras, all types	GOLD
3	BRANDON PORTER	Matilda Tank	1/48	315 – 1/48 Scale Military Vehicles, all eras, all types	GOLD
4	BRANDON PORTER	Lockheed P-38 F/G Lightning	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all type	GOLD
5	BRANDON PORTER	StuG III Tank	315	315 – 1/48 Scale Military Vehicles, all eras, all types	GOLD
6	BRETT P. SCHOLTEN	WARHAMMER Engineer Tech-priest	N/A	110 – Junior Modelers (13 to 17)	SILVER
7	BRETT P. SCHOLTEN	WARHAMMER Imperial Knight Armiger	N/A	110 – Junior Modelers (13 to 17)	BRONZE
8	DANA MATHES	FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	GOLD
9	DAVID AUTH	Land Rover Series III	1/24	445 – Trucks, Commercial and First Response Vehicles	SILVER
10	DAVID AUTH	Honda S2000	1/24	425 – Hot Rods/Street Machines – Road Legal	BRONZE
11	DAVID AUTH	MGB Rally Car	1/24	435 – Competition Vehicles, Closed Wheels	BRONZE
12	DAVID AUTH	Nissan 2000 Fairlady	1/24	435 – Competition Vehicles, Closed Wheels	BRONZE
13	ERIC CHOY	FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	GOLD
14	GERARDO (JERRY) ESCOBEDO	Admiral Hipper War Ship	1/350	510 – Intermediate Scale Powered Surface Vessels (1/350 to 1/400 scale)	BRONZE
15	GERARDO (JERRY) ESCOBEDO	RX-78 Gundam Jach na'atik u yaakun ka'an (Great Guardian of the Sky)	1/48	810 – Perfect Grade (1/60) Gundams	BRONZE
16	HENRY NUÑEZ	U.S. Combat Medic	1/35	605 – Small Scale Human Subjects (55mm & smaller)	GOLD
17	HENRY NUÑEZ	SURROUNDED! Bastogne, December 1944	1/35	920 – Military-Themed Dioramas	GOLD
18	KEITH RULE	1932 Fords Collection	N/A	910 – Personal and Group Collections	GOLD
19	KEITH RULE	1958 Cadillac	N/A	420 – Factory Stock Cars and Pickups	SILVER
20	KEITH RULE	Chevy II Wagon	N/A	440 – Custom Vehicles	SILVER
21	KEITH RULE	Shelby Cobra	N/A	425 – Hot Rods/Street Machines – Road Legal	SILVER

22	KEITH RULE	BMW 500 with Sidecar	N/A	450 - Motorcycles	BRONZE
23	JIM MORTON	F4U-1 Corsair	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	GOLD
24	JOE BIANCO	A6M2-N “Rufe”	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	GOLD Best Aircraft
25	JOE BIANCO	Spitfire Mk I	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft -	GOLD Best Tamiya Model
26	JOE BIANCO	RAF P-47 Thunderbolt	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft	GOLD
27	JOE BIANCO	P-51 Mustang (Chuck Yeager)	1/48	225 – 1/48 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft	GOLD
28	JOHN KRESS	Battleship Yamato 15 Ton Main Anchor and Stern Anchor	1/16	930 – Miscellaneous Mechanical	BRONZE
29	JOHN KRESS	Boeing F4B-4	1/72	215 – 1/72 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	BRONZE
30	JOHN KRESS	Sherman in the Rain	1/48	920 – Military Themed Dioramas	BRONZE
31	JUAN NOLTENIUS	Kawasaki Ki-61, id HIEN (Tony)	1/72	215 – 1/72 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	BRONZE
32	JULIO A. CARO	F16 Fighting Falcon SA Gunfighters 149 th Fighter Wing	1/72	220 – 1/72 Scale Jet-powered Aircraft all eras, all types	BRONZE
33	JULIO A. CARO	MIG-19 Interceptor, Cuban Air Force	1/100	210 – Small Scale Aircraft (smaller than 1/72 scale), all eras, all types	BRONZE
34	JULIO A. CARO	F9F-2 Panther (ATU-206 Version)	1/72	220 – 1/72 Scale Jet-powered Aircraft all eras, all types	BRONZE
35	ROB BOOTH	FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	GOLD
36	ROB BOOTH	Oshkosh USMC M1240 MATV	1/72	310 – 1/72 Scale Military Vehicles (1/72 and smaller), all eras, all types	GOLD
37	ROB BOOTH	FW-190D-20 “Yellow Ten”	1/72	215 – 1/72 Scale Prop/Rotor Driven Aircraft, all eras, all types	SILVER
38	ROB BOOTH	F-16 Aggressor Egg Plane	N/A	930 – Miscellaneous Mechanical	BRONZE
39	STAN SPOONER	FERRET Armored Car Mk. II	1/35	910 – Personal and Group Collections	GOLD
40	WILLIAM KNEBEL	German Luftwaffe Airfield Support Field	N/A	920 – Military Themed Diorama	GOLD

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MODEL FIESTA 43 CLUB MEDAL COUNTS

The following medals were award to our members:



GOLD MEDALS AWARDED:	19
SILVER MEDALS AWARDED:	6
BRONZE MEDALS AWARDED:	15
TOTAL Medals Awarded:	40

Congratulations

TO OUR WINNERS!

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Model Fiesta 43 Wrap-up

By Chris Menold

MODEL FIESTA 43 WAS AN OVERALL GREAT SUCCESS!



I'd like to start by thanking my incredible staff and all the volunteers who pitched in and made it look easy. Our judging crew, led by Dana Mathes, put in untold hours of preparation and planning to successfully implement the challenging but rewarding Gold-Silver-Bronze style of judging. Judges worked hard

at our event, and were also appreciative we changed up the usual pizza lunch for deli sandwiches. Our judging sparked a lot of interest in the online community: two podcasts did special broadcasts commending our event, and Danielle from Lion Heart commented on our success in two of her excellent online blogs. In our hotwash, the team feels we made waves in the modeling community and we hope contestants from around the country will be more interested in competing at next year's event.

Here are some statistics: 419 paid general admission (kids free), 139 contestants averaging 3 models each, 419 total model contest entries (yes, remarkably the same # as GA) and 130 display only models. Our revenue was down slightly, probably because of our new show date. Costs were higher due to changes we made and I think we can control them next time and still have a quality show.

We made a lot of changes on top of judging this year and each effort paid off. We added banners and a mariachi band to improve our unique branding as Model FIESTA. We tried new advertising ideas that resulted in the local Zeitung-Herald newspaper showing up for interviews and pictures for a news article. The make and take, sponsored by Hobby Town, was a

success beyond my initial hopes; we used up all available models to inspire children towards our hobby.

I am so grateful to head an amazing contest leadership team, and it was awesome to watch our club members pitch in and help out. I'd also like to stress we're getting known for our informal after party meet up at Krause's Café for German food and Beer. This event has grown over the past few shows, and I encourage you to come by next year to share in the camaraderie!



Cheers, Chris

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MODEL OF THE YEAR

We kicked off 2025 at our January monthly club by selecting the **Model of the Year** kit for 2024 from amongst our monthly club meeting contest winners. The first place and winner for 2024 was

Joe Bianco's stunning **A6M2-N "Rufe"**!

Joe's model was selected amongst many other great entries. Among these were:

SECOND PLACE



1947 Chevrolet Fleetmaster
by KEITH RULE

THIRD PLACE



"SURROUNDED!"
by HENRY NUNEZ



Congratulations

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ATLANTIS *Cobra II*

By *Herb Scranton*

Greetings Alamo Squadron!

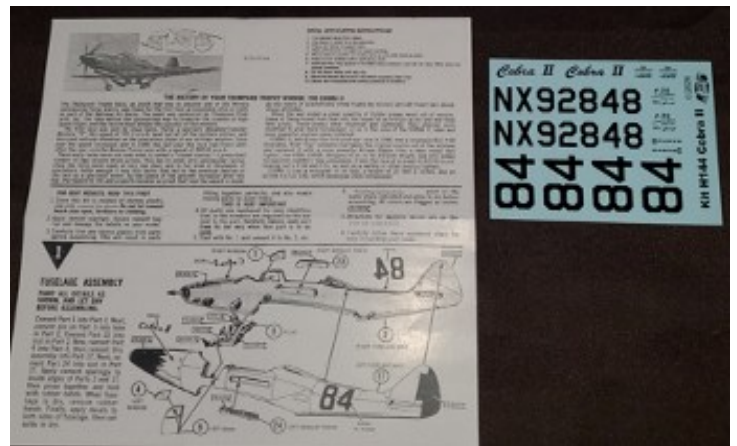


I was going to start the New Year using Mr. Peabody's Wayback Machine but Atlantis beat me to it. Ollie's was advertising a lot of models for the New Year. Ollie's makes arrangements with model companies to sell their models as a lot at a reduced price. This time they had a few lots one of which was the Atlantis P-39 Cobra II Thompson Trophy Race winner from 1946. Revell originally issued this kit in 1955 as the Bell P-39B Airacobra "S". It was molded in a olive drab plastic as a USAAC fighter.

This kit has been reissued a few times and around 1962 was issued as the Thompson Trophy winner from 1946. The kit was molded in a bright yellow plastic and added a 4 bladed Prop and the decals for the Thompson racer. The kit no longer had the 3 bladed prop but still had all the parts for the P-39B Airacobra. I remember this kit as a kid, loved the box art and I always liked the Airacobra because it has doors like a car, hey I was 10 and that was unusual for an aircraft. I found an original 1955 issue of the P-39 Airacobra on eBay for \$155.39 and a 70's Model Masters kit for \$54.00. The original kit H-222-89 P-39 Airacobra sold for \$.98 and the original kit H-144-100 Cobra II for \$1.00. Atlantis to the rescue, they have reissued the Cobra II Thompson

Trophy racer. They kept the original box art for the most part. The kit is still molded in a bright yellow plastic and is 1/46 scale, typical of Revell's box scale of the time. There are 39 parts in yellow, clear and decals are for the Thompson.

The instructions are the original Revell and very simple consisting of just one page front and back with just 3 steps.



There is very little flash for such an old mold. The glass is clear with little distortion but just a hint of the framing. The decals are nice and just in black which is correct for this model. This kit is VERY basic, it has raised panel lines and rivets, there is no interior detail, just a pilot in a seat, no landing gear well detail. The good news is it can be built with the gear up which is my personal favorite configuration. There is no stand but the kit still has the ball to mount it on a stand and the stands are available at your local hobby shop. I have a few, you know me, I like my aircraft up in the air where they belong. This kit cost me just \$11.00 and I think it is a good value for what you get and it will take me down memory lane while I build it. Look for it on the WIP table soon. **Cheers, Herb.**

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Atlantis H-222

1946 Thompson
Trophy
P-39



Revell H-222-89

Revell H-144:98



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Masking Graphics on Model Cars and Trucks

Demonstration by *Keith Rule*



Airbrushing graphics on model cars and trucks can be as simple or as complex as you wish.

This freedom to create is one of the reasons I like building model cars, as opposed to aircraft or armor. And I've always liked cars (and trucks).

I still use decals for graphics now and then, if they are good looking

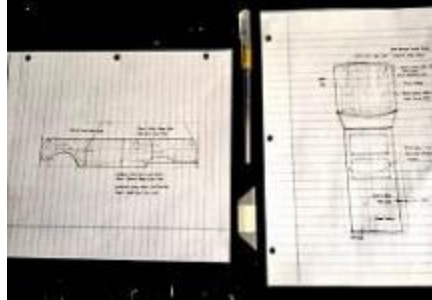


and seem appropriate. I have been asked if I apply the decals under or over the clear coat. For decals used as graphics, they're always under the clear coat.

There are several stencils and vinyl masks out there that can be useful, but I find most of them are difficult to cut, place, and fix to the body to my satisfaction.



I make scale drawings of my model and create and layout my graphics on paper. This process allows you to understand the correctness and feasibility of your attempt at custom graphics.



The tools and supplies you will need are as follows:



1.Masking Tape – I have Tamiya Yellow Tape in 1mm, 2mm, 3mm, 6mm, 10mm, and 18mm.

2.Vinyl Tape – I have Tamiya White Vinyl Tape in 2mm and 10mm. Vinyl tape is for curves. I cut the 10mm in widths as needed with a double bladed #11 or double bladed utility knife blades.

3.Scissors, Tweezers, Ruler, and Hobby Knife – All for the obvious reasons.

4.Set of Circle Punches – Purchased from Micro-Mark, these or for punching masking tape circles

to mark curve positions or to mask small diameter curves, both inside and outside.

5.Glass or Acrylic Sheet – For cutting vinyl tape.

6.Airbrush – I use a *Grex* .3mm, but that's your preference.

7.A Circle Cutter (not absolutely necessary) – For those larger circles. Mine is made by *Thin-nerline*.

8.For More Exotic Work – Sewing lace and fabric, vinyl masks, and anything else you might find that when used as a mask or shield, gives an interesting result.



Happy Modeling!

Keith

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ALAMO SQUADRON — A HISTORY

The demise of San Antonio Modeler's Society, the birth of Alamo Squadron, and some information about ModelFiesta trophies and ModelFiestas I and II.

by *Dick Montgomery*



In November of 1969 there was a Model Club in San Antonio known as the "San Antonio Modeler's Society", otherwise known as SAMS. Think about your own timeline.

Where were you in November of 1969? How old were you? Where were you living? Perhaps you were in College, High School, Middle School, or Elementary School? And, perhaps, you were not yet born!

It was a very different world for modelers in that timeframe. There was no "Eduard", no "Wingnut Wings", no Alclad paint, and no easy access to historical information about modeling subjects. There were a couple of hobby shops in San Antonio but the only name that comes to mind is "Dibbles". In fact, Dibbles has been at that same location near Jefferson High School for a while.

Personally, I had yet to purchase my first air-brush, and my modeling area was in the garage of my parent's house located near Oliver Wendell Holmes High School. My introduction into some of the more advanced modeling techniques began with my membership in SAMS.

The story begins with the first issue of San Antonio Modeler's Society newsletter, "Modelist", distributed in November of 1969. (Not "Model List" but rather, "Modelist").

Nark Anderson 224 Glenarm 78201 PE 5-1965	Monty Montgomery 6118 War Hawk 66 4-1762
Bob Angel, Jr. 1101 W. King's Hwy. 78201 434-7311	Griffen Burphey Box W-45, 703 Stadium Dr. 78212 PE 6-4141 Extension 573
Tommy Brower 1514 Donna 78228 73 5-3397	Alfred Overdahl 134-B Stinkins Hall, Austin 78705
Fred Burns 3519 Fallen Leaf 78230 DI 2-5932	David Ott 115 Halsey 78221 92 4-6102
John DeLaGarns 362 Castroville Rd. 78207 OE 3-7434	David Reagan
Frank Emmett, Jr. 8222 Campobello 78218 OL 5-1066	Greg Ripps 211 Astor St. 78210 LE 4-7026
Lesley England	Mike Salyers 138 Globe 78228 OE 3-3897 SBD Curling 342-0194
Jim Ennis 1915 Rawhide 78227 67 3-1308	Dean Shirley 1623 Lyceum 78229 69 6-3906
Sterling Esselmacher 228 W. Park Ave. 78212 22 6-5047	Halbert Stanford 1130 Thoraine 78201 PE 5-6839
Phil Friddell 7007 Shady Grove 78227 OE 4-6384	Richard Tait
Frank Garcia	Myron Tingle 2428 W. Mulberry 78228 PE 2-3615
Vance Holliday 116 Moss Dr. 78213 DI 2-5539	Bill Todd
James Jasso 1943 W. Magnolia PE 5-7729	Danny Weeltl 227 Salisbury Dr.
Jack Lucas	Leo Ziegler 103 Baird 78228 OE 3-9427
Fernando Mendosa 342 Alexander Hamilton Dr. 78228 PE 2-4312	Jerry Mohr 923-2960

The club membership consisted of at least 30 members, not a small number of members but not as impressive as the current membership count of Alamo Squadron. Look at the copy printed above of the "SAMS Model List" and you will see the names of those 30 members. These members agreed to have their names, addresses, and phone numbers listed in an effort to stimulate communication among the membership.

Only one person listed is still an active member of Alamo Squadron, having maintained that status through the present day. That person is “Monty” Montgomery. (Yep, that’s me. I went by “Monty” for a few years in college.) There are a few others on the list that were members of Alamo Squadron and, in fact, “Founding” members of Alamo Squadron. Let’s look at some of the people listed in this SAMS newsletter and their history with Alamo Squadron.

Dick (Monty) Montgomery is an active Life Member of Alamo Squadron and one of those SAMS members who helped to bring Alamo Squadron into existence.

Bob Angel holds Life Membership in Alamo Squadron and still resides in San Antonio. It has been a number of years since Bob played an ac-



tive role in Alamo Squadron, but he still communicates with me from time to time, as well as at least one other current member of Alamo Squadron. In fact, Bob was at 2025 ModelFiesta 43 held in New Braunfels. Mike Derderian, a Founding Member of Alamo Squadron is not on the list seen above, but he was also at ModelFiesta 43 with Bob Angel.

Frank Emmett is not a current member of Alamo Squadron, but he has attended a few meetings in the last couple of years.

Phil Fridell still resides near San Antonio and has attended a ModelFiesta or two but is not active with Alamo Squadron.

Frank Garcia passed away some years ago and Leo Ziegler passed away in 1980. As a side-note, Bob Angel accepted the task of managing the disposal of Leo’s huge collection of kits. Bob asked me to assist him in the removal and storage of Leo’s collection and this was my introduction into the “management” of a modeling estate.

Lastly, Jerry Mohr passed away in February of 2008. I was asked to manage his estate and since that time have managed a number of other estates, mostly those collections of modelers who were not Alamo Squadron members.

The end came for SAMS after a model contest was organized by the club. The turnout was very low, revenue was poor, and there were complaints about the judging and general management of the event. There was some tension between various SAMS members prior to the contest, but the contest was the final straw.

After an interim in which there was no organized modeling club in San Antonio, Alamo Squadron was crafted together by some of the former SAMS members, and others, and was officially “organized” on Nov 11, 1977. Here are some details provided by Bob Angel and Dick Montgomery.

Bob reports: After the San Antonio Modelers Society disbanded in the summer of 1974, there was no further organized plastic modeling activity until late 1977. During this three year lapse, many ex-SAMS members continued to stay in touch, & even to meet informally at various venues. On Nov 11, 1977, a meeting was held at the home of Mike Derderian to discuss the possibility of starting up a new plastic modeling club along IPMS lines.

This meeting was attended by Mike Derderian, Dick Montgomery, Bob Angel, Tom Ward and Ros Creed, Frank Garcia, Frank Emmett and Frank Walsh. Frank Walsh did not remain active in the club for any length of time. Mike D, Dick M, Bob A, Tom W, Ros C, Frank G and Frank E. are, therefore, considered to be the Founding members of Alamo Squadron.

Dick adds: This meeting was attended by only a handful of individuals, some of whom have passed and some who are still located in the greater San Antonio area. Mike Derderian has never received the credit, in my opinion, that he deserves for being one of the leaders in the movement to form a new chapter, but then that could be said for most of those who were in attendance at this important meeting and then who remained in the club for a number of years. Mike D. remained in the club for a number of years, serving in various offices, providing excellent leadership to the club in general, and to ModelFiesta. As Bob A. will mention later in this article, he and another member began to publish a club newsletter. Bob continues to participate in the occasional ModelFiesta as a vendor. Tom W. continued his association with Alamo Squadron, providing leadership as a club officer and respected member until his passing. Tom is one of several members who are honored on the club's Memorial Trophy. Ros C. was a writer/author before becoming involved with Alamo Squadron and continued writing after helping to establish the club. Ros wrote a great "How To" book, which was published on a national scale. Frank G. is remembered via the Memorial Trophy maintained by the club. Frank Emmett was known as a spectacular modeler and artist during the early days of the club. He still resides in the greater San Antonio area. I remember all of these gents well. My role at this time was very much as a "follower" with modeling skills that could best be termed as "beginner". It was my

good luck to be associated with this group of fine people and excellent modelers.

Bob continues: At least six charter members attended, including Mike D., Bob A., Tom Ward, Frank Garcia, Ros Creed & Frank Emmett. Also present was Mike's next-door neighbor, Frank Walsh, who was very active in a RC flying model club. He proposed a joint flying model/plastic model display. This was set up at Windsor Park Mall and took place in late Jan./early Feb. 1978. This event garnered some much-needed publicity. I'm not sure that we had a name yet, & it seems to have taken several months for "Alamo Squadron" to be chosen. The club slowly grew after this, & for at least the first full year meetings were held at members' homes.

Dick adds: Like Bob, I do not remember exactly when the name, "Alamo Squadron" was chosen by the attendees/members who went to those early meetings. It is certain, however, that by the 2nd ModelFiesta event in January 1983, the name, Alamo Squadron, had been adopted. I have a vague memory of a short discussion at the inaugural meeting where it was suggested that the SAMS name could be resurrected, but, as I recall, Mike D. and Tom W. suggested that the SAMS name be permanently retired and that another name could be selected in the near future.

Bob continues: Lee Bracken joined the club in early 1979, and suggested that he and I start a club magazine to be issued quarterly. At this point the major club interest was aircraft, so the title was "Aircraft in Miniature". The first cover date was Spring 1979, and it continued on a fairly regular basis until 1986. At first I did most of the write-ups and Lee did the illustrations. Member Frank Garcia worked for Xerox and was allowed unlimited use of printers and paper, so Frank G. became our "publisher". He and several other members also contributed ar-

ticles and graphics. Later I submitted many of these articles to IPMS/USA, where they were published in their Quarterly magazine.

Dick adds: I remember using “Aircraft in Miniature” for a number of my modeling projects, all of which benefited from the work put in by Bob A. and Lee B. Getting involved in various aspects of the club such as “AIM” I decided to write an article about B-29s. For pictures, I drove to the home of the Confederate Air Force, at that time located in Harlingen, Tx. I explained to the staffer what I was doing and he gave me access to the ramp and to FiFi, the B-29 maintained and flown by the CAF. I spent quite a bit of time crawling around inside the aircraft, taking pictures, (at that time there were no digital cameras) and thinking how lucky I was to have the aircraft and ramp almost entirely to myself. My article was published in “AIM” and shortly thereafter I finished my first of a handful of 1/48th B-29s.

Bob continues: The first ModelFiesta was held at Wonderland Mall in Jan. 1982. By this time Alamo Squadron was a chartered IPMS chapter, but was little-known outside San Antonio.

Dick adds: While it was previously mentioned that “Alamo Squadron” became the official name of the club prior to Jan, 1983, there is no documentation on hand to indicate that the name had been adopted by Jan of 1982. Bob’s memory, however, is rich in detail so we can assume that since the club gained a chapter charter through IPMS that the name had been adopted at some point in 1981 or 1982.

Bob continues: Largely for this reason it was almost entirely an in-house event, & so was fairly small. Needless to say it certainly caught on, has continued as an unbroken yearly series, and has become well-known, indeed! At this first contest

there was never any thought of a vendors’ area.

Dick adds: I have a slightly different view of ModelFiesta I. In 1982 I was teaching history at Marshall High School and the parent of one of my students was a staffer at the Wonderland Mall office. Through that connection, Alamo Squadron was able to arrange a contest site within the Mall. I served as the ModelFiesta Event Director, Bob Angel was the Chief Judge, with Ros Creed and Tom Ward filling out the ModelFiesta Committee. The name, “ModelFiesta” was suggested by Christie Montgomery. While driving on an errand one fine day I and the Missus were talking about what the contest should be called. She suggested, “ModelFiesta”, as San Antonio was gearing up for “Fiesta”, and it seemed to fit. Note that the spelling of the event is “ModelFiesta”, a single word and not “Model Fiesta”.

The Leadership group approved of the name and, as this article is written, the club has just held ModelFiesta 43! My records indicate that there were 262 entries at ModelFiesta I, and a Winner’s List is on file in the ModelFiesta Archive, which has yet to be published or completed. Looking at the Winner’s List, one recognizes the names of “local” modelers from years gone by but there are also names from Austin, so we did have a little “outreach” for ModelFiesta I.

Bob continues: Within a few years, however, some members started to bring sales items, and would just set up little sales areas right on the mall floor. Also for the first few years the awards were made by several members, in the form of tinted plexiglass rectangles with silk-screened logos, mounted at an angle in a wooden base. Actually didn’t look too bad for home-made. I’ve seen much worse at other contests!

Dick adds: I have a collection of ModelFiesta awards from various years, this being one of

those awards Bob described. The award shown is from ModelFiesta II and was awarded to a model judged as 2nd place.

Note that the award does not identify the category or class. Unfortunately, there is no Winner's List that is available. Also, no data is avail-



able regarding the number of entries in the contest, or the number of participants in the contest. There is, however, documentation regarding the entry award Best of Show. It is no surprise that the winner of this award is well known and continues to this day (2025) to participate in ModelFiesta. Congrats to Alex DeLeon!

There is no indication in this archive that we considered creating a vendor area, as is stand-

ard operating procedure in almost every show held today. Bob A. silkscreened the image of the aircraft on the plastic plate. I remember going to Ros Creed's home and spending some time at his table saw, cutting the wood bases. To say things are different today is an understatement.

There is a list of winning entries identifying the model and modeler for all categories for ModelFiesta 1, but that is a story best told in the future.

The First Test of Club Resilience and Focus:

Most clubs will, sooner or later, experience an event that threatens the very existence of the club. In it's forty + years of existence, Alamo Squadron faced a few of these defining moments, the first of which took place very early on in the adolescent years of the club.

Bob A. provides the narrative: The 1979 "Training Film incident":

By Jan. '79 Alamo Squadron had completed its first full year of steady growth. At the meeting that month a person well-known to the modeling community but not a member himself arrived on the scene with a movie projector and film, saying that he would like to show a "training film". It was some type of military footage, we thought, so everyone was agreeable to see what he brought. As it turned out, it was a very explicit porno flick. The most surprising thing is that everyone just sat there without saying a word. Well, I heard plenty of words later. As one of the more-involved members at the time I got several calls in the following days. One from a new member who had brought his young son to the meeting and was not pleased, and another visitor who asked if this had been a "typical" meeting.

The membership, as with any group, had various opinions about this incident. There were those who thought nothing of it, that no restrictions should be imposed. Others were upset about it and thought nothing like this should ever be allowed to happen at future meetings. However, the largest group had no strong opinions one way or another.

In following months the person who brought the film returned to meetings and attempted to influence club decisions. Soon word was getting around that he was organizing a splinter group of like-minded model builders, who were holding meetings at a Luby's cafeteria. This caused some dissention since there were those supporting both clubs, and even those who tried to undermine Alamo Squadron membership. For a while this was something of a unity crisis for Alamo Squadron, but before the year was out the splinter group, which never exceeded a dozen followers, had fallen by the wayside.

Dick M. concludes: Alamo Squadron survived this first test of strength and over the next 40 + years there were other incidents which resulted in a splinter group being established with a consequent migration of some members from Alamo Squadron to the new group, and one incident related to the administration of club assets. Some generalized account of these incidents might be offered up in another installment of this series of "historical articles", but as is the case with the "Training Film Incident", the intent, here, is to reflect upon the nature of the incident and not the specific identities of some of those who were involved in the incident.



Letter from the Heart

by Danielle Adams



Over the past three years, we've attended countless model shows, experiencing judging systems across Texas, Tennessee, and Louisiana. We've also been to three National Conventions, connecting with modelers worldwide. One common theme keeps surfacing about judging: it has needed improvement.

Not all judging is flawed. Some clubs are doing amazing work, and last weekend at Model Fiesta in New Braunfels, we saw a standout example. The San Antonio IPMS club hosted this incredible event, and we were blown away. When Rudy and I first visited their meeting four years ago, I didn't fully appreciate what I was seeing—nearly 100 people gathered for a model club! That's remarkable. While no system is perfect, their effort and intentionality were clear. Their organization, vendor coordination, and administrative efforts were seamless. Hats off to the San Antonio IPMS for fostering such a positive culture. (Special thanks to Mark Verdi who was in typical form as one of the region's most outstanding vendor coordinators.)

What really impressed us was their approach to judging. Every modeler received feedback explaining why they did or didn't earn a gold, silver, or bronze medal. It's a simple, effective system. Imagine walking away from a competition knowing exactly where you excelled and where to improve!

We saw this in action with one of our young LionHeart modelers. He entered his first contest at Model Fiesta and didn't win an award. Normally, this could discourage a newcomer, but instead, he was thrilled. He knew exactly what to work on for next time, and that feedback energized him. This is what competitions should be

about—recognizing talent, inspiring improvement, and welcoming new creators into the fold. That's why we promote these shows so passionately.

Of course, there's room for improvement. My humble suggestion? Judges should evaluate categories they aren't specialized in. This would reduce nitpicking and overemphasis on "rivet counting." For example, sci-fi models are imaginative creations and maybe shouldn't be judged by real-world standards other than those having to do with scale modeling fundamentals (maybe there isn't a need to stray from those fundamentals when judging ANY category). Let's focus on workmanship and creativity, not overly rigid historical accuracy. By fostering a supportive environment, we can make contests more inclusive and encouraging, especially for young modelers. Systems derived and/or adopted by local clubs such as the Alamo Squadron & IPMS Houston are proof that groups are putting a best foot forward to improve the model show experience. I love this!

While I'm not a modeler or a judge myself, I've spoken with thousands of modelers over the years. I care deeply about this community—it feels like family. I want to see the hobby thrive and for young people to find inspiration, joy, and camaraderie at these events. Contests are a chance to celebrate artistry and connect with others, and I'm optimistic about the future because I know so many of us share this vision.

The hobby is alive and well, and we're proud to be part of it.

Love, Danielle

<https://www.lionhearthobby.com>



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Painting 1/35 Scale Figures with Bob and Henry

On January 18th Lionheart Hobbies hosted a two-day figure painting workshop led by renowned local artist and figure painters Bob Bethay and Henry Nunez.



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Letter from the Editor

By Alan Larrumbide

Julio Caro, one of our regular Navigator contributors, has offered to join in on the Navigator fun on a regular basis as a co-editor. He brings an aesthetic and a flair to the newsletter as well as a lot of technical know-how. We met up this Sunday at the Hobby Town build day and drafted up a way ahead for the next 12 issues. We're looking to simplify and standardize, as well as document, the publication process. We want to make sure the Navigator continues as a source of club modeling related information for our members and others across IPMS. To do this we will standardize our publication platform and develop some image handing capabilities. Careful documentation of the process will ensure that we have continuity making it simple for newsletter editors and contributors to work and also to improve the newsletter.

As always, the foundation to a great newsletter is the contributor. This past year we have seen fantastic work from Alamo Squadron modelers on the pages of the Navigator. The changes we are making will help ensure that we can make it easier for the editors and contributors to deliver the newsletter.

What's on your bench?, Alan



Me and Julio down by the hobby shelves at Hobby Town

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<p><u>Dibbles Hobbies</u></p> <p>1029 Donaldson Ave, San Antonio, TX 78228 (210) 735-7721</p>	<p><u>Hill Country Hobby</u></p> <p>9355 Bandera Rd Ste-118 San Antonio, TX 78250 (210) 681-2007</p>	<p><u>Hobby Town</u></p> <p>1309 N Loop 1604 W Vineyard Shopping Center, Suite 101 San Antonio, TX 78258-4769 (210) 236-5527</p>
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Model Fiesta Cuarenta y Tres (43) Website

<http://www.modelfiesta.com>



Alamo Squadron Website

<http://www.alamosquadron.com/index.html>



For IPMS Membership information please visit:

<https://myipmsusa.org/>
Go to membership page



Alamo Squadron Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/>

Date	Event	Location
March 15	<u>RiverCon 2025</u>	LSUS University Center 1 University Place Shreveport, LA 71115
March 22	<u>MCMA Showdown</u>	Willow Creek Fellowship 1804 P Ave. Plano TX. 75074
May 3	<u>ModelMania</u>	Stafford Center 10505 Cash Road Stafford TX. 77477

March Newsletter Publication Schedule

Issue	Content Cut Off Date	Publication Date
March 2025	<u>23 February 2025</u>	2 March 2025

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