

The Navigator

The Newsletter of Alamo Squadron

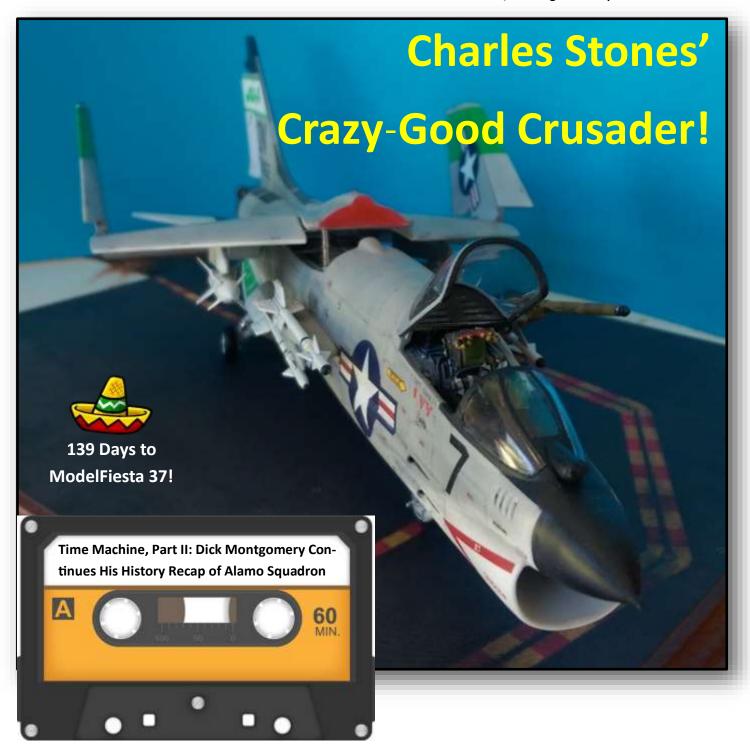
The San Antonio chapter of the International Plastic Modelers' Society A registered 501c-7

October 2017



IPMS/USA Chapter of the Year: 1998-1999 & 2004-2005

IPMS/USA Region 6 Chapter of the Year: 2016



President's Column

By Len Pilhofer
IPMS #49932



recent internet posting has intrigued me as it is a topic that rolls around in my head from time to time. This in fact interested me so much I thought I would use this month's President's Column to comment on it. Our friend, Steve Brown over at Scale Model Soup, raised the question of when is the use of aftermarket too much and a modelers skill is replaced by a manufacturer? (see original blog post here:

http://www.scalemodelsoup.com/2017/09/sausage-gravy-and-slow-demise-of.html)

In other words, when does the addition of parts not made, and more importantly, not *finished*, by you turn a personal project into a display of someone else's work? Does it rise to the level of buying a die-cast auto, tank or aircraft and putting it on a shelf next to completed model kits? Or is it not as extreme as this? This is a slippery slope as one can argue the other end of the spectrum that the act of buying a kit is "cheating" in that you are not creating a model from scratch.

One of the observations I made at the recent Nats in Omaha is that most of the best-of-class winners were scratch-built models. The best-of-show winner was one of these scratch-built models as well. The alarm that went off in my head while realizing this was if I want to be competitive at a national level I really need to work on my scratch-building techniques and start leaving manufactured kits – the vast majority of our hobby – behind. I've got way too many kits - as well as aftermarket goodies - in my stash to leave them behind...this is not an option for me.

My personal answer to the dilemma of how much aftermarket to use on a kit falls back to the IPMS rules for judging:

- 1) Construction
- 2) Painting, Finishing, Weathering
- 3) Improvements and Added Details

- 4) Scope of Work
- 5) Accuracy (and this is listed last for a reason)

The way I interpret these rules as it applies to my own modeling is if my addition of aftermarket, or parts made by someone else, is integrated into the model with superior construction then I've had a "modeling victory". If I have successfully painted and weathered these parts as integrated with the rest of the model then I have succeeded again. For the most part the addition of aftermarket parts lends itself naturally to #3, improvements and added details, and the very use of these parts is welcomed by IPMS (but certainly not necessary). The use of such parts, one can argue, does increase your scope of work...but at the same time their may indeed *reduce* the amount of work.

Continuing this slippery slope of judgement comes 3D printing. Now a modeler doesn't need to construct a part from scratch (the traditional term of "scratch"). He or she may just draw it on a computer and feed it to a 3D printer. A few hours later the part emerges ready to be fit to the model. Is there a challenge to this method? One may argue the challenge comes in drawing the part accurately and the 3D printer is just speeding up the process...something all modern technology aims to achieve: saving time.

If you were to look at this development a different way the actual kits coming out on today's markets are far and away better than the kits of years past...and many of them come with what was once considered "aftermarket" parts. If our kits today come with these parts do we really have an argument anymore?

Well, in the end, not really. You see, also in the end its your model...if you like it, then that is the most important modeling victory you can achieve...and really who cares what others say or think of your use of aftermarket. Congratulations on landing a hobby that gives you so much enjoyment and escape from all the noise in the world today.

Club Announcements

Editors Comments

First, thanks to everyone who submits content for the Navigator. It seems that writing is even more intimidating than airbrushing. But with some trial and error you will feel comfortable airbrushing. So give writing a try; even if it is only pictures with a few words of text. The purpose of Alamo Squadron, or any club, is to share ideas.

Each month Len and I host a BBN at our homes. In August I had a paint chipping clinic where everyone got hands on practice. Prior to the meeting I prepared by cutting several (at least 2 per person) 1 ½" squares of sheet styrene. I painted both sides with Model Masters Burnt Umber and allowed it to dry overnight. I then sprayed one side with Vallejo Chipping Medium thinned with water (I should have thinned with Isopropyl Alcohol.) I noticed that the coat of chipping medium seemed to pool, but since this was my first attempt at this technique I ignored it.

At the BNN we all airbrushed a coat of Tamiya Sky Grey thinned with water and waited about 10 minutes. We then brushed on water and used stiff paint brushes to "chip" thru the top coat to reveal the base coat of umber. In the photo you will notice the subtle effect of rust caused by standing water; I like it. This was

caused be me mistakenly cutting the chipping medium with water instead of alcohol. (It's never to late to learn from one's mistakes.)



Bachelor Build Nights

The focus of these gatherings is to build models as well as comradery with a secondary goal of watching, discussing, and learning different techniques. There will be no official club business at these meetings; only modelers sitting with their kit, building it, and talking about any topic you desire. Each build night will run from 5-9 PM

All dates fall on a Thursday night. If you wish to host a BBN please let Len or Craig know and we can add to the dates listed here. Build night dates for the rest of 2017 are as follows:

12 Oct @ Craig's 26 Oct @ Len's 9 Nov @ Craig's 30 Nov @ Len's 14 Dec @ Craig's 28 Dec @ Len's



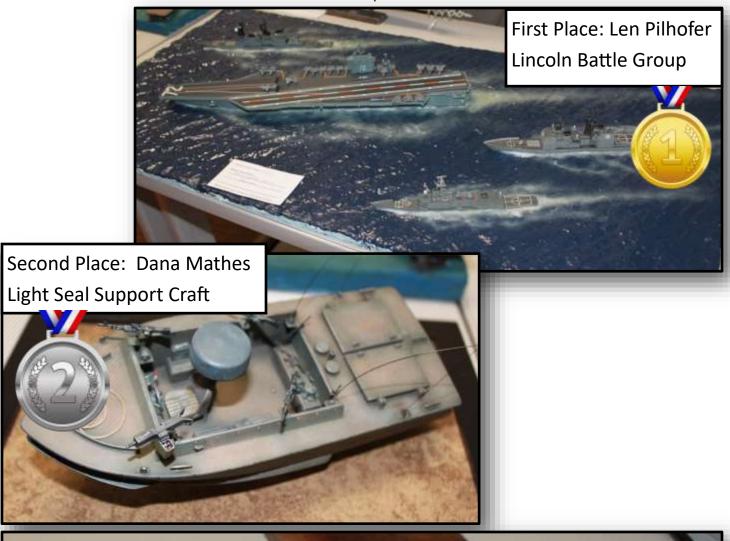
Monthly Contest Schedule

The internal club contest schedule for the rest of the Alamo Squadron year (up through the next elections) are as follows:

October 2017 November 2017 December 2017 January 2018 February 2018 March 2018 April 2018 Open
That 70s Model
Christmas Party
Model of the Year
Marines
Open
Open

Club Announcements

September Club Contest Results







By Dick Montgomery IPMS #14003



A correction:

Dick M: This installment of the "History of Alamo Squadron" will begin with a correction. In the previous installment, the long-time owner of Dibbles Hobby Shop was erroneously identified as "Art Johnson", and a note that Art had passed away some years ago. While it is true that "Art" passed away, he was never involved with Dibbles or Alamo Squadron. Art was a teacher at Marshall High School during my time there and he, indeed, did pass away. The owner of Dibbles in these early days was Ray Johnson. Ray sold the shop to Len Hurta, a long-time employee at Dibbles who ran the "train" section. Len passed away shortly after purchasing Dibbles. After Len's passing, Joanie Cladek and Jeff Cladek, brother and sister, became the Managers of Dibbles and continue in that role today.

History of Alamo Squadron: Part II

Our previous article about the History of Alamo Squadron began with a description of the life and death of the San Antonio Modeler's Society. After an interim in which there was no organized modeling club in San Antonio, Alamo Squadron was crafted together by some of the formers SAMS members, and others, and was officially "organized" on Nov 11, 1977. Here are some details provided by Life Members-Plank Owners Bob Angel and Dick Montgomery.

Bob Angel continues his narrative from the previous Navigator Newsletter:

Bob reports: After the San Antonio Modelers Society disbanded in the summer of 1974, there was no further including Mike D., Bob A., Tom Ward, Frank Garcia, organized plastic modeling activity until late 1977. During this three year lapse, many ex-SAMS members next-door neighbor, Frank Walsh, who was very accontinued to stay in touch, & even to meet informally at various venues. On Nov 11, 1977, a meeting was held at the home of Mike Derderian to discuss the possibility of starting up a new plastic modeling club along IPMS lines.

Dick adds: This meeting was attended by only a handful of individuals, some of whom have passed and some who are still located in the greater San Antonio area. Mike Derderian has never received the credit, in my opinion, that he deserves for being one of the leaders in the movement to form a new chapter, but then that could be said for most of those who were in attendance at this important meeting and then who remained in the club for a number of years. Mike D. remained in the club for a number of years, serving in various offices, providing excellent leadership to the club in general, and to ModelFiesta. As Bob A. will mention later in this article, he and another member began to publish a club newsletter. Bob continues to participate in the occasional ModelFiesta as a vendor. Tom W. continued his association with Alamo Squadron, providing leadership as a club officer and respected member until his passing. Tom is one of several members who are honored on the club's Memorial Trophy. Ros C. was a writer/author before becoming involved with Alamo Squadron and continued writing after helping to establish the club. Ros wrote a great "How To" book, which was published on a national scale. Frank G. is remembered via the Memorial Trophy maintained by the club. Frank Emmett was known as a spectacular modeler and artist during the early days of the club. He still resides in the greater San Antonio area. I remember all of these gents well. My role at this time was very much as a "follower" with modeling skills that could best be termed as "beginner". It was my good luck to be associated with this group of fine people and excellent modelers.

Bob continues: At least six charter members attended, Ros Creed & Frank Emmett. Also present was Mike's tive in a RC flying model club. He proposed a joint flying model/plastic model display. This was set up at Windsor Park Mall.and took place in late Jan./early Feb. 1978. This event garnered some much-needed publicity. I'm not sure that we had a name yet, & it



seems to have taken several months for "Alamo Squadron" to be chosen. The club slowly grew after this, & for at least the first full year meetings were held at members' homes.

Dick adds: Like Bob, I do not remember exactly when the name, "Alamo Squadron" was chosen by the attendees/members who went to those early meetings. It is certain, however, that by the 2nd ModelFiesta event in January 1983, the name, Alamo Squadron, had been adopted. I have a vague memory of a short discussion at the inaugural meeting where it was suggested that the SAMS name could be resurrected, but, as I recall, Mike D. and Tom W. suggested that the SAMS name be permanently retired and that another name could be selected in the near future.

Bob continues: Lee Bracken joined the club in early 1979, and suggested that he and I start a club magazine to be issued quarterly. At this point the major club interest was aircraft, so the title was "Aircraft in Miniature". The first cover date was Spring 1979, and it continued on a fairly regular basis until 1986. At first I did most of the write-ups and Lee did the illustrations. Member Frank Garcia worked for Xerox and was allowed unlimited use of printers and paper, so Frank G. became our "publisher". He and several other members also contributed articles and graphics. Later I submitted many of these articles to IPMS/USA, where they were published in their Quarterly magazine.

Dick adds: I remember using "Aircraft in Miniature" for a number of my modeling projects, all of which benefited from the work put in by Bob A. and Lee B. Getting involved in various aspects of the club such as "AiM" I decided to write an article about B-29s. For pictures, I drove to the home of the Confederate Air Force, at that time located in Harlingen, Tx. I explained to the staffer what I was doing and he gave me access to the ramp and to FiFi, the B-29 maintained and flown by the CAF. I spent quite a bit of time crawling around inside the aircraft, taking pictures, (at that time there were no digital cameras) and thinking

how lucky I was to have the aircraft and ramp almost entirely to myself. My article was published in "AIM" and shortly thereafter I finished my first of a handful of 1/48th B-29s.

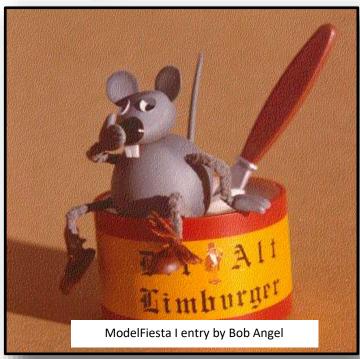
Bob continues: The first Model Fiesta was held at Wonderland Mall in Jan. 1982. By this time Alamo Squadron was a chartered IPMS chapter, but was little -known outside San Antonio.



Dick adds: While it was previously mentioned that "Alamo Squadron" became the official name of the club prior to Jan, 1983, there is no documentation on hand to indicate that the name had been adopted by Jan of 1982. Bob's memory, however, is rich in detail so we can assume that since the club gained a chapter charter through IPMS that the name had been adopted at some point in 1981 or 1982.

Bob continues: Largely for this reason it was almost entirely an in-house event, & so was fairly small. Needless to say it certainly caught on, has continued as an unbroken yearly series, & has become well-known, indeed! At this first contest there was not even any thought of a vendors' area.





Dick adds: I have a slightly different view of Model-Fiesta I. In 1982 I was teaching history at Marshall High School and the parent of one of my students was a staffer at the Wonderland Mall office. Through that connection, Alamo Squadron was able to arrange a contest site within the Mall. I served as the Model-Fiesta Event Director, Bob Angel was the Chief Judge, with Ros Creed and Tom Ward filling out the ModelFiesta Committee. The name, "ModelFiesta" was suggested by Christie Montgomery. While driving on an errand one fine day I and the Missus were talking about what the contest should be called. She suggested, "ModelFiesta", as San Antonio was gearing up for "Fiesta", and it seemed to fit. The Leadership group approved of the name and, as this article is written, we are now gearing up for ModelFiesta 37. My records indicate that there were 262 entries at Model-Fiesta I, and a Winner's List is on file in the Model-Fiesta Archive, which has yet to be published or completed. Looking at the Winner's List, one recognizes the names of "local" modelers from years gone by but there are also names from Austin, so we did have a little "outreach" for ModelFiesta I. In the meantime.

some images have been submitted with this article. These images show a few of the award-winning entries at ModelFiesta I.

Bob continues: Within a few years, however, some members started to bring sales items, and would just set up little sales areas right on the mall floor. Also for the first few years the awards were made by several members, in the form of tinted plexiglas rectangles with silk-screened logos, mounted at an angle in a wooden base. Actually didn't look too bad for homemade. I've seen much worse at other contests!

Dick adds: There is no indication in the archive that we considered creating a vendor area, as is standard operating procedure in almost every show held today. An accompanying image shows the "Dibbles Award", one of the awards distributed at ModelFiesta I. More on the manufacture of the trophies......Bob A. silkscreened the image of the aircraft on the plastic plate. I remember going to Ros Creed's home and spending some time at his table saw, cutting the wood bases. To say things are different today is an understatement.



The First Test of Club Resilience and Focus:

Most clubs will, sooner or later, experience an event that threatens the very existence of the club. In it's forty years, Alamo Squadron faced a few of these defining moments, the first of which took place very early on in the adolescent years of the club.



Bob A provides the narrative:

The 1979 "Training Film incident"

By Jan. '79 Alamo Squadron had completed its first full year of steady growth. At the meeting that month a person well-known to the modeling community but not a member himself arrived on the scene with a movie projector and film, saying that he would like to show a "training film". It was some type of military footage, we thought, so everyone was agreeable to see what he brought. As it turned out, it was a very explicit porno flick. The most surprising thing is that everyone just sat there without saying a word. Well, I heard plenty of words later. As one of the more-involved members at the time I got several calls in the following days. One from a new member who had brought his young son to the meeting and was not pleased, and another visitor who asked if this had been a "typical" meeting. The membership, as with any group, had various opinions about this incident.

There were those who thought nothing of it, that no restrictions should be imposed. Others were upset about it and thought nothing like this should ever be allowed to happen at future meetings. However, the largest group had no strong opinions one way or another.

In following months the person who brought the film returned to meetings and attempted to influence club decisions. Soon word was getting around that he was organizing a splinter group of like-minded model builders, who were holding meetings at a Luby's cafeteria. This caused some dissention since there were those supporting both clubs, and even those who tried to undermine Alamo Squadron membership. For a while this was something of a unity crisis for Alamo Squadron, but before the year was out the splinter group, which never exceeded a dozen followers, had fallen by the wayside.

Dick concludes: Alamo Squadron survived this first test of strength and over the next 30 + years there were three other incidents which resulted in a splinter group

being established with a consequent migration of some members from Alamo Squadron to this new group, and one incident related to the administration of club assets. Some generalized account of these incidents might be offered up in the third installment of this series of "historical articles", but as is the case with the "Training Film Incident", the intent, here, is to reflect upon the nature of the incident and not the specific identities of some of those who were involved in the incident.



Come back next month for the final installment of the Time Machine series as we look back to the history of Alamo Squadron on its 40th birthday



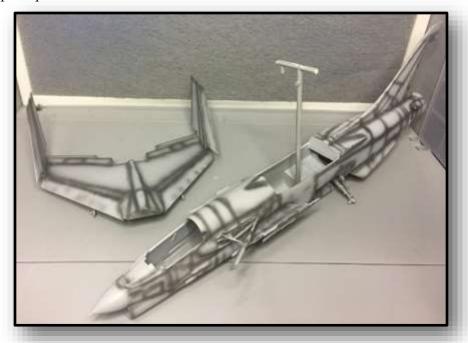
Cover Story

Charles Stone's F-8 Crusader (Part 2)

Build and photos by Charles Stone

Charles Stone has taken an outdated (by today's super-kit standards) Monogram kit and created a jewel. A few after-market items, a few scratch built details, ingenuity and skill transforms a stash from the past into a contest worthy entry. This is part 2 of a 2 part pictorial series.



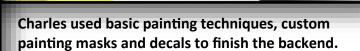


Starting the off the finish with pre-shading and a base coat.



Cover Story





Hint: When possible mask and paint instead of using decals.





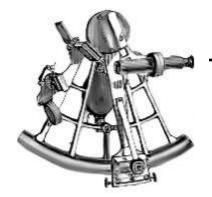
Charles Stone's F-8 Crusader



Charles has taken a mediocre kit (by today's standards), added a few aftermarket items, supplemented with some scratch building and created a masterpiece.



The Navigator—October 2017



Feature Story

We Honor Our Own Recognition Text by Dana Mathes Photos by Craig Gregory

Life Membership Nomination Lee Forbes: A Modeler's Modeler

Squadron wishes to recognize Lee Forbes and confer Life Membership status to him for his many contributions to the club and the hobby of scale modeling. Lee fully meets and far exceeds the criteria for Life Membership as detailed in our club's constitution.

Membership in AlamoSquadron for at Least Ten Years

Lee has been a member of the club since 1988, thirty years. He has served on our Executive Board as President for two terms, as Vice-President for one term, and as Treasurer for 6 terms.

Contributions to the Club's Newsletter and <u>Demonstrations</u>

Lee's modeling skills are remarkable and he has been very generous in sharing his knowledge and talents. He has taught ABC sessions and given demonstrations at our club meetings. Lee is especially known for his decaling skills, masking techniques, and his expertise with seam-filling and sanding.

Represent the Club at Regional and National IPMS AFB, OH. There he helped to found IPMS Dayton (Dayton, OH). Over the years Lee has also been a

A fixture at Region Six contests, Lee regularly competes in and sponsors awards at modeling events across Texas. He has authored articles for the IPMS Journal related to six group trips (2000 to 2006) to the IPMS/UK National Convention at Telford, England. Lee is an accomplished IPMS/USA Senior National Judge who has now been recognized for judging aircraft entries at 20 IPMS/USA National Conventions.

Leadership and Participation in Club Events

Lee co-developed the original ABC Building Course, now used by IPMS/USA nationally. He taught the course locally for ten years. Lee has also served as the ing such an example, truly a Modeler's Modeler.

ModelFiesta Coordinator for the club. Most recently, he has organized visits and presentations at ModelFiesta by noted USAF pilots, capitalizing on his relationships in the American Fighters Aces Association.

Promote the Hobby in the Community

Lee has been a



trailblazer for the hobby. He originally joined IPMS/USA in 1967 while assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. There he helped to found IPMS Dayton (Dayton, OH). Over the years Lee has also been a member of IPMS Northern Virginia, (Fairfax, VA) and IPMS Ft. Crook (Omaha, NE). In each of these communities and in the San Antonio area, Lee has participated in the clubs, contests, demonstrations, and community make-and-take events.

For these reasons, Alamo Squadron wishes to confer Life Member status to Lee Forbes and thank him for his many contributions; bettering the hobby, AlamoSquadron, and generations of modelers over his distinguished career. Lee Forbes, Thank you for being such an example, truly a *Modeler's Modeler*.



Feature Story

Alamo Squadron Members Awarded at AMPS Photo by Craig Gregory

Several members of Alamo Squadron traveled to Georgetown, TX to attend the 2017 AMPS show put on by the Austin Armor Builders Society. The AMPS format is different in that 1st, 2nd and 3rd place are not award, but Gold, Silver and Bronze levels of achievement are. That is there may be multiple Golds awarded in a category if the model is judged to meet the 'gold' standard.

Axis Armor

- Silver, Stug III, Len Pilhofer
- Gold, Panther G, Dana Mathes

Allied Armor

- Gold, Cromwell Mk IV, Dana Mathes

Modern Armor

- Bronze, Charles Stone, Centurion Mk III
- Gold, Dana Mathes, M41A3 (Best Small Army Subject)

Open Top Vehicles

- Gold, Hummel, Mike Holsen (Best German Subject)

Wheeled Vehicles

- Bronze, Dick Montgomery, BMW R75

Ordnance

- Bronze, Charles Stone, Flak 38

Military Figures

- Bronze, Dick Montgomery, Sarge
- Gold, Henry Nunez, Jap. Imperial Major 1942 (Best Figure, Best of Show)

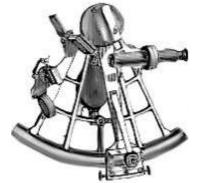
Dioramas

- Bronze, Charles Stone, Woman in Red
- Gold, Henry Nunez, You Die Marine (Best Diorama)

Hypothetical and Sci-Fi

- Gold, Dana Mathes, Hypothetical SPG (Best Hypothetical & Sci-Fi)





Feature Story

Whoops: Long Ago in a Far Off Place Story and Photos by Herbert E. Scranton III

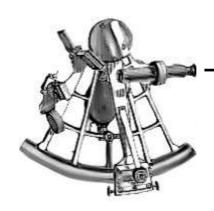
bout 4 months ago in my man cave in the backyard, I started on a Glencoe Republic RC3 Seabee. This was one of my father's favorite airplanes as we lived on Long Island sound. It is 1/48 scale and molded in clear plastic. Some of the parts were short shot so I had to fabricate, or repair some of the parts. This was a tough build as nothing fit very well, lots of filling and sanding to make the fuselage look like one piece. After many hours of sanding, filling, priming and repeating the model was ready for paint. I painted it natural aluminum as that was what I saw as a kid. The bottom was painted green, clear coated and ready for decals. This was an old model so I tested one of the decals I wasn't going to use, good thing as the decal disintegrated as soon as it hit the water. I used Microscale decal repair

left to do was mount it on a stand. The Seabee was super tail heavy and even though I was mounting it on a stand the nose went straight up. So what to do, I know, there is a hole in the bottom for the stand and I have BB's. Put just enough BB's to make the Seabee level on the stand, shot some glue in the hole problem solved. I stood the plane on it's nose to let the glue dry. I came back to the Seabee a few days before our next club meeting thinking I have a nice model to show, but disaster, hence the whoops as the pictures demonstrate. My granddaughter (4) just loves the Seabee and could care less about the scrunched up nose

which kept the decals in one piece however they just didn't want to adhere to the model, used Pledge Floor acrylic which did the trick. The SeaBee was done and I was well pleased with the outcome. As most of you I prefer to build my aircraft with the wheels up, so the only thing



The Navigator—October 2017



<u>Upcoming Events</u>

IPMS Region 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 5th, 2017 at 7:00PM

Location: Northside Ford of San Antonio

October 14, 2017
The 2017 Capital Classic
Travis County Expo Center
7311 Decker Ln.
Austin, TX 78724
www.austinsms.org/contest.php

October 21, 2017 2017 Trail Con Midway Baptist Church 5135 S Broadway Wichita, KS 67216 chevymontecarlo18@yahoo.com

November 12, 2017 Bassett Place Veteran's Day Display Bassett Place 6101 Gateway West M-36 El Paso, TX 79925 chevymontecarlo18@yahoo.com







About Alamo Squadron

Executive Board 2017-18



President: Len Pilhofer IPMS #49932 president@alamosquadron.com



Vice-President Herb Scranton III IPMS #48314 vp@alamosquadron.com



Treasurer: Dana Mathes IPMS #43781 sec-treas@alamosquadron.com

IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron was founded on November 17th, 1977 in San Antonio, Texas, for the enjoyment of building scale models and the camaraderie of the members. It is a hobby-centered social organization which, at its core, is focused on scale modeling of all kinds. It is an excellent source of information for those who wish to enhance their modeling skills and improve their modeling techniques, and is open and inviting to visitors and guests. Dues are \$24.00 a year, due to the treasurer on September 1st of each year.

Alamo Squadron has been hosting ModelFiesta since 1981. Locations have included the Wonderland Mall, a Holiday Inn, the Seven Oaks Motel & Convention Center, the Live Oak Civic Center and the new location for 2013, the San Antonio Event Center.



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Final Words ...



Alamo Squadron's newsletter, "The Navigator", is published monthly by IPMS/USA Alamo Squadron of San Antonio, for the enjoyment of the members of Alamo Squadron and its friends around the world. Articles, reviews, news items, and other hobby-related contributions are very welcome. Send text file, photos, and web sites as well as feedback to our editor, Craig Gregory: craig.jonathan.gregory@gmail.com

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