



# THE NAVIGATOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE ALAMO SQUADRON MODELING CLUB  
SAN ANTONIO TEXAS  
DECEMBER 2023

## MERRY CHRISTMAS 2023



KENT KNEBEL'S CHRSTMAS TRUCK

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





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 THE MODELFIESTA MODELING CONTEST SINCE 1981. LOCATIONS HAVE INCLUDED THE WONDERLAND MALL, HOLIDAY INN HOTEL, 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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# ***OUR MONTHLY MEETING SPOT***

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

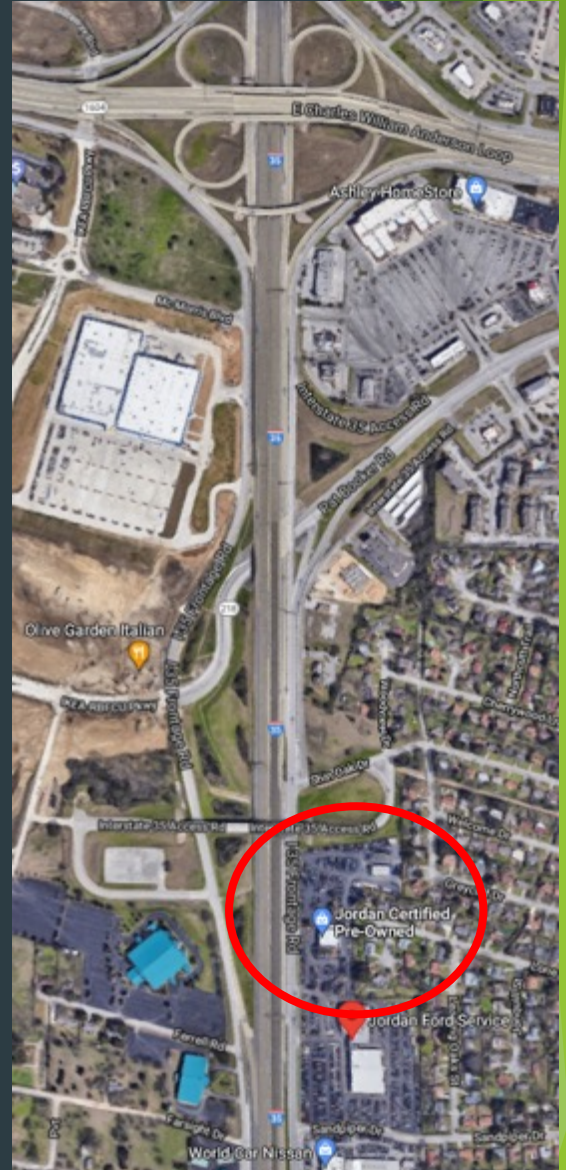
Date: Thursday,  
December 7, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:50 PM

Meeting Theme:  
White Elephant

- Bring a wrapped  
modeling related gift to  
play!

Health Protocol: Masks  
Optional





# Monthly Contest



**1997 Ford F-150**  
**Scale 1/25**  
**By Keith Rule**

**Lerajet 35A built**  
**as a USAF C-21**  
**1/48 scale**  
**By Julio Caro**





1989 Taurus  
SHO, 1/25  
scale by  
Jonathon  
Griffith



F4U-4  
Corsair, 1/72  
scale  
By Julio Caro



Roman Centurion  
1/10 scale  
By Chuck Blair





# Member's Showcase















Thanks to our own Stan Spooner for sending us this Tamiya model as a teaser:

## The F-35B in 1/48 scale.

Soon to be released.





Dear valued media partner,

On September 30, 2023, Tamiya Inc. announced the follow up kit to the F-35A, the F-35 B! Item 61125 Lockheed F-35 B Lightning II. This version of the F-35 shares very little parts to the A model, which of course required us to make new tooling to bring modelers this exciting variant.

**The kit is slated for release in the USA in time for the late holiday shopping season with a MSRP of \$115.00.**

In preparation of this release, we have prepared "white box" production samples of this exciting kit, just for select retailers, media partners and social media influencers.

Please feel free to use this kit in any way you want to help drive sales at your local store. If you have a talented model builder at your shop, feel free to have them build it up for display at your store! Additionally, flip this letter for specific model kit details!

Sincerely,  
Fred Medel  
Marketing Manager  
Tamiya America, INC.



David Auth's winner models at the Capitol Classic model contest in Austin, Texas.

1963 Chevy Nova Wagon 3rd Place Curbside

AND

Toyota Supra Tuner Car, 3rd Place, Street Machine



Alamo Squadron Presents

# ModelFiesta 42, Contest and Trading Event



Categories for Youth,  
Aircraft, Armor,  
Automotive, Ships,  
Figures, Sci-Fi and  
Miscellaneous

Theme is ***Under the Union Jack -  
All Things British***

Over 120 Vendor Tables! Special  
Awards! Raffle!



**Saturday Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**

New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 S.  
Castell Ave, New Braunfels, TX,  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Please go to [ModelFiesta.com](http://ModelFiesta.com) for more information



# Alamo Squadron partner with IPMS Mexico

By Gerardo "Jerry" Escobedo

The IPMS National Convention in San Marcos Texas was a very good opportunity for the Alamo Squadron to have even more close ties with our friends south of the border... Peru, Argentina, Colombia, Brazil... but it has been a great showcase to strengthen our friendship with the IPMS Mexico clubs, namely, Monterrey and Mexico City.

So much so that the Alamo Squadron was invited to sponsor, for the first time, a contest internationally, the IPMS Mexico National Convention, held on October 2023 in Mexico City.

Our contribution was to honor the Best USAF Modern Jet category, for which **Mr. Armando Márquez** and **Mr. Ricardo Morales** were the winners of these recognitions.

Kudos to the winners! And we are looking forward to have strongest ties with our modeler friends, not only in the Americas, but all over the world!





Mr. Armando  
Márquez

A-10 in 1/48 scale from  
Monogram by  
Armando Márquez



A-10 in 1/32 scale from  
Trumpeter by  
Ricardo Morales





**November Seminar:**

**Camouflage on**

**WWII Ships**

**By Bob Stiegel**



**Soon to be  
published  
on our  
YouTube  
channel!  
Stay  
tuned!**

Like many modelers, my introduction to the hobby came at a very young age when my father would occasionally bring home a kit, build it straight out of the box, and then give it to me to play with. Then, when in first grade, my best friend had given me a Monogram SB2C Helldiver (white box edition) for my birthday. With all the operating features such as folding wings, droppable bomb etc., it promised hours of fun attacking imaginary ships. However, this would not happen until Dad got home from work to put it together. Impatient, I decided to give it a try myself and found out I could assemble everything on my own with the exception of the rear gun installation, which had to wait for Dad's arrival. I was now hooked on modeling.

Included in this first kit was a small pamphlet with pictures of Monogram's other plastic offerings, and what particularly intrigued me was the highlighted new release of the Dornier Do 335 Arrow in 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale. Some time later, I convinced my father that it would be a good idea to bring one of these kits home for my modeling enjoyment. The anticipation of getting my hands on this amazing aircraft was so great that Dad had to pick me up from school early due to my suddenly feeling "sick" during math class.

## Restoring the classic Monogram Do-335 By Devon McCollough





Regardless, upon arriving home, having made a miraculous recovery, I tore the plastic off the box and, in awe, I beheld the dark green and clear plastic sprues inside. Very carefully, I followed the instructions step by step, built the Arrow as the two seat nightfighter, and applied the decals to the unpainted plastic, generally in accordance with the diagrams.

Over the years, as I learned more about modeling and the Do 335 received different layers of paint in notional schemes sourced from the mind of a young boy with a limited selection of colors but an active imagination, pieces broke off, some lost and some saved, and the model fell into disrepair. While perusing the consignment shelf at a local hobby shop (Hill Country Hobbies) with my son, Nathan, we discovered an original issue Monogram Do 335.



Nathan was fascinated by the aircraft, and as it was the same kit I built as a novice modeler, we had to build it. Having only built snap together kits in the past, this was perfect for him to learn how to use glue in model construction. While he did the majority of the building, we didn't worry about doing any painting or decaling since it was meant to be a fun and low key exercise in basic gluing together plastic parts. After about a year or so of the model sitting around on a shelf in Nathan's room gathering dust, I got the idea that it might be fun to break out my long dormant airbrush and fire it up to try and see if I could paint the model like it showed on the box. Just working on painting and decaling the Do 335, without stressing over making the perfect model was a fun exercise in modeling, and we were both happy with the results.

Having finished Nathan's Do 335 in a manner that I would have liked to have been able to achieve when I was a kid, I began to consider what would be possible with the remains of my original model. Digging through old boxes, I found what was left of that model and took inventory of the parts and how much damage had been done. There were multiple layers of various colors so the first order of business was to strip all the paint. Soaking the pieces in a bath of Super Cleaner degreaser for a couple of days took it all off without damaging the plastic, to include the clear parts. Now that everything was clean, the battle damage inflicted with heated pins, and the marks from overzealous glue application, was evident. There was glue damage on the right fore and aft engine exhaust stack because, during the initial construction, I had installed the night fighter flame dampeners, but at some point had tried to change the configuration and removed them.



Also, the top part of the engine cowling with the machine gun troughs on the nose was unusable due to extensive plastic damage inflicted when parts were dismantled forcibly years ago. While the rear propeller was completely intact, all the blades had been broken off the front propeller, and only one loose blade was still present. The canopy also had glue damage around the edges, but for the most part looked fairly usable. And so, seeing what I had to work with, the restoration began.



The first order of business was to figure out how to fix the damaged parts. Filling the bullet holes was straight forward, but the missing pieces required trying something new. Having several other unbuilt Do 335s in the stash, I used one as a pattern to create new pieces. To make molds of the exhausts from the example kit, I used polymer modeling clay (brand name Oyumaru). Casting the exhausts, I used JB Weld, which, after curing and trimming, resulted in usable replacements. The success of this experiment was encouraging, so I used the same process to recreate the upper engine cowlings and the instrument panel which also had some damage. For the missing flap and propeller blades I got a little more creative; I made two part molds with the same polymer clay to replicate the flap and three new front propeller blades with more JB Weld. While the parts came out nicely, requiring minor cleanup, mounting the prop blades at the correct angles was the next issue to solve. After temporarily assembling the forward from the example kit, I then pressed it into a heated piece of Oyumaru, creating an alignment jig for the newly cast prop blades. This made attachment at the proper angles a simple and accurate process.





Having all the necessary pieces, I painted the cockpit and reassembled the aircraft. Sanding and polishing the canopy removed the majority of the glue damage. Unfortunately, after gluing the canopy onto the fuselage and while final sanding the areas around the cockpit, I noticed sanding residue had somehow ended up collecting on the inside surface of the glass. As I was rinsing, the model off in the sink, water ended up getting into the cockpit and appeared to have helped wash some of the glass off.

Thinking this to be an acceptable solution, I set the model aside to dry. Coming back later, I discovered that acrylic paint does not like spending considerable time enclosed in a damp atmosphere such as the inside of a plastic aircraft. All the detail painting I had meticulously done in the cockpit with acrylics (of which I was a relatively new user) had crinkled up quite nicely and the interior was ruined. So, out came the razor saw and the beautifully faired in canopy glass came off. After repainting the damaged areas to an acceptable level and reattaching everything successfully, painting and finishing commenced. I used Mission Models paint for the camouflage. For the markings, I had a leftover set of the tail numbers from the old Monogram decal sheet, but for the black fuselage lettering, I scanned and reprinted some of the markings from the Tamiya kit I have but not started yet.

All the crosses and swastikas were painted using masks I cut from Frisket film. After minor weathering with some exhaust staining, I was happy with the end result. I hung the rebuilt Do 335 I built as a child from the ceiling in my son's room, "flying" in trail formation with the Do 335 he built.







Overall, the objective to rebuild this model, using the original pieces, to a level I would have liked to have achieved when I first got the kit, was met. Throughout this process, I learned a lot of new techniques for fabricating parts, repairing damage, and recreating markings that have carried over into subsequent builds. I have since rebuilt other kits I originally built as a kid, with each one honing my modeling skills further as well as being a satisfying and fun trip down memory lane.



# DORNIER ARROW DO335

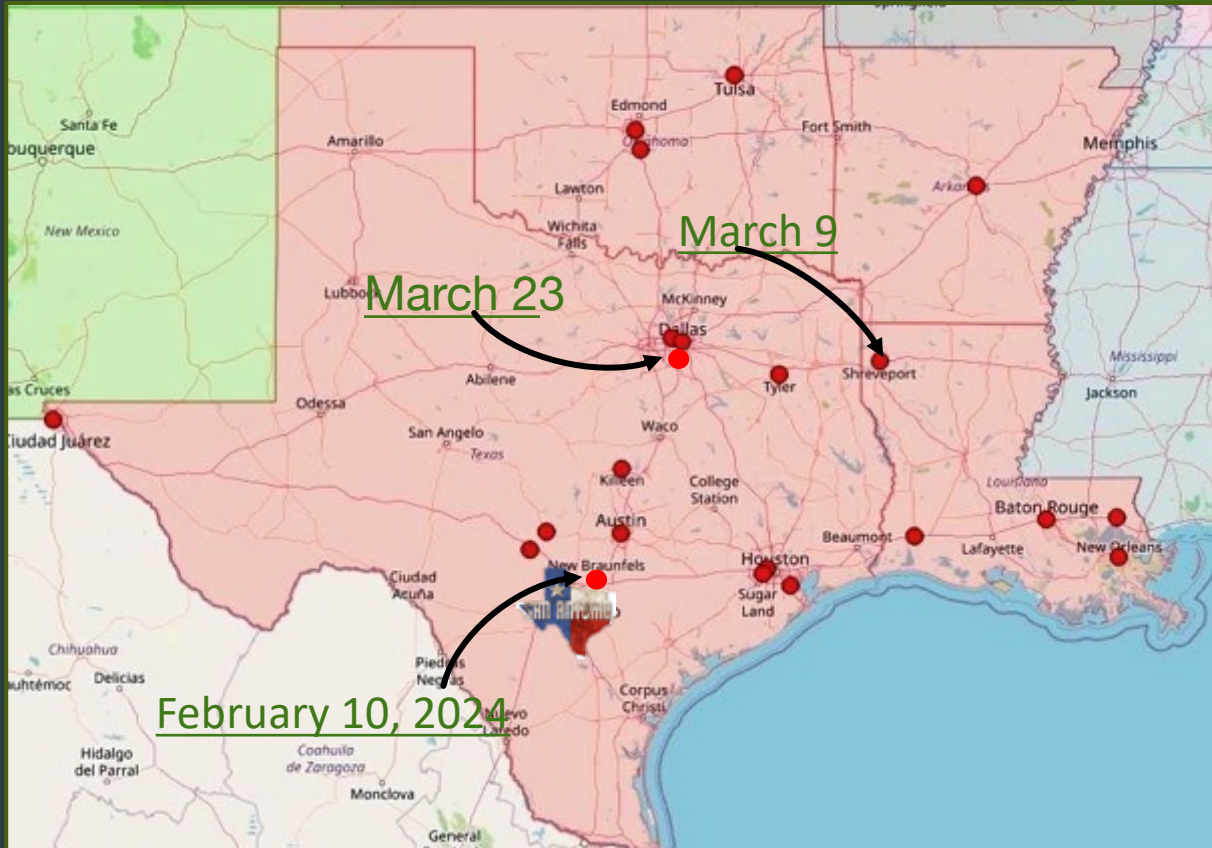


BY DEVON  
MCCULLOUGH



# IPMS Region 6 Events

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



ALAMO SQUADRON PRESENTS:

## MODELFIESTA 42

TEXAS' INTERNATIONAL MODEL CONTEST

February 10th, 2024. New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center.

ModelFiesta is the longest running annual modeling event in IPMS Region 6. The contest has grown in size and quality since its early days and now averages over 120 vendor tables and over 500 models entered in the contest each year. With a regular and strong international attendance by modelers from all over Latin America, ModelFiesta is one of the most unique, varied, and highly regarded IPMS events in the region.

More details will be made available on this web-site, so please return frequently to see what information has been added.



## IPMS/USA MEMBERSHIP FORM

IPMS No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ If Renewing \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**

Join or Renew Online at: [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org)

PO Box 1411

Riverview, FL 33568-1411

Join IPMS USA:  
IPMS/USA is the national organization for scale modelers in the U.S. In addition to publishing the IPMS/USA Journal six times a year and organizing the IPMS/USA National Contest and Convention, the organization does other things behind the scenes that make the hobby more fun and help to ensure its survival and growth.

The Alamo Squadron Newsletter is published monthly by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, 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:  
[paperjerry@outlook.com](mailto:paperjerry@outlook.com)



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year From the Editors at The Navigator And the Alamo Sqaudron



*PS - I need a co-editor!!! Please sign up to help me on it!! ☺*

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