

WELCOME TO

The NAVIGATOR

ALAMO SQUADRON'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

JULY 2026 Edition | *Region 06 Newsletter of the Year for 2025!*



MEMBERS' BUILD SHOWCASE

GREAT PROJECTS COMPLETED BY MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB

TRICERATOPS by Rob Booth



THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

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M41 WALKER BULLDOG TANK

By Julio A. Caro



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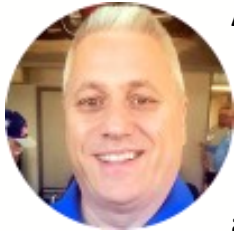
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The President's Corner

By Jim Morton, President



As the United States marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, communities across the country are

preparing to honor the nation's past while imagining its future.

The 250th anniversary—also known as the Semiquincentennial—is more than a birthday celebration. It is a chance to revisit the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence and to consider how those ideas have been tested, expanded, and reinterpreted across generations.

Our community, a group of like-minded individuals, goes forward with one goal, one passion: our love of the hobby and all it entails. The attitude and desire to try something new, to challenge the status quo, and push the boundaries. We look for new ways to expand this hobby in ways that were previously unheard of.

Please don't take this as me comparing us to the Founding Fathers of this great nation! (Although I would pay good money to watch Dick Montgomery and Ben Franklin debate.) We always need to remember this great experiment continues to thrive, not because of the way it was started, but

because of the way it is maintained. We are merely the caretakers, leaving our mark for those who will follow.

I hope you all have a safe and happy 4th of July! Celebrate with family and friends. Two hundred fifty years is an impressive amount of time, such as a club that has been around one-fifth of the time that this country has existed! In the span of 50 years, from 1977 to 2027, a lot has happened. The same span of 50 years, from 1903 to 1953, produced the first powered flight, then an aircraft with intercontinental range and a wingspan greater than that of the first flight! As we go forward as a group, let us maintain that focus on what is important to the hobby—the continuous recruitment of new members and the continued success of the Alamo Squadron!

May all your builds be as smooth as your paint jobs. Take the time to reflect on your successes and work through the hardships to produce a wonderful result.

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German Pkw.K1 Kübelwagen Type 823 Build Review

By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 9

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Header design by Julio A. Caro



Greetings, my fellow styrene pirates! I just finished building a German Pkw.K1 Kübelwagen Type 823—and I'd like to share my overall impressions of the kit and my experiences while building it.

Let me explain why I decided to build this particular kit. For starters, the subject matter has a pretty strong appeal. Many modelers picked up this kit simply because the real vehicle is so bizarre and obscure. In fact, I wasn't able to find much information about it.

About the Vehicle

The Type 82/3 (Type 823) was essentially a fake or training "tank" built on a Kübelwagen chassis, and its unusual appearance is probably the biggest part of its charm. It was also known as the "Panzerattrape," and as the name suggests, it was constructed to function as a tank decoy in order to deceive the enemy.

The mock-up armored vehicle was flanked by simple metallic structures that mimicked a tank's track (not included in the kit), but the machine gun-fitted turret was real. The vehicle had no doors; entry was through the turret hatch.

Kit Details

The kit is **Meng's 1/35 Scale German Pkw.1 Kübelwagen Type 823** (Kit # VS-017) shown below.



German Pkw.K1 Kübelwagen Type 823 Build Review

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MODEL KIT KEY SPECIFICATIONS

FEATURE	DETAILS
Manufacturer:	Meng
Scale:	1/35
Model Length:	111 mm
Model Width:	46 mm
Model Height:	55 mm
Release :	2025
Engineering Quality	Excellent
Fit Reputation	Excellent
Tiny Delicate Parts	YES!
Diorama Potential	Very High
Community Reception	Positive
Best Feature	Unique Subject Matter

Detailing

This kit is very well engineered overall and parts go together well. The kit's strong suits include:

- Sharply molder chassis
- Realistic floor structure
- Fabric-textured seats
- Clear parts for lights/windows
- Good suspension details

The kit also features realistically rendered panel lines and accurate proportions that enhance its overall appearance.

Parts are flash-free and the few sink marks present are minor and confined for the most part to areas hidden after assembly—something I really appreciate.

Parts

The kit parts are spread across four sprues and include five rubber tires and a decal sheet. Altogether, the kit contains about 110 parts.

Instructions



The instructions for this kit are well written and easy to follow. However, I discovered a couple of parts (A21) that were not shown anywhere in the instructions or identified as to where they should be installed. It's possible these parts are simply not used in this version of the kit. If that is the case, I feel this fact should have been clearly stated to avoid confusion.

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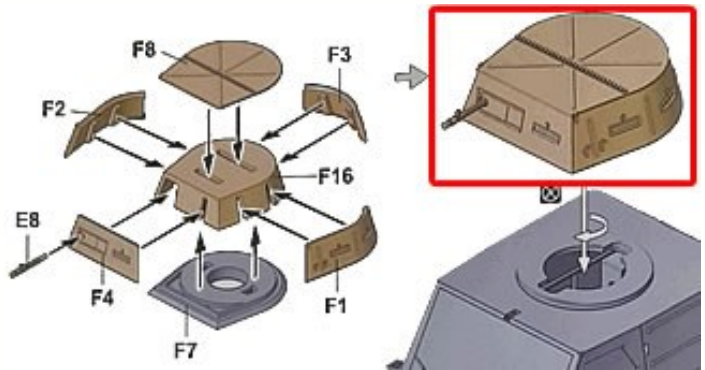
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Assembly

This kit goes together quite well, with no significant fit issues. Carefully attention however, is needed when working with many of the small parts this kit has. As always, precision and patience and a steady hand will definitely pay off here.

The Turret

The turret, one of the most distinctive features of this vehicle, is composed of several parts as shown in the illustration below. Assembly is straightforward, with excellent fit between components. Once assembled, it mounts onto the vehicle's roof and can swivel freely in any direction.



The Chassis

The chassis features a three-stage modular design that replicates the structure of the real vehicle. The floor is also engineered to be removable in the same way as the actual car, making it much easier to paint and detail.



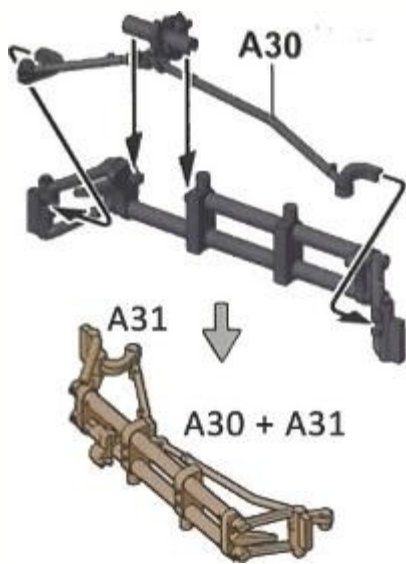
Note: The MG 34 machine gun (Part E8) is part of the turret assembly. It is a delicate component and should be handled with care during construction to avoid damage

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Suspension



The Pkw.K1 Type 82 featured an independent suspension and rear-wheel-drive system, with the front axle serving as the steering axle. Replicating workable steerable front wheels in a scale model would have required a much more complex design with numerous small, separate parts to

accurately reproduce the steering mechanism. Not only would this have made assembly far more complicated, but the tiny components could also have been prone to breakage due to their delicate size and limited structural strength.

After carefully weighing these factors, Meng chose not to include a working steering mechanism in the kit. Instead, the company designed the front axle as a separate snap-fit assembly (see illustration above) that faithfully captures the appearance and structure of the real vehicle while keeping construction simple and builder-friendly—something I can truly appreciate!

Wheels

The kit includes five rubber wheels: four are fitted to the chassis, and one is mounted on the front (hood) as a spare. Assembly is straightforward and simple. Reference the illustration below:



Note: It's a good idea to paint the wheel hubs first before attaching the tires. Trust me, it will save you a lot of masking headaches later on.

Clear Parts

The clear parts for this kit are located on a separate sprue labeled 'J'. The sprue contains six parts: one windshield, two side windows, one rear window, and two headlight lenses for the front headlights (if this option is selected). Reference photo below:

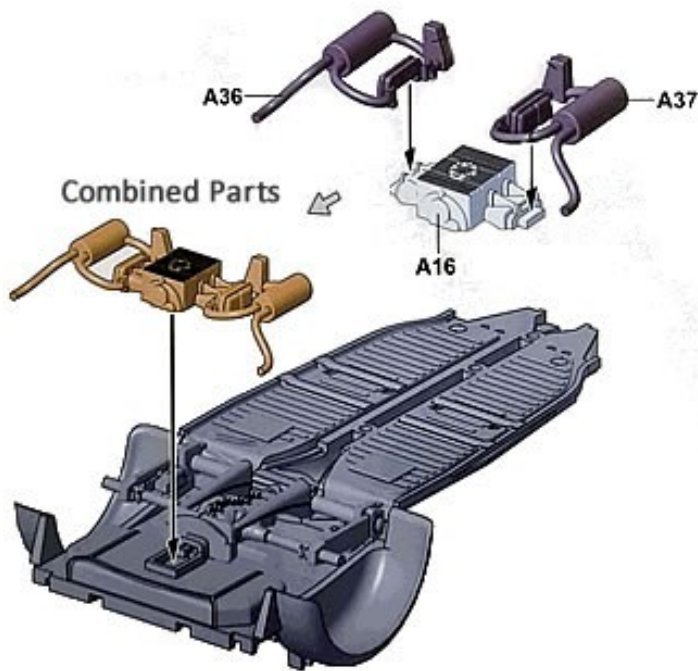


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Engine and Exhaust System

The engine and exhaust system is comprised of three separate parts: A36, A37 and A16. These parts are glued to each other and then attached to the bottom side of the chassis (part A32) as shown in the illustration below:



Cabin Interior

The vehicle's interior is fairly basic, but it includes enough parts and detail to create a convincing and realistic representation of the cabin.

The interior parts consist of following set of parts:

- Wooden Floor Parts (Parts A18 and A19)
- Steering Column (Part A13)
- Break and Clutch Pedals (Part A25)
- Gear Shift Handle (Part A24)
- Emergency Brake (Part A33)
- Floor Mount (Part F18)
- Turret Seat Mount (Part E7)
- Turret Seat Floor Base (Part E27)
- Turret Seat (Part E27)
- Driver's Seat (A26)
- Driver's Seat Mount (A27)
- Radio and Dashboard (A10)
- Storage Compartment (F9)



Once all parts are assembled, the cabin's interior should look similar to the photo of my own model's cabin shown here.



Pkw.K1 Kübelwagen Type 823 Build Update & Review

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Bumper-mounted step bar

On the Type 823 specifically, the horizontal bar mounted across the rear bumper served a secondary purpose beyond its structural role. Because the vehicle had no side doors, crew members entered through the turret hatch, and this bar functioned as both a step and grab handle to help them climb into the vehicle. One historical description even notes that entry was made "by the rear of the car, which has a horizontal bar at bumper level." Here is a photo showing what the rear bumper step bar looks like:



The bumper mounted step bar assembly consists of the following four parts:

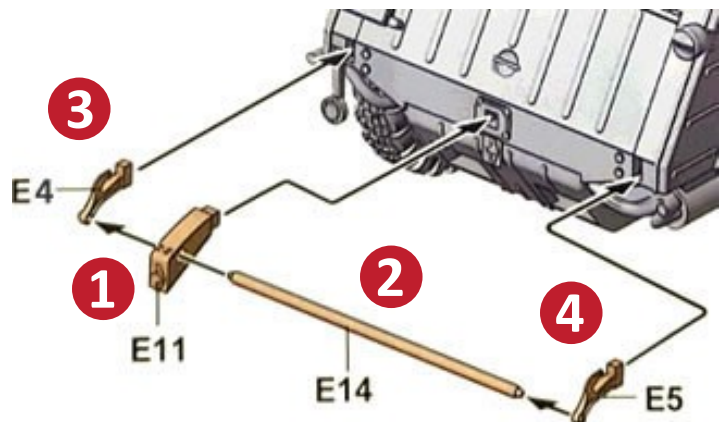
- two small and delicate mounting brackets that go on each side of the rear bumper (parts E4 on the left and E5 on the right)
- a center a sturdier bracket mount (part E11) that mounts on the center portion of the bumper.
- And the bumper step bar (part E14) which attaches to the side brackets from the center bracket mount (E11).

Here is an illustration showing these parts, how they are assembled, and how they attach to the vehicle's rear bumper:

I recommend assembling these parts in the following order:

- Step 1—Install the mounting bracket (E11) first.
- Step 2—Attach the bumper step bar (E14) through the center mounting bracket (E11).
- Steps 3 & 4— Attach the side brackets (E4 and E5), making sure the ends of the bumper step bar fit properly onto each side bracket attachment point.
- **IMPORTANT:** Once all the parts are in place, check the alignment one more time before permanently gluing everything together.

NOTE: I had some difficulty aligning the bar with the side brackets due to a defective part (E5).



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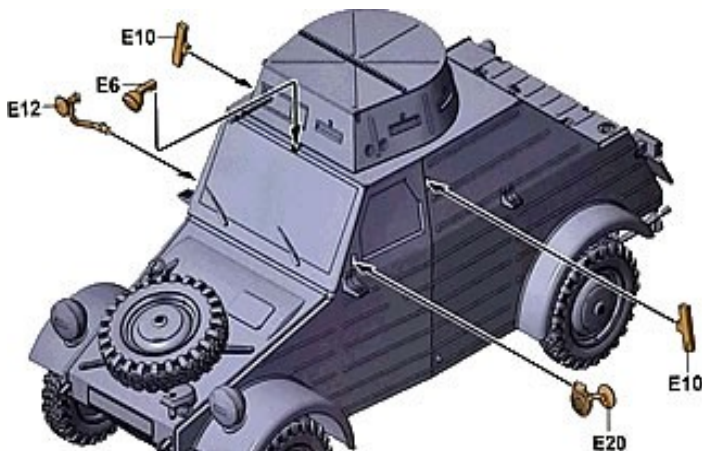
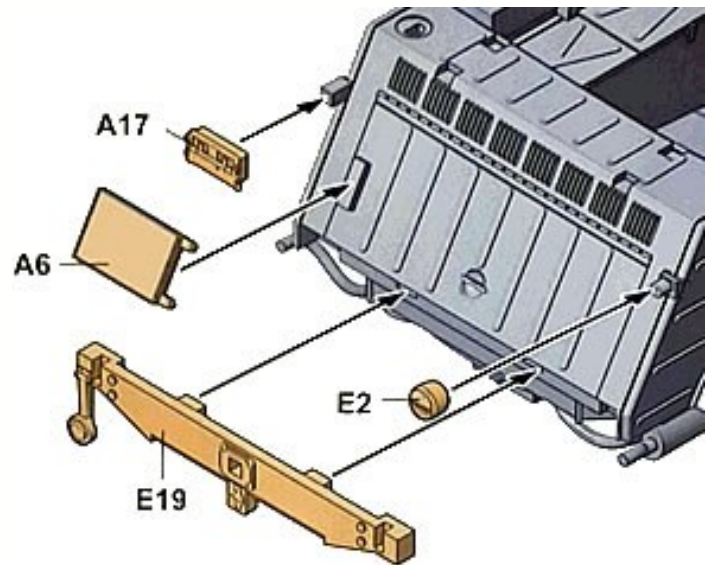
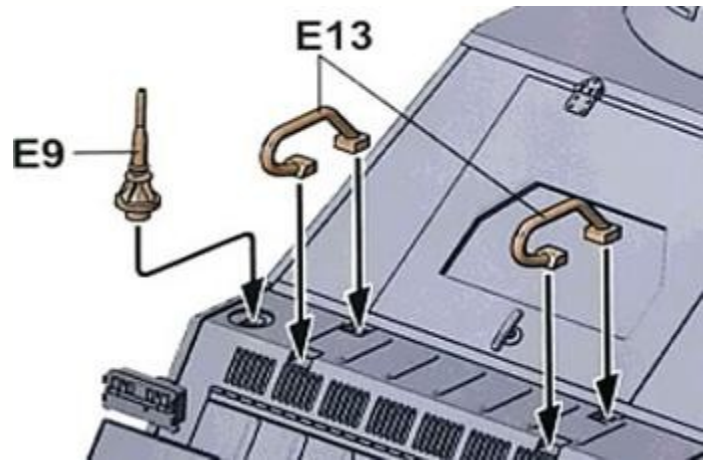
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Additional Parts

This kit brings many other parts too numerous to include all in this review. However, here's a partial list of some of them:

- Rear View Mirrors (Part E20)
- Windshield Spotlight (Part E6)
- Passenger Side Sport Light (Part E12)
- Antenna (Part E9)
- Handle Bars (Part E13)
- Rear Bumper (Part E19)
- Rear Headlight (Part E2)
- License Plate (Part A6)
- Green Signal Lights (Part A17)
- Other Miscellaneous Parts (Part E10)

Reference the following illustrations for more details: As you'll notice, some of these parts are very small and will require careful handling to prevent accidental damage and/or loss.



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Painting

The instructions come with the Paint Color Reference Chart show below and paint recommendations for other manufacturers such as AK and Acryslion.

				MENG	AK	ACRYSLION
亚光黑	Mat Black	つや消しブラック	Матовый черный	MC-001	N12	
亚光白	Mat White	つや消しホワイト	Матовый белый	MC-002	N11	
卡其	Khaki	カーキ	Хаки	MC-206	N85	
木棕	Wood Brown	ウッドブラウン	Древесно-коричневый	MC-215	N37	
德国灰	German Grey	ジャーマングレー	Немецкий серый	MC-246	N32	
光泽黑	Gloss Black	グロスブラック	Глянцевый черный	MC-401	N2	
光泽绿	Gloss Green	グロスグリーン	Глянцевый зеленый	MC-407	N6	
银	Silver	シルバー	Серебристый	MC-502	N8	
枪金属	Gun Metal	ガンメタル	Вороненая сталь	MC-505	N28	
烧蚀	Burnt Red	バーントラスト	Ржавчина	MC-506	N76	

priming

Before priming, I masked all clear parts first. Next, I primed with entire vehicle with Mig's One Shot Grey primer in light coats until I got the result I wanted. Here's a photo of the result:



Base Coat

According to the instructions and my research, these vehicles were typically painted German Grey, so I applied several light coats of using Tamiya XF-63 (German Grey).



Post Shading

Happy with the base coat, I added some pre-shading to key areas of the model with a 80-10-10 mix of Tamiya's XF-63 (German Grey), XF-1 (White) and XF-57 (Buff). The result was instant depth and visual interest, giving the finish a more realistic feel.

With the paint fully dried, I the applied a gloss coat over the entire model to seal the paintwork and prepare the surface for decals and weathering.

Decals

The included decals in this kit are basic with only a limited number of items. However, they were easy to work with and adhered well to the model.



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Panel Lining

With the gloss coat and decals complete, I moved on to panel lining to help emphasize the model's surface details. For this step, I used a 70-30 mix of Tamiya Black and Dark Brown Panel Line Accent Colors. After allowing the mixture to dry for about 30 minutes, I cleaned away any excess using mineral spirits, cotton swabs, and a fine brush. The result was a set of crisp, well-defined panel lines that added depth and enhanced the overall appearance of the model.

Weathering

Finally came what was perhaps the most satisfying stage of the build for me. There is something especially rewarding about seeing a model come to life through the careful application of realistic weathering.

Using Vallejo paints and pigments, I weathered key areas of the model to add another layer of realism and visual interest to the overall finish. I paid particular attention to the tires, helping them achieve a more natural, worn appearance.

Once all the weathering had fully dried, I applied a final protective coat of matt varnish over the entire model to protect my work and give it a more authentic, real-world look.

Closing Comments

I had a great time building this quirky and relatively unknown World War II vehicle. It proved to be a relaxing and enjoyable project, while also giving me the

opportunity to practice and improve my modeling skills along the way.

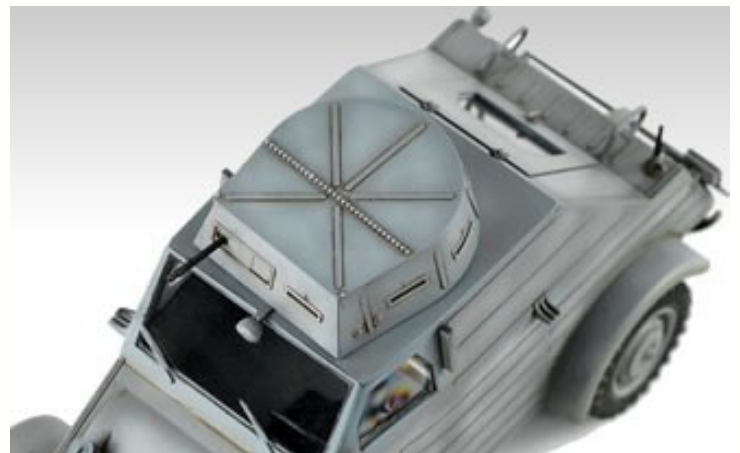
The Meng Kübelwagen Type 823, disguised as a mock training tank, is not your typical military vehicle kit or a high-end detail monster. What it does offer, however, is a very well-balanced build with a high fun factor. The kit is especially well suited for dioramas, fans of unusual vehicles, and modelers looking to build something a little different from the usual tanks and armored vehicles.

Overall, the kit reflects the quality typically associated with modern Meng releases: cleanly molded, nicely detailed, and thoughtfully engineered without being overly complicated.

I hope you found this review useful.

Regards and keep modeling,

Julio



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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND THE FUTURE OF SCALE MODELING

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The truth is that AI is already influencing our hobby in several ways. Here are a few:

Research

AI can be a valuable research tool for modelers, helping them quickly find information on vehicles, aircraft, ships, and historical subjects. Rather than spending hours combing through books and websites, hobbyists can use AI to answer questions, explain technical details, and summarize large amounts of information. Although AI-generated content should always be verified for accuracy, it can provide a useful starting point and help point researchers in the right direction.

Image Generation

AI-generated artwork is also finding its way into the hobby. Modelers can use AI image generators to create custom diorama concepts, camouflage ideas, background scenes, and even inspiration for weathering effects. Some decal designers are experimenting with AI-assisted artwork to help create markings and graphics.

While AI image generation has improved tremendously in recent years, it is not a substitute for careful research. AI-generated artwork can occasionally introduce inaccuracies or misinterpret historical and technical details, making it important to verify the information through reliable sources. Ultimately, scale modeling continues to rely on the modeler's knowledge, craftsmanship, and attention to detail—qualities that AI can support but never replace.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here and it's everywhere. From internet searches and customer service chatbots to image generation and writing assistance, AI technology is becoming part of everyday life—like it or not! Naturally, many

hobbyists are beginning to wonder what impact it may have on the scale modeling community.

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Writing

On the writing side, AI can assist modelers in preparing contest entries, build articles, kit reviews, and club newsletters. It can help improve grammar, organize thoughts, and polish rough drafts while still allowing the author's own voice and expertise to shine through.

AI-Assisted Engineering Tools

Looking further into the future, AI may become integrated into kit design and manufacturing. Companies could use AI-assisted engineering tools to improve part fit, develop more accurate 3D models, and identify design issues before molds are cut. This could potentially lead to better kits and fewer assembly frustrations.

In Conclusion



Whether AI becomes a major part of the hobby or simply another useful resource, one thing is certain: scale modeling will continue to be driven by the imagination and skills of the people who build the models.

Best wishes to you all and...

Keep on building!

Julio



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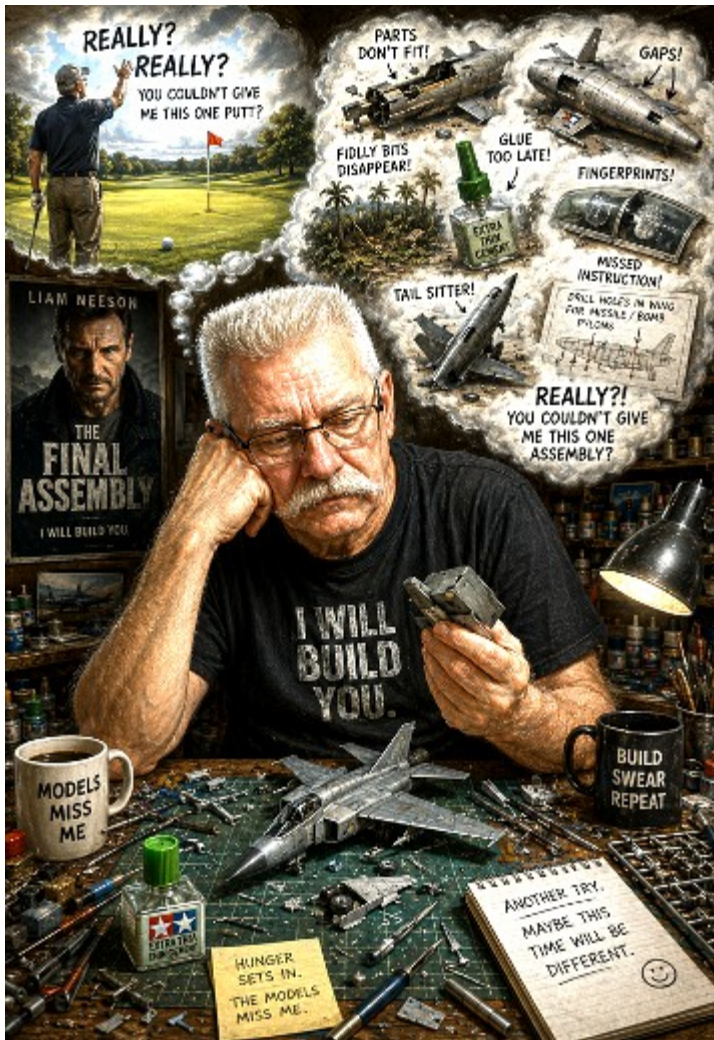
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THE FINAL ASSEMBLY

By Gene Botkins



When I approach the final assembly of a build, it comes with fear and dread. I've done a pretty good job up to this point. Now comes the right turn at third base.

The fiddly bits drop to the floor and, I swear, scoot 20 feet away, never to be seen again. They disappear into the jungle that is the workbench. Parts don't fit, despite dry-fitting perfectly before. The chassis doesn't fit quite right. Neither do the wheels or the cabin. Gaps appear. It's too late to fix them—the glue has already dried. Parts lean over because the glue didn't set quickly enough. Fingerprints show up on the clear parts. I realize the plane will be a tail-sitter because I forgot the nose weight. I missed the instruction telling me to drill holes in the wing for the missile or bomb mounts.

It's enough to make a modeler beseech the heavens: "REALLY?! YOU COULDN'T GIVE ME THIS ONE BUILD?"

Depression sets in. I mope around for days, wondering if it's worth it. All those hours. Then the hunger sets in. The models miss me. I need to be with them. I give it another try. Maybe this time will be different, I reason.

Maybe you can help me. Is there a patron saint for model builders? There should be. I'd be willing to forsake my Lutheran upbringing and convert.

I think they should make a movie called *The Final Assembly*, starring Liam Neeson. He stares menacingly into the camera and says, "I will build you."

HAVE FUN!

Gene

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When I was a young man, I played golf. I had the usual frustrations every beginner goes through. But the worst—the absolute worst—was hitting a great putt only to see the ball stop an inch from the

hole. I would look up to the heavens and beseech,

"Really? REALLY? You couldn't give me this one putt?"

A Memorable Flight Delivering a WC-130A to Guam

By Fred Horky, *Life member IPMS USA, #6390* | Page 1 of 6

Meet Fred Horky: a lifetime member of IPMS USA

— By Julio A. Caro —

Many of you—especially our newer members—may be wondering who Fred Horky is and why we are honored to feature him in the pages of *The Navigator*. Before you go on to enjoy one of his many memorable stories ahead, allow me to introduce a man whose contributions have left a lasting mark on both our nation and the scale-modeling community.

While not a comprehensive biography, the following brief sketch highlights some of Fred's remarkable achievements during his distinguished military career and lifelong dedication to our hobby.

Fred Horky is a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, former IPMS/USA national president, author, historian, and lifelong aircraft modeler. He began building models during World War II and has remained active in the hobby for more than seven decades. A founding member and Life Member of the IPMS General Robert L. Scott Chapter in Warner Robins, Georgia, Horky has served IPMS/USA in numerous leadership positions, including Director of Local Chapters and National President. His Air Force career included service as a C-119 transport pilot and later as a Mace missile launch officer in Europe during the Cold War.

Known throughout the modeling community for his articles, reviews, historical research, and mentorship, Horky has helped shape both IPMS/USA and the scale-modeling hobby for generations of modelers.

Highlights of Fred's accomplishments:

IPMS/USA

- IPMS member number **6390**.
- Recognized as an **IPMS/USA Life Member**.
- Served as **President of IPMS/USA from 1992–1996**.
- Served as **Director of Local Chapters from 1988–1992** and again from **1996–2000**.
- Authored numerous articles for IPMS publications and contributed to the IPMS Journal.

Modeling Background

- Longtime member of the IPMS General Robert L. Scott Chapter in Warner Robins, Georgia.
- According to a chapter member profile:
 - Founder member of the chapter.
 - More than 40 years in the club.
 - 46+ years in IPMS.
 - Modeling specialty: **aircraft**.
 - Started building models approximately **76 years ago**.
 - His first model was a **Guillow's P-40 stick-and-tissue kit**.

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A Memorable Flight Delivering a WC-130A to Guam

By Fred Horky, *Life member IPSM USA, #6390* | Page 2 of 6

Military Career

- Retired **U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel**.
- Aircraft he flew the **C-119 Flying Boxcar**, the **C-123 Provider** and the **C-130A Hercules** shown below.



C-119 "Flying Boxcar"



C-123 Provider



C-130A Hercules

- Selected for the Multi-mission Affordable Capacity Effector (MACE) program and served as a MACE **TM-76A Mace missile launch officer** in Europe during the Cold War.
- He wrote several recollections about the Mace missile system and his service in Germany.

- His writings suggest extensive military experience in both missile operations and aviation-related assignments.



Warner Robins and the Museum of Aviation

- Active in the Warner Robins modeling community since at least the late 1970s.
- Helped support model-building efforts for the Museum of Aviation at Robins AFB.
- In a 2005 article he stated he had been with the chapter since 1977.

Writing and Historical Interests

A prolific writer, reviewer, historian, and newsletter correspondent, Fred has long been a familiar and respected voice within IPMS. His articles, book reviews, and historical contributions have informed and inspired modelers for decades.

Now that you are familiar with who Fred Horky is, let's turn the page and enjoy one of his many memorable stories about his delivery of a WC-130A to Guam.

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By Fred Horky, *Life member IPSM USA, #6390* | Page 3 of 6



Back in 1967, when at Robins Flight Test, we were mostly stuck with the routine of “flying around the flagpole” on depot flight tests of C-130s and C-141s. Where the previous C-130 tour at Pope had meant being gone a LOT, now we hardly got away at all.

Finally, a chance came to deliver a WC-130A Herk to its “Typhoon Hunter” weather squadron at Andersen AFB, Guam. (The owning organizations always applauded when we volunteered to deliver airplanes—they didn’t have to send a crew.)

The Flight to Guam

For this mission, John Gomez, who had thousands of A-model hours, was Aircraft Commander. With virtually no A-model time, I was to be Co-Thing in the right seat,

while Bill Dodson, who had accumulated beaucoup A-model navigator time while stationed at Naha, Okinawa, was our stargazer. Rounding out the crew were two master sergeant flight engineers who alternated FE and Scanner duties.

About a week earlier, Jim Gunnoe and I had delivered a C-141 to its home unit at Travis AFB, California. Nothing much memorable came from that trip, EXCEPT that my almost-new Samsonite suitcase disappeared just before our return while we were in Operations filing the flight clearance to bring another -141 back to Robins for overhaul.

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A Memorable Flight Delivering a WC-130A to Guam

By Fred Horky, *Life member IPSM USA, #6390* | Page 4 of 6

It was easy enough to figure out what had happened. My suitcase had been sitting in a long line of bags outside Base Operations, while a nearly identical—but definitely not mine—suitcase remained unclaimed. Somebody had picked up the wrong bag.

At the time, I assumed the matter would somehow sort itself out. Little did I know that suitcase would soon become part of another adventure.

Departing Guam

Just getting that noisy old A-model out to Guam is one well-remembered story. Getting back turned out to be another.

So, we'd finally gotten the "Herk" back to its owners, a "Typhoon Hunter" weather squadron at Andersen AFB, Guam.

On arrival, John wanted to immediately turn around and head back to the States. We didn't even leave the flight line.

Being a bachelor, John had made some very attractive connections back home (mentioned in Part II), waiting for him in San Francisco. And none of us wanted to stay on Guam anyway. So we QUICKLY "sold" the airplane back to its owner in record time, and in a blink Gomez had us manifested on the first flight headed east.

Unfortunately, that flight turned out not to be a regular passenger flight—neither a normal MATS flight nor a contracted civilian airliner—but rather a "Young Tiger" returning to the States.

Young Tiger was the call sign for Strategic Air Command (SAC) KC-135 tankers returning to their home stations after six months of temporary duty supporting combat operations in Southeast Asia. In this case, the tanker was headed back to Pease AFB, New Hampshire, after flying missions from U-Tapao Royal Thai Air Base in Thailand.



The tanker crew took an extremely dim view of suddenly acquiring unexpected passengers.



You might say they were less than friendly—They were hostile. To be perfectly accurate, they were pissed!

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Apparently, they feared a well-laid scam was about to run afoul.

It was hot on the flight line. It was even hotter when we climbed into the back end of what can only be described as a long, hot, windowless, claustrophobic metal tube.

Then it got hotter still while we waited for takeoff. Within minutes, we were soaked with sweat. Immediately after becoming airborne, however, the temperature inside dropped by what felt like sixty degrees, and all that sweat promptly froze.

The four tanker crew members, locked away comfortably up front, seemed completely indifferent to our discomfort. In fact, they made a few thinly veiled remarks about Logistics Command weenies getting in the way of Strategic Air Command heroes returning home after months of combat.



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Their carefully crafted plan had been to stop only for fuel at Hickam AFB and have no one go through customs there. Arrangements had already been made for a customs inspection back at Pease.

Customs

No doubt a very FRIENDLY customs inspection.

From a few overheard comments, we suspected that a friend assigned the extra duty of meeting airplanes at odd hours might reasonably expect a bottle or two of liquid compensation for his efforts.

But they hadn't counted on a passenger revolt.

By this point John was more than a little irritated after being frozen in the back of that metal tube. He suddenly stood up and announced that the five of us were getting off at Hickam, clearing customs there, and continuing home on a regular MATS flight.

It was easy enough for us. None of us had anything to declare. We hadn't been out of the country long enough to buy anything, even if we had wanted to. As it turned out, Hickam had far more flights passing through than Guam. Combined with the high travel priority afforded ferry crews, we were probably on our way to California aboard a civilian contract airliner before the KC-135 crew had finished updating their customs paperwork.

What we hadn't known before leaving Guam was that the tanker wasn't stopping in California at all. It was going nonstop from Hawaii to New Hampshire—After all, it was a tanker full of fuel.

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John had suddenly realized he would only be able to wave at his San Francisco sweetheart from 36,000 feet as we flew overhead on our way to New England.

Beyond that, we'd have faced a miserable bag drag trying to get ourselves, our helmets, parachute bags, flight gear, and assorted baggage from New Hampshire back to Georgia.

We AFLC guys had barely picked up our bags to leave the airplane when the customs officer—obviously no fool and evidently growing suspicious—announced:

“If ONE man gets off and goes through customs here, EVERYBODY goes through customs here!”

I don't know what that KC-135 crew had aboard, but there was a sudden scramble for new customs forms, a rapid abandonment of old ones, and some very sharp looks directed our way.

Boy, did we ever upset their applegart!

Needless to say, they were even more pissed at us than before, but by then we were safely inside the MATS terminal, using our ferry crew orders to bump somebody else off THEIR space-available flight.

Closing Thoughts

Well, there you have it! I hope you found this story both amusing and interesting. I'd welcome any questions or comments you may have.

Best wishes, Fred



Pati Point, Anderson AFB, Guam, Runway 24L. Fun fact: If you overshoot the runway, there's a 600 plus foot drop to the ocean! Photo Source: Pinterest.com.



C-130 Cockpit View on the runway. Photo Source: NARA and DVIDS Public Domain Archives.

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Over 40 New and Updated Categories Added to Austin's 2026 CAPITOL CLASSIC MODEL SHOW

By Tim Robb

THE AUSTIN SCALE MODELER'S SOCIETY PRESENTS

THE 2026 CAPITOL CLASSIC



I'm happy to announce that more than 40 New and Updated categories have been added to this year's 2026 Capitol Classic Model Show! **Here's what's new:**

Juniors (Category J00)

- J01 - Juniors 12 & under
- J02—Juniors 13 to 17

Aircraft (Category 100)

- 101—First Time Competitor: Aircraft
- 105—1/72 & Smaller Rotary Wing
- 106—1/48 & Larger Rotary Wing
- 107—1/72 & Smaller Biplane
- 109— 1/32 & Larger Biplane
- 110—1/100 & Smaller military Single-Engine
- 110—1/100 & Smaller military Multi-Engine
- 121—1/48 Twin Engine Multi-Prop
- 122—1/48 3+ Engine Multi-Prop
- 126— Aircraft in Flight

Armor (Category 200)

- 201—First Time Competitor: Armor
- 203—1/16 or larger (All Types & Eras)
- 210—1/35 Fully Tracked Allies (1939-45)
- 211—1/35 Fully Tracked Axis (1939-45)

Automotive (Category 300)

- 301—First Time Competitor: Automotive
- 312—Off-Road Vehicles
- 313—Pickup Trucks

Watercraft (Category 400)

- 401—First Time Competitor: Watercraft
- 402—Aircraft, Battleships, Battle cruisers, Cruisers 1/450 & Larger
- 403—Aircraft, Battleships, Battle cruisers, Cruisers 1/451 & Smaller
- 404—Surface Ships Smaller than Cruisers & Commercial Vessels 1/450 & Larger
- 405—Surface Ships Smaller than Cruisers & Commercial Vessels 1/450 & Smaller
- 406—Submarines 1/450 & Larger
- 407—Submarines 1/450 & Smaller
- 408—Boats, Speedboats, Motor Torpedo Boats, Motor Patrol Boats

Science Fact & Fiction (Category 500)

- 501—First Time Competitor: Science Fact & Fiction

Gundam (Category 600)

- 601—First Time Competitor: Gundam
- 602—Straight Build—High Grade / Real Grade
- 603—Straight Build—MG/MGSD
- 604—Straight Build—Super Deformed
- 610—Master Grade Super Deformed
- 611—Non-Gundam Mecha 1/144 or Smaller
- 612—Non-Gundam Mecha 1/144 or Larger

Warhammer 700

- 701—Warhammer 40,000: Single Miniature
- 702—Warhammer 40,000: Unit or Kill Team
- 702—Warhammer 40,000: Large Model or Vehicle
- 704—Warhammer: Age of Sigmar: Single Miniature
- 705—Warhammer: Age of Sigmar: Unit or Warband
- 706—Warhammer: Age of Sigmar: Large Miniature or War Machine
- 707—Warhammer: Horus Heresy & The Old World

Diorama (Category 800)

- 801—First Time Competitor: Diorama

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Navigator Contributors Wanted!

By Your Navigator Editing Staff | Page 1 of 2



Writing for the Navigator newsletter is more than just putting words on a page— it's a chance to shape the voice of our Alamo Squadron community and beyond.

Each submission brings fresh perspective, whether it's a humorous anecdote, a detailed build report, or a reflective piece on modeling or camaraderie. These stories not only entertain, they inform and inspire, showcasing the diversity of skills, styles, and personalities within our chapter.

When members take part, the newsletter transforms into something truly special: a collective showcase of creativity and shared passion. It becomes a publication we all own, reflecting the spirit and heart of our group. This sense of ownership builds stronger connections and invites new members to feel welcomed and engaged.

Varied writing styles and topics add texture and interest, turning each issue into a lively mix rather than a monotonous read. It's not just informative—it's inviting. Submissions also lighten the load for editors and help keep content fresh and dynamic. In short, writing for the Navigator isn't just helpful—it's powerful. It turns readers into contributors, and contributors into community builders. Let your voice be part of the journey.

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We can use several types of content. Here are a few suggestions:

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Navigator Contributors Wanted!

By Your Navigator Editing Staff | Page 2 of 2

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Short Teases

Short teases—about **300 words or less**—are perfect for sharing anecdotes, humorous incidents, or brief stories from the hobby. Feel free to include a photo or illustration if it adds to the piece. These short entries are an excellent starting point for **first-time contributors**: they're quick to write and a fun way to get involved.

Full-Length Articles

Full-length articles typically range from **500 to 1,500 words**. While longer pieces are welcome, keep in mind that a newsletter exceeding **40 pages** can become overwhelming for readers. This is a hobby publication—not a scientific journal or technical manual—so **clarity and brevity are always appreciated**.

Visuals and Illustrations

Including **5–10 images per article** works well in most cases. Please **attach photos and artwork as separate files rather than embedding them in the document**; this allows us to properly size and position them during layout. You're welcome to include captions, or we can add them for you—if needed.

Image Placement

If your article includes photos or illustrations, please indicate roughly where you would like them to appear in the text. The easiest way to do this is to insert a short note at the appropriate spot, such as:

"[Insert Photo 1 here]" or *"[Insert Figure 1 here]"*

This helps us match each image with the correct section of your article, especially when multiple photos are submitted. Don't worry about exact placement—we'll handle the final layout—but your notes help ensure the images appear in the right spot.

Photo Tips

Please submit **the highest-quality images available**. Files can be shared using free services such as **Google Drive or WeTransfer** if they are too large to email.

File Format

Whenever possible, please submit your article in **Microsoft Word** format (**.doc or .docx**), or other program that can be easily opened and saved as a Word file.

For New and Seasoned Writers Alike

If you've never written an article before but would like to give it a try, we're happy to help you get started.

Closing Thoughts

Every modeler has a story, and we'd love to help you tell yours. Thank you for considering becoming a contributor. We look forward to featuring your work in future editions.



Julio



Alan

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June 4th, 2026 Club Model Contest Winners

By Julio A. Caro



Keith Rule
Pontiac Bonneville Custom



Henry Núñez
Roman Centurion 1 B.C.

Congratulations

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SCALEFEST 2026 SHOW (Grapevine, TX) - 5/30/26

By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 2

The following pages feature a selection of award-winning models from the **SCALEFEST 2026** show, held in Grapevine, Texas, on May 30, 2026. These entries were submitted by members who chose to showcase their work in our newsletter. **Congratulations to all award recipients for their outstanding craftsmanship and achievement.**

DAVID AUTH | SCALEFEST 2026 (Grapevine, TX) Page 1 of 2

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	SCALE	AWARD(S)
	1988 Toyota MR2	1/24	
	1969 Chevy Nova 427	1/25	
	1959 Cadillac Eldorado	1/25	
	1995 Toyota Service Truck	1/24	
	1959 Drag Boat	1/25	

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SCALEFEST 2026 SHOW (Grapevine, TX) - 5/30/26

By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 2

TIM ROBB | SCALEFEST 2026 SHOW (Grapevine, TX) Page 2 of 2

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	SCALE	AWARD(S)
	P-39 Airacobra	1/48	
	Otaki Ki-44	1/48	

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June 4th, 2026 Meeting Photos

By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 4

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Our **June 4th, 2026** meeting brought many of our members together once again for an evening filled with creativity, craftsmanship, and camaraderie. Whether you were presenting, learning, or simply enjoying the atmosphere, the meeting was a great reminder of what makes our club so special. Enjoy the highlights Below.



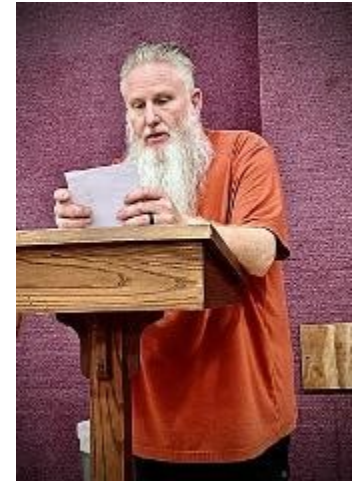
President **Jim Norton** opens the evening's meeting.



Dana Mathes talks about the Exhibition Style Model Display being considered.



Mike Gallegos briefs members on Hill Country Hobby and other topics.



Treasurer **Brando Porter** briefs club on the club's financial status.



Chris McLain conducts a clinic on how to judge SciFi, Gundam and related model entries.



Michael Williamson talks about the club's Model Summit Awards Program



Stan Spooner talks about the Model Box Hobby Store and what it has to offers.



Tim Robb tells club about the upcoming Austin Scale Modelers annual BBQ and Raucous kit auction in July.

June 4th, 2026 Meeting Photos

By Julio A. Caro | Page 2 of 4



Mike Gallegos 1937 Ford Street Rod sits on the Contest Table



Chuck Blair's 101st Airborne Ranger proudly sitting on the Contest Table



Collection of WW2 airplanes and tanks on display on the WIP table.



Award-winning Roman Centurion figure by **Henry Nunez** on the Contest Table.



1965 Corvette by **John Kress** on the Contest Table.



A-10 and F-106 by **Juan Noltenius** sit proudly on display on the WIP table.



Rob Booth is building this interesting BF-108 on the WIP Table.

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June 4th, 2026 Meeting Photos

By Julio A. Caro | Page 3 of 4

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Impressive collection of models by **Rob Booth** on display.



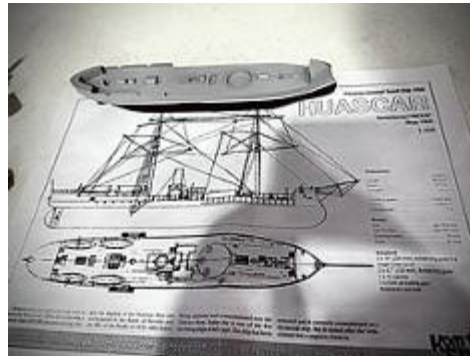
Customized F-4 cockpit by **Gene Botkins** sits on the WIP Table.



F-4 Phantom in-progress by **John Kress** on the WIP Table.



Cool Gedakka Mech Vehicle on the Contest Table.



Gabriel Lee's Huascar Peruvian Ironclad Turret Ship on the WIP Table.



Gabriel Lee's Venezuelan F-16 on display on the WIP Table.



Pair of Vietnam-era F-4 Phantoms in progress by **Devon McCollough** on the WIP Table.



Great T-72 and T-60A Russian tanks on display by **Dana Mathes** on the WIP Table.



Award-winning Pontiac Bonneville Custom car by **Keith Rule** sits on the Contest Table.

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June 4th, 2026 Meeting Photos

By Julio A. Caro | Page 4 of 4



Various 3D-printed figures on the WIP Table by **Chris Lenahan**.



Interesting Soviet Aeroplan RF-8 model on the Contest Table.



Rob Booth conducts a presentation about the Wonderfest 2026 Show.



David Auth's customized Subaru Sand Bar Pickup on the WIP Table..



Kent Knebel is putting together an impressive WW2 Japanese diorama.



Members taking a look at the models for sale at the vendor's table.



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Upcoming Shows and Events

Mark your calendars and get ready to be inspired by the creativity and craftsmanship on display at these upcoming IPMS Region 06 model shows.



EVENT DATE	NAME	LOCATION	ADDRESS
August 5-8, 2026	2026 IPMS NATIONALS	Fort Wayne, IN	Grand Wayne Convention Center 120 W. Jefferson Blvd. Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
08/22/2026	Space City Shootout Model Car Show	Stafford, TX	The Stafford Center 10505 Cash Rd, Stafford, TX 77477
09/12/2026	SuperCon 2026	Arlington, TX	Bob Duncan Community Center 2800 S. Center Street, Arlington, TX 76014
10/3/2026	OKCMetroCon 2026	Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma National Guard Museum 3301 N.E. Grand Blvd Oklahoma City, OK 73111
10/12/2026	Cajun Modelfest 38	Baton Rouge, LA	LSU 4H MiniBarn Building Ag Center Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70803
11/14/2026	Capitol Classic 2026	Taylor, TX	Williamson County Expo Center 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor, TX 76574
02/20/2027	MODELFiesta 45	New Braunfels, TX	New Braunfels Civic Center 375 S Castell Ave New Braunfels, TX 78130

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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) BBQ & Raucous Kit Auction

By Tim Robb | Page 1 of 4

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★ ASMS ★
BARBECUE
— & —
**RAUCOUS
KIT AUCTION**

Hosted by
**TIM ROBB
& KATHERINE**

SCALE MODEL
KIT

1/48

★ SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026 ★

READ ON TO GET THE DETAILS!



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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) BBQ & Raucous Kit Auction

By Tim Robb | Page 2 of 3

If you're looking for a great day of food, fellowship, and finding new additions to your stash, the Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) has just the event! Their annual Barbecue & Raucous Kit Auction returns on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at the home of Tim and Katherine Robb in San Marcos.

The day begins with a relaxed barbecue lunch before transitioning into one of ASMS's favorite traditions—the always-entertaining kit auction. Whether you're looking to clear some shelf space, pick up a few new projects, or simply enjoy the camaraderie of fellow modelers, everyone is welcome.

Event Information

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2026

Time: Gathering begins around **11:00 a.m.**

Location:

Tim & Katherine Robb's Home
418 Field Corn Lane
San Marcos, TX 78666

Contact Tim Robb:

- Phone/Text: (512) 214-9665
- Email: TimRobb90@gmail.com

When you RSVP, please let Tim know what side dish or dessert you plan to bring so the menu can be balanced and unnecessary duplicates avoided.

RSVP Required

Please RSVP **no later than 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7** so an accurate head count can be made for the barbecue.

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By Tim Robb | Page 3 of 4

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What's on the Menu

Tim and Katherine will provide:

- Smoked brisket
- Katherine's famous pinto beans
- Tea
- Lemonade

In case you're wondering...

Lunch will be served first, followed by the auction, with plenty of time to snack and socialize throughout the afternoon.

For the Auction, Please Bring:

- ✓ Modeling-related items, especially kits from your stash.
- ✓ Money for your auction purchases.
- ✓ A side dish or dessert for the meal.

For Payment ASMS accepts:

- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Checks
- ✓ Credit cards
- ✓ Debit cards
- ✓ Apple Pay
- ✓ Google Pay
- ✓ Bank transfers (ACH/PAD) through Zeffy

Suggested Side Dishes

- Potato salad
- Cole slaw
- Baked beans
- Potato chips
- About four links of sausage
- Deviled eggs
- Onions and pickles
- Dinner rolls
- Pasta salad
- Mac and cheese
- Green bean casserole

Suggested Desserts

- Peach cobbler
- Apple pie
- Ice cream
- Brownies
- Coconut macaroons (*Angela Forster has dibs on these!*)

If you'd like something other than tea or lemonade, please bring your own soft drinks.

PLEASE, NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

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By Tim Robb | Page 4 of 4

*The Return of the **Double Dog Dare!***

One of the highlights of the auction is the famous **Double Dog Dare (DDD)**. Here's how it works:

Bid on a model kit for another modeler to build before next summer. Of course, the intended "victim" has one last chance to save themselves by bidding on the kit and returning the challenge to the original instigator!

Please remember: Since modelers from San Antonio and other clubs may be attending, do **not** Double Dog Dare any visitors unless they have agreed beforehand and are willing to bring their completed model to next summer's ASMS meeting featuring the DDD contest.

Come hungry, bring a kit (or several), enjoy great company, and prepare for an afternoon filled with laughs, good food, and spirited bidding!



See you there, Tim

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Monthly Club Meeting Information

Alamo Squadron monthly club meetings are the perfect place to connect with fellow modelers to exchange ideas and learn new techniques to enhance your craft. Come share your latest projects, gain valuable insights, and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals who share your love for scale modeling.



Our monthly meetings are held on the **first Thursday of the month** starting at **6:30 PM** at

ABIDING PRESENCE LUTHERAN CHURCH

14700 San Pedro Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78232



*Our next meeting will take place on **August 6, 2026.***

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IPMS Membership Information

Joining IPMS/USA is a great idea because it connects you with a dedicated community of scale modelers who share your passion. The society offers valuable resources, including detailed magazines, access to national and regional events, and opportunities for learning and improvement through workshops and contests. Membership also provides a platform to share your work, receive constructive feedback, and stay updated with the latest trends and techniques in scale modeling.



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) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$17.00 | Date of Birth _____ |
| Adult One year | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 | |
| Two years | <input type="checkbox"/> \$58.00 | |
| Three years | <input type="checkbox"/> \$86.00 | |
| Canada & Mexico | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 | |
| Foreign <small>Surface</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$38.00 | |
| Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult fee + \$5.00 | |
| | # of cards? _____ | |

Your Signature: _____

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

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Cash Amount: _____
Check Check #: _____ Amount: _____

Where did you hear about IPMS/USA? Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local model club | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet search |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> IPMS web site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ad in IPMS Journal | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm a former member rejoining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ad in other magazine | |

Applications should be printed and mailed to:

IPMS/USA
P. O. Box 452350
Omaha, Nebraska 68145-0235

Interested in joining IPMS?

Here is a copy of an IPMS Membership Application/Renewal Form. You can download the actual form from the IPMS/USA website at:

https://ipmsusa.org/sites/default/files/membership_application_0.pdf



<https://ipmsusa.org/>

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Hobby Stores and Other Links

Support hobby stores that support our club!

DIBBLES HOBBIES

1029 Donaldson Ave,
San Antonio, TX 78228
(210) 735-7221

<http://dibbleshobbies.com>

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 PM

CLOSED: Sundays and Mondays

HOBBY TOWN

1309 N. Loop 1604 W.,
Vineyard Shopping Center, Suite 101
San Antonio, TX 78259-4769
(210) 236-5527

<https://www.hobbytown.com/sanantonio-tx/1196>

OPEN: Monday-Saturday, 10:00 am to 8:00 PM

OPEN: Sunday, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

HILL COUNTRY HOBBY

9355 Bandera Road, Suite 118
San Antonio, TX 78250
(210) 681-2007

<http://www.hillcountryhobby.com>

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 PM

CLOSED: Sundays and Mondays

HOBBY LOBBY

Visit the Hobby Lobby website to find the nearest store to your location.

<http://www.hobbylobby.com>

LIONHEART HOBBY

5500 FM 2770, Suite 103,
Kyle, TX 78640
(512) 504-3404

<https://lionhearthobby.com>

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Monday - Thursday, 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Sunday 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

KING'S HOBBY

7801 N. Lamar Blvd., Unit E188
Austin, TX 78752
(512) 836-7388

<http://kingshobby.com>

OPEN: Monday to Friday, 10:00 am - 6:00 PM

CLOSED: Saturday and Sunday

THE MODEL BOX

1022 N. Main St.
Boerne, TX 78006
Office: (830)-331-9144
Cell: (714) 323-4710

<https://themodelbox.co/>



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The NAVIGATOR

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