

# The Navigator

July 2022

## The Blue Booger Build

Breaking Through with a Resin Kit

By Eric Syverson



## Modeling Memories

By Michael Buckley



# *Our monthly meeting spot*

Meeting:

Jordan Ford

13010 N Interstate 35,  
San Antonio, TX 78233

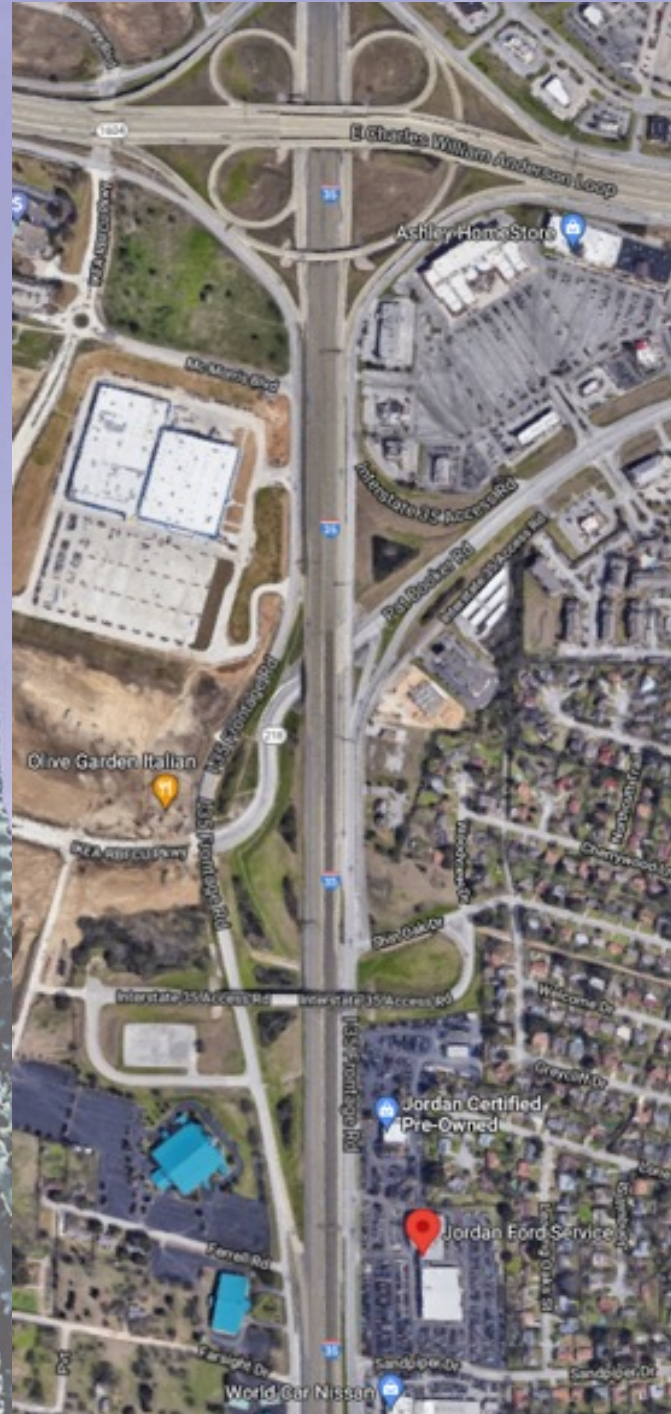
Date: Thursday,  
July 7, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:50 PM

Demonstration: "Gundam  
Models" by Jerry Escobedo

Model Contest Theme:  
"Go Figure" (figures or  
models with figures  
incorporated into them).

Health Protocol: Masks  
Optional





# LEADERSHIP THOUGHTS

Hot, Hot, and Hotter! I hope your modeling is as hot as the temperature outside.

Congratulations to the Alamo Squadron members who competed in the Scalefest contest at Grapevine, TX on June 4. Hats off to **Stan Spooner** who won **Best in Show** with his Sheridan tank! **Rob Booth** won a special award for his Shelby Cobra's finish. **Adam David Stephenson** swept the 1/48 jet category with his three F-14s.

The IPMS/USA National Convention is this month (July 20-23) in Omaha, NE. About a dozen of our members are planning to attend.

The changes proposed to our Constitution and By-Law document were reviewed last month. At the July club meeting we will formally vote on their approval.

Two of our members have been nominated for Life Member status. The criteria to be a Life Member of our club includes: 1) Hold membership in Alamo Squadron for at least ten years, 2) Be, or was, an active model builder, 3) Make contributions to the club newsletter and give demonstrations, Regional and National IPMS events, 5) Invest leadership and participation with the staging of ModelFiesta events, and 6) Promote the hobby in the community. Life Membership is a distinct

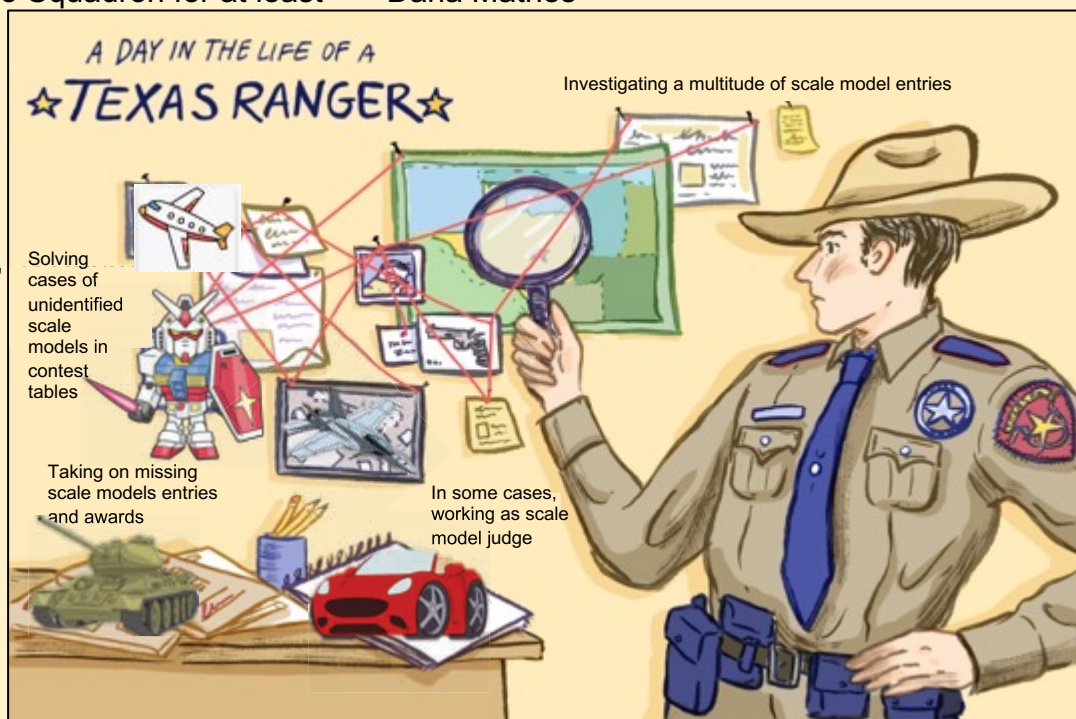
honor and Life members represent the best of our club and our hobby. The club will be voting on those nominations in the July meeting.

Due to unforeseen family and work commitments, **Marc Smith** will not be able to lead our efforts for ModelFiesta 41. I have assumed that responsibility. Monthly planning meetings for ModelFiesta began in June.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, July 7. We will kick off the meeting at 6:00 p.m. 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 "Go Figure" (figures or models with figures incorporated into them). This month's demonstration will be "Gundam Models" by **Gerardo "Jerry" Escobedo**.

Come in from the heat and let's enjoy cool modeling topics together,

Dana Mathes



# Members Showcase

## June Club Contest Winners:



**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bekins Moving Tractor Trailer 1/25  
– Keith Rule**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Rommel – Andrea Metal Figure  
1/18 – Henry Nunez**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Revolutionary War Cannon  
1/24 – Robert Moore**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: B-57B – Don Weaver**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: F-117 Stealth Fighter - Hasegawa  
1/72 – Rob Booth**





# Modeling Memories

By Michael Bucklen

Fascination with the miniature, and representation of full-scale environments and equipment is a long- standing human emotional and intellectual attribute.

Modelling is the act of capturing the essential attributes of large, complicated machines in miniature form. This miniaturization allows the wonder of a full-scale object to be hand held at scale, featuring a range of historical objects and environments.

Searching to justify time spent modelling, assembly and painting, an opportunity arose to focus on surrogate memories from one's past which held special emotional or aesthetic appeal. These selective memories are typically from adolescence when machine objects made a significant impression---but were beyond one's economic or circumstantial reach. Recreating the object in miniature was a potent method for capturing the moment in time. Some examples follow.



# Lake Michigan Chris Craft

As a young child in Chicago, enjoyable days were spent wandering the Lake Michigan marinas looking at boats, particularly the premier brand ChrisCraft with its distinctive sleek profile, mahogany decks and trim. Searching eBay and other sites for ChrisCraft models, produced results in the hundred-dollar rare kit level, which was certainly discouraging. But an Alamo Model Fiesta vendor had a well-worn collection of older Revell model kits including a ChrisCraft cabin cruiser. Its box was distressed, and parts count unknown. But for \$18 --- with the poor fit, need to fabricate sheet acetate windows, and the inevitable warped hull challenge from a 50-year-old kit---- a memory was rekindled.



**Revell Chris-Craft Cabin Cruiser** ---Box Scale vintage 1960's; model build time 10 hrs.; fit issues along with hull warpage due to age, no clear windows in kit requiring cutting each out of acetate

# Ford Trimotor – Monogram

## 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale



Snow Sledders with their trusty dogs, load the high-wing Tri-Motor ---see deep wing chord and closeup of Stressed skin in the vintage Monogram kit are well represented. Model Build time 14 hrs.

My interest in the Ford Trimotor was based on the three exposed radial engines, the extraordinarily deep wing chord which makes for a most robust high-wing profile, and the distinctive stressed horizontally ribbed metal skin, typically unpainted Aluminum. I found this vintage Monogram kit at the Las Vegas nationals for \$10. I did not know that it featured skis as an alternate along with a set of two snow sledders and dogs. The model is a dream to build with excellent fit and decent alignment with fairly solid decals, considering the age of the kit which is at least a 1970's injection mold.







# Beechcraft Bonanza Bandito Occupancy

At Midland Airpark, a private FBO which served the burgeoning business light business aircraft during the West Texas oil boom, one could walk thru open desert three miles from home, outwait the hangar mechanics, sneak in to look at and sometimes occupy the airplanes. This we titled "Bandito Occupancy"

I know this is not cool to admit, but I knew enough about flying to know not to touch the controls nor any settings. At the +100-degree West TX temperatures, you could not sit too long in a cockpit anyway because cockpits were +115 degrees. The Bonanza's distinctive V-Tail, low-slung wings and arrogant stance atop tricycle gear. made it uniquely elegant compared to other business aircraft. Finding a model of this proved a little bit difficult but I finally secured a 1 : 48 scale MiniCraft , whose fit and low parts count should make for easy assembly, Despite my poor assembly discipline in the three arts of gluing, gap filling, and sanding, and poor maintenance of surfaces and glazed areas. This Bonanza model transports me to those halcyon days of Bandito Occupancy--- and delight as we were never caught.



Sleek lines ,  
low-wing roomy  
cabin and  
distinctive "V"  
Tail makes this  
Minicraft model  
look ready for  
flight, or for  
Bandito  
Occupancy



## 49 Mercury and Teenage Night Prowls

West Texas evenings were characterized by prowling about in cars which made unnecessarily loud noises, threatening to drag race, and exhibiting macho behavior wheels. My time was spent in John McKinley's 1949 Mercury, which he Dago chopped by heating the coils, installed Lakes Plugs just below the front doors such that unscrewed, the loud rumbling roar of the engine heralded our arrivals. The Merc was a basic stick shift, unmodified factory engine, and McKinley decided that the coolest paint treatment

was to be a dark blue finish and vibrant orange flames. He never got around to this, but he did strip the car of all unnecessary ornaments including any Chrome that surrounded any opening, and then hand-planted with grey primer. It stayed that way for our junior and senior years. Memories of cruising in that car came flooding back to me when I found this vintage AMT kit in a heavily beat up box, with an \$8 price at the IPMS Las Vegas show with a warning that "several missing parts including all Chrome pieces" --fully enabling a model in honor of West Texas street-cruising.

It is my very first model car ---and makes me appreciate car models are not as simple as they look especially maintaining alignment due to older vintage shrinking and warping. This kit included a blown V8 engine, not the kind in our Midland car, but it was so cool that I assembled it as well. Intending to wire the ignition system I realized my desire was way past my ability. I now have a new appreciation for all car models with tremendous finishes and heavy scratch-built accessories.

AMT Model of John McKinley's 49 Mercury--- "Dagoed" chassis, hand-painted primer (and left that way on purpose), stripped of front and rear chrome, Lakes Plugs added afrent of front doors. Model kit also Included a 4-barrel downdraft Carburetor, blown V-8 ---an engine way beyond that which powered the original Mercury Street Cruiser---- which carried so many teenage Memories



# Members Showcase

## Show me Don't Tell



Mark Verdi



Bob Stiegel



Rob Booth



Don Weaver



John Kress



# Members Showcase

## Show me Don't Tell



Rene Faulk



Keith Rule  
demonstration  
on a dryer –  
his favorite  
tool



Chris McClain

Marc Smith

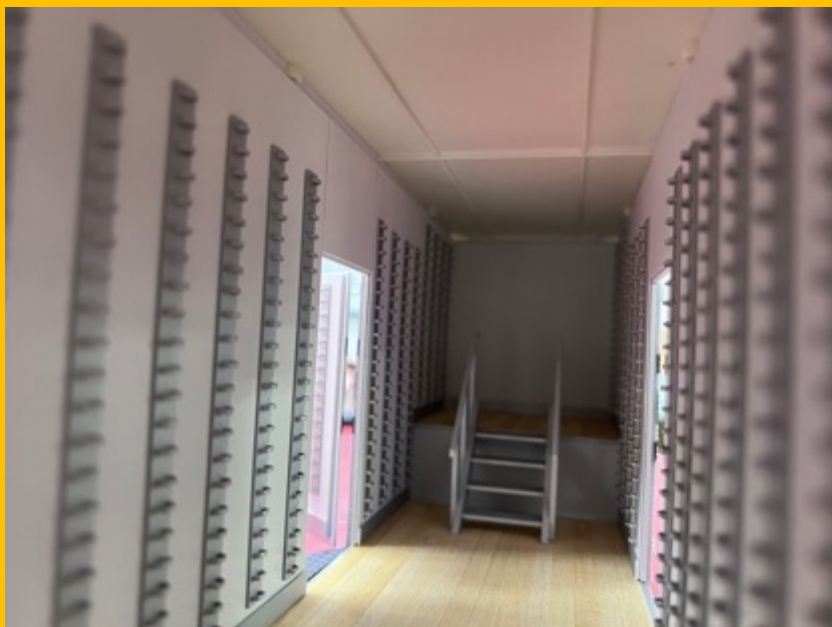


Lee Washburn and his multi-scale tool



Lee Forbe's Bristol Beaufort in 1/72

Julio Caro's DC-3  
"Compañía Cubana de Aviación"



Inside the trailer of  
Keith Rule's  
amazing model





# The Blue Booger Build

## Breaking Through with a Resin Kit

### By Eric Syverson

I really look forward to seeing unique subjects on the competition tables at the IPMS shows. There are subjects that you'll never see unless someone builds a resin kit. There are subjects that I will never see unless I build a resin kit. In the Marine Corps it was "if not me, who? If not now, when?" So I took the dive.

If you're like me, you've got out of production (OOP) resin kits in your stash that you dare not make your first one. If you screw the proverbial pooch with it you'd have to shell out hundreds to get a replacement kit for parts. I'm a perfectionist that also needed a build that could teach me that every build doesn't have to be perfect. One that I could enjoy and learn from and just have something belong on the competition table that

didn't need to win. Yes I am competitive!

So I picked up a rough little low part count 1/48 Planet Models kit of an interesting subject that didn't empty the bank. My mission was to become proficient building a resin kit AND break the perfectionism barrier. I wanted to learn, have fun, and call it done.


This little article is intended to encourage you – yes YOU! – to try a resin kit.

My build of the **Bugatti 100P** – or the **Blue Booger**

as I call it – demystified resin for me. In the kit was the added bonus of vacuform canopy and white metal landing gear - two additional learning opportunities which are common to resin kits. I am by no means an expert of resin kits as a result of one build. I do however feel confident I can build any resin kit now and do it justice going forward. That alone means my world as a modeler has expanded considerably.

Remember that resin kits tend to be pricy because they are made in soft





silicone molds that wear out over time. Only so many of the model can be produced. Fit, complexity, and level of detail vary considerably from manufacturer to manufacturer. These are niche subjects that the big guys won't touch because the cost of producing permanent metal molds exceeds the sales potential of the subject. Silicon molds are much cheaper to produce but a lot of work goes into them!

### **So What's the Big Deal?**

There is no big deal. Maybe the big deal for me was just the unknown. There's really just a few differences that require slightly different approaches than we're used to with plastic. Nothing difficult, and in many ways I now prefer resin. So what are the differences? Here's a checklist of considerations and to dos:

1. When you buy a resin kit, inspect it immediately for micro-bubbles in the mold and account for all parts. Resin kit manufacturers are smaller endeavors and generally provide exceptional customer service. If you have lots of micro bubbles or a missing part contact the manufacturer for replacement. Look very very closely at the surface of the parts. Micro-bubbles are tiny, almost invisible to the naked eye, air bubbles that breached the surface of the mold.



Gloss paint will show them in all their glorious horror. The blue booger had hundreds of them. Knowing what I know now, I would have exchanged the kit or picked up a different one to start with. I tried everything to fill them. Everything. You can either apply a heavy coat of primer and sand shy of the surface (but you lose detail), or drill and fill every hole (no thanks unless you just have several), or pressure squeeze Vallejo Plastic Putty 401 from different angles until the hole is filled when you wipe away the excess with a moistened finger or q-tip. This last option did the trick after much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

2. Soak all parts in warm dish soap water and scrub gently with a toothbrush or fingernail scrub brush to remove the mold release residue. This is a must with resin kits.



3. Remove parts with a photo etch saw blade particularly if the attachment point(s) are thick. I found the resin to be more rigid than plastic, and could chip if I used nippers willy nilly like I do with plastic. You can score gently with a sharp blade but I liked the saw blade approach.

4. Wet sand only. Resin dust is extremely fine, will enter your lungs, and not come out. I added water to a 12"x8"x3" tupperware container and rather enjoyed wet sanding in it. Sand and dunk. Examine. Repeat. I found that the resin sanded slower than plastic, which kept me from over sanding things

5. Liquid cement won't work. It doesn't melt resin, so two resin pieces will never become one. Instead you'll be using two part epoxy glues and/or CA glue (superglue) to build. I like two part epoxy glues (mostly the 5 minute variety but sometimes the 15 minute).


The nice thing about the

two part epoxies is that you can wipe away any excess glue with generic lacquer thinner on a q-tip and the lacquer thinner will not melt resin like it will plastic. At least that was my experience. The epoxy glues also provide some set up time to position pieces. You can even let the glue get a little tacky and join/adjust the smallest parts before full cure. CA just doesn't afford you that kind of flexibility.

Be advised however that fully cured epoxy glue will not sand. You've been warned.

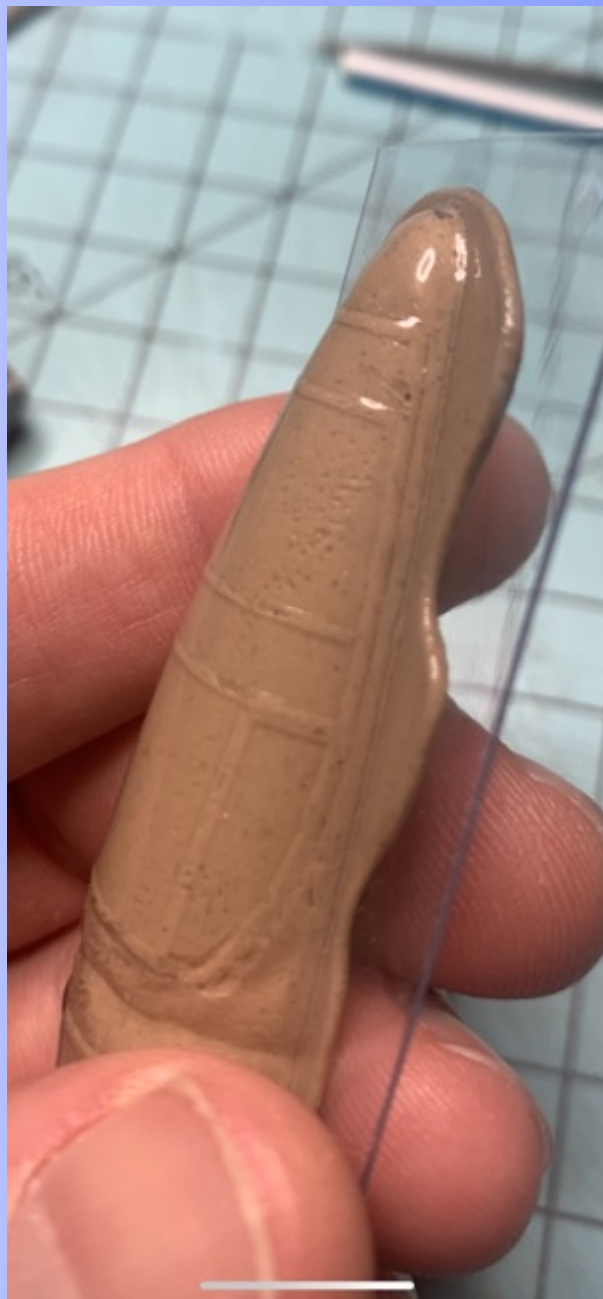
6. Prime the main pieces (or anything you'll handle regularly) before painting. Even Tamiya lacquer paint (jar/LP) scratched from a fingernail during handling because I did not prime. If lacquer paint doesn't bite into resin, nothing will. Pieces that I didn't handle frequently were fine without primer. But again, that was a bonified lacquer paint, not an acrylic lacquer.





7. Vacuform canopies offer a few advantages if it's an option in your kit. I would not attempt an expensive kit unless two vacuform canopies were provided (and that reminds me I need to learn how to copy a vac canopy!). Vacuform canopies are very thin and can be sanded to fit perfectly. It is a better look in my opinion but requires a little extra work. You'll need to fill the canopy mold with sticky tack putty – something to keep the canopy piece firm while you score it repeatedly with a sharp knife just outside the canopy edge. I blackened the edge of my hobby knife with a permanent marker to help me see it and used bare metal foil to better see the edge of the canopy outline in a few places. This may not be necessary on other canopies. The bare metal adhesive foil will leave a residue that a q-tip with WD-40 can easily remove. Once the canopy was trimmed I spent a few hours sanding the very last bit down, repeatedly test fitting to the fuselage as I went. My kit came with two identical vacuform canopies and I prepared both of them, using the better result for the actual canopy, and the other to mask the cockpit when I airbrushed the fuselage. The mask canopy I stuck in place with silly putty.

8. White metal landing gear is nice because oleos can be sanded fine enough for a good chrome look without painting, and the strut angles gently adjusted after mounting if necessary.

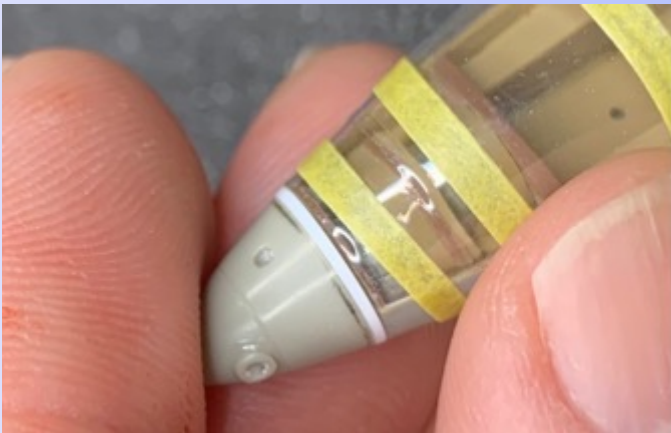
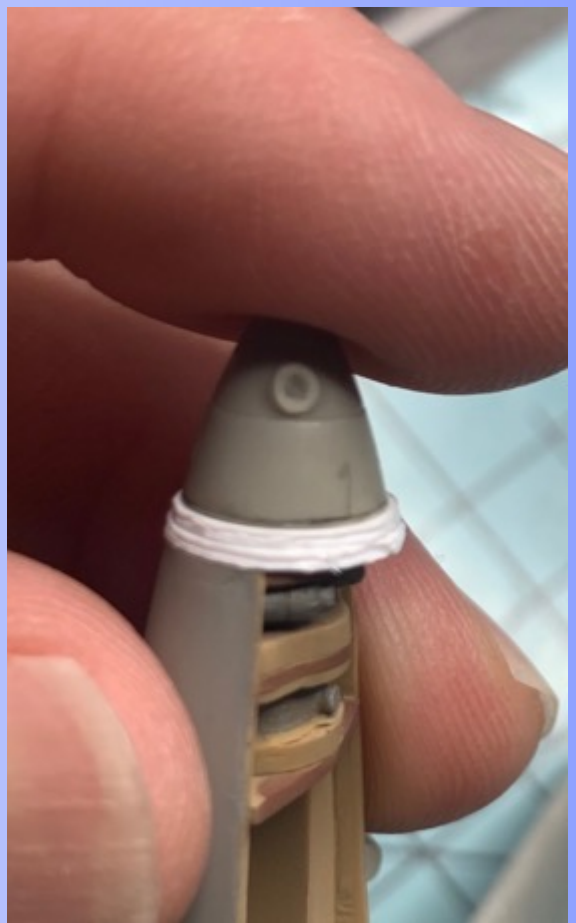






## Additional Blue Booger Notes and Other Firsts

There are a few other things I did for the build that have less to do with resin and more to do with modeling in general. First, the scratch work. Because the canopy fell short of the spinner and needed to butt join it, I had to sand the front end of the fuselage back to the front edge of the canopy. This left the base diameter of the spinner too narrow for its fuselage join. So I stacked sheet styrene to add depth and width to the base of the spinner. I then sanded and test fit until the spinner fit the fuselage diameter. Ah... the work we do that others would never know. I also drilled out the poorly molded exhausts, filled with CA, sanded smooth, re-drilled, and added brass exhausts that I cut. My last bit of build creativity was folding some leftover photo etch to facilitate mounting the extremely thin wheel cover pieces to each other at the required angle.



I found a Bugatti decal sheet on eBay, the stripes decal from extras I found at the LHS, and painted the number 1 using a left overs mask. These race markings are fictitious; the 100P prototype never flew because the Germans invaded France at the time. Bugatti hid it from the Germans in a barn outside Paris. It really is quite a story and quite a design, well worth the google search. Anyway back to the decals: The decals were so thick that you could see the transparent edges from the other side of the neighborhood. I had to learn a new trick. I did some research on the internet and decided to build up several layers of Alclad Klear Kote along the edges of the decal and then over the decal. This clear dries hard and fast and sands very very well. By gently sanding the clear coats downward, leveling near the decal height, the clear film edges of the decals disappeared completely. The decals really do look painted now. Great stuff.

The vacuform canopy was very thin, so I taped it tightly in place and then used a thin paint brush to generously wick Formula 560 Canopy Glue (this is a white glue much like Elmer's but with stronger bond) into the joins, wiping the excess cleanly away with q-tips dipped in water. Once dried, I removed the tape and finished wicking 560 into the areas that were previously blocked by the holding tape. This worked very well.

I have mixed feelings about the Tamiya Lacquer Paint (LP) in the jar. I used their LP-6 Pure Blue. It's not bad paint. It airbrushed nicely and is resilient enough I'm sure. But the pigment is so fine that it is very hard to fully clean up from brushes. The paint never fully settled from my lacquer thinner after cleaning the brush I used for touch ups. The lacquer thinner is stained blue. To me it's almost like shooting inks or stains - the pigment seemed that good. So what's the issue you ask? I found myself thinking, if I already use Tamiya acrylics and shoot them thinned with lacquer thinner, and like them, why am I using this stuff? Unless it's the only way to get a color? The line is really intended for the gloss guys that like the Tamiya canned colors and want to airbrush them. In the future I will use my flat acrylic lacquers and then gloss clear.







When I masked the canopy I finally used the technique that the venerable Lee Forbes taught our club: Mask frames one direction, airbrush, then mask the frames going the other direction. It gave clean edges and was much quicker than my usual method. For this build it was the cats meow. I used a Tamiya acrylic for the aluminum canopy frame but there are metallics with much finer pigments

available. I love Tamiya acrylics for most other applications.

### **The Take Away**

I hope that more modelers will attempt resin builds. I like to compare a trip to an IPMS show with a trip to the museum. Seeing subjects historical or fantastic in person and in three dimensions is much more satisfying than seeing a picture in a book. Invariably my favorite builds at the shows are of subjects I've never seen before in person.



So humor me! Pick up a resin kit and take the dive.

I truly believe that if you do, it won't be your last.

*Post script: The blue booger took first place in category 101 Civilian Aircraft at Scalefest 2022 in Grapevine, TX on June 4<sup>th</sup>.*





# Members Showcase

## Show me Don't Tell



Adam-David Stephenson swept the 107 category 1/48 multi-engine at Scalefest 2022 on June 4th, 2022, in Grapevine, Texas.

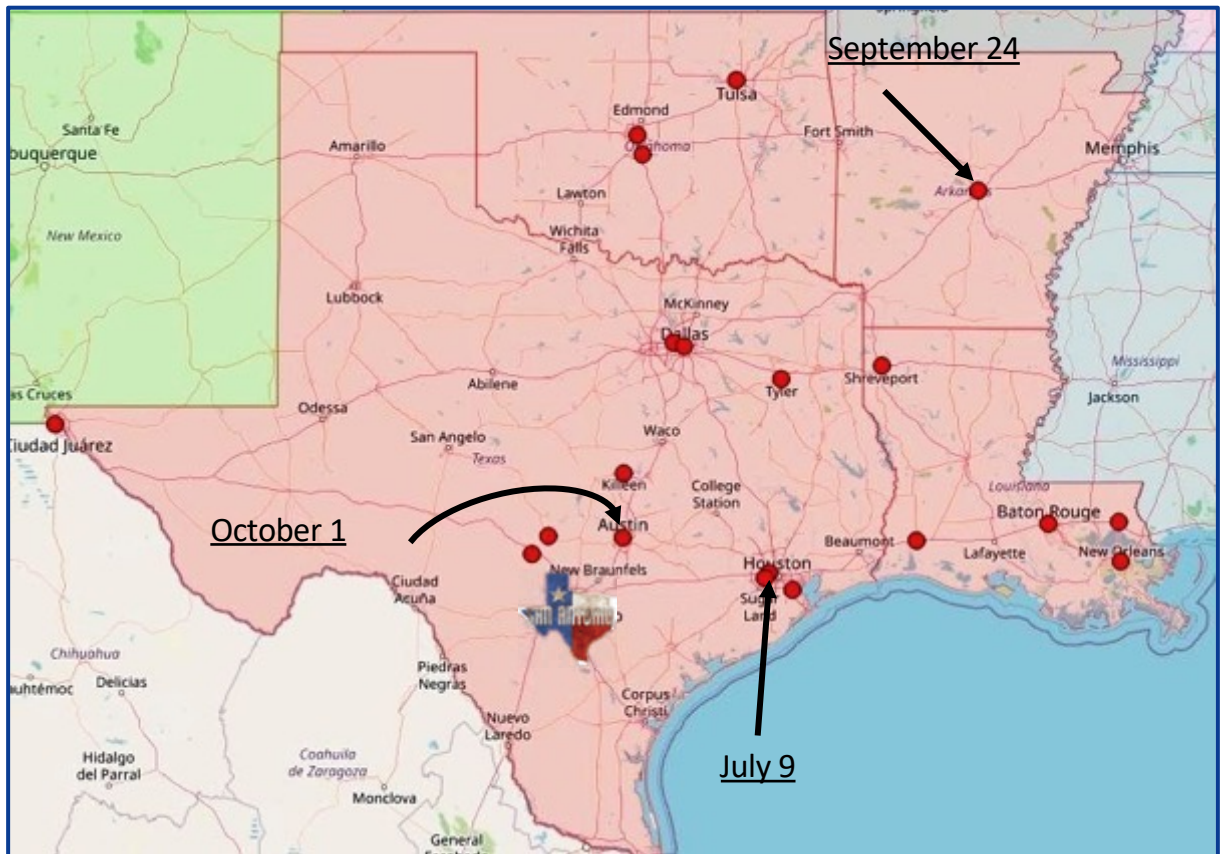




# IPMS REGION 6

## 2022 EVENTS

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

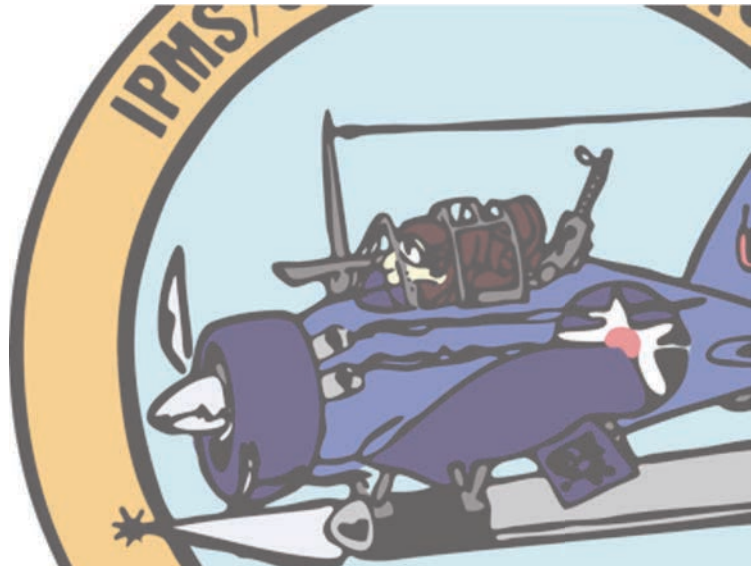




The Alamo Squadron Newsletter is published monthly by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, Texas, for the information and enjoyment of the members of the Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, reviews, news items, ads to buy, sell or trade, and other contributions are very welcome.

Send text file, photos and web sites to  
Jerry Escobedo:  
paperjerry3@gmail.com

[www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org)



## IPMS Membership



### 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

**Adult** One year \$30.00

Two years \$58.00

Three years \$86.00

**Canada & Mexico** \$35.00

**Foreign** Surface \$38.00

Date of Birth:

**Family** (1 set of Journals)

← Adult fee + \$5.00

# of cards?

Your Signature:

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:

Name:

IPMS #:

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Cash ☐

Check ☐

Check #:

Amount:

Amount:

Billing Address, if different than above -

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:



# 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.



[Alamo Squadron](#)

President:  
Dana Mathes  
[huskercat@gmail.com](mailto:huskercat@gmail.com)



Vice-President:  
Devon McCollough  
[dmccollough@outlook.com](mailto:dmccollough@outlook.com)



Treasurer:  
Don Weaver  
[dweaver78250@gmail.com](mailto:dweaver78250@gmail.com)



Editor:  
Gerardo "Jerry" Escobedo  
[paperjerry3@gmail.com](mailto:paperjerry3@gmail.com)



# Support your Local Hobby Shops!

For models, paints, books, decals, tools and more!

Click on the business cards to go to the respective webpage.

## DIBBLE'S HOBBIES

**HILL COUNTRY HOBBY**  
Your models and more store

**ANIME**  
TOKYO

**STEPHEN'S**  
**COLLECTIBLES**  
ACTION FIGURES, DOLLS, TOYS & MORE

**LIONHEART**  
— H O B B Y —

## My knowledge of Car models:



Farmer Car



Big Car



Roofless Car



Fast Car



Family Car

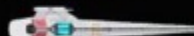


Car

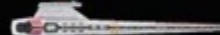
## My knowledge Star Destroyer Models



Sabre-class Star Destroyer  
600 meters



Guardian-class Star Destroyer  
800 Meters



Preservation-class Star Destroyer  
900 meters



Venator-class Star Destroyer  
1137 meters



Acclamator I & II - class  
Assault ships  
750 meters



Unification-class Heavy Frigate  
1150 meters



Chancellor-class Star Destroyer  
2100 meters



Liberator-class Star Destroyer  
2600 meters





SO DO  
NOT JUST  
BUILD  
MODELS ---  
BUILD  
MEMORIES

- MIKE BUCKLEY (CA. 2022)