

WELCOME TO

The NAVIGATOR

ALAMO SQUADRON'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

September 2026 Issue



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OCTOBER 1, 2026

Region 06 Newsletter of the Year for 2025

FEATURE STORY: ALAMO SQUADRON BUILD NIGHT



The concept was simple: bring a model, bring your tools, find a place at the table, and **build!**

Kat and **Wesson**, Scouts from Troop 90, work together on P-51 Mustang kits provided by Alamo Squadron.

[Read all about it on page 2](#) →

MEMBER'S BUILD SHOWCASE

Roundnova 1 bEXM-6 by Mike Gallegos



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Jim Norton • President
David Auth • Vice President
Brandon Porter • Treasurer
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Julio A. Caro • ME & Publisher
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Alamo Squadron's Build Night

By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 3



ALAMO SQUADRON'S MODEL BUILD NIGHT

Plastic, People & Lots of Fun!



There are club meetings where we talk about models, club business, upcoming shows, judging, and all the other things that keep Alamo Squadron running.

And then there are evenings when we actually **build models together**.

August 6, 2026, was one of those evenings.

Alamo Squadron held its much-anticipated **Model Kit Build Night**, an event that, at least in my nearly ten years as a member, I don't recall the club ever doing before. And judging by the smiles, conversations, and general level of activity that evening, it was an idea that was long overdue!

The concept was simple: bring a model, bring your tools, find a place at the table, and **build!** No pressure, no judging, no deadlines, and certainly no one standing over your shoulder asking why you haven't finished that model you started three years ago.

Well... except perhaps yourself.

Instead, members spent the evening doing what scale modelers naturally love to do—working on models while talking about models.

And there was plenty to talk about.

Members had the opportunity to see what their fellow modelers were working on up close. Conversations quickly turned to the usual modeling subjects: what kit was being built, how good—or occasionally how *bad*—the fit was, what techniques were being used, and, of course, the inevitable question:

"How did you do that?"

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Alamo Squadron's Build Night

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That's one of the things that makes a gathering like this so enjoyable. A model sitting on a shelf can be admired, but seeing someone actually building one gives you an opportunity to learn. A simple technique demonstrated across the table can sometimes be worth more than an hour spent watching a video.

And then there were the stories.

As modelers worked, conversations wandered from one subject to



Brandon Porter and **Jerry Escobedo** compare notes on the build techniques Brandon was using building an A-10 Warthog and an SAS Special Operations Jeep.

another, with plenty of anecdotes about past builds, modeling successes, spectacular failures, and those little discoveries that make this hobby so interesting. In other words, it was pretty much a typical gathering of scale modelers—only this time, everybody had glue, paint, and tools in front of them!

Introducing the Next Generation

An invitation was extended to others in the community, particularly young people who might be interested in discovering what scale modeling is all about. Among our guests were boys and girls from **Boy Scouts of America Troop 90**, a local San Antonio troop.

And Alamo Squadron didn't just invite them to come watch.

The club provided **Quick-Build P-51 Mustang model kits** for the Scouts, giving them the opportunity to sit down with our members and experience the hobby firsthand. Rather than simply hearing about scale modeling, they got to roll up their sleeves, open a box, and start putting plastic parts together.

That's what outreach is all about.

For many of us, the fascination with scale modeling began when we were young. Somewhere along the way, we discovered that a pile of plastic parts, a bottle of glue, and a little imagination could become an airplane, tank, automobile, ship—or almost anything else we could imagine.

Now, the Scouts had the opportunity to discover that same fascination for themselves.

And who knows? Maybe one of those young visitors will eventually

build something a little more complicated than a Quick-Build P-51. Maybe that first Mustang will lead to another model, and then another. Maybe years from now, one of them will walk into a hobby shop, see a model kit on the shelf, and remember the evening when Alamo Squadron introduced them to the hobby.



President Jim Norton gives some preliminary tips on the P-51 Mustang kits the club provided to young scouts from Troop 90.

Perhaps one of them might even show up at a future Alamo Squadron meeting carrying a model of their own.

That would be something worth seeing.

The Man Behind the Idea

President **Jim Norton** deserves a great deal of credit for recognizing that sometimes a club needs to step away from the routine and give its members an opportunity to enjoy the hobby together.

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And Jim didn't just come up with the idea, He was there every step of the way, making sure things ran smoothly and that everyone was having a good time. **Thanks, Jim!**



Jim Norton floats the idea of a club build night to give members a chance to put aside the usual club business and simply enjoy what we all love to do most: **build models**.

Here are some photos for the event. ENJOY THEM!



Robert Stiegel works on an A-20B Havoc airplane produced by MPM Productions.



Lee Washburn, George Ortega and David Auth working on their kits and having a lively discussion about them.



Will Winmill decided to bring a cool BLUE MAX Phonix D-1 Plane to Build Night. I think we're all looking forward to seeing this one finished!



Kent Knebel broke the mold be bringing in a vintage 1950'S metal carnival erector set. Nice!



Richard Larrumbide puts decals on a Vickers VC-10 British airliner kit.



Chris McClain brought a WWII German Nashorn tank to work on.



Juan Noltenius decided to bring one of the many projects his currently working on, an IDF Merkava Tank!

Alamo Squadron's Build Night was a success—not because everyone went home with a finished model, but because everyone spent an enjoyable evening with fellow modelers. ★

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The President's Corner

By Jim Norton, President



Wide and Varied Tastes

Wide and varied tastes—that pretty much sums up our hobby.



Last month, my wife and I were watching our granddaughter, and we went downtown. It was a beautiful day, so we went to eat, and I noticed more than a few people wearing AC/DC shirts. I thought it odd that everyone was wearing the same style shirt, and then it dawned on me that AC/DC was playing at the Alamodome that night! After we finished lunch and walked down the streets, it was apparent that there were A LOT of fans here in San Antonio. The line at the Hard Rock Café was around the block!

I noticed that this band from the 1970s had such an impact across the ages. The band appeals to the young, old, men and women; it didn't matter—they were all fans and showing their support for an event that gives them pleasure. I'm sure there were locals, but I'm equally sure there were people who traveled a great distance to see this performance. Why? What drives that kind of devotion?

We have a similar devotion to our hobby. We travel

great distances to see and participate in great events across the region and country. What makes the events great? Is it the venue, or the geographic location? Is it the model on display or the awards to be won? I venture to say what makes the events what they are is **the people**. People from all walks of life have a common bond—a passion for what we do.

Over the years, the kits have changed. We have more options than ever before with PE, resin, and 3D-printed parts. Paints have gotten less toxic, and tube glue has evolved into CA, liquid cement, and epoxy. But as the years pass, the one thing that hasn't changed is the excitement when you open the box to begin a new project. The passion is still there.

Like the grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers, and mothers who were taking their sons and daughters to the concert, we need to continue to open our doors and welcome the next generation that will continue singing the praises of this hobby that is as timeless as classic rock and roll!

Talk it up! The participation of the Troop 90 Scouts who came out last month is an opportunity for growth. Let's cultivate that going forward to make this more than a hobby. Like a classic, it gets better with age and brings with it a new generation to experience the satisfaction we all feel.

For those about to model, I salute you. It's a long way to the top (if you want to rock a gold), so don't get Thunderstruck by the competition. Hells Bells, it's just a hobby!

Work hard and have fun doing it! ★

Jim

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WHEN TRACKS BITE BACK!

By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 3



HOW DID I MISS THAT?!

RIGHT SIDE TRACK...
INSTALLED BACKWARD!

LIVE AND LEARN...
AND BUY ANOTHER KIT!
START ALL OVER AGAIN!

NOTE TO SELF:
CHECK DIRECTION
BEFORE GLUE...
NOT AFTER!

LESSON LEARNED:
STOP. LOOK. CHECK.
THEN GLUE.



There are certain moments in scale modeling when you suddenly realize that something has gone terribly wrong.

Usually, that realization comes immediately after you have proudly admired your work and thought to yourself, "Hey, *this is looking pretty good!*"

That was me recently while building my Tamiya 1/48 scale German Nashorn.

The Nashorn is being built as a group build for our Alamo Squadron for ModelFiesta 45 in February 2027. After many weeks of work, I finally reached one of those milestones I had been looking forward to: putting the tracks on the vehicle.

Simple enough, right?

Well...not exactly.

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WHEN TRACKS BITE BACK!

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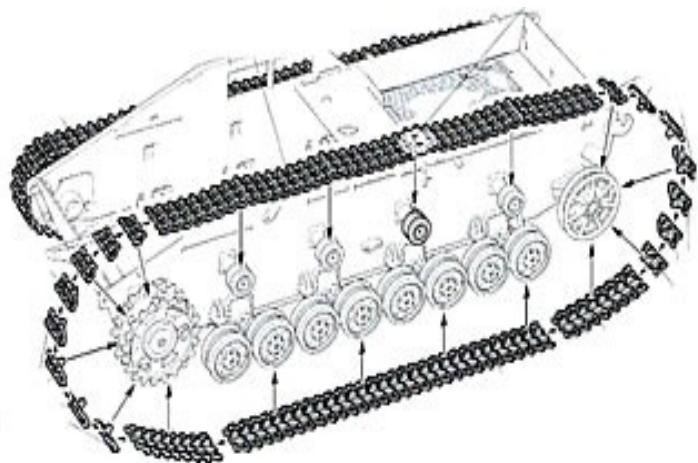
A New Experience

I'm relatively new to building armor. I've built only two tanks prior to the Nashorn: a Tamiya's 1/35 scale M41 Walker Bulldog and a 1/72 scale Russian T-55. Both kits came with the familiar one-piece rubber-band-style tracks.

Those were easy. Glue them together, paint them, wrap them around the road wheels and sprockets, and you're pretty much done.

The Nashorn, however, introduced me to something entirely different: **segmented tracks**.

Instead of one continuous piece of track, the Nashorn's tracks are assembled from multiple sections and individual track links as shown in the illustration below. For someone who had never worked with this type of track before, it was a whole new ballgame. And, as I would soon discover, I was apparently still learning the rules.



Houston, We Have a Problem

I carefully worked my way through the track assembly, section by section. Everything seemed to be going well.

Eventually, I had both tracks installed and stepped back to admire my handiwork.

That's when I noticed something.

Something wasn't quite right.

Actually, something was **very** wrong.

I had installed the right-side track **backward**!

The track links were facing the wrong direction, turning what was supposed to be a German armored fighting vehicle into something that looked like it had been assembled by the German equivalent of a Monday-morning crew.

At first, I thought there might be some way to carefully remove the offending sections and correct the problem. Unfortunately, reality had other plans.

The glue had already cured.

And when I say cured, I mean it had apparently achieved a molecular bond that could probably have survived a direct hit from a 155mm howitzer.

As you can see on the photo below, once glued there was no clean way of getting those track sections off to try to fix them without destroying them.



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So Whose Fault Was It?

There really wasn't anyone else to blame. It wasn't a bad kit. It wasn't defective instructions. It wasn't poor engineering. It wasn't sabotage by another modeler.

It was me!

Somewhere during the assembly process, I had inadvertently glued one of the track sections together in reverse. I simply hadn't paid close enough attention to the direction and orientation of the track links. And because I was unfamiliar with segmented tracks, I didn't recognize the mistake until it was too late.

That's probably the most frustrating part of making a modeling mistake: knowing that the problem could have been avoided with about thirty seconds of additional attention.

But that's also how we learn.

An Expensive Lesson

So, what does a modeler do when faced with an unsalvageable mistake?

Obviously, you buy another kit.

Because apparently the only reasonable solution to putting the tracks on backward is to purchase an entirely new Nashorn and start over.

Problem solved!

Well...except for the damage to the wallet.

So, I'm now back at the beginning with another Tamiya 1/48 Nashorn. The good news is that I'm now considerably more familiar with the kit than I was the first time around.

More importantly, I now know a lot more about **segmented tracks**.

Lesson Learned

As frustrating as the experience was, I actually learned something valuable from it.

When working with segmented tracks, don't simply assume that because the sections seem to fit together, they're going together correctly.

Stop. Look. Check. Then glue.

Pay close attention to the direction of the track links and compare the assembly to the instructions before committing glue. It also helps to periodically hold the partially assembled track against the road wheels and sprocket to make sure everything looks right before continuing.

And perhaps most importantly, don't get in a hurry just because you're anxious to see the finished track on the model.

Take a few extra seconds. Those few seconds can save you several weeks of work and the price of another kit.

TIP: *If you're having problems or have any questions, seek the advice of an experienced armor builder. I did, and it paid off tremendously. Thank you, Juan!*

Live and Learn

Every modeler, regardless of experience, eventually does something that makes him look at the model and say, *"What in the world was I thinking?"*

The trick is to learn from it, laugh about it, and try not to make the same mistake twice. ★

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WORKING BOATS ARTICLE -PART 2

By Michael Buckley | Page 1 of 2



This is an addition to a previous *Navigator* article themed around Working Boats, which featured five vessels pictured left to right below: an Island Tramp Steamer with a hull from Aurora and a scratch-built superstructure; Monogram's Jacques Cousteau Calypso, made famous in the 1960s; Heller's French Ocean Salvage boat; Airfix's English Coastal Oiler, a littoral oil tanker; and the ubiquitous Harbor Tug.



This article features a purpose-built North Sea Severn-class rescue boat by Airfix and the addition of a leftover hull and superstructure from my stash of Trumpeter's **Jeremiah O'Brien** WWII Liberty ship, the most-produced cargo vessel of World War II, with 2,710 Liberty ships launched to provide vital logistical support for the Soviet Union and the Allied D-Day invasion.

A venture of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this superb Airfix model, with over 240 parts, showcases the purpose-built Severn-class lifeboat, with its high bow sheer, twin screws and rudders, and bow thrusters to brave the testy North Sea swells. The detailed interior features a fair-weather flying bridge, the weather-tight main cabin, and a lower level at the

vessel's center of gravity that can accommodate 10 rescued survivors. Reference the photo below.



With the flying bridge removed for clarity are the fair-weather flying bridge helm, featuring an inflatable dinghy with its service crane, and, in the top view with the flying bridge removed, the inside weather helm and the yellow hatch leading to the below-decks refuge.



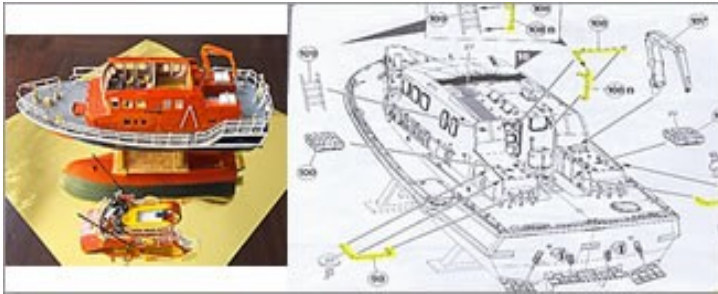
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WORKING BOATS ARTICLE -PART 2

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Assembly of this kit is quite difficult, with no detailed instructions—just drawings and impossibly small parts numbers on the sprues. Reference the illustration below:



The World War II Liberty ships were crucial in establishing the North Atlantic logistics lifeline to Great Britain and the Soviet Union, with many shipbuilding records set and broken by rival U.S. East and West Coast shipyards. Reference the photo below.



The O'Brien is the last unaltered Liberty ship survivor, now anchored in San Francisco. All kit hull and superstructure elements left over from pillaging the booms and rigging for my Tramp Steamer allowed me to finish one side in the typical Sea Grey livery, while treating the other side to a Dazzle Camouflage scheme. Reference the photo below:



In Conclusion

As always, I had a great time building these ships and I sincerely hope that you enjoyed reading this article as much I did bringing it to you. ★

Regards and keep on modeling,

Michael

Here are some photos for your viewing pleasure:



Photo of Severn Class Lifeboat in action

Source: **The Voice Newspaper**

<https://www.voicenewspapers.co.uk/news/falmouths-maritime-community-to-bid-farewell-to-severn-class-lifeboat-759212>



Photo of a Liberty Ship sailing on a supply run

Source: **War History Online**

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/instant-articles/liberty-ships.html>

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A PLACE CALLED “DAU TIENG”

By Fred Horky©, Life member IPSM USA, #6390 | Page 1 of 4



C-130 making a dawn landing at Dau Tieng.

C-123, then C-130... and the last installment of my Vietnam service found me in command of a radio jeep—proof that not every command comes with wings!

Combat often leaves the combatant with the thought, “Maybe-I-had-better-go-to-church-more-often.” In this story, the combatants were a three-man USAF Combat Control Team (think: “mobile control tower”) at a place called Dau Tieng, Vietnam. “D.T.” HAD been a premier Michelin rubber plantation since 1925; it looked about like what you might think the French would build for themselves in the tropics, with much the same architecture as Saigon, a city that had been known as “The Paris of the Orient.”

In 1968, I saw no sign of the French, but they evidently still had an interest. Indeed, it was reported that the company paid tribute to the enemy throughout the war to “Please Don’t Shoot Our Rubber Trees!” For more on that, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelin_Rubber_Plantation

The area had early on become a Viet Cong stronghold and remained so throughout the war. So naturally, when the Army’s 25th Infantry Division moved into the former plantation to establish a brigade base camp, they met continuing opposition.

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My connection to “D.T.” happened during my last Vietnam tour. My previous C-123 and C-130 airlift experience “in-country” had, for the third time, earned me a sort of booby prize assignment. Instead of the cushy Ops Officer headquarters job listed on my overseas orders, upon arrival I was dubbed a brand-new “TALO” (Tactical Airlift Liaison Officer) and sent out for duty with the Army’s 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi!

The job included travel to forward airstrips within the 25th Division’s very large AO (Area of Operations) to inspect and maintain some semblance of USAF fixed-wing airlift efficiency and safety. To do that, my travel was mostly by the “Huey” helicopters of my new Army friends, as traveling by MRC-107 “radio jeep,” alone on Vietnamese highways was not longevity-inducing.)

For the mission at hand, a large troop movement had been arranged to airlift troops from Dau Tieng to the northern part of the country. It was enough traffic to require an Air Force Combat Control Team on hand as a temporary “control tower.”

Michelin’s former plantation at Dau Tieng HAD been a tropical paradise in peacetime... for the French management. They had even built themselves a swimming pool. But when I was there, pool chemicals and maintenance equipment were not available,

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By Fred Horky©, *Life member IPSM USA, #6390* | Page 2 of 4

making it a very attractive health hazard “nuisance” and therefore forbidden and off-limits. Reference photo below.



Photo courtesy of Fred Horky

As might be expected, that shortage was eventually corrected sooner-than-later, as seen in this later picture found on a Dau Tieng veterans’ website. But not while I was there.

As shown on the first page’s header, A C-130-capable runway had been carved all the way across the camp, from “wire to wire” along the perimeter bunker defense lines on either side, at the cost of demolishing some of the old French facilities.



the most elegant of the buildings... a mansion, in fact it had been the home of Michelin’s plantation manager. It’s also seen at the extreme left of the title picture showing the C-130 making a dawn landing.

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The house’s old main entrance, centered in this picture, had a room projecting above it with large windows on three sides, offering a great view of air operations at the sudden-new-airfield just a very few yards directly in front. Reference the photo below:



In the distance looms extinct volcano Nui Ba Den (Black Virgin Mountain). It was the best landmark—and only mountain—in the southern part of the country.

What better place for a three-man USAF Combat Control Team—one SSgt and two three-strippers—to set up and control air traffic than in that former upstairs bedroom? Their control tower equipment—speakers, microphones, light gun, radio control heads, etc.—was connected by extension cables to their AN/MRC-108 radio jeep (always simply called a “Mark,” for obvious reasons) and its generator trailer, parked in front of the building. Reference the photo below:



AN/MRC-108 Radio Jeep with the USAF Museum Caribou.
They were never this clean in Vietnam!

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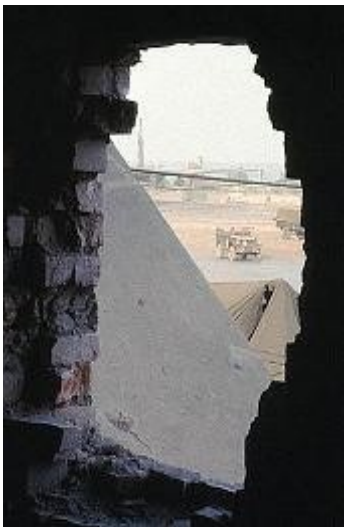
Compared to most Combat Control Team (CCT) operations in Vietnam, that Michelin mansion gave the CCT positively palatial quarters in which to live and work, even compared to their "hootches" back at their crowded home base at Bien Hoa.

Since this airlift mission was of relatively long duration... more than a week... they had brought with them on their C-123 deployment flight their stereos and Akai* tape decks, purchased during Hong Kong R&R trips.

All this, plus three folding cots, air mattresses, etc., was set up in that second-floor front room to catch the slight breezes in Vietnam's stultifying heat—and to better see and control aerial traffic.

Despite what you might hear in "war stories" (including my own), more often than not things in base camps were fairly quiet at night in Vietnam. But the exceptions were always memorable!

One very quiet night, our CCT heroes were enjoying their music and reading when our friend Victor Charlie (slang for the Viet Cong insurgents) sent a special-delivery package in the form of a 122 mm rocket. It sort of ruined the mood. In fact, it almost ruined EVERYTHING.



That old Michelin mansion was apparently an aiming point for Charlie; it got hit a lot! Here is a view taken the next morning from INSIDE the building, looking OUT through the thick, broken masonry wall after another rocket hit.

The rocket—my Army Ordnance friends said it carried the explosive equivalent of an 8-inch

artillery round—struck the tile roof directly over their heads... and detonated.

I wasn't there when it happened, but I saw the aftermath. EVERYTHING in the room had been hit—in fact, DESTROYED—by hot shrapnel. The walls, the floor, the Akai tape decks, the stereos, the clothes, the boots, the lockers... everything.

(Who today remembers personal reel-to-reel tape decks... or even the name "Akai"?)

Everything was shredded EXCEPT the three guys lying in their bunks, totally exposed... yet who didn't receive so much as a scratch!

For them, it was a real "...I-really-need-to-get-to-the-chaplain-so-he-can-punch-my-Theological-Services-card" moment!

(The acronym formed by the letters "T.S." invites another interpretation.)

GIRL TROUBLE Prov. 6:20-28	NO PAY Prov. 28:6	Not Enough FREEDOM Phil. 4:11-12	LOST AT CARDS Prov. 10:2-4	NO PRO-MOTION Psalm 75:3-7
NO PORT CALL Luke 2:29	THIS IS A T. (THEOLOGICAL) S. (SERVICE) CARD IT ENTITLES YOU TO 16 VISITS WITH YOUR CHAPLAIN <i>Patrick J. Horky</i> Your Chaplain's Signature			NO LOVING Prov. 22:14
TEMPTED 1 Cor. 10:13				OUT RANKED Psalm 3:1-4
DEAR JOHN LETTER Prov. 30:20				CHEWED OUT Matt. 5:11
IN NEED OF PRAYER Matt. 6:1-15	WIFE TROUBLE Prov. 5:18-21	NO MAIL Prov. 25:25	SHOT AT Psalm 11	INTOXICATION Prov. 23:29-32

My own "T.S. Card," given to me in Vietnam by a 25th Infantry Division chaplain.

But nature was still attempting to make Dau Tieng beautiful! The bougainvillea in front of that mansion, now fronting onto a runway, were blooming enthusiastically.

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The flowering bushes had gone wild since the last tender ministrations of the gardeners, a very long time before, in a more peaceful era. Despite their gangly, runaway appearance, their flamboyant color made for a very interesting photo opportunity.

Fifty-seven years ago, my third Vietnam tour admittedly wasn't as a combat photographer. Rather, it was to help make more efficient the movement of the implements of war—and the people who wielded them. But I couldn't resist taking advantage of that photo opportunity. After setting a slow shutter speed on my film camera to better emphasize the C-130's motion, I captured the above photo of another C-130 charging past on its takeoff roll. And that's today's memories of a place called Dau Tieng! ★



Dau Tieng Base Camp, South Vietnam, circa 1967-68.
Photo courtesy of: VietnamTripleDeuce.Org.



AN/MRC-108 Jeep Radio Communications Equipment.
Photo source: **National Museum of the United States Air Force**



U.S. Air Force C-130 on the air field at Dau Tieng, South Vietnam.
Photo Source: gettyimages.com

I hope you enjoyed my story about my service during the Vietnam Conflict in Dau Tieng, South Vietnam as much as I did writing it.

Best Wishes,

Fred

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August 6, 2026 Club Contest Winners

By Julio A. Caro

Congratulations to all our August 6, 2026 Club Contest winners!

These four models tied for First Place each earning **SILVER**:



CHRIS LENAHA
U.S. Soldier, Hurtgen Forest



HENRY NUNEZ
U.S Combat Medic



CHRIS LENAHA
U.S. Tank Crewman, Flat Figure



DICK MONTGOMERY | TRICERATOPS

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August 6, 2026 Meeting Photos

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Our August meeting was another great evening of creativity, camaraderie, and—most importantly—building models! The highlight was our **Model Build Night**, giving members a chance to put aside the usual meeting routine, break out their kits and tools, and simply enjoy the hobby together. From builders sharing techniques and ideas to members swapping stories and admiring each other's work, the evening captured what Alamo Squadron is all about: **building models, sharing knowledge, and having fun with friends**. Check out the following highlights:



President Jim Norton decides to skip the usual club business and jump right into our Build Night event.



Chris Lenahan unveils the redesigned ModelFiesta 45 50th Anniversary medals.



U.S. Combat Soldier by **Henry Nunez** site proudly on the contest table.



Cuban T-55 tank by **Joe Chapa** on the Work in Progress (WIP) Table.



An A-10 "Warthog" and a British SAS Special Operations Jeep in progress by **Brando Porter** at our Build Night.



Dana Mathes built this T-34 Trainer on display on the WIP table.



An F-4B Phantom also built by **Dana Mathes** on display on the WIP table.

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Carl Allsup built these two battleships on display on the WIP table.



Here's another great ship diorama also built by **Carl Allsup** on the contest table.



Impressive 3D designed and generated aircraft structure parts by **Joe Bianco**.



Beautiful T-14 Armata tank build in progress by **Dana Mathes**.



Operation Danube T-62 tank build in progress also by **Dana Mathes**.



Take a look at this great triceratops on the contest table by **Dick Montgomery**.



This great Viking Probe kit on the contest table was built by **Greg Hamon**.



Viking Probe and orbiter also by **Greg Hamon** on the contest table.



Beautiful collection of De Havilland fighter jets by **Robert Stiegel** on the contest table.

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Julio A. Caro's U.S. Navy Shore Patrol Willys Jeep on the contest table.



XP-80 Shooting Star prototype on the contest table also built by **Julio A. Caro**.



Dana Mathes discusses the progress of his Russian T-14 Armata tank.



Set of 3D-printed figures on the WIP table by **Chris Lenahan**.



Vendor table with available kits for purchase by our members.

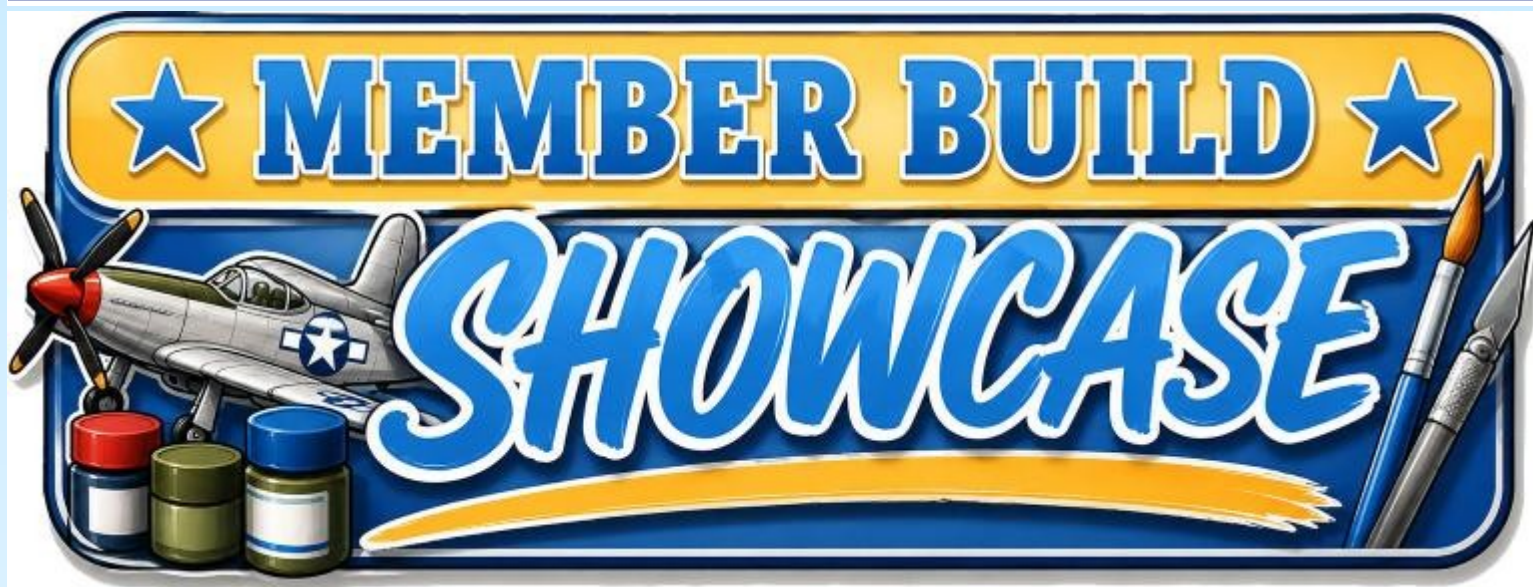


U.S. Soldier 29th Infantry Division figures on the WIP table by **Chris Lenahan**.



U.S. ARMY TANK CREWMAN on the contest table built by **Chris Lenahan**

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This Month's Featured Member Build Showcase is a
Roundnova 1 bEXM-6 Mecha Robot built by
MIKE GALLEGOS



Alamo Squadron is home to modelers with a wide range of interests, skills, and building styles.

Each month, *The Navigator* will highlight one member and one of their builds, giving us an opportunity to learn more about the people and models that make our club so special.

We hope you'll enjoy discovering the talent found throughout Alamo Squadron.

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BUILD DETAILS

This was basically an out-of-the-box build, with only minor modifications made to the thigh armor.

Adding Some Texture

At the last minute, I decided to add a tank-inspired Zimmerit texture to the thigh armor to draw more attention to the overall theme of the model.

Since my epoxy putty was old and had dried solid, I had to improvise. I constructed the Zimmerit using DAP DRYDEX Lightweight Drywall Spackling shown below.



The texture was crudely stamped into the spackling with a small, flat-head micro screwdriver to create the appearance of a rushed, battlefield-applied coating.

The drywall spackling is water-based, so I allowed it to cure for approximately 24 hours. Once dry, it proved to be quite stable and could also be easily chipped during the weathering process.

Another advantage is that the spackling is designed to accept paint, so it covered nicely with primer and subsequent coats of paint.

Paint and Finishing

The theme of the model is a completely fictional **future Mecha jungle ground unit**.

For the finish, I used acrylic paints for the base coat and alcohol inks to create the camouflage patterns.

The ghillie netting was made from cheesecloth soaked in a mixture of water and Elmer's Glue—and yes, *it still tastes good!* Once dry, the netting was painted to match the rest of the model. See photo below.



The decals came from Bandai's 30 Minutes Missions Universal Waterslide Decal Sheet, supplemented with a mixture of leftover waterslide decals from various scale model projects.

About 30 Minutes Missions



30 Minutes Missions kits are extremely fun to build, and the explanation for the name is pretty straightforward. Bandai designed the kits with the idea that they could be assembled in approximately 30 minutes or less. One of the biggest attractions of the 30 Minutes Missions line is its emphasis on customization. The kits use a 3mm peg-and-hole construction system that allows components to be easily interchanged throughout the product line. This provides a tremendous amount of customization without requiring the traditional "kitbashing" techniques of cutting, drilling, cementing, or sanding.

The various kits are designed to be interchangeable with one another and are complemented by numerous option sets available separately, providing virtually endless possibilities for creating unique configurations.

The reasonable price point also makes these kits highly affordable and a blast to build.

Continues on the following page...

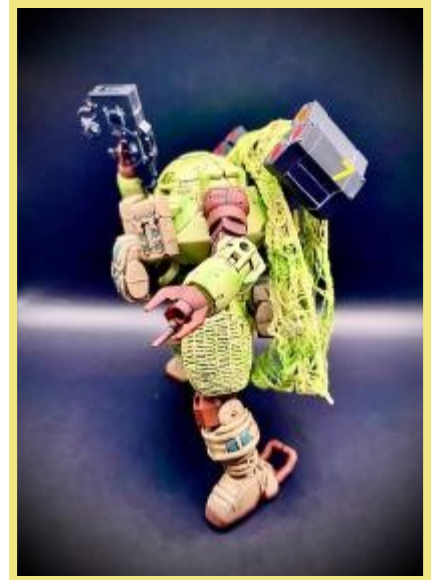
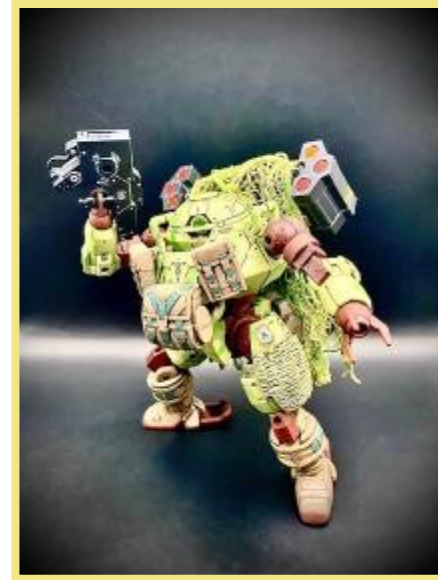
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If you've never built a Bandai kit before, I encourage you to give one a try. They are tremendously fun and nearly hassle-free! ★



Build. Explore. Create.

Mike



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Space City Shootout 2026 Model Car Show

Stafford, Texas, August 22, 2026 | Winner's Circle

By Julio A. Caro | Page 1 of 2



The following pages feature a selection of award-winning models from the recent **SPACE CITY SHOOTOUT 2026 MODEL CAR SHOW** held in Stafford, Texas, on August 22, 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 | Space City Shootout (Stafford, TX) Page 1 of 2

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	SCALE	AWARD(S)
	1969 Chevy Nova 427	1/24	
	1959 Cadillac Eldorado	1/25	
	2011 Subaru Sambar Truck BEST INTERIOR SPECIAL AWARD	1/24	
	1995 Toyota Service Truck	1/24	
	1964 Ford Thunderbolt	1/25	

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Space City Shootout 2026 Model Car Show

Stafford, Texas, August 22, 2026 | Winner's Circle

By Julio A. Caro | Page 2 of 2

DAVID AUTH | Space City Shootout (Stafford, TX) Page 2 of 2

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	SCALE	AWARD(S)
	1985 BMW 635 Race Car	1/24	
	1947 Chevy Fleetmaster	1/25	



TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

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IPMS USA NATIONAL CONVENTION 2026

Fort Wayne, Indiana | August 5-8, 2026

By Julio A. Caro



The 2026 IPMS USA National Convention was held August 5–8 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, bringing together scale modelers from across the country—and around the world—for one of the biggest events on the modeling calendar.

Representing Alamo Squadron at this year's Nationals were **Brett Scholten**, **Don Weaver**, and **Tim Robb**, who is also a member of the Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS). While our members did not bring home any awards this time around, they put forth their best efforts in what proved to be an exceptionally competitive field. Congratulations to Brett, Don, and Tim for representing our club at the 2026 IPMS USA Nationals.

With some of the finest models and modelers from across the country and beyond competing, earning an award at Nationals is no small accomplishment. Regardless of the outcome, simply putting your work on the national stage is something to be proud of—and the experience, camaraderie, and opportunity to see so many outstanding models make the trip worthwhile.

If you're curious about what won at IPMS USA Nationals this year, here's a link to IMPS-USA's website where you can find out:

<https://ipmsusa.org/news/2026-nationals-awards-presentations>

Best of the Year Winners

Chapter of the Year

IPMS Mid-Michigan Model Makers

Member of the Year

Mark Stevens

Website of the Year

Austin Scale Modeler's Society

Newsletter of the Year

Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers

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Upcoming Shows and Events

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



EVENT DATE	NAME	LOCATION	ADDRESS
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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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
OCTOBER 1ST, 2026.

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)	☐ \$17.00	Date of Birth _____
Adult One year	☐ \$30.00	
Two years	☐ \$58.00	
Three years	☐ \$86.00	
Canada & Mexico	☐ \$35.00	
Foreign Surface	☐ \$38.00	
Family	☐ 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:

☐ Local model club	☐ Internet search
☐ Friend	☐ IPMS web site
☐ Ad in IPMS Journal	☐ I'm a former member rejoining
☐ Facebook	☐ Other _____
☐ 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/>

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/l196>

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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Meet our Club Staff

By Jim Norton, President | Page 1 of 2

JIM NORTON, President



Jim has been a member of Alamo Squadron since June 2022, and he quickly became an active part of the club. He

has served as our Treasurer and, in April 2026, was unanimously elected to serve as Alamo Squadron's President.

Jim's modeling interests lean toward aircraft—an especially fitting choice considering his real-world connection to aviation. He's not only a pilot and flight instructor, but also flies what many would consider one of the most essential aircraft in the U.S. Air Force inventory: the KC-135 Stratotanker.

So, when Jim builds an aircraft model, he brings a little more to the workbench than just a love of the hobby—he brings the perspective of someone who actually knows what it's like to fly them.

DAVID AUTH, Vice President



David has been a member of Alamo Squadron since June 2022 and an active part of the club ever since. He

is currently serving his second term as our Vice President, having been unanimously re-elected by the membership during our April 2026 Club Officer Elections.

Given David's passion for automobiles, it probably comes as no surprise that cars are his favorite modeling genre. And he's certainly no slouch when it comes to building them. David is widely regarded as one of the club's finest car modelers, a reputation backed up by the many Gold Medals he has earned over the years.

Whether it's the subject, the finish, or the attention to the smallest details, David brings the same level of skill and enthusiasm to the workbench that has made him one of Alamo Squadron's standout car modelers.

BRANDO PORTER, Treasurer



A prolific modeler, Brandon has become one of the club's more accomplished and versatile

competition modelers. He currently serves as the Squadron's **Treasurer**.

When it comes to modeling, Brandon is not exactly easy to put into a box. While armor may be among his favorite subjects, his impressive body of work demonstrates an interest in just about anything that catches his eye. His builds have included aircraft, armor, military vehicles, ships, spacecraft, science fiction subjects, and even some rather unusual subjects that might leave the rest of us wondering, *"Where did he find a kit for that?"*

Brandon is also no stranger to the competition table. His impressive record includes numerous Gold awards and special recognitions at shows throughout Texas and beyond.

DON WEAVER, Chapter Contact



Don has been a member of Alamo Squadron since September 2019. In May 2025, he was elected

Chapter Contact, a position he was re-elected to in April 2026, continuing his service to the Squadron.

When it comes to modeling, Don has a particular fondness for 1/72 scale jets, especially those from the colorful 1950s through the 1970s. As Don puts it, he enjoys the "colorful jets," although he occasionally ventures into the more modern—and decidedly grayer—era of aviation.

And Don's interests don't stop with aircraft. A self-professed Trekkie, he also enjoys building Star Trek kits, adding a little science fiction to his modeling repertoire.

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Meet our Club Staff

By Julio A. Caro | Page 2 of 2

Mario Fernandez, *Webmaster*



Mario has been a member of Alamo Squadron since April 2022. In late 2022, Mario volunteered to

take on the role of **Alamo Squadron's Webmaster**, bringing with him a wealth of experience in web design and development. When he took over our website, Mario didn't simply maintain it—he went to work rebuilding it.



His efforts have clearly paid off, with the Squadron's website earning

multiple Region 6 Website of the Year honors and being named IPMS/USA Website of the Year for 2023 and again for 2024.

Mario's primary modeling interest is civilian and naval aircraft, but he also enjoys building Formula 1, IndyCar and other race cars, with the occasional science-fiction subject finding its way onto his workbench.

And there's a particularly fitting connection between Mario's profession and his modeling. He currently flies BC-12 single-engine propeller aircraft. In fact, Mario has been known to build models of the very aircraft he flies!

Julio A. Caro, *Managing Editor & Publisher, The Navigator Newsletter*



Julio A. Caro has been a member of Alamo Squadron since May 2017 and currently serves as *The*

Navigator's Managing Editor and Publisher, overseeing the production of the Squadron's monthly newsletter. Alan Larrumbide, the former Managing Editor, now serves as Co-Editor, and together they continue to bring their experience to the publication.

Julio is also a frequent contributor to *The Navigator*, writing articles ranging from model-building reviews and historical subjects to modeling techniques and personal experiences from his own workbench. For him, writing is simply another way to share his enthusiasm for the hobby and connect with fellow modelers.



His efforts with *The Navigator* helped earn the publication **IPMS Region 6 Newsletter of the Year** for 2025.

When he's not working on the next issue, Julio is primarily an aircraft and military vehicle modeler, with the occasional rocket or spacecraft finding its way onto his workbench. For Julio, scale modeling is about more than building models—it's

about learning, sharing, and enjoying the hobby with others.

Alan Larrumbide, *Co-editor, The Navigator Newsletter*



Alan Larrumbide has been part of Alamo Squadron and the San Antonio modeling

community for many years. He has served as *The Navigator's* Managing Editor and now works alongside Julio A. Caro as Co-Editor, continuing to contribute his experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the Squadron's monthly publication.

Alan is also an accomplished writer and regular contributor to *The Navigator*, where his articles and features cover modeling, history, events, and the people who make up Alamo Squadron. His dedication to both modeling and the newsletter has made him an important part of the Squadron's effort to share knowledge, preserve its history, and keep members connected.

Alan is an avid aircraft modeler, with modern military aircraft among his favorites. He has built such subjects as an Israeli F-16 and USMC AV-8A Harrier, both of which earned top honors at ModelFiesta 43. He has a particular interest in F-4 Phantoms and helped establish the annual Phantom gathering at ModelFiesta.

LINKS AND OTHER RESOURCES

For club resources, IPMS-USA membership information and other useful links, see below.



Alamo Squadron Website

<https://www.alamosquadron.com>



Alamo Squadron FACEBOOK Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/114044928625406>



IPMS Membership Information

<https://www.myipmsusa.org/join-us>



Modellers Without Borders

<https://modellers.org/>



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MODELFIESTA 2027 FLYER

A vibrant flyer for ModelFiesta 2027. The background is a collage of model images: a biplane flying over a Hollywood sign, a tank, a car, and a large ship labeled CVN-77. A large '50' is prominently displayed, with a circular logo inside the '0' that reads 'IPMS/USA - ALAMO SQUADRON', 'ESTABLISHED 1977', and 'SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS'. Below the '50' is a banner that says 'ANNIVERSARY'. The main title 'MODELFIESTA 2027' is in large, bold letters, followed by 'ANYTHING GOLD -1977'. At the bottom, it says 'MODEL CONTEST ★ VENDOR EVENT'. The date 'FEBRUARY 19-20, 2027' and location 'New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center, New Braunfels, Texas' are listed. A QR code is in the bottom right corner. Logos for sponsors like 'HELL HOBBY', 'HobbyTown', 'LIONHEART', and 'HOBBY SHOW MANAGER' are at the bottom. A banner at the very bottom says 'VISIT MODELFIESTA.COM for more information'.

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