



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

June 2014
Volume 18, Issue 6



From the Turret

Last month we held officer elections for AABS, and much to my own surprise, I was nominated and elected into the president's office. So, let me introduce myself: My name is **John Talley**, and I joined AABS along with my family nearly two years ago. My son Zack, who will be entering high school in the fall, and I regularly attend the monthly meetings. My wife Cindy has attended a couple of meetings and our show last fall, and my daughter Sam has been to a couple of events as well.

When Aaron Smischney first invited me to one of the monthly club meetings, I saw it as an opportunity to get my son

involved with a hobby we could share, and all of the people we have met through AABS have not let us down. You've been the most welcoming, friendly, and helpful group I could imagine, and for this my whole family thanks you all.

One of the goals I've been presented with is growing the membership. I've been considering ways to do this and have a few ideas I'd like to explore:

To start spreading the word more, I'm considering creating club accounts and pages for social sites, including Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. To make these initiatives fruitful, we will need to update content frequently and find ways to best share the content

(Continued on page 3)

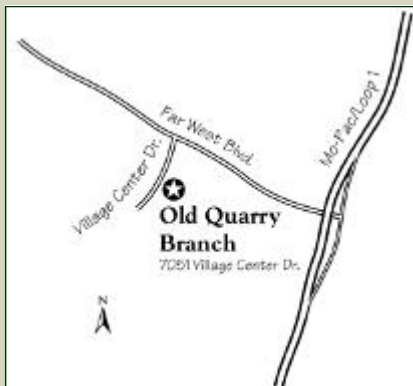
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

June 5, 2014

Annual dues for full membership are USD \$12 to be collected at each January meeting. Upon receipt of payment, a membership card will be issued. This card is valid for one year, and it entitles holder to discounts at various local hobby shops in the Central Texas and San Antonio areas.



Sabot Away! is the official newsletter of AABS and is published twelve times a year on/before each monthly meeting. Any inquiry on subscription issues or assistance on article contribution please contact editor Eric Choy via email aabsco@gmail.com.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of AABS.



Calendar of Events

- ◆ June 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ June 14 - Lone Star Military Miniatures Society Modeling Day Shady Hollow Community Center, Austin, TX
- ◆ July 2 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 6 to 9 - IPMS/USA National Convention Hampton, Virginia



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Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
2014 - March	Ted Paone	Ted Paone
April	John Talley	Russ Holm
May	Pat Rourke	Pat Rourke
June	Eric Choy	Robert Mesch
July	Rod Bell	Rod Bell
August	Ted Andreas	Ted Andreas
September	Rick Herrington	Elliot Nowacky
October	Robert Mesch	Greg Beckman
November	John Hernandez	John Hernandez
December	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
2015 January	Tom Pachalos	Tom Pachalos
February	Dave Bourland	Dave Bourland
March	Jake McKee	Jake McKee

Here is a list of members who are responsible for providing articles for the newsletter and program presentation at our monthly meetings.

Please note any member may contribute as many articles as he/she wants anytime. The purpose of this schedule is to ensure we have at least one article in the newsletter each month.

Prompt submission of your article is much appreciated. The deadline is always **11:59PM on the last Wednesday of the previous month** (e.g. Ted Paone's article for March was due on the last Wednesday of February).

Editor



with interested parties.

I have also bounced around an idea that involves creating a “beginners” day where we host a casual build day specifically targeting new comers to the hobby, provide them with tips, tools, and maybe even paint and a low-cost kit. The idea would be to basically jump start them into the hobby and really get them excited to do more.

Another rough plan I would like to consider involves creating an AABS display for an area museum. We could potentially pair up to work on smaller parts of the display, allowing experienced and inexperienced modelers to work together, thus spreading the vast knowledge the experienced members of this club have. New modelers can get overwhelmed with all of the options out there, and being paired with a mentor could have a serious benefit in keeping a new comer from getting discouraged.

I'd appreciate hearing more ideas for membership growth from any of you. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in and serve AABS!

John Talley
President



John Talley
President



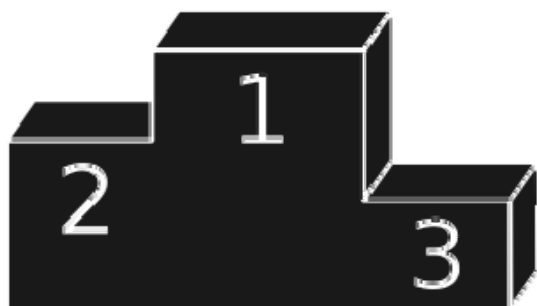
Greg Beckman
Vice President



Eric Choy
Treasurer



Ted Paone
Secretary



June Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Bring in your finished model this month to win U.S. Treasury issued greenbacks!



At our January meeting the membership unanimously agreed to increase quarterly contest cash prizes to \$40, \$30, and \$20 for the first, second, and third place winners. To enter you must be a member in good standing. Any model that has not placed in previous quarterly contests is eligible to win. The “no sweep” rule is strictly enforced in our in-house contests.

If you like to participate but haven't paid your 2014 dues, please do so before our meeting or the show-and-tell session.



A Side Trip to Aberdeen, Part 2

(Part 1 was way back in 2010)

by Robert Mesch

This is the second installment of a pictorial essay of a visit my son Tim and I paid to the U.S Army Ordnance Museum in Aberdeen, Md. back in December of 1998. We were in D.C. primarily to visit the van Gogh exhibit at the National Mall, and the trip to Aberdeen was a bonus (for me at least) on the last full day of our stay on the east coast. This was a grey misty day just after President Clinton got impeached.

Note: I only found out recently that the Ordnance museum at APG has been relocated to Fort Lee, outside Petersburg, Va (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Ordnance_Museum)

First time round, I presented mostly panoramic shots of the exterior ground and some of the more unusual pieces. This was followed up with primarily just U.S. armor. This time we'll play catch up with the German armor. And here we go...



Hetzer all in white or faded light gray. I seem to remember the port side was cut open with some expanded metal over the opening so you could see inside. Of course being exposed to the elements, it was solid rust. Wouldn't have been a bad idea if it had been displayed in an indoor setting. And even better if there was a second intact example available. Yeah, I know, I should have taken a shot of the interior, rust and all, but I had a finite number of shots available (recyclable film cameras) and I had to pick and choose.



Here's a head-on shot of the Panther A.



And the port side front. MG has been removed. Guess it wouldn't have fared too well outside for 50+ years.



And the port side rear. Again, not wild about the paint but I guess it beats rust. Unfortunately not much paint on the tracks, they looked pretty far gone, never to flex again.



Someone chopped the side out of the Panther G turret so the interior could be viewed. Wanton destruction in my opinion.



Unfortunately, like many of the other relics, the on-vehicle tools and equipment are long gone. So are the stowage boxes at the rear of the sponsons.



The later mantlet on the Panther G is evident with the added chin to aid in preventing shot deflection down through the top of the hull.



Jagdpanzer IV with the long barreled gun. At least someone had made an attempt at camouflage painting.



A late Jagdpanther with the bolted on mantlet. My favorite of the German armor from WWII. This bad boy still looks intimidating.



The only Tiger on display at the time was the Jagdtiger. Huge gun for its time, run of the mill for modern armor.



No fenders, no spare tracks, no tools. Just a stripped down massive beast!



And we have a naked Brumbar. None of the German tanks appeared to have any Zimmerit left on them. Very faded out camo pattern of paint.



My son just couldn't resist posing with this monster.



The Brumbar at least had some spare road wheels left on the racks on the rear hull.



Never been much impressed with the Panzer I. But then I never had one shooting at me on foot!



A Nashorn Tank destroyer with the infamous 88mm anti-tank gun.



Another disappointing attempt at camo painting on the Nashorn.



A better looking Panzer III Ausf. L. Had to get the books out to ID this one. No vision ports on the sides of the turret or on the right side of the mantlet.



This Panzer III has one of the road wheel frozen in a jacked up position. Just kind of beat up looking overall. Main gun looks undersized even for 37mm. Any ideas as to the version?



This Panzer IV appears to be an Ausf. F2 with long barreled gun and globular single baffle muzzle brake.



Heuschrecke IV (Grasshopper). I was surprised to see this Panzer IV variant.



Hey, this one has two lengths of spare track links left. Odd that the transmission hatches were left open.



Probably a Panzer IV Ausf. H due to the long barreled gun and the side vision port for the driver.



Here's a proper looking Stug. III Ausf. G with a complete barrel and uncollapsed suspension.



Stug. III Ausf. G with a 'short' barrel – blown off or cut off? . Suspension appears collapsed on this and the next photo.



And last but not least a pair of 88mm guns with their limbers attached.



Left side of the Stug. III Ausf. G. This side looks even more collapsed. Old battle damage or just old age?



Notice the jack stands underneath. When I get to be their age, I'll probably need jack stands too!

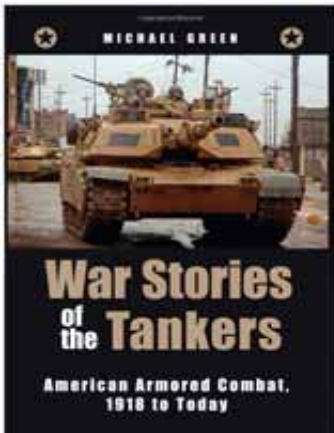
Robert



War Stories of The Tankers American Armored Combat, 1918 to Today

Edited by Michael Green
Zenith Press [ISBN 978-0-7603-3297-9]

Reviewed by Eric Choy



Books on personal war stories are a dime a dozen, but not too many are specifically about AFV combat. This book is a collection of over 50 US Army and Marine armored combat accounts from WWI to the most recent Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The length of each story varies; some barely cover a page while many take pages to convey. Equally some accounts are more interesting than others, but I enjoyed reading all of them. It does not take long to learn that more often the mundane task of tank maintenance can be just as entertaining (or deadly) as being overrun by a sea of Red Chinese soldiers

during the Korean Conflict!

Occasionally when an author writes like he is debriefing his superior, the pages are filled with army talks and jargons. I wish the editor would step in and help explain to readers who have never spent time in the military before. Not everyone is accustomed to after-action-report style of writing.

There are 16 pages of photo inserts. Unfortunately all are in black-and-white and are stock photos from museum archives. Perhaps it is too much to ask to have pictures from authors' private collection instead, but I think it can really benefit this title and add authenticity to the stories.

Highly recommended to everyone, especially armor modelers.

I picked up this little gem at a bargain price (less than \$8) in my neighborhood **Half Price Books**. There should be plenty more copies available at each location.

Eric

AMPS Boresight (Volume 23, Issue 3)

The latest issue of *Boresight* is out. Here is a quick look inside:

- ♦ **AFV Club Sd.Kfz.263 (8-rad)** by Chris Lloyd-Staples
It's funky but it knows it's rad.
- ♦ **A Tale of Two Sheridans** by David Black
You need two to tango.
- ♦ **M551 Sheridan Up Close** by the Editor
- ♦ **Panzertriebwagen Nr.16** by Kevin McKay
Scratchbuilding the German armored train.
- ♦ **JS-2 Model 1944 ChKZ in 1/48 scale** by Mennie P. Paramin
Modeling a late WW2 veteran.
- ♦ **My Favorite Model...** by John Stelik
She was beautiful, in 1978.
- ♦ **Local Chapter News**
What's going on in the AMPS community.





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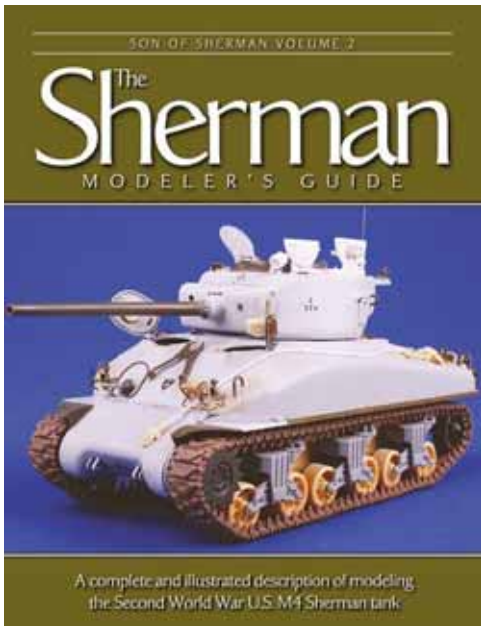
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New On the Block



MMIR's *Sherman Modeler's Guide* should be out later next month.



BREDA 37/54 - 37 mm. Italian Anti-aircraft Gun



Obice da 100/17 Mod. 16



Skoda 100mm vz. 14/19 Howitzer

More 1/35th releases from IBG Models (clockwise from top right): Obice da 100/17 Model 16, Skoda 100mm 14/19 Howitzer, and Breda 37mm AA Gun.



An injection-plastic 1/35th MBT-70 is finally here! The 1960s joint project never went into production, but it spawned the next generation of MBT for the US (M1 Abrams) and Germany (Leopard). First to be released by DML is the Kpz.70. The American version will come later.



Panda Hobby's 1/35th Russian BMD-1 Airborne Amphibious Infantry Vehicle comes with a big sheet of PE parts!



Diamond in the rough: Mirror Models 1/35th T968 Cargo Truck Hard Top Cab.



About Us

The Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) started in 1999 when Don Jones, a member of the local IPMS chapter, decided "what a good idea to get out two nights a month, and on least one night talk tanks."



Since then AABS is the only modeling club in Central Texas devoted solely to armor modeling. We don't build planes because they are just plain! Our passion is armored fighting vehicles and military figures. Subject of our interest ranges from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Middle East, to the most recent Gulf War Conflicts.

At each monthly meeting, we talk tanks, swap kits, and share our building techniques and tricks. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town field trips to museums and model shows.

Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest armor model show in AMPS South Central Region (AMPS CENTEX). Known as Lone Star Armor &

Figure Expo, we attract some of the best armor modelers in Texas as well as in the neighboring states to come participate.

To find out more about AABS, you can visit our website or pick up a club flyer at your local hobby shop.

We are on the web @ AustinArmorBuilders.com

Another fine "Russky" by our new vice-president Greg Beckman. This is Bronco's 1/35th scale SU-152 built straight out-of-the-box.

