



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

April 2016

A Farewell to Our Friend Pat Rourke

The news of our friend **Pat Rourke's** passing was a shock to us all. He was only 53 when he passed away in his sleep late last month. He is survived by his daughter **Melissa**.



Born and raised in the California Bay Area, Pat came to Texas in 1982 when his father relocated to Austin for a position with Lockheed. During his lifetime Pat had a few career changes, and he spent the last 14 years (up to his last day) working for ABC Home & Commercial Services.

Pat started building scale models at a very young age. While he built anything that interested him, by and large he was an armor modeler. He was known for his exceptional building

skill. Plastic, resin, photo-etch, and white metal made no difference to his "chunky" figures; he could tackle them with ease like no one else. In fact, he loved to dazzle his models with aftermarket parts. Too often he felt miserable when building a kit straight out-of-the-box!

Unlike most modelers who have a tendency of having too many unfinished kits on their benches, Pat always insisted working on one model at a time. The word "collector" never existed in his dictionary, and he was one of the most prolific modeler we have ever seen.

Until his recent "slow down" from attending local and regional shows, Pat was a force to be reckoned with when it comes to model competition. Rarely did he not place in every category he participated in, he had won more special awards than everyone else in our club. Everyone remembers "Pat the Giant" who walked funny and spoke with a deep

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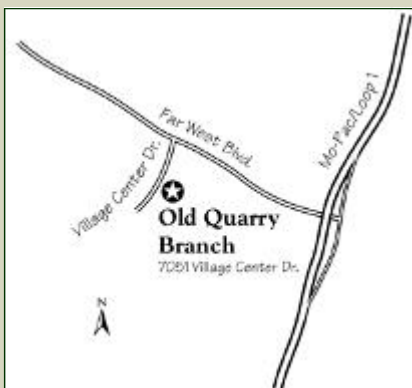
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

April 6, 2016

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

- ◆ April 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ April 7 to 9 - 2016 AMPS International Convention
Sumter County Civic Center, Sumter, NC
- ◆ April 23 - Modelmania 2016 Stafford Center,
Stafford, TX
- ◆ May 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ June 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ June 4 - Scalefest 2016 Grapevine Convention Center,
Grapevine, TX
- ◆ June 18 - SoonerCon 2016 Council Road Baptist
Church, Bethany, OK



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Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2016	Ted Paone	Rick Herrington
February	Kevin Hutchison	Ted Paone
March*	David Davis (Guest)	Alex Gashev
April	Aaron Smischney	Rod Bell
May	Dave Bourland	Russ Holm
June*	Bob Bethea	Greg Beckman
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Eric Choy
August	Kit Auction	Ian Candler
September*	Rick Herrington	Ted Andreas, Jr.
October	Ian Candler	Joe Fisher
November	John Talley	Greg Beckman
December*	Eric Choy	Bill Menzie
January 2017	Worth Haggerton	John Talley

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 wants any time. 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. Rick Herrington's article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

I hope everyone enjoyed the March meeting. **David Davis** shared a lot of great information about German WWII uniforms. It was amazing seeing first-hand the drastic drop in quality in the uniforms over the course of the war. The Germans were definitely not prepared for the economic drain of a long full-scale war, a point driven home by something as simple as changes in fabric. The quality and diversity of our presentations and articles continues to impress me. Everyone keep up the great work.

Looking back through the historical archives for project inspiration, we find this month to be the 75th anniversary of the German invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece in April 1941. Some of the interesting points about this campaign include diverse and mountainous terrain, ancient landmarks, and the variety of vehicles used by the Germans after they captured most of western Europe's military material.



Panzer IV's in Athens, April 1941.



A German SIG 33, PzKpfw I mounting a 15cm infantry gun, supporting the invasion of Greece.



A German armored unit in the Balkans using captured French Hotchkiss H-39.



Captured Yugoslavs guarded by Bulgarian's and a German armored car in a rugged ravine.

This month's meeting will include our officers' elections. So consider how you could best serve the club and come prepared to nominate yourself or a friend for an appropriate role.

John Talley
President



AABS New Website

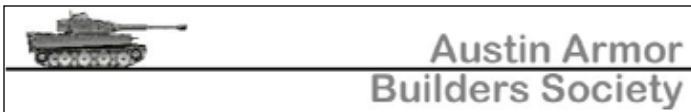
By Roderick Bell

In case you haven't visited our website lately, I have done some major work and redesigning, and it will be launching shortly.

A little history about our website. **Andrew Martin** was our first webmaster, and he created the first rendition way back when using this website logo (see below). It was a shame that he moved back to Australia for business opportunities. Andrew still keeps in touch with me every few years via email asking how the club is doing and how the "Old Guard" is.



blog. Here are a few examples that will be part of the carousel:



AABS 2.0

I took over duties as the second webmaster, and the website hasn't really changed much since the second version of the website was launched.



The website was a packaged system from Microsoft. Customization was limited to what was available at the time in the early 2000's.

New technology is now available to bring us into the modern look and feel of today's websites.

AABS 3.0

The new website has the following sections and features:

Home Page

The Home Page will have a carousel of photos of club member's models. Eventually, you will be able to click on the photograph and be taking to a build

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Below the carousel will be section buttons that will take you to additional features of the website. Here they are:

Meetings

The meeting page will list all the meeting dates booked and who is doing a presentation and newsletter article. Map and directions and to the library will be provided.

The Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets every first Wednesday of the month at the Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library. The location of the library is:

701 Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library
701 Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library
Austin, Texas 78714-2033
Tel: 512.345.4405

If you are traveling south on I-35 (Loop 1) you need to take the I-35 West Exit. Turn right onto I-35 West Blvd. Go 1 mile and turn left onto Village Center Ln.
If you are coming north on I-35 (Loop 1) you need to take the I-35 West Exit. Turn left onto I-35 West Blvd. Go 2 miles and turn left onto Village Center Ln.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Date	Time	Location	Presentation	Newsletter Article	Voluntary Contact
Wednesday, January 6, 2016	7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	Old Quarry Branch - Austin Public Library	Tim Power	Dark Underdog	No
Wednesday, January 13, 2016	7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	Old Quarry Branch - Austin Public Library	Kevin Haddock	Red Machine	No
Wednesday, March 2, 2016	7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	Old Quarry Branch - Austin Public Library	Jason Conners	Alma Conners	No
Wednesday, April 6, 2016	7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	Old Quarry Branch - Austin Public Library	OTWAW	ROBERTA WAG	No
Wednesday, May 4, 2016	7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	Old Quarry Branch - Austin Public Library	Tom Swanson	Tom Swanson	No
Wednesday, June 1, 2016	7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	Old Quarry Branch - Austin Public Library	Bob Winters	Bob Winters	Yes

Newsletters

This feature allows you to retrieve previous newsletters since July 2002.

Our club newsletter - "Sabot Away!" is published once a month and distributed to members and is accessible via this page.

Here is the current newsletter as well as previous newsletters (months that don't have a link means no newsletter was published that month).

*Please note that some of these newsletter postings are large and could take some time to download depending on your connection speed to the internet.

2016	2015	2014
MARCH (1/2016) JANUARY	NOVEMBER OCTOBER SEPTEMBER AUGUST JULY JUNE MAY APRIL MARCH FEBRUARY JANUARY	NOVEMBER OCTOBER SEPTEMBER AUGUST JULY JUNE MAY APRIL MARCH FEBRUARY JANUARY

Gallery

This feature is not ready yet. I am still working on it.

AMPSCentex

This feature will show our current as well as previous shows. This is still under construction.

The Austin Armor Builders Society holds a biennial (every other year) meeting show. The show is known as **AMPSCentex**. Our 5th show was in 2011 and we have had one every other year since. The show takes place in late summer or early fall (September / October / November).

Here are our upcoming and previous shows:

AMPSCentex 2017

AMPSCentex 2017 is in its early planning stage. Occasionally check back here for updated information.

[Learn more >](#)

AMPSCentex 2015

NoCo is a free Visual Studio extension that makes it easy to add, remove, and update licenses and code in Visual Studio projects.

[Learn more >](#)

AMPSCentex 2013

You can easily find a web hosting company that offers the right mix of features and price for your applications.

[Learn more >](#)

AMPSCentex 2011

AMPSCentex 2011 is in its early planning stage. Occasionally check back here for updated information.

[Learn more >](#)

AMPSCentex 2009

NoCo is a free Visual Studio extension that makes it easy to add, remove, and update licenses and code in Visual Studio projects.

[Learn more >](#)

AMPSCentex 2007

You can easily find a web hosting company that offers the right mix of features and price for your applications.

[Learn more >](#)

AMPSCentex 2005

AMPSCentex 2005 is in its early planning stage. Occasionally check back here for updated information.

[Learn more >](#)

AMPSCentex 2003

NoCo is a free Visual Studio extension that makes it easy to add, remove, and update licenses and code in Visual Studio projects.

[Learn more >](#)

AMPSCentex 2001

AMPSCentex 2001 was our first show for our club. AMPSCentex 2001 was our first show for our club. AMPSCentex 2001 was our first show for our club. AMPSCentex 2001 was our first show for our club.

[Learn more >](#)

AMPSCentex 2001.

Introduction

The club was 20 years old before we had our first "AMPSCentex" show. The show was organized by Tim Job. Our show was scheduled for October 6, 2001 at the U.S. "Kangaroo" Ballroom, 1700 West 20th Street, Austin, Texas. The show was held in the ballroom at the U.S. "Kangaroo" Ballroom, 1700 West 20th Street, Austin, Texas. The show was held in the ballroom at the U.S. "Kangaroo" Ballroom, 1700 West 20th Street, Austin, Texas.

Theme

Contest

All categories will be open to basic, intermediate, and advanced builders unless otherwise specified below.

Contest Categories

Videos

This feature allows us to view our videos or others on the internet. More contents are needed.

Videos.

Most of the videos are public videos on the internet including YouTube videos. There may still be a few that are not available.

That 1/35th Scale Show

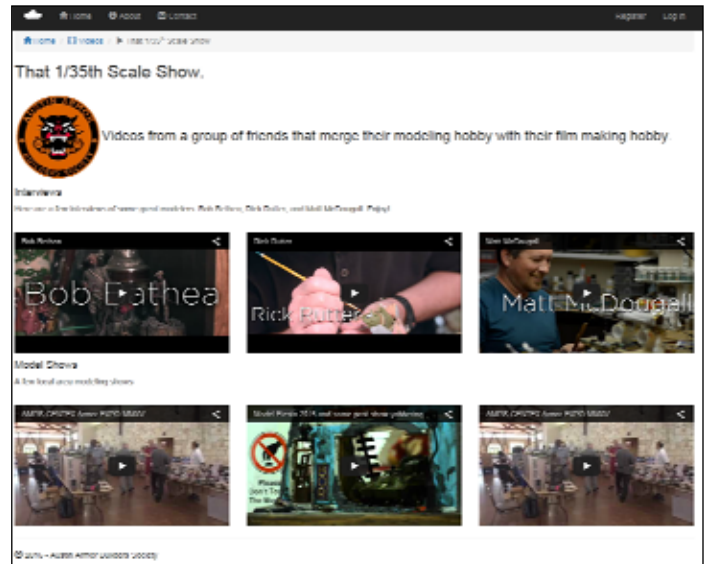
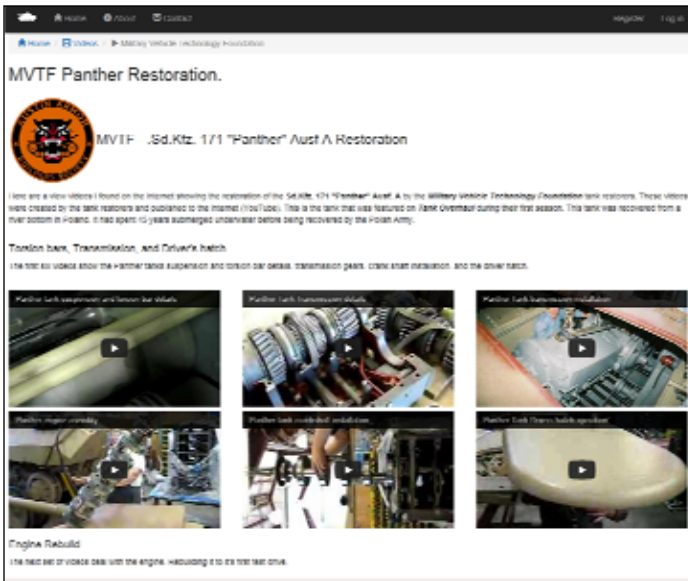
Videos provided by That 1/35th Scale Show.

[Learn more >](#)

Military Vehicle Technology Foundation - Sd.Kfz. 171 "Panther" Ausf A Restoration

Videos provided by Military Vehicle Technology Foundation.

[Learn more >](#)



Social Media

This feature allows a connection to our presence on Facebook.

Navigation

Navigation can be done by using the feature buttons, menu links, and bread crumbs to navigate the system. A few examples follow:



Mobile Devices

There are a few features still do not work quite right on mobile devices even though our site is designed

for mobile environment. If you have issues on your device, you should see a Desktop view link and Mobile should look better. Rotating the screen sideways seems to show the best display of the website.

We aren't done with the new website, and more features are in the works. But it's out there already for you to give it a test drive.

Questions and comments can be sent to me at RoderickOBell@gmail.com.

Rod

(Continued from page 1)

bass voice. Together with **Russ Holm** and **Bill Johnson**, they were the three musketeers from Austin that put fear in other armor modeling contestants everywhere.

Never shy from speaking his mind, Pat was known not just for his outspokenness but also his unique choice of words. "WOW" "are you kidding me?" and "dude, whatsup?" (always followed by a giggle) are just a few examples of his charming vocabulary and easy-going attitude.

Pat was one of the founding members of AABS, and for years he was a regular at our monthly meetings, field trips, and holiday parties. Wherever there was Pat, his daughter Melissa was always not far away.

Watching her grow up under the shadows of Pat's and our models, we always regarded her as if she was one of our own. Her closeness to Pat was always jovial and an envy of parents and their children at every event they attended.

Those who know Pat may recall him being habitually frugal. But when it comes to his loved ones, he was always generous and bounteous. As his ex-wife and friend **Donna** recalls, Pat was never skimpy when it came to providing for her and Melissa. He always put family first through and through.

We send our heartfelt sympathy to Melissa and Donna. Pat will be missed by all of us and every modeler in Texas.

Editor



2016 AMPS International Convention

**Scale Model Exposition: Exhibits, Seminars, Demonstrations,
Large Vendor Area and MUCH more!**

Show Theme: *The Great War*

April 7-9, 2016

**Sumter County Civic Center
700 West Liberty Street
Sumter, SC 29150**

Hosted by:



For more information, contact Tim Darrah (Show Chair), tttimmy@earthlink.net
Mike Reaves (Vendor Coordinator), semperfi03732@msn.com
or visit us online at www.amps-armor.org



2016 First Quarterly Contest Winners



1st Place:
Ian Candler
1/35th Tortoise Heavy Assault Tank



2nd Place:
Rick Herrington
1/35th NATO Challenger I

3rd Place:
Greg Beckman
1/35th Soviet MBT T-10





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\$30.00 USA, \$35.00 Canada/Mexico, \$40.00 Rest of the World

All payments must be made in U.S. funds.

Amps accepts payments by check and money order, as well as PayPal.

To join using PayPal, just visit the *amps* website and click on "join *amps*."

If paying by check or money order, send dues and completed form to the address on the form.

www.amps-armor.org



NEW ON THE BLOCK

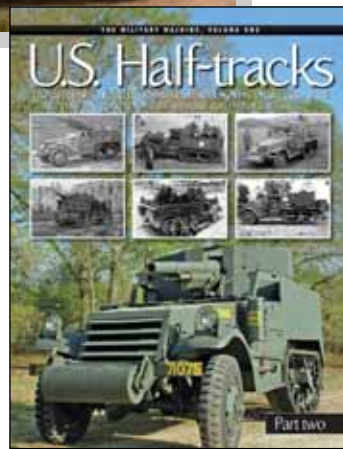


Vickers Medium Mk.I was Britain's first mass produced "modern" tank after WWI. First entered service in 1924, it was already obsolete before the end of the decade. The new 1/35th release is from HobbyBoss.

Tamiya's release choices never cease to amaze us! Nevertheless we welcome the new 1/35th SU-76M.



What's up with all the 1/35th AMX-13 kits coming out lately? Takom already has three (13/76, 13/76 w/SS-11ATGM, and 13/90) out. Tamiya's rendition will probably arrive within weeks..



Part 2 of David Doyle's US Half-tracks series is now available from Ampersand Publishing. This volume covers all half-track based gun motor carriages.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 24, Issue 2)

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

- ♦ **The Thrill of Victory, The Agony of Defeat** by Bob Bethea & Henry Núñez, Jr.
A Berlin 1945 Diorama.
- ♦ **IS-4M: "Screaming Mimi," Soviet Style** by Cookie Sewell
Part II: The Model.
- ♦ **Ma.K Specter Armored Suit** by Brett Avants
Building WKB Models' 1/20th resin Maschinen Krieger armored suit.
- ♦ **Burma Jeep Walkaround** by John Kirkpartick
Photos of a WWII C-B-1 1.5ton cargo workhorse.
- ♦ **2016 AMPS International Convention Update** by Tim Darrah





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."



AABS is the only scale model 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 modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest scale armor modeling show in Texas that attracts some of the best armor modelers in the Lone Star as well as neighboring states.

Since inception AABS is a local chapter of Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS), a national organization dedicated to the promotion of scale modeling and armored vehicle preservation.

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

19990424

We are on the web @ AustinArmorBuilders.com



Ted Andreas, Jr. built his Tamiya 1/35th Iraqi T-55 Enigma straight out-of-the box. Very nice job with the preshading.