

## NOVA Open Interviews – Joe Johnson

May 1, 2019

### MEET JOE JOHNSON

His name is Joe Johnson, he *really* like cookies (see below), and he is going to help you make your models shine at NOVA Open 2019 (literally). If you are interested in attending a seminar taught by Joe, or any of our talented instructors, be sure to check out our [Seminars](#) page on the NOVA Open store.



Joe is a Georgia native who got started in the tabletop gaming community in 2002. At first, it was just supposed to be a small hobby. But when Joe looks in his garage now... it's not stayed small.

Joe caught the painting bug while attending Adepticon in 2003 and he has never looked back. Since then he has traveled across the United States to play in tournaments and enter his miniatures in painting contests. He has won best painted many times and has a wall full of trophies including Battle for Salvation, NOVA Open, American Team Championship, the WAUGH, and a few Games Workshop Grand Tournaments. Joe even has a few Golden Demons on his shelf.

Most people know Joe for his clean paints style and his "Skittle" Salamanders Army.

Joe will be teaching **Intro to Lighting** on [Thursday](#) and [Saturday](#), and the more advanced **Get Lit** on [Friday](#) and [Sunday](#). To really get the most out of this education in dazzling LEDs, be sure to sign up for both seminars!

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**NO:** Tell us a little about yourself.

JJ: I like cookies. I am 48 years old and celebrate my birthday every year at the NOVA Open. I work in technical sales for an analytics company. But seriously.... cookies!

**NO:** Do you have any hobbies outside of painting?

JJ: I like working on cars, but I have no current projects. I am currently looking for a convertible 67 Firebird.

**NO:** Tell us about your family.

JJ: I have been married for 26 years and have two daughters. Soon to be empty nesters but our three dogs will keep us company. My Pyrenees is the size of a child anyways heh. My Husky acts like a child. Between the two we clog house air filters every month hehe.

**NO:** Where do you live? What brought you there?

JJ: I currently live in Georgia outside Atlanta. I grew up here. We spent three years in Rochester NY and loved it, but work brought me back to Georgia.

**NO:** How did you get started in the hobby?

JJ: I walked by a Games Workshop store at a discover mills mall and was hooked. There was such a good staff there that concentrated on hobby. Wherever you are Shawn "Cheesy" Chavez, I still owe you for all the instruction!

**NO:** What brought you to the NOCF as a member of the Artists Consortium?

JJ: Many years ago, we painted an army for Hero's for Armageddon. That same group brought me into the NOCF. Dave Taylor was led at that time and I had known him for a few years, so I was happy to work with him again. Since the first time I met Mike Brandt (we talked for hours about fish) I have known he was an outstanding individual. Knowing he was tied to the NOCF just made it an easier decision to hop on board.

**NO:** Why do you think it is important to volunteer your time and talent to the NOCF experience?

JJ: The cause is great, the finances are perfect, and the people are gold.

**NO:** What are you looking forward to about teaching classes at the NOVA Open?

JJ: Getting the knowledge out there and to bring everyone's artistry up. My favorite thing is when someone has that "aha" moment and realizes it's easy is so rewarding. It's just great to help people out!

**NO:** Where did your journey begin?

JJ: It was a Tuesday at Keesler Air Force base in Mississippi, September 1st, 1970. Wait....that's not what you meant?

**NO:** How long have you been on this journey?

JJ: I started Hobbying in 2003, I think. Had you asked me in 2002 I would have laughed at you and said I would never do anything like this.

**NO:** Can you name some of the most important milestones on that journey?

JJ: When I figured out layer painting it all came together. That was 2005 and I never looked back. Winning 3rd best painted at the Chicago GT in 2005 (I think) really made me focus on the hobby aspect.

**NO:** What are some of your more memorable miniature competition wins?

JJ: Winning a few Bronze and Silver demons was great early on. I am more of an army player and play with what I paint. I have a lot of paint awards, but I think my favorite is the best painted at one of the Battle for Salvation events. Memorable because Jawa did not think I was showing, and he was going to be a shoe in... lol. Love ya bud hehe.

**NO:** Did you study or take classes from any particularly inspirational instructors?

JJ: Cheesy was probably my biggest teacher and supporter early on. The majority of what I have learned was just by hanging out with friends and sharing ideas.

**NO:** How did those masters influence your style?

JJ: Shawn made it easy by taking it in small steps. From simple highlights, to layering, to blending. Come to think of it he probably has no idea how much influence he had on me.

**NO:** Are there other artistic mediums that you enjoy working in?

JJ: Not really. This hobby is an oddity for me and 20 years ago could not imagine I would be participating in a hobby like this.

**NO:** Thinking about all the pieces that you have created, what is your favorite?

JJ: My entire Kroot Mercenary army. It was so fun doing all the conversions and the army was stunning.



**NO:** If you died and came back as a fairy tale character, what would it be?

JJ: Flynn Rider from Tangled. "Pans....who knew."

**NO:** What do you see around the next corner?

JJ: I have no idea. Age is winning the battle so every year it's getting harder to paint.