



# The Navigator

April 2020

The Newsletter of the Alamo Squadron IPMS Chapter

*The San Antonio chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society*

*A registered 501c-7 organization*

Team Lead for the National IPMS/USA Convention: 2020  
IPMS/USA Region 6 Chapter of the Year: 2016

IPMS/USA Region 6 Newsletter of the Year: 2017  
IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year: 1999 & 2005

## HOT off the presses.

2020-2021 club officers (a.k.a. the "E-Board") have been annointed. As recorded via online acclamation and reported by outgoing Pres. Craig Gregory, they are:



- Treasurer - Chris Settle (incumbent)
- Vice-President - Keith Rule
- President - Herb Scranton III

Congratulations to our newly elected officers. The official passing of the scepter and miter will transpire in the next onsite (or "virtual") club meeting.



**THERE WILL NOT BE A MEEETING THIS MONTH  
DUE TO THE "STAY AT HOME" CITY-WIDE EDICT.**

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*(Correction Notice: Local chapter  
annual membership is \$12.00 USD.)*

FOR Modelers and BY Modelers ABOUT modeling...



# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**By Craig Gregory IPMS #49320**

This is my last installment of the President's Column as my tenure as president of Alamo Squadron.



Thank you, Chris Settle and Len Pilhofer, for serving with me this year. Throughout the year I asked Chris for about the club's finances, and he was always able to dig out the details needed. Len was responsible for coordinating the demonstrations for each club meeting. Thank you, 2019-20 executive board.

Your new 2020-21 club officers are:

- President – Herb Scranton III
- Vice-President – Keith Rule
- Treasurer – Chris Settle

As you know, we will not be meeting in-person for April's club meeting. The outgoing executive board will try to carry-out an online meeting; we will be using GoToMeeting. An email will be sent out to all club members with instructions on how to join the online April meeting. The meeting will still be at 7pm on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, just online instead of in-person. Do realize that we won't be able to do the WIP on monthly contest, but we will strive to provide some meaningful content during the meeting.

## **Our New Reality**

The decision from your executive board and the message I sent out:

*"In light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation, your executive board has met, discussed and voted to cancel April's "in-person" club meeting. At this time, only April's meeting is affected.*

*The board considered the following before making its decision:*

- *Federal, State and local governments are asking everyone to practice social distancing*
- *As a courtesy to our host Northside Ford*
- *A large proportion of our club members are in the COVID-19 high risk group."*

Since that decision, the situation in San Antonio has worsened. I hope that everyone is doing what is needed to end the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Len Pilhofer and I toying with the idea of some sort of online build day. Also, I have always promoted buddy-builds. On an individual basis, I recommend finding a build buddy and use something like Skype to meet and work on a project.

Reach out to your friends in the club, make sure they are OK and encourage each other.

# SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Dana Mathes officially presented 2019 Model of the Year Plaque:



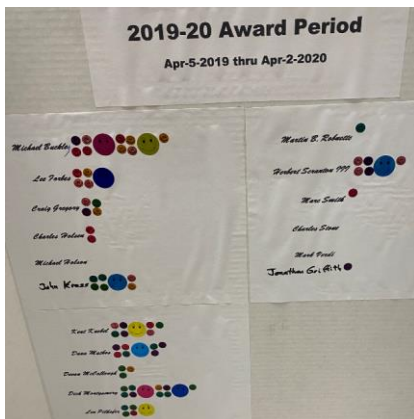
*(Dana on the left with Len Pilhofer last year's winner.)*

## 2019 Model Building Summit Awards:

*(Ed: Regrettably only photos of the summary board and the award stash are available:)*

### Participating Winners:

- Michael Buckley
- Lee Forbes
- Craig Gregory
- Jonathon Griffith
- Charles Holsen
- Kent Knebel
- John Kress
- Dana Mathes
- Dick Montgomery
- Len Pilhofer
- Herbert Scranton III





# Some WIPs from the Meeting

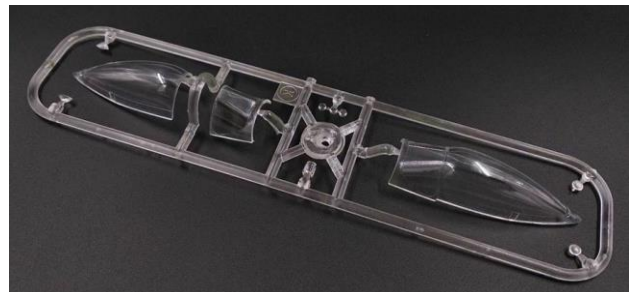
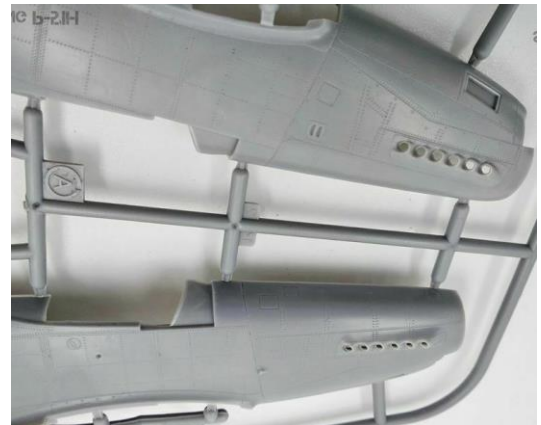
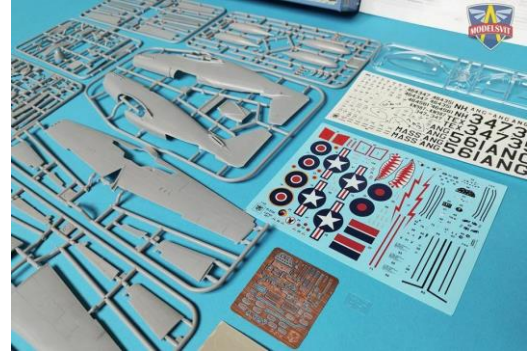




# KIT OF THE MONTH

## Modelsvit 1/48 P-51H: *presented by Devon McCollough*

(Ed: NO ANECDOTAL INFORMATION OF THE KIT FROM THE MEETING SO HERE ARE A FEW LOCAL AND BORROWED PICS.)



# CLUB PROGRAM/DEMO

## “Aircraft Rigging”

*by Dick Montgomery IPMS #14003*

Dick provided a masterful overview of how he applies aircraft rigging wire to his models. He truly raises the art from Craftsman to Artisan. Here are some accompanying photos.



(Tools of the trade as well as a testament to his work.)



Dick also alluded to a link hosted by our brethren IPMS club in Austin.

[http://www.austinsms.org/article\\_seaman.php](http://www.austinsms.org/article_seaman.php)



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# FEATURE ARTICLE CONTRIBUTION

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## Circles, Circles Everywhere

*Story and photos by Eric Syverson IPMS #50324*



I was really excited when Alamo Squadron decided to feature a tool expo at a meeting several months ago. Members were encouraged to bring a favorite tool to present to the group. The exercise replaced the monthly technique class which I always look forward to—but the opportunity to learn from our typical 30-40 member meeting a hefty dose of favorite tools was something that probably only comes every few years, so I was really looking forward to this one.

I brought two tools to the meeting: The UMM-USA SCR-01 Scribe Tool and a super lightweight foam board I found at Hobby Lobby for a few bucks to assist with landing gear alignment. These tools have become indispensable to me during aircraft builds and so I enjoyed sharing them with the club.

There was another tool I had just acquired that I didn't have time to trial prior to the tool expo. I have since had an opportunity to trial the tool and am so impressed with its performance that I wanted to share it here. The tool should prove useful across the many genres of our hobby, from aircraft to armor, from auto to Gundam, to sci-fi and maybe even to ships?

The tool is a circle cutter. This particular one is sold by Meng but looks to be the same manufactured by Dispie. I purchased it after much "hemming and hawing" over the price, but because I have learned that a good tool is "worth its weight in gold", I took the plunge and bought it after saving up my pennies.

The tool requires assembly which took some thought and time because the assembly diagram is a bit un-magnified and lacking words and maybe because I am not the sharpest tool in the shed. The tool itself is incredibly well machined and made of "aircraft grade aluminum". It comes with three cutting blades of slightly differing shape- for depth of cut I presume. Once loaded, the blade is held in place by a tiny magnet. The radius of the desired cut is determined and set on the 1 to 25mm scale. Masking tape is laid down onto the cutting mat, the cutter is placed on top, and the blade is lowered until it barely touches the tape. Ensuring that the blade is barely touching the tape is how you get a terrific, clean cut. The circle cutter is precise and cuts circles in masking tape from diameters 1 to 50mm, in increments ad infinitum. In other words, if you want to cut a circular mask in any diameter from 1mm to 50mm, you can do it with this tool. In any diameter. Did I mention in any diameter?

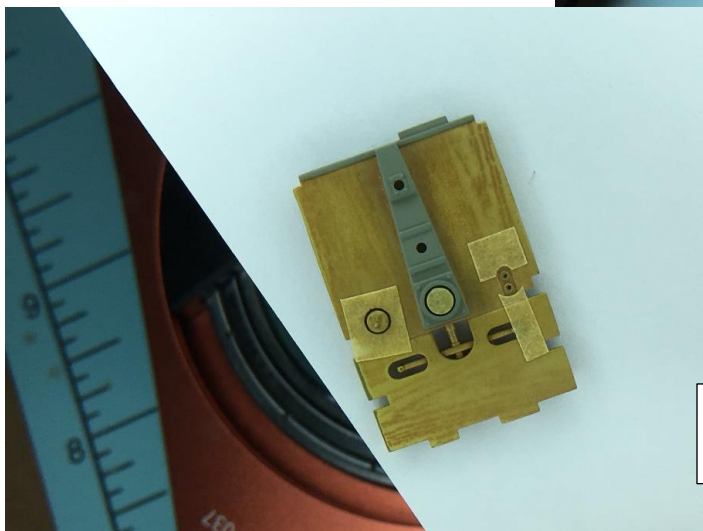
For a guy like me that builds aircraft kits this is a pretty big deal for masking wheels or dials or the corners of canopy windows etc. If I was building an armor kit or auto or motorcycle kit it might even be a bigger deal for wheels, dials, barrels, hatches. Masking accuracy and speed. No more buying mask sets—I can make my own.

There is a degree of flexibility in its application too: You can create inner or outer masks. You can mask partial curves. And by cutting thin strips you can mask asymmetrical curves easier than with a straight cut of tape. For the purpose of this article I have provided some examples of its use during my work on a 1/32 Wingnut Wings cockpit floor from their Pfalz d.XII and also some pics from masks I cut for my son's Pegasus 1/48 Hawker Hurricane wheels.



Here she is after assembly and in the box.

The blade is lowered until it barely touches the tape.



Here are a few basic applications: Outer mask, inner mask, partial curves.





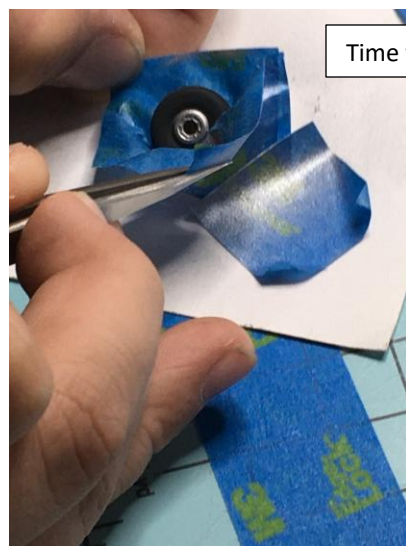
Further masking to protect the wood floor. Paint applied.



Circle cutter masked details came out clean.



I cut masks for my son's Hurricane wheels. He masked the tires, shot some silver...



Time for the big reveal...



...And voila! Sam was very happy with the results!



# ON THE HORIZON

## Kit of the Month

Each month club members are encouraged to bring one of their recent acquisitions to the meeting and open its box to let others peek inside. With a few brief comments and questions answered. we will get to know what's in the box and, chances are, rush home to order a copy. When you are ready to share your experience and thoughts, contact and coordinate with Club President Craig Gregory 541-377-188 or at [craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com](mailto:craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com).

## 2020 Monthly Club Contest Themes and Presentation/Demos/Programs

Date*	Contest Theme <sup>1</sup>	Program <sup>2</sup>	Presenter
<p><b>NOTE:</b> As a precaution to our membership and our host site,</p> <p><b>there will not be an onsite Alamo Squadron Club Meeting in April.</b></p> <p>Please view the Alamo Squadron website for updates and changes to the schedule.</p>			
<del>Apr 2</del> Canceled	Open	Hydro-dip Technique	Paul Blackmon
May 7	The Century Series	TBD	
Jun 4	Open	TBD	
Jul 2	Nats 2020 Group Build Contest	TBD	

\*First Thursday of the month.

Source: <sup>1</sup> <http://www.alamosquadron.com/monthly-contest.html>


<sup>2</sup> <http://www.alamosquadron.com/program-schedule.html>

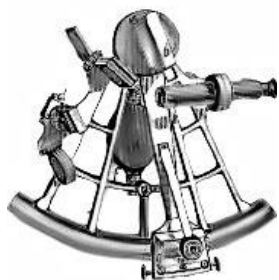


## Upcoming IPMS Region 6 Area Club Events

*Provided by Dick Montgomery IPMS #14003*

**Please verify contest dates by checking with websites or contacts in advance of these published dates.**

Date	Title	Contact	Location	Address
March 28, 2020 <b>Rescheduled for August 15, 2020</b>	RiverCon IX <a href="http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/">http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/</a>	Andy Bloom – <a href="mailto:Bloom4him@hotmail.com">Bloom4him@hotmail.com</a>	LSUS University Center	One University Place Shreveport, LA 71111
April 4, 2020 <b>Canceled</b>	Great South Tigerfest XXV	Richard Marriott – <a href="mailto:rmpaintingmusic14@gmail.com">rmpaintingmusic14@gmail.com</a>	St. Jerome Knights of Columbus Hall	3310 Florida Ave, Kenner, LA 70123
April 18, 2020 <b>Rescheduled for August 22, 2020</b>	Route 66 Model Expo <a href="https://www.tulsaipms.org/">https://www.tulsaipms.org/</a> Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area <a href="http://www.tulsaipms.com">www.tulsaipms.com</a>	Greg Kittinger - <a href="mailto:greg.kittinger@gmail.com">greg.kittinger@gmail.com</a>	Bixby Community Center in Bixby OK.	211 N Cabaniss Ave, Bixby, OK 74008
April 25, 2020	Modelmania 2020 Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area <a href="http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11">http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11</a>	Ken Jackson – <a href="mailto:kw.jackson.1@hotmail.com">kw.jackson.1@hotmail.com</a>	Stafford Center	10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX 77477
June 6, 2020	Scalefest 2020 Contest includes all modeling genres. Vendor Area <a href="http://www.ipmsnct.net/Scalefest.htm">http://www.ipmsnct.net/Scalefest.htm</a>	Randy Spurr- <a href="mailto:scalefest@gmail.com">scalefest@gmail.com</a>	Grapevine Convention Ctr.	1209 S. Main, Grapevine, TX 76051
June 13, 2020	SoonerCon 2020 <a href="http://www.ipmsmetrookc.com/soonercon-2020.html">http://www.ipmsmetrookc.com/soonercon-2020.html</a>	(Building is named "The Cube" north of main church building)  Richard Fisher – <a href="mailto:challenger@challenger-n-scale.com">challenger@challenger-n-scale.com</a>	Council Road Baptist Church –	7903 NW 30th Bethany, OK 73008
June 20, 2020	Northshore Scale Modelers Expo <a href="https://northshoremodelers.net">https://northshoremodelers.net</a>	Warren Dickerson – <a href="mailto:northshore.scale.modelers@gmail.com">northshore.scale.modelers@gmail.com</a>		Covington, LA 70433
July 11, 2020	HAMS 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Model Car Show & Contest An Automotives Show. <a href="https://www.ipms-hams.org/">https://www.ipms-hams.org/</a>	Rob McQuown – <a href="mailto:Robert.mcquown@sbcgloble.net">Robert.mcquown@sbcgloble.net</a>	Cypress Creek Christian Community Ctr.	6823 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379
July 29-Aug 1, 2020	<b>2020 IPMS National Convention</b> <b>Convention website:</b> <a href="http://www.nats2020.com/">http://www.nats2020.com/</a>  <b>IPMS-USA website:</b> <a href="http://www.ipmsusa.org/">http://www.ipmsusa.org/</a> 4 Days of seminars, presentations, massive vendor area, local tours, great food, and model contest – All Located Deep in the Heart of Texas	<div style="text-align: center;"> <b>COME AND MAKE IT</b> IPMS/USA NATIONAL CONVENTION <b>SAN MARCOS, TEXAS</b> JUL 29 - AUG 1, 2020</div> Convention Dir - Len Pilhofer – <a href="mailto:director.nats2020@gmail.com">director.nats2020@gmail.com</a>  Vendor Coord - Craig Gregory - <a href="mailto:vendor.nats2020@gmail.com">vendor.nats2020@gmail.com</a>	Embassy Suites & Convention Ctr.	San Marcos, TX (between Austin and San Antonio) 1001 E McCarty Ln San Marcos, TX 78666



# **CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **March Meeting Club Contest Results Theme: "Open"**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Dana Mathes: 1/25 Granddad's Truck (kitbashed)**



**2<sup>nd</sup> – Rowdy Bricco: 1/48 P-38 (Tamiya)**



**3<sup>rd</sup> – Keith Rule: 1/25 '32 Ford 3 Window Coupe**





## New Club Members and Attendees

Welcome to our new membership and to those first-time attendees expressing an interest in our hobby.

Cheers to all!

- Rowdy Bricco
- James D'Amico
- Keldon Seeber
- Brett Scholten
- Clifton Smith



## Next Club Meeting

***Date/Time: To be determined***

***Location: To be confirmed***



## Newsletter Article Contributions

Alamo Squadrons' newsletter, "***The Navigator***", is published monthly by the IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron club of San Antonio Texas intended for the enjoyment of the members of Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, product reviews, news items, and other hobby-related contributions are most welcome. Send written text files or photos and web site URLs as well as any overall comments/suggestions feedback to our editor, Sam Casas at [scasas002@satx.rr.com](mailto:scasas002@satx.rr.com).



**Next Issue: May 2020**

**Target Release Date: Sun May 3**

**Article/Photo Submissions Are Due: Fri May 1**

## Website Biographies of Club Members

This is a way for members to learn a little bit of modeling-related information of their club mates to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and techniques in all modeling genres and various areas. In no way is this mandatory and only if you wish to share your info with other club members should you participate. Be aware whatever is posted on the Alamo Squadron website becomes open to the all the world... there are no security controls on our website. If you wish to have your bio published, please reach out to Craig at [craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com](mailto:craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com). Here is a link to the bios already on file for your review and for others to verify that their information is correct: [alamosquadron.com/members.html](http://alamosquadron.com/members.html)



# OUR FEARLESS LEADERS

## Executive Board 2019-2020



**President**

Craig Gregory IPMS #49320

**Vice-President**

Len Pilhofer IPMS #49932

**Treasurer**

Chris Settle

## About Alamo Squadron

**IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron** was founded on November 17th, 1977 in San Antonio, Texas, for the enjoyment of building scale models and the camaraderie of its members. It is a hobby-centered social organization which, at its core, is focused on scale modeling of all kinds. It is an excellent source of information for those who wish to enhance modeling skills and improve modeling techniques and is open and inviting to visitors/guests at all skill levels with a variety of modeling interests. Annual dues are **\$12.00 \$24.00 a year** paid to the Club Treasurer on September 1st of each year.



QR Code for the club website.  
Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our web site!

[www.alamosquadron.com](http://www.alamosquadron.com)



QR Code for the club Facebook Page. Scan it with your cell phone's QR software to get to our home on FB.





# NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the hobby of Scale Modeling. Yearly membership includes a hard copy of the outstanding IPMS Journal mailed out six times a year, which is full of stories of interest on modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships and figures. There are full listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips articles and kit reviews. Being a member also allows one to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned Regional Contests and the world-famous National Convention held each summer. You'll also have access to the online Member's Forum where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops offer discounts to IPMS/USA members. Check out the [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org) website for more information.

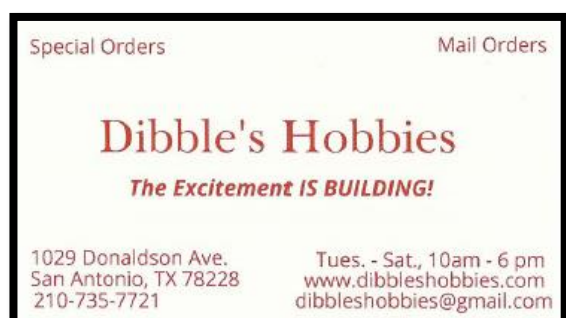
**Note the change to the IPMS mailing address:**

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM			
IPMS No.: _____		Name: _____	
Address: _____		First	Middle
City: _____		State: _____	Zip: _____
Phone: _____		E-mail: _____	
Signature (required by P.O.): _____			
Type of Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 1 Year: \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 2 Years: \$58 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult, 3 Years: \$86			
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17		<input type="checkbox"/> Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals) How Many Cards? _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada & Mexico: \$35		<input type="checkbox"/> Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order	
Payment Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order			
Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____			
If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number:			
Name: _____		IPMS No.: _____	
<b>IPMS/USA</b>		PO Box 1411	
Join or Renew Online at: <a href="http://www.ipmsusa.org">www.ipmsusa.org</a>		Riverview, FL 33568-1411	

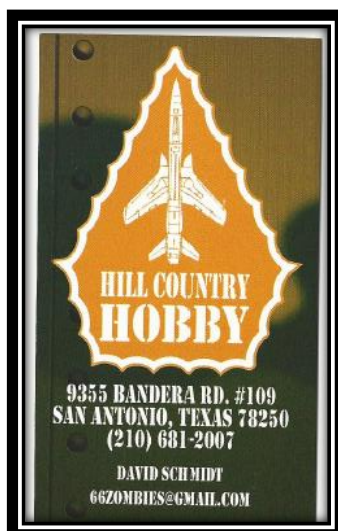
# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Support Our Local Hobby Shops...

...for models, paints, books, decals, tools and all your modeling needs!



Jeff, Mike and Joannie  
[dibbleshobbies@gmail.com](mailto:dibbleshobbies@gmail.com)



David Schmidt  
[66zombies@gmail.com](mailto:66zombies@gmail.com)

## And our Meeting Site Sponsor:



### Newsletter Staff

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| - Security: Zander Cage              | - Parking Lot Attendant: Dent Osborne |
| - Music: Daft Punk                   | - Hat Check: Mary Louise Carson       |
| - Attorneys: Dewey, Cheetem & Howe   | - Location Manager: Noman Clayture    |
| - Audio: Jessie Pinkman              | - Concept: Max Cherry                 |
| - Stunt Coordinator was Sven (RIP)   | - Best Boy: Max Kohnke                |
| - Wurst Boy: Saul Goodman            | - Set Design: Seymour Lately          |
| - Military Liaison: Col. S. Troutman | - Public Relations: Keyser Soze       |



*No models were harmed during the production of this newsletter.*



# ONE MORE THING...

## Spotlight on Celebrity Scale Modelers

While researching modeling information, I came across several celebrities who also fancied themselves as scale modeling enthusiasts. I exchanged emails to survey them on their individual preferences and now share their insights with the club readership.

Celebrity	Favorite Tool	Current Project	My Tip to Others	I wish...
 Napoleon D.	Wooden Toothpicks	A bodacious '70 Boss 429 Mustang.	Install pegboard on wall to hang all that sweet, after-market stuff.	For laser eye surgery. (Uncle Rico says it is tax deductible)
 Mark C.	Magnifying lens headset	1/700 air wing with cockpits & photoetch	Remember to take off my lens headset before leaving the house	I owned eBay.
 Sir Anthony H.	Sprue Cutters (different ones for different jobs)	HMS Ark Royal	Lay a torch on the carpet to find those damn, dropped fiddly bits	A better way to catalogue shades of blue for naval ships (it's all so bloody hell confusing)
 Pres. George B.	Anything Tamiya; There is NO substitute.	1/16 Leopard (I like 'em big, expensive and movin' out with a purpose!)	Wear long pants while using an X-Acto knife	Laura would let me have a compact frig next to my model workbench.
 Matthew M.	Latex gloves (multiple uses)	200mm Tank Girl resin figure	Get some lumbar support for those 14 hour "modeling" sessions.	<i>The Navigator</i> came out more often. That would be "...all right, all right, all right."