



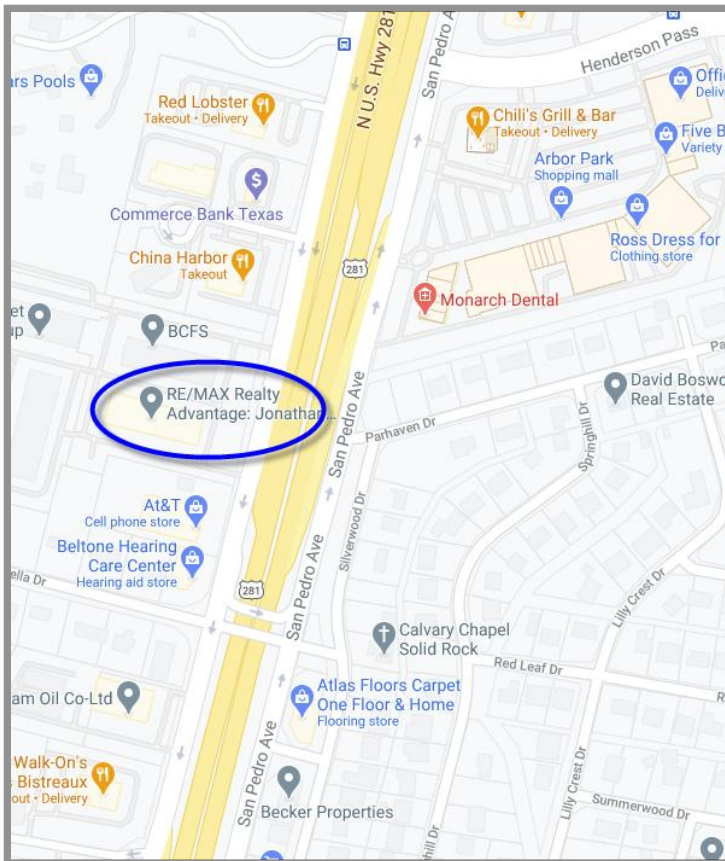
The Navigator



December 2020

For Modelers, By Modelers, About Modeling

***Did the new
meeting spot work
out?***



**Hosted by: RE/MAX Realty
17319 US Highway 281 North
Suite 206
San Antonio, Texas 78232**

Christmas Thoughts

"I don't think Christmas is necessarily about things. It's about being good to one another."

"Christmas is a day of meaning and traditions, a special day to spend in the warm circle of family and friends."

"There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves."

"Christmas is a time when everybody wants his past forgotten and his present remembered."

Community Service

Article and photos from Dick Montgomery

Recycling Campaign Signs

You have most likely become aware of the campaign signs in your neck of the woods that have yet to be removed now that the election is over. Those signs around the sites that were used as voting centers are the first to go, but you've noticed that there are some of the 4'x8' and 4'x4' signs still attached to fencing, hand rails on bridges, and other public spaces that are not considered private property or are not next to a business.



Front Side

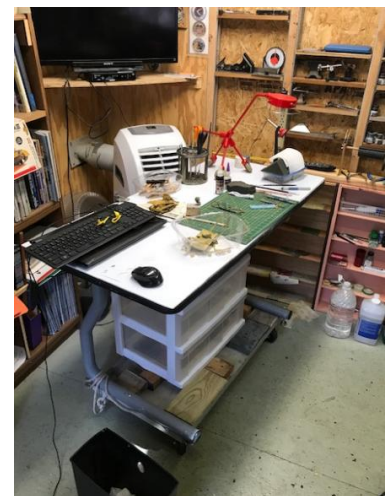
These signs are constructed of a front and back sheet of a material that looks like thin vinyl or plastic. Most of the time, only one side of the sign bears the candidate's name and office being sought while the reverse side is a large white blank space. The signage can be left outside for many months without showing and signs of age or of any significant damage. Other than a coating of dirt, the signs are usually in good shape for quite some time.



Back Side

These signs are of no monetary value, and the various campaigns have no plans to remove the signs. You can provide a public service by removing them (definitely WAIT until after the election!). And here's the good part.....you can use the sign material in your modeling workspace!

I have found that the signs are attached by zip ties to metal fences, and by 1 ¼" Phillips-Head screws to wood surfaces. A pair of pliers or a pair of sturdy scissors can cut the zip ties. Be a good citizen and take the zip tie remnants with you to throw away when you get home. A Phillips-Head (Cross-Head) screwdriver can easily remove the screws, and you can take the large metal washers and screws home and add them to your collection of hardware bits. I use a battery-powered drill to remove the 4 to 6 screws that are usually found on a 4'x8' sign, and I can remove the sign, cleaning up any screws, washers, or zip ties in under a minute. Let me stress that all of the zip ties, screws and washers should be collected and removed from the area.



I wish to keep the top surface of my two modeling desks clean and without paint or glue residue on the upper surface. I measured the desktops and cut pieces out of a 4'x8' sign to cover both desks, with some of the campaign sign remaining, to be used for other projects.

These desktop coverings weigh less than a couple of pounds, can be cleaned with a wet rag and increase the amount of illumination in the workspace because of the white surface of the sign being placed "white side up". I put the painted surface of the sign with the candidate's information face down on the existing work desks. I have found that some of the signage can be glue-gunned together to form a cube that can be used to serve as a "base" to hold parts that have been attached to wires in preparation for painting those parts. The sign material is soft enough to allow the wire to be "stabbed" into the block without having to drill holes.

Eventually, the new covering for the work desk will be spattered with glue residue and paint, and when that time comes, just remove the sign material, cut it up into piece that can be placed in the garage or recycle bin. You will surely find other uses for the sign material as time goes by.

Two of the images show the front and back sides of a sign, dimensions being 4'x8'. That sign generated two desk top coverings that are shown in the other two images.



Local Club Member Insight

Contributed by Michael Buckley

Model Speed-Building Experiment

To satisfy my interest in developing techniques for more rapid model building, I decided to test-build three models at once to see whether overlapping methods of more time efficient assembly, airbrushing, and finishing could be identified.

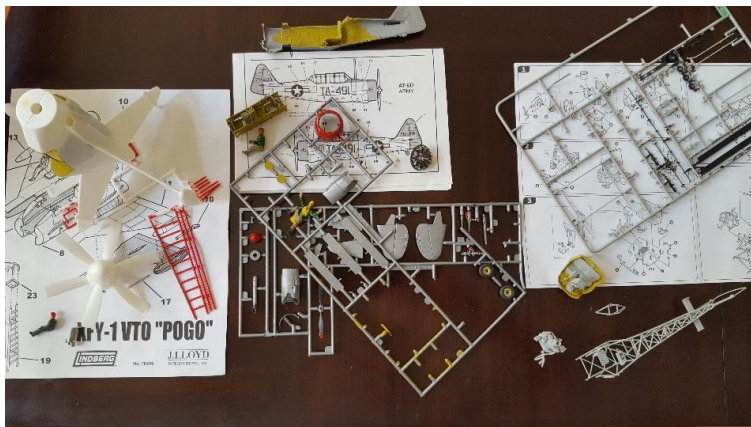
The photo at the right shows the initial spread of three 1/48 scale models; the tail sitting Pogo by Lindberg, the AT-6 Texan trainer by Monogram and the iconic Bell Sioux helicopter from Italeri

Painting as many items when attached to sprue, interiors airbrushed with zinc chromate, and the intention to tandem prime all metal surfaces, were immediate objectives. It became apparent air-brushing was greatly simplified but that assembly was vastly different especially for the Bell helicopter which was finely detailed with multiple spindly parts and, in fact, took as much time to assemble as the other two combined.

Photo below shows the black-primed models left to cure and receive Vallejo metallic acrylics, and gray/olive drab acrylics for the helicopter.....

I used a combination of Tamiya solvent cement with built-in applicator---along with the trusted superglue gel applied with toothpick. In the future I will use exclusively superglue with accelerator as I spent a great deal of time adjusting fit with the solvent glue.

Photos below show the finished models wherein I learned that detailing is much more efficient spread over three models, as rhythm of applications and acquired learning curve even in such modest circumstances is impressive. It took as much time to do all three as would normally taor one.....





Pogo /
Lindberg



Bell Sioux Helicopter / Italeria



AT-6 Texan Trainer / Monogram

Conclusion

The experiment certainly peaked my interest to assess exactly how time-consuming tasks--- such as gluing, particularly seam-filling and sanding, and minimizing changes of paint color on both conventional and paint brushes and my trusty Iwata airbrush--- can be located and improved through repetition, contributing to faster builds and eventually more precise techniques. It is a classic craft truism that hand/eye coordination through repetition builds not only muscle memory but facilitates innovation.

Looking forward to the next speed build ----- this time with a set of 1/ 48 WW II aircraft with similar aluminum overcoat properties ----- or maybe the 1/72 duo of Revell's German Type VII combined with my USN Gato-class submarine?

The new meeting haunt? Hit or Miss?



Return of the Monthly Model Contest

(Photos from Geraldo Escobedo)

First Place

**M9 ACE - Dana Mathes
1/35 Built OOB**



Second Place

**Cadillac - Keith Rule
1/25 1959 El Dorado**



Third Place

**Firebird - Keith Rule
1/25 1978 Trans Am**



Works in Progress

(Photos by Geraldo Escobedo)





Member's Finished Work

Russian Razzle-Dazzle

SUKHOI 27 by Michael Buckley

Russian aircraft are some of the most beautiful in design, with performance principles firmly established by the need for rugged, dependable machines such as the swept wing but stubby MIG 15, the lethal insect-inspired appearance of the HIND helicopter, and the graceful TU Bear with counter-rotating propellers. My personal favorite is the air superiority twinjet SUKHOI 27. While clearly based on an F-15 platform, the SU 27 droops the nose and increases length and stature on the ground with setback front landing gear and featuring oversized main tires for landing on ragged runways, a truly Russian necessity.

The 1/48 scale model by Academy is notorious for poor fit of the twin turbines and way too delicate panel line detail-- but overall captures the SU -27's elegance and superb proportions. I decided to create a form of digital splinter camouflage by utilizing Tamiya tape in successive masks on top of airbrushed colors-- sky-blue, light green, and earth color.

The results are less than satisfactory but as a first attempt it is dramatic from a distance and was an extraordinary modeling learning opportunity. Strips of thinner tape would have been better and clearly a masking template for the right wing could have been constructed, and after spraying simply flipped over for the left wing. Same of the symmetrical fuselage Live and Learn.



I also proved to myself how difficult it is to paint the color White-- as even though the rockets are sprayed, the finish is heavy. Next time more thinning and more patience-- as this splinter scheme took as much time to mask and spray as did to build the entire model.



Letters to the Editor

*(Ed: Last month's issue sparked a few incoming comments. The first is a clarification on my references to a Medal of Honor citation for Marine Sgt. Bordelon. The following is from club member, **Mr. Lee Washburn**:*

"In the latest Alamo Squadron newsletter you wrote that you never receive any letters to the editor. The following is in response to your story of moving to San Antonio and your real estate agent being related to SSG Bordelon, USMC.

SSG Bordelon was a recipient of the Medal of Honor. There is no such military medal as the "Congressional Medal of Honor" and there is no abbreviation such as "CMH".

The Medal of Honor is given in the name of Congress, yet Congress has no part in the selecting or process of presenting the medal. The medal is clearly stated in numerous U S Codes (the laws as passed by Congress) and the regulations of the military services as the Medal of Honor.

There is a Congressional Medal of Honor Society which is made up of recipients of the medal who keep the records of the society and coordinate responses and appearances of recipients at public events.

It is erroneously referred to as the "Congressional Medal of Honor" by an ignorant media and ill informed politicians. I do not believe our newsletter should be aligned with the unknowing when we have so many members that are fluent in military matters."

Another letter triggered a memory in one of our loyal, remote readers; Mr. Mark Young, MSgt USAF (Ret) the IPMS Chapter Newsletter Distribution Guy, IPMS #5494..

"Thank you for the Alamo Newsletter. It has gone into the hopper to be sent out in a Blast in due course of time.

I read with great interest your story of your realtor and of his brother. It follows very closely with my experience with our realtor when I transferred from Omaha to Dayton in 1979. We pulled his name out of a hat, well ads in the Air Force Times, and could not have made a better choice. We found the house we were looking for in two days - the 13th we looked at.

OK, now for the correlation between your story and mine. Our realtor was with the 92ndBG as a command pilot on B-17Gs. On a mission over Hamburg an 88mm shell came through the side of the cockpit wall, shearing his left foot off at the ankle. It continued on up under the co-pilot's instrument panel where it exploded. The co was killed and the instrument panel was completely trashed. To make things more interesting, #1 engine was running away and could not be controlled. The engineers later determined that by

the time they reached ground level, it was producing three times it's rated power - and it could not be controlled by anyone, much less a pilot with one foot.

He refused morphine. He was the only one trained to fly the plane. Despite extreme pain, he elected to return to England where he bellied the bird in. He was nominated for the Medal of Honor (There is no Congressional in the title) but it was downgraded to a Distinguished Flying Cross. He was a very nice man and very easy to get along with. My Dad had accompanied the wife and I on the house hunt. Dad was severely wounded during the Moroccan landings. He and Charlie got along great. They had a hi-ho time.

I built a model for him, using the Monogram kit. It was well worth the effort. He was a man I shall never forget.



OK, I won't take up any more of your time. You just took me on a trip through memory lane."

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

As you know Alamo Squadron is resuming in-person meetings with the proper safety protocol. As you have seen from Keith's recent email, the November meeting will take place at a new venue near 1604 and 281. That means that we have the opportunity to have demos again as part of our club meetings.

This note is an invitation for you to give a demonstration or lead a discussion of a modeling technique, a tool, research methods, painting techniques, or any other modeling-related topic you'd like to share with the club. Being hunkered down this year, there are bound to be many things the group has learned that can help the club advance its modeling skills.

If you'd be willing to present a 15-20 minute demonstration at a club meeting at one of the upcoming monthly meetings (Nov, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr), please send a note back to me with a brief description of your topic.


Thanks for your consideration, Dana. huskercat@gmail.com



Upcoming IPMS Region 6 Area Club Events

Provided by Dick Montgomery IPMS #14003

Please coordinate with Contacts to verify the schedule and location is accurate before finalizing plans.

Date	Title	Contact	Location	Address
January 31, 2021 CANCELLED	CALMEX 35	Robert Leishman swampclub@yahoo.com	Lake Charles Civic Center	900 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA, 70601
February 20, 2021	ModelFiesta 40	Mark Verdi alamosquadron@gmail.com	San Antonio Event Center	8111 Meadowleaf Drive San Antonio, TX 78227
March 20, 2021	RiverCon X IPMS Region 6 Regional	Andrew Bloom 1952@gmail.com	LSUS University Center	One University Place Shreveport, LA 71111
August 18 -21, 2021	IPMS National Convention 			Las Vegas, NV

IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM

IPMS No.: _____ Name: _____
 Address: _____ If Renewing First Middle Last
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 Signature (required by P.O.) _____

Type of Membership ☐ Adult, 1 Year: \$30 ☐ Adult, 2 Years: \$58 ☐ Adult, 3 Years: \$86
☐ Junior (Under 18 Years) \$17 ☐ Family, 1 Year: \$35 (Adult + \$5, One Set Journals) How Many Cards? _____
☐ Canada & Mexico: \$35 ☐ Other / Foreign: \$38 (Surface) Checks must be drawn on a US bank or international money order
 Payment Method: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

Chapter Affiliation, (if any): _____

If Recommended by an IPMS Member, Please List His / Her Name and Member Number:

Name: _____ IPMS No.: _____

IPMS/USA

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**Executive Board for
IPMS Alamo Squadron San Antonio, Texas**

President:	Keith Rule	krule1148@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Dana Mathes	huskercat@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Christopher Settle	csettle99x@yahoo.com

The Newsletter of the IPMS 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: 2023
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

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IPMS–Alamo Squadron San Antonio Texas meets on the 1st Thursday evening of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 PM Central Time for general social catch-up with the business portion starting at approximately 7:15 PM. Monthly agendas usually consist of event (local and regional) updates, members promoting their “works-in-progress, a member vote for the month’s model of choice, a kit of the month feature and presentation or demonstration of a modeler’s technique.

Every attempt is made to communicate with chapter members any last minute changes in the meeting locale. For information on meetings, future agenda items, coming events or general IPMS Alamo Squadron please contact Keith or Dana.

The Navigator is the monthly publication of IPMS–Alamo Squadron used to communicate chapter news, functions, contest information, and other events or items of interest on the local, regional, and national modeling scene. Subscriptions are \$12.00 annual* as part of club membership dues and distributed electronically via email.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the respective authors and should not be construed as the views or opinions of either IPMS–Alamo Squadron or IPMS–USA. Article contributions, feedback and questions for the newsletter are always welcome and actively encouraged. The deadline for written submissions to *The Navigator* is the last Friday of each month prior to month of issue. Written contributions can be provided as an MS-Word or ASCII text file on floppy diskette at any meeting or as a file attachment via an email note to the editor.

Sam Casas – scasas002@satx.rr.com
Newsletter Editor