



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

February 2017



Last Coke Machine In Aleppo

By Greg Beckman

The idea for this 1/35th diorama is based on images over the Internet on the recent Syrian Civil War. The scene consists of two tankers from a ZSU-57-2 taking a selfie in front of the last Coke machine in Aleppo that has not been blown up!

I will be using the Takom's latest ZSU-57-2 SPAAG, Meng's Vending Machine & Dustbin set (SPS-018), and two resin figures from Parcel Miniatures. For reference, I will be using the Osprey book on ZSUs.

Construction of the ZSU-57-2 is very DML like. I especially like the plastic fuel tank piping that comes with the kit. In Tamiya's T-55, you have to make

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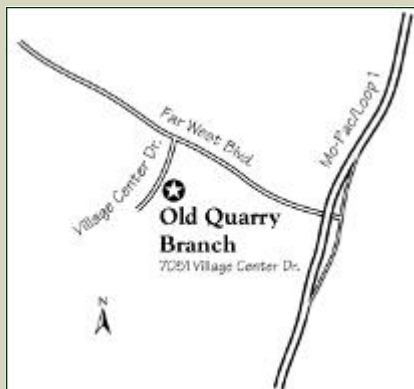
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library**. Our next meeting is on

February 1, 2017

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

- ◆ **February 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **February 18 - Modelfiesta 36** San Antonio Event Center, San Antonio, TX
- ◆ **March 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **March 11 - KCCON 2017** First Church of Nazarene, Kansas City, MO
- ◆ **April 5 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **April 20 to 22 - AMPS International Convention** Crown Plaza Hotel, Danburg, CT
- ◆ **April 29 - Modelmania 2017** Stafford Centre, Stafford, TX



AABS Officers May 2016 – Apr 2018

John Talley, President
(512) 388-3473, johnwtalley@hotmail.com

Ted Andreas, Jr., Vice-President
tedandreas1@yahoo.com

Eric Choy, Treasurer
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

Ted Paone, Secretary
(512) 635-9516, theopaone@att.net

Eric Choy, Newsletter Editor
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com



Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2017	Worth Haggerton	John Talley
February	Russ Holm	Greg Beckman
March*	Randy Bumgardner	Eric Choy
April	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
May	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
June*	Dave Bourland	Andrew Bodin
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
August	Ted Paone	Rick Herrington
September*	AMPS Judging Review	Greg Beckman
October	Kit Auction	Kevin Hutchison
November	Aaron Smischney	Aaron Smischney
December*	Greg Beckman	John Talley
January 2018	Chris Chany	Chris Chany

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



US Armor in Operation Junction City

It was great to get back to a regular schedule after the holiday break with our January club meeting. Our thanks go to Eric Choy for filling in on the monthly presentation on short notice with his topic of sanding techniques. I found it interesting that at the same time everyone seemed to agree that sanding was one of their least favorite activities. Talking about sanding was one of the most involved, interactive, and humorous discussions we've had during a presentation.

In the historical inspiration department, from fifty years ago this month, I have found an interesting chapter in the Vietnam War that I didn't know about before just recently. Operation Junction City was launched by combined US and ARVN (South Vietnam)

forces in February 1967. The operation was planned to trap a large Vietcong force between an armored hammer and an airborne anvil. The airborne element was the largest airborne force employed since Operation Market Garden in World War II, and the largest employed during the Vietnam War.

I can't wait to see you all at the meeting on Wednesday night, and look forward to catching up on your projects. Seeing the impressive work from the club is always a good time.

John Talley
President

It is that time of the year again. Please have your club dues (\$12) ready at the February meeting. For those who prefer to make a mail-in payment, our treasurer's address is:

Eric Choy
13213 Marrero Drive
Austin TX 78729



Please DO NOT send cash by mail. Be sure your check or money order is made payable to "AABS."

Some members may notice his dues are slightly higher than usual. That may be a result of the incurrence of last year's White Elephant (WE) contest

penalty. As we all aware there is a \$10 mandatory "donation" to the club treasury if one fails to build his WE kit.



If you are interested in joining **AMPS**, our national organization, we are still offering a **50% dues sharing** to each paid local member. Simply bring **\$15** to sign up and AABS will pick up the tab. Hurry! This limited time offer expires on **March 1st**!



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your own from brass. Here you can see the turret interior is complete with full ammo load painted and loaded, sans one clip. The kit comes with plenty of ammo. I just miscounted how many to paint and was short one clip.



The ZSU-57-2 was painted in basic Syrian camo colors. The scheme was based on the MIG paint guide provided with the kit. Currently, most armor being used in the Syrian conflict are overall tan. The ZSUs were brought out of reserve for use due to battlefield attrition, so I decided to go with the older Syrian camo colors.



The Figures

Parcel Miniatures is a new company based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (www.parcelminiatures.com). The two figures came from the "Selfie" kit (MW3503). To make them look more Middle Eastern, I added more facial hair to their faces...



The Base

Based on all the ANNA videos I've seen of the Syrian fighting, all the buildings look to me as shades of tan/grey. The building ruins are some plaster elements I had laying around. The bricks were made via a J's Models rubber mold. The street was made to look like cement by using a grey colored grout that I have. Ground cover is tan grout as I was going for a sandy look.

I applied a brownish wash to all the bricks/cider blocks to tone them down some. Next I added some paper type garbage laying around, and it called it done.

Greg

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February 2017



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MODELFIESTA 36

SHOW THEME:

EVERYTHING IS BIGGER IN TEXAS!

SAN ANTONIO EVENT CENTER
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2017 9AM-5PM

ODDBALL ARMOR



AMPS CENTEX ARMOR EXPO MMXVII
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017



AMPS 2017

International Convention

April 20 to 22, 2017

Hosted by:



Danbury Crown Plaza Hotel
18 Ridgebury Rd, Danbury, CT 06810

Show Theme: ***Smile for the Birdie!***

For more information, contact:

Michael DelVecchio (Show Chair), redleg12@aol.com

Mike Reaves (Vendor Coordinator), semperfi03732@msn.com

or visit us online at www.amps-armor.org





JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

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CITY: _____

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1 Year US (\$30) 2 Year US (\$55) 3 Year US (\$80)

**IF PAYING BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER SEND YOUR
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ELKTON, MD 21922



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

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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



Amusing Hobby starts the new year with their 1/35th Jagdpanther II paper panzer. The kit features working link-to-link tracks and a moveable suspension.



Bronco continues its run on WWII Nazi anti-aircraft wonderweapons with this 1/35th "Rheintoche" R-3P surface-to-air missile battery. Unlike the two-stage solid-fuel R2, the R3 had a liquid-fuel engine with solid-fuel boosters.

Two new WWII US Army heavy-hitter prototypes from Takom: T29E3 and T30/34, both in 1/35th.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 25, Issue 1)

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

- ◆ **AMPS Officer Election**
It's your turn to have a voice.
- ◆ **A Rusty Find** by Paul Webb
Building Tamiya's Iraqi T-55 Enigma.
- ◆ **Raising an M88** by Peter Schweisthal
How to raise AFV Club's M88 ARV to sit on its blade.
- ◆ **K4weathering Product Review** by Tim Darrah.
- ◆ **2017 AMPS International Convention Update**
by Mike DeVecchio.
- ◆ **Interpreting an Early Version Saint-Chamond**
By Scott Conner
Alternative camouflage scheme for WWI French tank.
- ◆ **A Modeler's Guide To WWII German Tank, PaK, FlaK, Artillery Weapons & Ammunition** by Dan Mouritzsen





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

Member Ian Candler intended to build this 1/35th M1 Abrams just like the one he served in the Army but ended up as a commissioned work for someone else!

