

WELCOME TO

The NAVIGATOR

ALAMO SQUADRON'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

AUGUST 2026 Edition

Region 6's Newsletter of the Year for 2025!



CLUB BUILDERS' SHOWCASE

GREAT BUILDS BY OUR MEMBERS!

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

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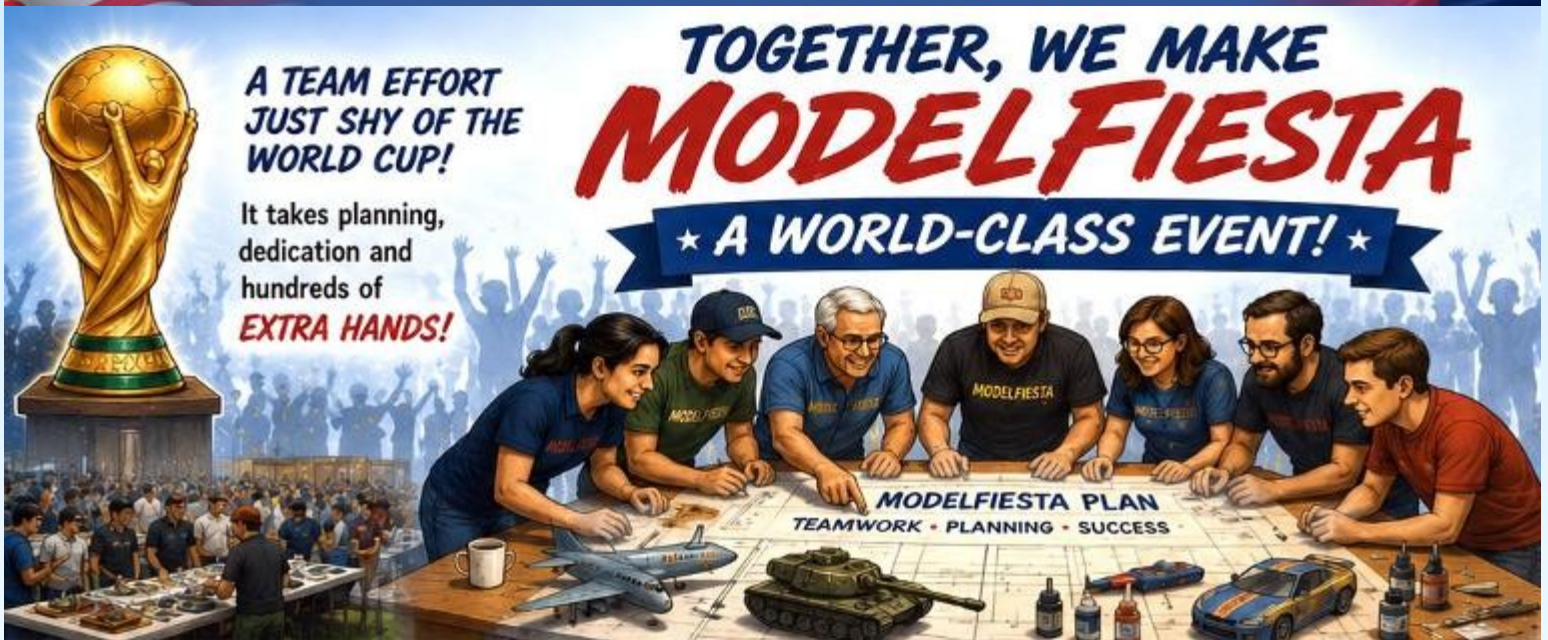
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The President's Corner

By Jim Morton, President | Page 1 of 2



What did we learn from the World Cup? Don't go small. If you are going to do it, do it right and make it an event to remember.

Well, I must begin by saying I was completely taken in by the games. The talent of the players absolutely amazed me—the things they can do, and they do them so easily! The anticipation of the crowd, the silence before the strike, and then the crescendo of cheers after the score—it was so much fun to watch.

It was almost as fun as watching visitors marvel at how amazing Buc-ee's is! I look at it the same way when I walk around the contest tables and see the incredible work everyone brings to the show. Whether it's one of Keith's stunning paint jobs, one of Dana's amazing tanks, or one of Joe's awesome aircraft, it makes me

want to up my game and become a better modeler.

I've learned quite a bit by becoming a judge. Seriously, it has given me a new "eye" when looking at my own work. If you are interested, make sure you talk with Dana; he will be happy to help you along that path.

The planning and execution of the World Cup was a massive undertaking, bringing together dozens of nations and coordinating venues, hotels, food, security, and countless other details. Thank goodness we only have to plan a two-day ModelFiesta!

To make ModelFiesta the event we all want it to be—the world-class event we all know it is—it will take a group effort just shy of the level needed for the World Cup. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team leading the effort, and we will need as many extra hands as possible.

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Whether it's an hour at the raffle table or helping at the admissions table, no amount of assistance will be too small.

Every year, ModelFiesta grows in popularity, and we should be very proud of our past events as we look toward the future. The folks who attended the World Cup were planning and saving for years, and I'm quite sure the four years they waited went by quickly, especially when you know you are going to be part of something BIG!

I know what you are saying: "Jim, ModelFiesta is seven months away." You're right—it seems like a long time, but I guarantee it will be here sooner than you think. When you are looking forward to attending something special, time seems to fly by. When you are part of the event and waiting for it, it goes by even faster.

The planning is ongoing and will narrow in focus as we get closer to our GOOOOOAAAAALLLLLSSS! (Sorry, couldn't help myself!)

Work hard and have fun doing it!

Jim

**MANY WAYS TO HELP
NO AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE
WILL BE TOO SMALL!**



EVERY HOUR. EVERY HAND. EVERY CONTRIBUTION.

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By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 3

When the PURSUIT OF PERFECTION Stops Being Fun



The most important model is the one that kept us excited to sit down at the workbench and build.



**I have a confession to make:
Sometimes I avoid going into my
hobby room.**

**That probably sounds strange coming from
someone who genuinely loves scale modeling.
After all, I have hundreds of kits in my stash,
shelves full of completed models.**

Yet there are times when I find myself looking at an unfinished project and choosing to do almost anything else.

For years, I couldn't quite understand why. Then one day it hit me: somewhere along the way, I had turned a hobby into a job.

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When Chasing Perfection Stops Being Fun

By Julio A. Caro | Page 2 of 3

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Don't get me wrong—I enjoy competition. I enjoy taking a model to a contest and seeing how it stacks up against the work of other talented modelers. I appreciate the challenge of learning new techniques and improving my skills.

I also value the judging standards of organizations like IPMS and AMPS because they encourage quality craftsmanship and presentation.

In fact, whenever I start a new project, I generally build with those standards in mind. I want my seams invisible, my alignment correct, my paint smooth, and my finish clean. I want the model to be the best I can make it.

The problem begins when "doing my best" slowly transforms into "it must be perfect." At that point, every project becomes an exercise in self-imposed pressure.

A simple kit is no longer a simple kit. It becomes a research project. Every photograph must be studied. Every rivet must be verified. Every aftermarket accessory suddenly seems essential. What started as a relaxing evening at the workbench becomes a quest to eliminate every conceivable flaw before a judge might discover it.

The irony is that the better we become as modelers, the easier it is to see our own mistakes.

A beginner looks at a completed model and sees an accomplishment.

An experienced modeler sees a crooked antenna, a slightly misaligned wheel, a decal that silvered almost

imperceptibly, and a seam line that somehow escaped detection until after the final coat of paint.

We become our own harshest judges.

Eventually, that constant pursuit of perfection can become exhausting. Instead of looking forward to building, we begin worrying about whether the finished model will be "good enough." Some projects stall for weeks. Others sit untouched for months. A few never get completed at all because the pressure to achieve perfection becomes greater than the desire to simply enjoy the build.

I've come to realize that this mindset misses the point of why many of us became modelers in the first place.

Few of us entered the hobby with dreams of winning trophies or accumulating medals. We built models because we were fascinated by airplanes, tanks, ships, cars, spacecraft, and figures. We enjoyed working with our hands, learning new skills, and transforming a box of plastic parts into something we could proudly display. We loved opening a new kit and imagining what it could become.

Most of all, we built because it was fun—and somewhere along the way, it's easy to forget that simple truth.

Competition can be motivating, but it shouldn't become the sole reason we build.

A trophy is nice. A medal is nice. Recognition from your peers is certainly nice. But, in my humble opinion, none of those things should be more important than enjoying the process.

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When Chasing Perfection Stops Being Fun

By Julio A. Caro | Page 3 of 3

Lately, I've been trying to remind myself of something simple: not every model has to be a contest winner.

Some projects can simply be learning experiences. Some can be nostalgia builds. Some can be quick weekend projects intended solely for enjoyment. Some can be built because the subject appeals to us, even if we know it will never compete with the latest masterpiece on the contest table.

Ironically, I've found that when I relax and focus on enjoying the build, my work often improves. The stress disappears, creativity returns, and the hobby becomes what it was always meant to be—a source of enjoyment rather than obligation.

Will I continue striving to build competition-quality models?

Absolutely.

Will I continue entering contests?

Of course.

But I'm also trying to remember that there is a difference between pursuing excellence and demanding perfection.

Excellence helps us grow as modelers.

Perfection can sometimes keep us from building at all.

At the end of the day, the most important model isn't necessarily the one that wins a trophy. It's the one that kept us excited to sit down at the workbench and build.

That's standard worth meeting every time.

Have fun and keep on building,

Regards,



Julio

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From Museum Halls to the Modeling Bench:

BUILDING A PEGASUS TRICERATOPS

By Dick "The Grinch" Montgomery | Page 1 of 4



I have been fascinated by dinosaurs for as long as I can remember. Some of the very first books I owned as a young reader were about these prehistoric giants.

Over the years I have visited museums throughout the United States—and even traveled overseas—just to see dinosaur skeletons and fossil exhibits.

Living in Texas has only fueled that interest. One of our state's most remarkable attractions is Dinosaur Valley State Park near Glen Rose, where visitors can see exceptionally well-preserved theropod and sauropod

footprints dating back approximately 113 million years. With a lifelong interest in dinosaurs, it's probably no surprise that I have several dinosaur kits tucked away in my modeling stash.

Back in 2006, I was asked to help relocate the model collection of a fellow modeler who had passed away. I was encouraged to keep anything that interested me, and among the many items was a Pegasus Triceratops vinyl kit. The kit consisted of only about a dozen solid vinyl parts. Since I had absolutely no experience building vinyl models, I placed the parts in a zip-lock bag, stored them in one of my kit boxes, and promptly forgot about them.

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Twenty years later, while taking inventory of my stash, I rediscovered the forgotten Triceratops. Seeing it again convinced me that it was finally time to give the prehistoric beast the attention it deserved.

Assembly



While visiting Hill Country Hobby in late June 2026, I asked for advice on assembling a vinyl kit. Since traditional plastic cement would not work, I was advised to use epoxy, with some recommending a mixture of epoxy and cyanoacrylate (super glue). After purchasing Gorilla

Epoxy from my local Walmart, I experimented with two different approaches: one using epoxy mixed with super glue and another using epoxy alone. After the tests, I concluded that the epoxy by itself provided more than enough strength for this project.

Before beginning assembly, I thoroughly washed all of the parts. They had been sealed in the same zip-lock bag since 2006, and after two decades it seemed only fitting to give them a good cleaning.

The first step was test-fitting every major component. Each leg features a keyed mounting hub that fits into a corresponding socket molded into the body, ensuring proper alignment. The horns fit into uniquely shaped openings in the skull, preventing incorrect installation.



Although the engineering was quite good, the fit was tighter than expected. Some of the leg hubs required careful trimming, and several of the body openings needed to be opened slightly to reduce the gaps around the joints.



Using a Dremel equipped with a small abrasive wheel, I carefully removed small amounts of vinyl from both the hubs and the mating sockets. I repeated the same process on the horn mounts until everything fit with minimal gaps. This project also marked my first experience using epoxy adhesive for a model.

After carefully reading the instructions, I mixed the resin and hardener in a discarded water bottle cap using a small wooden stir stick. Within about 30 seconds, the mixture formed a smooth gray adhesive.

Working one leg at a time, I applied epoxy inside the mounting socket, inserted the leg, and squeezed the joint firmly to ensure the adhesive filled any remaining gaps. The fit proved surprisingly good, with several joints requiring little or no filler.

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To be safe, I allowed the first leg to cure overnight before testing its strength. The bond was extremely solid, so I continued attaching the remaining legs.

Once I became comfortable working with the epoxy, I installed the final two legs simultaneously. After allowing the leg joints to cure completely, I attached the head using the same procedure.

Once all of the major components had been assembled, I filled the remaining seams with Tamiya Tube Putty. After the putty had dried, I carefully sanded the joints smooth. The horns and upper and lower beak pieces were left separate for painting and would be attached later.

Painting

One question naturally comes to mind before painting any dinosaur model: **What color was a Triceratops?**

The honest answer is that no one knows. The original skin coloration has never been determined and likely never will be. That gives modelers a great deal of artistic freedom when selecting a color scheme.

After looking through my paint collection, I chose two Tamiya spray colors that I felt created a believable appearance. I sprayed the underside with Tamiya TS-77 Flat Flesh and the upper surfaces with Tamiya TS-68 Wooden Deck Tan.

Rather than masking, I intentionally allowed the colors to blend into one another to create soft transitions.

The large neck frill was detailed by painting the exposed bony edges with Tamiya XF-55 Deck Tan. The same color was used for the upper and lower beak as well as the toenails.

The horns were painted separately using a combination of Tamiya XF-55 Deck Tan, TS-77 Flat Flesh, TS-68 Wooden Deck Tan, and two shades of brown weathering chalk. Once completed, I attached the horns and beak pieces to the head.

To bring out the excellent skin texture, I finished the model with several thin brown washes that settled into the recessed detail and added depth to the surface.

Final Assembly

Because Pegasus sculpted the Triceratops in a walking pose, it cannot stand unsupported. The model must therefore be permanently attached to the display base included in the kit.



After adding some simple groundwork to the base, I secured the dinosaur using Gorilla Epoxy and supported it while the adhesive cured. I allowed the assembly to sit undisturbed for a full 24 hours before removing the supports.

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Final Thoughts

Pegasus did an outstanding job designing this kit. The sculpted skin texture is excellent, the engineering is straightforward, and the overall fit of the parts exceeded my expectations. Although I had been intimidated by the idea of building a vinyl kit, the project turned out to be much easier than I anticipated.

It's amusing to think that this Triceratops spent 20 years sitting forgotten inside one of my storage tubs. Once I finally decided to build it, however, the project required only about **6 hours and 20 minutes of actual bench time**, spread over 17 days.

Sometimes the oldest kits in the stash simply need the right moment to come back to life—and in this case, it was a creature that first walked the Earth more than 100 million years ago.

Here are some photos of the finished model:



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Meeting Rocket Scientist Wernher von Braun

By Fred Horky, IPMS USA #6390 | Page 1 of 2

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Wernher von Braun at his desk at Marshall Space Flight Center, with models of the Saturn rocket family, May 1964. *Courtesy of Britannica.com*

It's been decades, and the name of the famous rocket scientist Wernher von Braun is gradually fading from America's collective consciousness.

Yet during World War II, von Braun had been one of Nazi Germany's scientists who came perilously close to helping turn the war in the wrong direction.

The team he led succeeded in producing the world's first ballistic missiles, hundreds of which crashed down on England during the war's final year.

Von Braun (1912–1977) remains one of the giants of spaceflight. His story is far too large for inclusion here. For those interested in learning more, these links provide an excellent starting point:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wernher_von_Braun

http://www.ieeehn.org/wiki/index.php/Wernher_von_Braun

In many fields, German wartime science and engineering had been frighteningly ahead of ours, and when the war ended both the United States and the Soviet Union raced to collect Germany's advanced technology—and the scientists and engineers behind it.

Chief among those scientists was von Braun. Fortunately for us, he wanted to come to America almost as badly as we wanted him.

Within only a few years, he was deeply involved in what became known as the Space Race and in developing the huge rockets required to reach space.

It was 1953 when von Braun came to Parks College to recruit young engineers for a new rocket program being organized in Alabama at the Army's Huntsville Arsenal.

Having entered ROTC with the intention of becoming an Air Force pilot for the then-minimum three-year active-duty commitment, I wasn't really eligible to interview for a position in von Braun's nascent rocket

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program. But it sounded fascinating, so I attended his presentation anyway.

I recall being thoroughly inspired. Von Braun was the sort of leader who could—and did—motivate people.

I hadn't thought much about that evening until recently. Looking back, it represented one of those tantalizing forks in the road that life occasionally presents. A future in rocketry—and this was LONG before the effort became NASA—was a path that simply wasn't open to me at the time.

More than sixty years have passed since then, and I remember little of von Braun's actual presentation. What I do remember is how astonishing his talk of human spaceflight seemed. Back then, it was pure "Buck Rogers" stuff.

Curious about what others remembered, I emailed my Parks classmate and friend, Gene Kranz, and asked for his recollections of that evening.



Gene Kranz at NASA Space Center Mission Control.

Source: www.alchetron.com

Here's a very muddy photograph of Gene and me in an aerodynamics class at Parks. Note the stick Gene is holding. It was called a "slide rule" ... remember those?



Photo courtesy of Fred Horky.

At the time, Gene and I were simply engineering students listening to one of the world's leading rocket scientists describe a future that seemed almost unimaginable. Neither of us could have known where our paths would eventually lead.

Gene, of course, would go on to play a major role in America's space program as a NASA Flight Director, helping guide numerous Apollo missions, including the dramatic rescue of Apollo 13.

Gene responded the same day (4/12/2014) with these comments:

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"Fred, the only thing I remember is that I was the guy flipping his slides and I could not figure out how to put them on the projector so they would show properly. I remember a very patient Von Braun walking to the projector and showing me how to lay them out next to the projector so all I had to do was put them on. Will look at your write-up and see if there is anything I can add.

Cheers,
Gene Kranz"

Reading Gene's comments, I couldn't help but wonder whether von Braun ever connected that Parks student fumbling with his presentation slides to the same person who would later become one of NASA's most celebrated Flight Directors.

Life is funny that way.

All of us encounter intersections and forks in the road—a job interview, a chance meeting, a lecture, or a brief glimpse into an entirely new human endeavor such as manned spaceflight.

Most of the time, we don't even recognize those moments for what they are.

For many young men, quite a few of those forks in the road involve meeting young women!

Have you ever found yourself wondering, "What if?" What might have happened had you taken that other turn?

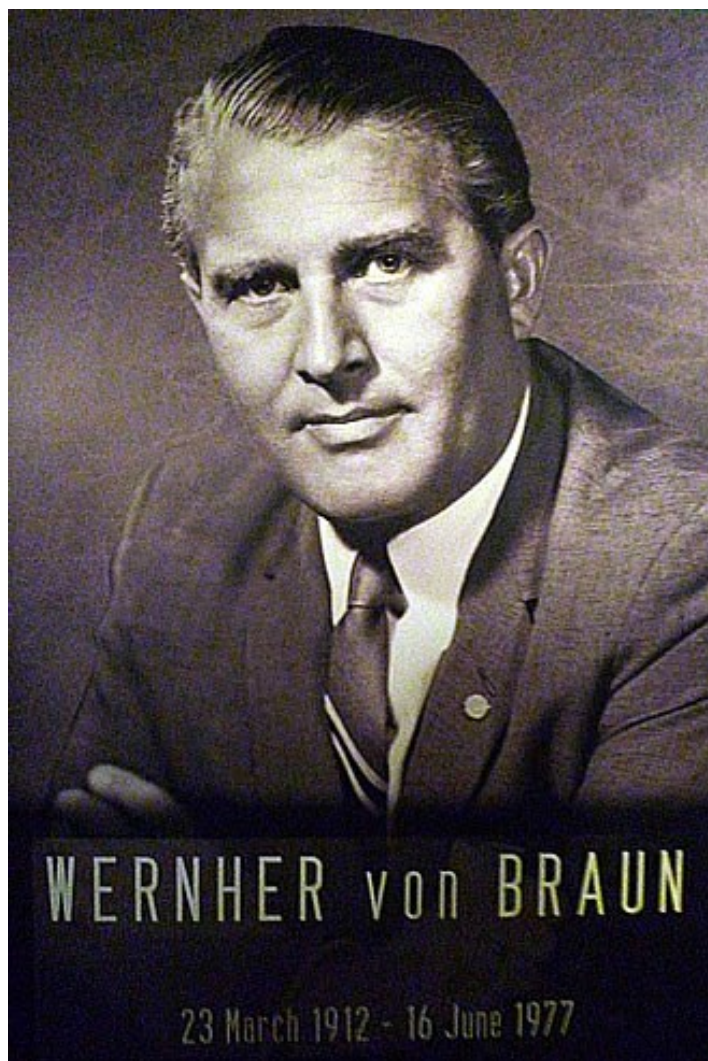


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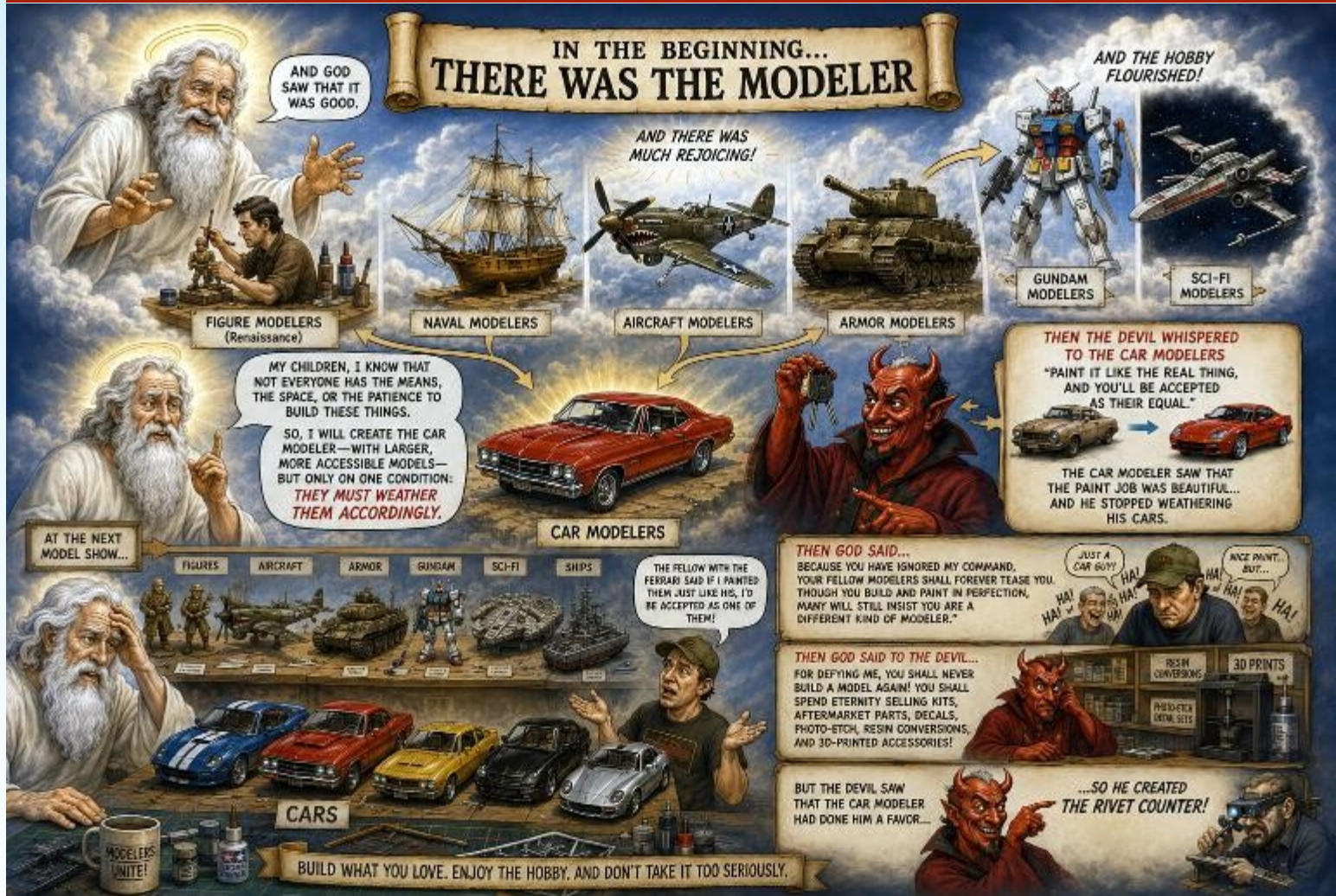
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A LITTLE MODELING HUMOR...

By Mario A. Fernandez | Page 1 of 2

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In the beginning, God created the modeler. He started with the figure modelers back in the Renaissance. And God saw that it was good.

But God saw that the figure modeler had been alone for a long time, so He created the naval modeler. When He saw that naval modeling wasn't quite as popular, He created the aircraft modeler. And before mankind flew real airplanes, they first flew model

airplanes. And there was much rejoicing.

Later, God noticed that the figure modelers and aircraft modelers didn't quite mix because of their differences in scale. So He created the armor modeler.

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A LITTLE MODELING HUMOR...

By Mario A. Fernandez | Page 2 of 2

These modelers embraced detailing and weathering with unmatched enthusiasm, and God saw that it was good.

Then the hobby began to flourish. The offspring of the figure modelers and the armor modelers gave rise to the Gundam modelers, while the aircraft modelers and the armor modelers gave birth to the Sci-Fi modelers. And God saw that it was very good.

But then the Devil—who drove a Ferrari—said to God, ***"Not everyone has the means, space, or patience to build those things. Why not create the Car Modeler instead? The subjects are larger, easier to handle, and far more accessible."***

God replied, ***"Very well... but only if they weather them accordingly."***

Now painting was the most tempting part of the modeling process.

So the Devil approached the Car Modeler and asked, ***"Did God really say you must weather every car you build?"***

The Car Modeler answered, ***"Yes."***

That's why I build abandoned cars, rally cars, military vehicles, and barn finds."

But the Devil replied, ***"Surely that isn't true. God knows that the day you build an ordinary street car and paint it exactly like the real thing, you will be regarded as the equal of the figure painters, the aircraft modelers, and the armor modelers."***

The Car Modeler looked upon the flawless paint finish, saw that it was beautiful, and from that day forward stopped weathering his cars.

At the next model show, God looked upon the contest tables and saw hundreds of beautifully weathered figures, aircraft, tanks, Gundam kits, science fiction subjects, and ships. But among the automobiles, there was scarcely a speck of dust, dirt, or rust.

God asked the Car Modeler, ***"What is this you have done? Did I not command you to weather your models?"***

The Car Modeler answered, ***"The fellow with the Ferrari told me that***

if I painted them just like his, I'd be accepted as one of the aircraft, armor, and figure modelers."

Then God said to the Car Modeler, ***"Because you have ignored My command, your fellow modelers shall forever tease you. Though you scratch-build, super-detail, polish, and paint your cars to perfection, many will still insist you are somehow a different kind of modeler."***

Then God turned to the Devil and declared, ***"Because you defied Me, you shall never again build a model for the rest of your existence. Instead, you shall spend eternity selling model kits, aftermarket parts, resin conversions, photo-etch sets, decals, and 3D-printed accessories."***

But the Devil saw that the Car Modeler had done him a favor. So, to spare him from the endless teasing...



...he created the Rivet Counter!

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Over 40 New and Updated Categories Added to Austin's 2026 CAPITOL CLASSIC MODEL SHOW

By Tim Robb

THE AUSTIN SCALE MODELER'S SOCIETY PRESENTS

THE 2026 CAPITOL CLASSIC



I'm happy to announce that more than 40 New and Updated categories have been added to this year's 2026 Capitol Classic Model Show! **Here's what's new:**

Juniors (Category J00)

- J01** - Juniors 12 & under
- J02**—Juniors 13 to 17

Aircraft (Category 100)

- 101**—First Time Competitor: Aircraft
- 105**—1/72 & Smaller Rotary Wing
- 106**—1/48 & Larger Rotary Wing
- 107**—1/72 & Smaller Biplane
- 109**—1/32 & Larger Biplane
- 110**—1/100 & Smaller military Single-Engine
- 110**—1/100 & Smaller military Multi-Engine
- 121**—1/48 Twin Engine Multi-Prop
- 122**—1/48 3+ Engine Multi-Prop
- 126**—Aircraft in Flight

Armor (Category 200)

- 201**—First Time Competitor: Armor
- 203**—1/16 or larger (All Types & Eras)
- 210**—1/35 Fully Tracked Allies (1939-45)
- 211**—1/35 Fully Tracked Axis (1939-45)

Automotive (Category 300)

- 301**—First Time Competitor: Automotive
- 312**—Off-Road Vehicles
- 313**—Pickup Trucks

Watercraft (Category 400)

- 401**—First Time Competitor: Watercraft
- 402**—Aircraft, Battleships, Battle cruisers, Cruisers 1/450 & Larger
- 403**—Aircraft, Battleships, Battle cruisers, Cruisers 1/451 & Smaller
- 404**—Surface Ships Smaller than Cruisers & Commercial Vessels 1/450 & Larger
- 405**—Surface Ships Smaller than Cruisers & Commercial Vessels 1/450 & Smaller
- 406**—Submarines 1/450 & Larger
- 407**—Submarines 1/450 & Smaller
- 408**—Boats, Speedboats, Motor Torpedo Boats, Motor Patrol Boats

Science Fact & Fiction (Category 500)

- 501**—First Time Competitor: Science Fact & Fiction

Gundam (Category 600)

- 601**—First Time Competitor: Gundam
- 602**—Straight Build—High Grade / Real Grade
- 603**—Straight Build—MG/MGSD
- 604**—Straight Build—Super Deformed
- 610**—Master Grade Super Deformed
- 611**—Non-Gundam Mecha 1/144 or Smaller
- 612**—Non-Gundam Mecha 1/144 or Larger

Warhammer 700

- 701**—Warhammer 40,000: Single Miniature
- 702**—Warhammer 40,000: Unit or Kill Team
- 702**—Warhammer 40,000: Large Model or Vehicle
- 704**—Warhammer: Age of Sigmar: Single Miniature
- 705**—Warhammer: Age of Sigmar: Unit or Warband
- 706**—Warhammer: Age of Sigmar: Large Miniature or War Machine
- 707**—Warhammer: Horus Heresy & The Old World

Diorama (Category 800)

- 801**—First Time Competitor: Diorama

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Register your Monthly Contest Entries with **HOBBY SHOW MANAGER**

By Mario A. Fernandez and Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 4



**HOBBYSHOW
MANAGER**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR MONTHLY CONTEST ENTRIES WITH **HOBBYSHOW** MANAGER



**Planning to enter a model in
this month's club contest?
Please take a few minutes to
register your entry using Hobby
Show Manager before the
meeting.**

Hobby Show Manager is our club's online registration system designed to make entering the monthly contest quick and easy. By registering your models in advance, you help streamline the check-in process, reduce paperwork on contest night, and ensure your entry information is accurate.

If you know you'll be bringing one or more models to the meeting, please log into Hobby Show Manager and register them before arriving. It only takes a few minutes and makes the process smoother for everyone involved.

Thank you for helping us keep our monthly contests organized. We look forward to seeing your models on the contest table!

General Instructions

1 Step 1: Accessing Hobby Show Manager

You can access the Hobby Show Manager portal via the internet from your phone or computer by visiting the following website:

www.hobbyshowmanager.com/alamo

Once loaded, you'll see the Hobby Show Manager Login Screen below:

Alamo Squadron July Meeting

**HOBBYSHOW
MANAGER**

Email:
[Text Field]

Password:
[Text Field]

☐ Show password ☐ Remember me

Login Register

[Forgot your password?](#)

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Register your Monthly Contest Entries with HOBBY SHOW MANAGER

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Steps 2 and 3: Logging into the portal

At the Hobby Show Manager login screen, enter your **email address** and **password** in the appropriate fields, then click (or tap) **Login**. Refer to the example below.

Alamo Squadron July Meeting

HOBBY SHOW MANAGER

Email: joepublic@mymail.net

Password: *****

☐ Show password ☐ Remember me

Login **Register**

Forgot your password?

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2 Enter your E-mail and Password in the applicable fields.

3 Click/tap on the Login button log into the portal.

Once you log in, the **Model Registration** screen will appear as shown in step 4. If you've previously registered any models they'll be shown here.

Step 4: Registering your model

At the Hobby Show Manager Registration Screen, click or tap on the **Enter Model to Contest** button. Reference the example on the top right above.

Welcome, Julio

Alamo Squadron July Meeting
San Antonio, TX US (2025-07-02)

My Entered Models
No models registered yet

Display only models:
Enter Model to Contest

4 Click/tap on the Enter Model to Contest button.

[Click or tap here for detailed information about Hobby Show Manager's home screen.](#)

Steps 5 and 6: Entering model's Information

Enter your model's information in each required field. **Note:** Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required. When done, click on the **Register Model** button. Reference the example below.

Enter Model
Alamo Squadron July Meeting
Registering models for: Julio Caro That's not me!

Up to 5 models may be entered per person. Entry constitutes acceptance of the event Rules and Terms.

Model Name *
U.S. Navy Shore Patrol Jeep

Scale *
1/35

Class *
03 - Armor

Manufacturer *
Tamiya

Description of Work:
OOB Built: BUILD NOTES: Original kit was meant to be built as a U.S. Army WWII Jeep, with decals for such a build, but I decided to build it as a U.S. Navy WWII SHORE PATROL jeep instead. I felt it would represent a less common and different version of the kit. Decals were all custom-created. Lighter

Select Special Awards:

Register Model **Cancel**

5 Enter your model's information in each required field. Note: Fields marked with "*" are required. Description of Work and Add Pictures fields are optional, but recommended.

6 Click/tap on the Register Model button to register your model.

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Region 6's Newsletter of the Year for 2025!

Register your Monthly Contest Entries with HOBBY SHOW MANAGER

By Mario A. Fernandez and Julio A. Caro | Page 3 of 4

Entry Confirmation Screen

Once your model has been successfully registered, the **Entry Confirmed** screen shown below will appear.

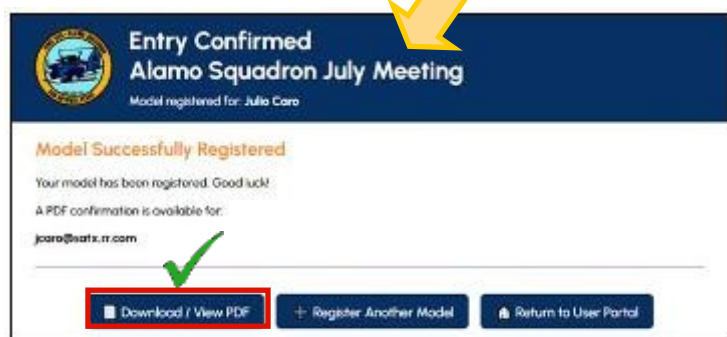
From this screen, you can:

- ✓ **Download, view, or print your Model Registration Form PDF (Step 7).**

This form must accompany your model on the contest table and will be used by the judges during evaluation.

- ✓ **Register Another Model.** Select this option to register an additional contest entry.
- ✓ **Return to the User Portal.** Select any of the available navigation options to return to the main portal.

Refer to the example below.



You can also download and print a PDF view of your entry, register another model or return to the User Portal screen by clicking/tapping on the buttons above.

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Step 7: Printing the Model Registration Form

Alamo Squadron July Meeting
San Antonio, TX, US | July 2, 2026

Model Registration Form
(Please PRINT and place this form on the contest table with your model.)

Entry No.
7-1

Model Name: US Navy Shore Patrol Jeep
Class: 03 - Armor
Scale: 1/35
Manufacturer: TAMIYA

Special Awards:

Description of Work:
BUILD NOTES: Original kit was meant to be built as a U.S. Army WWII Jeep, with decals for such a build, but I decided to build it as a U. S. Navy WWII SHORE PATROL jeep instead. I felt it would represent a less common and different version of the kit. Decals were all custom-created. Lighter weathering is conducive of a jeep used by U. S. Navy to perform Shore Patrol duties on city streets and beach environments.

(Note: Models that have been removed from the contest tables prior to the completion of judging are not eligible for further consideration.)

Participant Name: Julio Caro
Participant Hometown: San Antonio, TX, US
IPMS Number: 69582008

Alamo Squadron July Meeting | HobbyShowManager | 19.3 | July 2, 2026

After you've successfully register your model, print its **Model Registration Form**. This form must accompany your model on the contest table and will be used by the judges during evaluation. Reference example above.

You can print the form from either the **Entry Confirmed** screen or the **Hobby Show Manager** Home Screen.

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Register your Monthly Contest Entries with **HOBBY SHOW MANAGER**

By Mario A. Fernandez and Julio A. Caro | Page 4 of 4

Hobby Show Manager 's Home Screen

After you log in, the **Hobby Show Manager** home screen appears. This is the portal's main screen and serves as the starting point for most of the tasks you'll perform. It also displays a list of all models previously registered.

The illustration below identifies the main areas of the screen and highlights the features you'll use most often.

The screenshot shows the Hobby Show Manager interface. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with a 'Welcome, Julio' message, the Alamo Squadron logo, and buttons for 'Enter Model to Contest', 'Display only models:' (with a dropdown showing '0'), 'Save', and 'Vote for People's Choice'. The main content area is titled 'Alamo Squadron July Meeting' with the date 'San Antonio, TX, US | 2026-07-02'. It features a 'My Entered Models' table with two entries. Annotations with arrows point to various features: 'Click or tap to **logout** of Hobby Show Manager.' points to the 'Logout' button; 'Click or tap to **update** your user profile.' points to the 'Profile' button; 'Click or tap to **enter a model** for the contest.' points to the 'Enter Model to Contest' button; 'Click or tap to view the **Model Registration Form**.' points to the first icon in the 'Action' column; 'Click or tap to **edit** a model's information.' points to the second icon; and 'Click or tap to **DELETE** an entered model.' points to the third icon.

Entry #	Model Name	Class	Scale	Participant	Action
7-1	US Navy Shore Patrol Jeep	03 - Armor	1/35	Julio Caro	[Info] [Edit] [Delete]
7-2	XP-80 Shooting Star Prototype Aircraft	02 - Aircraft	1/72	Julio Caro	[Info] [Edit] [Delete]

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Region 6's Newsletter of the Year for 2025!

July 2nd, 2026 Club Model Contest Winner

By Julio A. Caro

The competition as always was fierce, but **Henry Núñez** came out on top with his outstanding **REST IN PEACE** figure. ***Congratulations, Henry!***



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Region 6's Newsletter of the Year for 2025!

SCALEFEST 2026 SHOW (Grapevine, TX) - 5/30/26

By Julio A. Caro | Addendum

The following pages feature a selection of award-winning models from the **SCALEFEST 2026** show, held in Grapevine, Texas, on May 30, 2026. These entries were submitted by members who chose to showcase their work in our newsletter. **Congratulations to all award recipients for their outstanding craftsmanship and achievement.**

HENRY NUNEZ SCALEFEST 2026 (Grapevine, TX)			
PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	SCALE	AWARD(S)
	Surrounded! Bastogne, December 1944	1/35	
	Confederate Infantry Officer	75mm	

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Region 6's Newsletter of the Year for 2025!

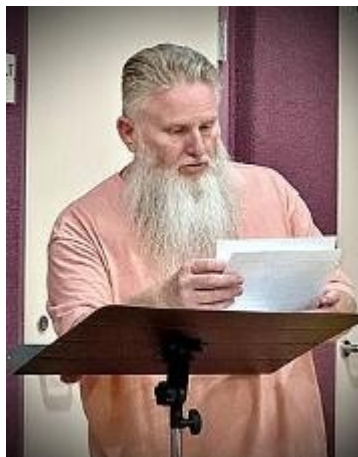
July 2nd, 2026 Meeting Photos

By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 3

Our **July 2nd, 2026** meeting brought many of our members together once again for an evening filled with creativity, craftsmanship, and camaraderie. Whether you were presenting, learning, or simply enjoying the atmosphere, the meeting was a great reminder of what makes our club so special. Enjoy the highlights Below.



President **Jim Norton** opens the evening's meeting.



Brandon Porter briefs club on the status of our finances.



Chris Lenahan announces he is now the ModelFiesta 2027 Show Coordinator



Dana Mathes discusses the Pros and Cons of adopting the Exhibition Format



Mike Williamson brings up participation in Model Summit Awards.



Rob Booth shows club the proposed Club shirt for ModelFiesta 2027.



John Kress talks about his Navy F-4 Phantom build on the Work in Progress (WIP) table.



Gene Botkins discusses his ongoing progress with his Porsche 911 Carrera build on the WIP table.

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July 2nd, 2026 Meeting Photos

By Julio A. Caro | Page 2 of 3



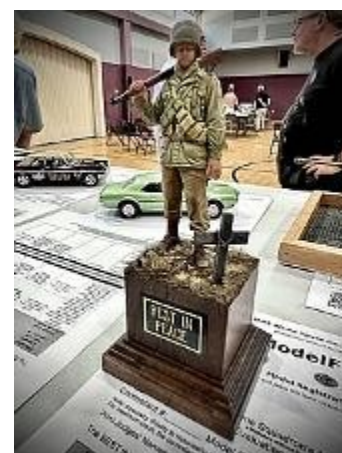
Dana Mathes in the process of building a T-34 Mentor Aircraft.



Outstanding diorama built by **Henry Nunez** on display on the demonstration table.



Super cool Gundam and Robot sit on the WIP Table.



Winning entry REST IN PEACE figure by **Henry Nunez** on the Contest Table.



1964 Tasca Ford Thunderbolt by **David Auth** proudly sits on the Contest Table.



Great Apollo XII Surveyor 3 build on the Contest Table by **Greg Hamon**.



Collection of 3D-printed figures by **Chris Lenahan** on the WIP Table.

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July 2nd, 2026 Meeting Photos

By Julio A. Caro | Page 3 of 3

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Collection of vignettes and Dioramas by **Henry Nunez**.



1968 Pontiac Firebird built by **Juan Noltinius** on the Contest Table.



Collection several automobiles on the WIP Table by **Rob Booth**.



Back to Future motion picture DeLorean by **Greg Hamon** on the Contest Table.



Gabriel Lee's Huascar Peruvian Ironclad Ship and F-104G plane on the WIP Table.



John Kress built this Navy F-4 Phantom on display on the WIP Table.



1/35 Scale Nashorn Tank on the Contest Table built by **Juan Noltinius**



Vendor table with available kits for purchase for our members.



Lee Forbes and **Henry Nunez** give a demonstration about vignettes and dioramas and their judging standards.

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Region 6's Newsletter of the Year for 2025!

Upcoming Shows and Events

Mark your calendars and get ready to be inspired by the creativity and craftsmanship on display at these upcoming IPMS Region 06 model shows.



EVENT DATE	NAME	LOCATION	ADDRESS
August 5-8, 2026	2026 IPMS NATIONALS	Fort Wayne, IN	Grand Wayne Convention Center 120 W. Jefferson Blvd. Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
08/22/2026	Space City Shootout Model Car Show	Stafford, TX	The Stafford Center 10505 Cash Rd, Stafford, TX 77477
09/12/2026	SuperCon 2026	Arlington, TX	Bob Duncan Community Center 2800 S. Center Street, Arlington, TX 76014
10/3/2026	OKCMetroCon 2026	Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma National Guard Museum 3301 N.E. Grand Blvd Oklahoma City, OK 73111
10/12/2026	Cajun Modelfest 38	Baton Rouge, LA	LSU 4H MiniBarn Building Ag Center Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70803
11/14/2026	Capitol Classic 2026	Taylor, TX	Williamson County Expo Center 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor, TX 76574
02/20/2027	MODELFiesta 45	New Braunfels, TX	New Braunfels Civic Center 375 S Castell Ave New Braunfels, TX 78130

AUGUST 2026 Edition

Region 6's Newsletter of the Year for 2025!

Navigator Contributors Wanted!

By Your Navigator Editing Staff | Page 1 of 2



Writing for the Navigator newsletter is more than just putting words on a page— it's a chance to shape the voice of our Alamo Squadron community and beyond.

Each submission brings fresh perspective, whether it's a humorous anecdote, a detailed build report, or a reflective piece on modeling or camaraderie. These stories not only entertain, they inform and inspire, showcasing the diversity of skills, styles, and personalities within our chapter.

When members take part, the newsletter transforms into something truly special: a collective showcase of creativity and shared passion. It becomes a publication we all own, reflecting the spirit and heart of our group. This sense of ownership builds stronger connections and invites new members to feel welcomed and engaged.

Varied writing styles and topics add texture and interest, turning each issue into a lively mix rather than a monotonous read. It's not just informative—it's inviting. Submissions also lighten the load for editors and help keep content fresh and dynamic. In short, writing for the Navigator isn't just helpful—it's powerful. It turns readers into contributors, and contributors into community builders. Let your voice be part of the journey.

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We can use several types of content. Here are a few suggestions:

Continues on the following page...

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Navigator Contributors Wanted!

By Your Navigator Editing Staff | Page 2 of 2

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Short Teases

Short teasers—about **300 words or less**—are perfect for sharing anecdotes, humorous incidents, or brief stories from the hobby. Feel free to include a photo or illustration if it adds to the piece. These short entries are an excellent starting point for **first-time contributors**: they're quick to write and a fun way to get involved.

Full-Length Articles

Full-length articles typically range from **500 to 1,500 words**. While longer pieces are welcome, keep in mind that a newsletter exceeding **40 pages** can become overwhelming for readers. This is a hobby publication—not a scientific journal or technical manual—so **clarity and brevity are always appreciated**.

Visuals and Illustrations

Including **5–10 images per article** works well in most cases. Please **attach photos and artwork as separate files rather than embedding them in the document**; this allows us to properly size and position them during layout. You're welcome to include captions, or we can add them for you—if needed.

Image Placement

If your article includes photos or illustrations, please indicate roughly where you would like them to appear in the text. The easiest way to do this is to insert a short note at the appropriate spot, such as:

"[Insert Photo 1 here]" or "[Insert Figure 1 here]"

This helps us match each image with the correct section of your article, especially when multiple photos are submitted. Don't worry about exact placement—we'll handle the final layout—but your notes help ensure the images appear in the right spot.

Photo Tips

Please submit **the highest-quality images available**. Files can be shared using free services such as **Google Drive or WeTransfer** if they are too large to email.

File Format

Whenever possible, please submit your article in **Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx)**, or other program that can be easily opened and saved as a Word file.

For New and Seasoned Writers Alike

If you've never written an article before but would like to give it a try, we're happy to help you get started.

Closing Thoughts

Every modeler has a story, and we'd love to help you tell yours. Thank you for considering becoming a contributor. We look forward to featuring your work in future editions.



Julio



Alan

AUGUST 2026 Edition

Region 6's Newsletter of the Year for 2025!

Monthly Club Meeting Information

Alamo Squadron monthly club meetings are the perfect place to connect with fellow modelers to exchange ideas and learn new techniques to enhance your craft. Come share your latest projects, gain valuable insights, and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals who share your love for scale modeling.



Our monthly meetings are held on the **first Thursday** of the month starting at **6:30 PM** at

ABIDING PRESENCE LUTHERAN CHURCH

14700 San Pedro Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78232



*Our next meeting will take place on **SEPTEMBER 3, 2026.***

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IPMS Membership Information

Joining IPMS/USA is a great idea because it connects you with a dedicated community of scale modelers who share your passion. The society offers valuable resources, including detailed magazines, access to national and regional events, and opportunities for learning and improvement through workshops and contests. Membership also provides a platform to share your work, receive constructive feedback, and stay updated with the latest trends and techniques in scale modeling.



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: _____

Junior (17 years or younger)	☐ \$17.00	Date of Birth _____
Adult One year	☐ \$30.00	
Two years	☐ \$58.00	
Three years	☐ \$86.00	
Canada & Mexico	☐ \$35.00	
Foreign Surface	☐ \$38.00	
Family	☐ 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: _____

Where did you hear about IPMS/USA? Please check all that apply:

☐ Local model club	☐ Internet search
☐ Friend	☐ IPMS web site
☐ Ad in IPMS Journal	☐ I'm a former member rejoining
☐ Facebook	☐ Other _____
☐ Ad in other magazine	

Applications should be printed and mailed to:

IPMS/USA
P. O. Box 452350
Omaha, Nebraska 68145-0235

Interested in joining IPMS?

Here is a copy of an IPMS Membership Application/Renewal Form. You can download the actual form from the IPMS/USA website at:

https://ipmsusa.org/sites/default/files/membership_application_0.pdf



<https://ipmsusa.org/>

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Hobby Stores and Other Links

Support hobby stores that support our club!

DIBBLES HOBBIES

1029 Donaldson Ave,
San Antonio, TX 78228
(210) 735-7221

<http://dibbleshobbies.com>

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 PM

CLOSED: Sundays and Mondays

HOBBY TOWN

1309 N. Loop 1604 W.,
Vineyard Shopping Center, Suite 101
San Antonio, TX 78259-4769
(210) 236-5527

<https://www.hobbytown.com/sanantonio-tx/l196>

OPEN: Monday-Saturday, 10:00 am to 8:00 PM

OPEN: Sunday, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

HILL COUNTRY HOBBY

9355 Bandera Road, Suite 118
San Antonio, TX 78250
(210) 681-2007

<http://www.hillcountryhobby.com>

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 PM

CLOSED: Sundays and Mondays

HOBBY LOBBY

Visit the Hobby Lobby website to find the nearest store to your location.

<http://www.hobbylobby.com>

LIONHEART HOBBY

5500 FM 2770, Suite 103,
Kyle, TX 78640
(512) 504-3404

<https://lionhearthobby.com>

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Monday - Thursday, 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Sunday 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

KING'S HOBBY

7801 N. Lamar Blvd., Unit E188
Austin, TX 78752
(512) 836-7388

<http://kingshobby.com>

OPEN: Monday to Friday, 10:00 am - 6:00 PM

CLOSED: Saturday and Sunday

THE MODEL BOX

1022 N. Main St.
Boerne, TX 78006
Office: (830)-331-9144
Cell: (714) 323-4710

<https://themodelbox.co/>



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Officers and Support Staff



Jim Norton
President



David Auth
Vice President



Brandon Porter
Treasurer



Don Weaver
Chapter Contact



Mario Fernandez
Webmaster



Julio A. Caro
Managing Editor &
Publisher
The Navigator



Alan Larrumbide
Assistant Editor
The Navigator



Alamo Squadron Website
<https://www.alamosquadron.com>



Alamo Squadron FACEBOOK Page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/114044928625406>



IPMS Membership Information
<https://www.myipmsusa.org/join-us>



Modellers Without Borders
<https://modellers.org/>

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WELCOME TO

The

NAVIGATOR

ALAMO SQUADRON'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



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Region 6's Newsletter of the Year for 2025!

MODELFIESTA 2027 FLYER

50 ANNIVERSARY

IPMS/USA - ALAMO SQUADRON
ESTABLISHED 1977
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

MODELFIESTA 2027
ANYTHING GOLD -1977

MODEL CONTEST ★ VENDOR EVENT

FEBRUARY 19-20, 2027
New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center
New Braunfels, Texas

Classes:
Youth, Aerospace, Armor,
Automotive, Ships, Figures,
Fictional Vehicles, Gunpla
and Miscellaneous

VISIT MODELFIESTA.COM for more information

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