



June 2022

The Navigator



**Bekins
Moving
Tractor &
Trailer
A Model by
Keith Rule**

**Region 6 Chapter of the Year 2022
Region 6 Website of the Year 2022
Region 6 Newsletter of the Year 2022**

OUR MONTHLY MEETING SPOT

Meeting:
Jordan Ford
13010 N Interstate 35,
San Antonio, TX 78233

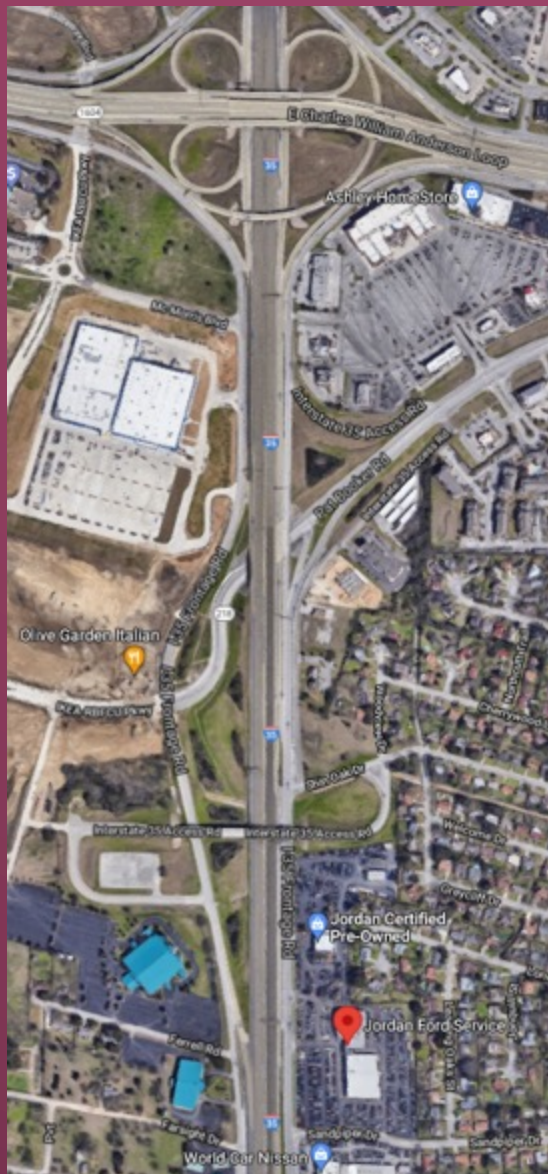
Date: Thursday,
June 2, 2022

•2 Time: 6:00 PM – 7:50 PM

Demonstration: “Tools”
by Keith Rule

Model Contest Theme: Open

Health Protocol: Masks Optional



Hail Summertime! It has been so long in coming!

Congratulations to our five members who attended and competed in the CALMEX contest in Sulphur, LA on May 21. This year's show was in a new and very pleasant venue. Gets larger and better every year. Hats off to **Stan Spooner** who won **Best in Show!**

Our Constitution and By-Law document requires that it be reviewed every other year to keep it current. A team has been examining it and is now ready to present a few procedural changes to the club for consideration. The details of this review and the recommended modifications were emailed to you in May. We'll discuss the proposed changes in the June meeting and vote on them in the July meeting.

Marc Smith is leading our efforts for ModelFiesta 41. February 11, 2023 will be here soon. If you would be willing to take a leadership role for the Registration or General Admission activities at the event, please contact him. Also, please think about potential themes for the contest too.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 2. We will kick off the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Brett Scholten will be distributing the new club shirts.

LEADERSHIP THOUGHTS

The WIP table will be in business (gong and all). The Kit of the Month table will also be available. The monthly contest theme is "Open."

This month's demonstration will be a discussion about "Tools" lead by **Keith Rule**. Please bring a favorite, homemade, or recently purchased modeling tool that you would like to show to the club.

Bring your builds and let's talk models,

Dana Mathes



Members Showcase

May Club Contest Winners:



HMS Hood by Lee Washburn



1969 GTO by Jonathon Griffith



Douglas C-47 Skytrain
by Julio Caro

While driving down the old Interstate or Texas two lane, the mind often wanders to model building, and what could be a future project. I pass a United Van Lines tractor and trailer and my mind goes to work.

Keith's mind - *"I need a contest build for the Commercial & Emergency Vehicle Category, so why not a Van Lines project. I know www.modeltruckin.com has a large selection of commercial trucking decals. When I get home, I will research this project and see if it is doable."*

Bekins Moving Tractor & Trailer A Model by Keith Rule



Sure enough, www.modeltruckin.com has the United Van Lines decals, but I also come across decals for Bekins Moving and Storage. Hmmm. I like the colors and size of these decals, more so than the United Van Lines. I find that Bekins is the oldest continually operating moving company in the United States, established in Indianapolis in 1891. So Bekins it will be.

Bekins, like United Van Lines, Mayflower, etcetera, all use "lowboy" trailers, but I find no one makes a lowboy trailer kit. Hmmm. I do find that Moebius makes a very nice International Prostar Tractor kit with a matching straight box trailer kit. I believe I can make a lowboy trailer out of the box trailer kit, so I order both kits. I had previously built a Moebius International Lonestar Tractor kit.

This was a very good kit and I find these new Moebius kits to be of the same quality. The tractor kit will be built mostly “out of box” but the trailer kit will require major surgery. I spend several hours researching materials, sketching plans, and writing instructions. Simply put, the trailer kit consists of a bottom, right and left side panels, a front panel, a rear panel, a roof, and an undercarriage assembly. My plan is to cut the bottom in three pieces and then scratch build the front and rear “drops” to give me the bottom foundation of the lowboy trailer. The trailer side panels will now need to be “filled in” to match the front and rear drops. I notice that the side panels have a pattern of vertical panels lines and rivets (lots of rivets!) I find that .060 sheet styrene matches the thickness of the side panels and will be cut to fit and fill out the side panels. These filler panels will be at the bottom at each side of the doors and above the doors. Filler panel joints are glued with reinforcement behind and filled with Bondo, sanded, and primed until satisfactory. Tichy Train rivets .025 (made for model railroad builders) match the side panel rivets. On line photos of Bekins trailers show me the use of side doors for convenient loading and unloading of cargo. This leads me to use the vertical panel lines to cut out and hinge three pairs of doors. Around 800 .025 rivets are laid out, hand drilled with a no. 77 bit, and inserted. They are not glued. I found that any effort to glue them left too much residue. They are held in by friction and paint.



Now that I have open doors and exposed drilled in rivets on the interior, I consider finishing the interior of the lowboy. Online photos show me flat interior wall panels with vertical cargo retainer bars 3 to 4 feet on center. The floor is wood. I coordinated the planning and instructions for this work with that of the side panels. A series of strip styrene spacers will support the interior wall panel and hide the rivets. The interior wall panels are cut and fit from .040 styrene sheets. I considered several ways to represent the cargo retainer bars before deciding to use upholstery staples super glued to styrene strips. The legs of each upholstery staple were cut off leaving the U-shaped head to be glued to the styrene strip. There are 52 vertical cargo retainer bars with 16 upholstery staples per bar. I had a bundle of balsa wood strips that were perfect for the floor material. Styrene strips were painted with flat aluminum for the base trim. The cargo retainers were also painted flat aluminum. The wood floor was simply sealed with clear. The wall panels were left plastic white.

Now it was time to finish the exterior of the trailer. This was done before assembly. It just seemed easier that way. Online photos showed several paint schemes



created by local Bekins dealers. This gave me some freedom to create my own design coordinated with the green and black Bekins decals. The "Excellence in Moving" decal was downloaded to Microsoft Power Point and printed on my own decal paper. The remaining decals are from www.modeltruckin.com. The charcoal and green graphics are my design. I used Tamiya Cockpit Green and German Gray because they best represented the colors seen online. The bottom of the trailer was painted semi-gloss black. The exposed edges were painted flat white and trimmed with the red and white continuous reflectors. The trailer sides were painted flat white. Flat aluminum was used for the metal parts. Then I sprayed a coat of gloss clear before the decal work. Decals were applied with Microset and Microsol. It took several applications of Microsol over a period of a few days to get the large green BEKINS decals to lay down at the rivets. The roof was painted Tamiya Light Gray Primer. The undercarriage, wheels, and tires were painted semi-gloss black, assembled, and installed. Then the two side panels and two end panels were installed. This was tricky but several previous test fittings and taped off glue areas insured a good fit. The roof panel was then installed. This was also very tricky, but, again, several test fittings insured an eventual fit. The wheels and undercarriage were then masked off and the entire box was given 2-3 coats of semi-gloss clear (I don't remember 2 or 3?)

Clear marker lights were painted with clear red and clear orange before installation. The Great Dane Emblem is Tamiya green over Bare Metal Foil. The International Prostar tractor kit consists of a chassis and engine assembly, an interior assembly, and seven components for the exterior – two aero skirts, front bumper, hood, roof air fairing, rear wall, and the cab. As I said, this is basically an out of box project, so I will discuss only the high points of the tractor kit.

A can of Dupli-Color Medium Quasar Metallic that I had matched the engine color found online. This paint was decanted and airbrushed. The diesel engine was detailed with various colors per instructions and my imagination. I have been experimenting with metalizing buffing powders and used them on some of the engine and chassis components.

The radiator assembly, air cleaner, and exhaust stacks are C1 Models Metalizing Buffing Powder over Alclad Chrome over Tamiya Gloss Black.

The interior assembly was painted Tamiya German Gray and Tamiya Cockpit Green. The dash and interior were detailed with kit decals. You can't see most of the work anyway.

The right and left sleeper windows were tinted with Tamiya Clear Smoke.

The roof air fairing was taped in place. Eleven connection points were laid out where the fairing meets the cab. Eleven holes were then drilled through the fairing and cab for the placement of cut off straight pins which, along with some epoxy, will connect the fairing to the cab in the future.

All seven body components were prepped, primed and sprayed inside and out with decanted Tamiya Pearl White.



The cab graphics were carried from the trailer and swept across the cab and hood allowing for the Bekins decal on the cab door. Tamiya yellow tape was used for the graphics.

Four coats of automotive 2K clear coat were used for this project. It did not level very well, which required considerable sanding and, and a final “flow coat”. A “flow coat” is a final coat of very thin clear coat, which will require minimal sanding and polishing. This clear coat was polished with 2000 grit, 3000 grit, and then Tamiya’s 3 stage compounds – course, fine, and finish. I still experiment with clear coats. I may never use 2K again, but I’ve said that before.

Final assembly can present unexpected problems, but this one went okay. I had some trouble getting the cab to “cover” the tops of both aero skirts, but some minor fiddling and overnight clamping solved the problem.

I don’t keep track of hours spent on a project, but I can safely say that this is a personal record for me. I started this project on September 18, 2021, and finished on April 16, 2022, although I did build the Auburn Speedster during the same time period. Hope you enjoyed the article and found something useful for your modeling exploits.



Alamo Squadron – June 2022
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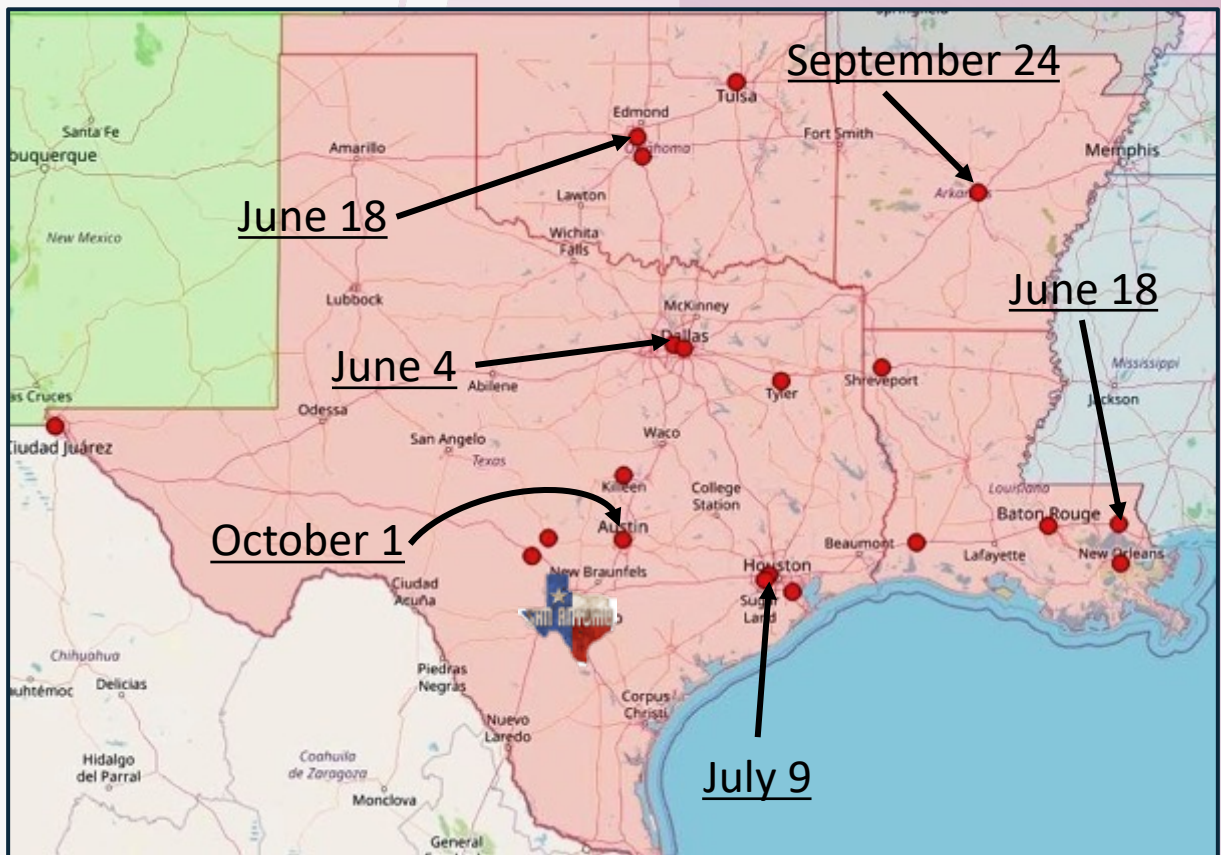
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IPMS REGION 6

2022 EVENTS

Click on the date on the map to go to the event website!



Never-ending fun in Region 6!



The Alamo Squadron Newsletter is published monthly by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, Texas, for the information and enjoyment of the members of the Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, reviews, news items, ads to buy, sell or trade, and other contributions are very welcome.

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Club's E-Board

2022-2023



IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron:

The Club was founded in 1977 in San Antonio, Texas, for the enjoyment of building scale models and the camaraderie of the members.

The Alamo Squadron has been putting on ModelFiesta since 1981. Locations have included the Wonderland Mall, a Holiday Inn, the Seven Oaks Motel & Convention Center, the Live Oak Civic Center, the San Antonio Event Center and the new location since 2022, the New Braunfels Convention Center.



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