



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

September 2014

Volume 18, Issue 9



## From the Turret

One hundred years ago today, the German army had marched through Belgium and was within reach of a stunning victory over France. It was at this point that the French and British finally grasped the dire situation they were in and devised a counter stroke, while the German command grew fearful of their own success and played into the Allies hands. The First Battle of the Marne was the result, with an Allied victory that saved France, but led to a bloody four year stalemate we now call World War I, the Great War.

A war on this scale had never been seen before, and led to many

ingenious inventions, including the tank. It's strange to think that in some ways we owe our hobby to a war fought just one hundred years ago. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary led me to reviewing a few books, and made me wonder what our hobby has to offer to honor the Great War and the pioneers of armored warfare.

Sadly, as I'm sure you already know, WWI is not well represented in availability of model armor kits. A quick search did find a few high lights I'd like to share with you though.

**Emhar** has the largest line of WWI armor, including Allied and German models in both 1/72<sup>nd</sup> & 1/35<sup>th</sup>. **Takom** has a couple of French armor

*(Continued on page 3)*

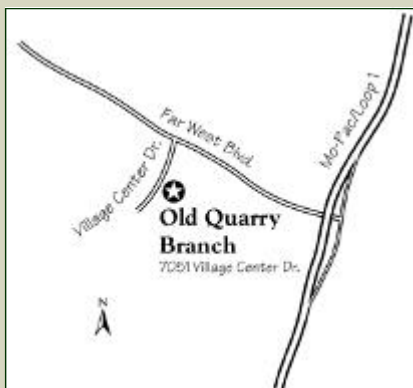
### Inside this issue:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| CALENDAR OF EVENTS                                     | 2 |
| UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES | 2 |
| SEPTEMBER IS QUARTERLY CONTEST MONTH                   | 3 |
| KRANKENWAGEN, BEETLE STYLE                             | 4 |
| JOIN AMPS  | 6 |
| NEW ON THE BLOCK                                       | 7 |
| BORESIGHT PREVIEW                                      | 7 |
| ABOUT US   | 8 |
| MEMBERS' GALLERY                                       | 8 |

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

**September 3, 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](mailto: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

- ◆ September 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ September 13 - SuperCon 2014, Bob Duncan  
Community Center, Arlington, Texas
- ◆ October 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ October 4 - ASMS Capital Classic 2014, Norris  
Conference Centers, Austin, Texas
- ◆ November 5 - AABS Club Meeting



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## Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

| Month         | Program Presentation | Newsletter Article |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| March, 2014   | 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         |
| January, 2015 | 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**

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The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

September 2014 Volume 18, Issue 9



Page 3

(Continued from page 1)

models that look nice in 1/35<sup>th</sup>, including the St Chamond. **Airfix** has a couple of quick build British tanks in 1/76<sup>th</sup> that look like fun.

Now for my favorites... **Kora** has a line of WWI vehicles, including my personal favorite The Tsar Tank in 1/72<sup>nd</sup>.



**Meng** has a couple of nice looking FT17 options with different turrets and details. I believe members in attendance during June or July might recognize these.



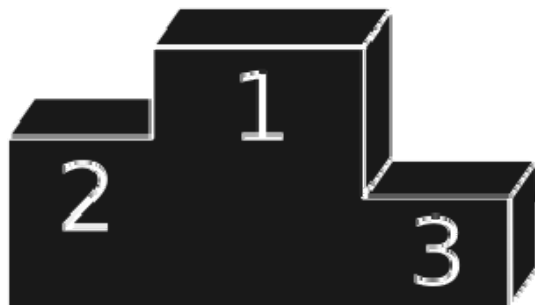
And finally, a nice update from **Tamiya**, their first WWI armor model to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the war, and it looks like something special, including both British figures and motorized tracks.



Considering the scale and importance of the war, it's a little surprising that WWI is one of the least common subjects in armor modeling. Hopefully this anniversary will get people thinking about the subject matter and we'll see more WWI vehicle models becoming available soon.

I'm looking forward to seeing what you all have been up to at the September meeting.

**John Talley**  
President



## September Is Quarterly Contest Month!

**B**ring 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.



## Krankenwagen, Beetle Style

by Eric Choy

The Volkswagen Type 1, otherwise known as Käfer (Beetle), was Adolf Hitler's concept car for the *autobahn* network of highways constructed during the Nazi era. Designed by Dr. Ferdinand Porsche and his team of engineers in the 1930s, it was envisioned to be a low cost vehicle for the masses. The plan never materialized once WWII started. Total wartime production was less than 300. Most went to party elites and state officials, and some were converted to delivery vans for the *Reichspost* (postal service). It is doubtful that any was used as *Krankenwagen* (ambulance) while the war was on. I suspect most photos of such version that we are familiar with were conversions done in the immediate postwar years.

My 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale VW ambulance dates back to the days when we had our Red Cross contests every March meeting. Recently the model received some touch-ups when it travelled with me to the 2014 AMPS National in Virginia. To my surprise it earned a medal in the Softskin category. Every aging model (plastic or human) can win a prize after a makeover, I suppose.

### Construction

The CMK conversion (8024) for the Tamiya Type 82E Staff Car kit (32531) came from one of the sale events at



Squadron.com. The resin bits appears relatively clean with no major flashes. Since I did not want to be bothered with detailing the interior of the cab, I chose to glue the back doors shut.

I followed the first two steps of Tamiya's instructions and put together the lower chassis and the front seats. Then I painted and weathered the dashboard and the floor (just in case any *Gestapo* judge shines a light to inspect the inside of *der Käfer!*).



Removing the back half of the top body was easy enough, and the resin cab went together fairly well, except for the back doors. The left side is about 0.45mm higher than the right! Too lazy to do anything about it, I moved on.



Since the cab roof does not sit straight down but curves to the sides, I inserted a piece of sheet styrene in the middle of the cab for additional support. Once the roof was

glued, I tied the entire cab down with a rubber band and left it to dry overnight .

Before attaching the clear parts, I dipped them in Future Floor Wax to make them shine like windows. Next I traced the outline of the windscreen and side windows on a piece of Tamiya tape to make masks. Then I used Gator Glue to attach the clear parts.



After that the model was ready to receive paint.

## Painting

Opted to do a simple paint scheme, I followed the built example in *MMIR's Modeler's Special Edition Guide to the Kübelwagen* and painted the vehicle *Dunkelgelb* and the cab *Humbrol Wine Red (73)*. Then I mixed up light shades of the two colors and panel-faded where the zenithal light meets the horizontal surfaces.

The pinkish red turned out perfectly, but the *Hellgelb* was not light enough to contrast the base coat. With time running out to finish for the contest, I moved on to decaling.



## Decals and Pin-Washing

I used the decals that came with the CMK conversion. They were thin and responded well with setting solution.

For the pin wash I used Reaper Brown Wash instead of my usual Raw Umber Artist Oil. Why use acrylic you might ask. Because I was pressed for time, and I needed something that dried fast. While acrylic fits the bill nicely, it is very unforgiving compared to artist oil. You have to be very exact with where the paint goes, and you literally have only a few seconds to correct any mistake that you make. My advice to anyone is to stick with artist oil when it comes to pin washing. If you prefer to work with acrylics, I would recommend looking into additive like

flow enhancer or a drop of dishwashing detergent to increase the working time. I have yet to try adding anything to my Reaper paints even though I use them for my figures all the time.

With only an hour to spare, I dullcoated the model, peeked off the paint masks, and took off to the meeting with my friends. Not sure if it was my feeling of accomplishment or the lacquer fume, I was feeling high all that evening. In fact, I still have a hard time remembering whether I won anything with my model or not!

## The Touch-Ups

For the next few years my little ambulance model sat quietly in the display case, neglected and forgotten. Then came the 2014 AMPS National. Hoping it could help "fill the tables," I brought it out of retirement. But before hitting the road to Virginia, I decided to make it more presentable for the contest.

Not preparing to re-mask and repaint the model, I needed another way to apply a lighter tone of yellow on the upper body. I remembered Bob Bethea once told me pastel chalk could be used for highlighting. So I took out my Tamiya weathering "makeup" set A and rubbed generous amount of Light Sand on surfaces that the light directly from above. The result was quite good. The only drawback to this method is the "pastelled" areas are off limit to any touching FOREVER. Fondling with this model is definitely out of the question now. Darn!

**Eric Choy**





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## NEW ON THE BLOCK



Another Hobart's "funny" from AFV Club: Churchill TCL Type-A w/ Carpet Laying Device in 1/35<sup>th</sup>.



Here's a vehicle Toyota hasn't managed to recall: Tamiya's 1/35<sup>th</sup> pre-war AB Phaeton.



German Military Bicycle, WWII Era

WWII started with more infantrymen mobilizing on bicycles than trucks or APCs. This latest 1/35<sup>th</sup> release from MasterBox sure opens lots of possibilities for vignette and diorama builders.

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 22, Issue 4)

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

- ♦ **AMPS 2014 Report**  
Highlights from the National Convention.
- ♦ **The Entries** photos by the Editor  
The complete list of winners.
- ♦ **Masters Honor Roll**  
Getting to the top.
- ♦ **AMPS Local Chapter News**  
What's going on in the AMPS community.
- ♦ **Type 128 Schwimmwagen** by the Editor  
AFV Club makes a splash.
- ♦ **U.S. MBT70 Reference** photos by the Editor





## 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](http://AustinArmorBuilders.com)

*Here is an oldie but goodie from Bob Bethea: an Emhar 1/35<sup>th</sup> WWI Mk. IV Female tank. Bob built this kit straight out of the box and painted it in captured German colors. The markings came with the kit.*

