



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

January 2018



## “Old Ironsides” First Armored Division Museum at Fort Bliss El Paso, Texas

by Chris Chany

Fort Bliss, TX. is the home of two museums: the Noncommissioned Officer Heritage and Education Center and the “Old Ironsides” First Armored Division Museum. Since I was going to be out in El Paso for work and they flew me in early, I figured I would go to the First Armored museum. The hotel shuttle was kind enough to drive me to the museum.

First stop, the entrance to the building where they do a background check on you (and the hotel shuttle driver also). Next step, a trip through security where I happily met a fellow NY Met fan. The museum is toward the back part of the base where it’s busy.

Ft. Bliss is bigger than Rhode Island! You know you’re there when you see the V-2 rocket. The museum is free so there is no one to collect admission; you’re basically on your own. The day I was there, a volunteer was there to answer questions while he was working on his tank models!

The front part of the museum is a little sparse with large open areas with few displays. I learned later that they had moved into the old PX when it moved next door to larger quarters. However it does contain the hood of a HUMVEE with the names of all the members of the 507<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company who were killed and captured in Iraq, and other members of the convoy who were rescued by the Marines, including Jessica Lynch.

*(Continued on page 5)*

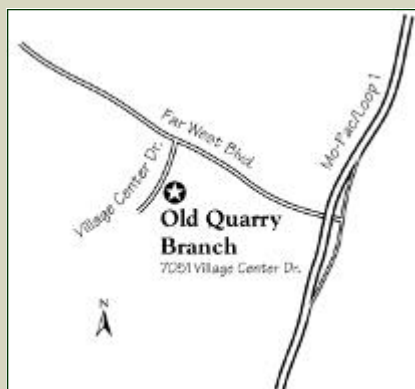
### Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
KEEP CALM & PAY YOUR DUES	4
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	4
2018 AMPS INT’L CONVENTION	8
JOIN AMPS TODAY	9
ABOUT US	10
2017 X’MAS PARTY WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE PHOTO	10

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

**January 3, 2018**

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

- ◆ **January 3 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **January 28 - CALMEX XXXI** Civic Center, Lake Charles, LA
- ◆ **February 7 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **February 17 - Modelfiesta 37** San Antonio Event Center, San Antonio, TX
- ◆ **March 7 - AABS Club Meeting**



### 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

**Joe Fisher**, Webmaster

(512) 350-6936,  
fisherjoe2014@gmail.com



## Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2018	Greg Beckman	Chris Chany
February	TBA	TBA
March*	TBA	TBA
April	TBA	TBA
May	TBA	TBA
June*	TBA	TBA
July	TBA	TBA
August	TBA	TBA
September*	TBA	TBA
October	Kit Auction	TBA
November	TBA	TBA
December*	TBA	TBA
January 2019	TBA	TBA

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. Chris Chany's article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).

\* Quarterly contest month



## *From the Turret*

**C**hristmas and New Year's parties are behind us, and likely we have large credit card bills to look forward to this month, but let's all try to keep things festive as we roll into January 2018.

I'm sure we all still have plenty of models to be thankful for and a whole new year to start, and complete, new builds. Don't forget, this is also a fresh start on a run for the **Most Prolific Modeler** award. If I'm recalling correctly, you will need to build at least 3 models every 2 months to match our typical Most Prolific Modeler over the last few years. I'm sure you all wish you had that much time and effort available!

Searching for inspiration for you all to spend the new year's modeling time, I looked at the Western Desert of North Africa seventy-five years ago, a time period and locale that I rarely consider. The British launch a new effort to take Tripoli in January 1943.



*The crew of a 40mm Bofors gun watch the sky after a Stuka attack during the British advance on Tripoli, January 29, 1943.*

Montgomery had built up a huge advantage in numbers of everything needed to fight and, with the German's poorly supplied and not well supported, the British effort had little to overcome and frequently turned into a pursuit more than a battle.

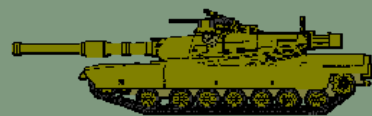


*A Gordon Highlanders piper plays on a Valentine as it drives into Tripoli, January 26, 1943.*

Here's to a brand spanking new year full of modeling joy! I can't wait to see all of you for the first time in 2018 at the Wednesday meeting!

**John Talley**  
President





It is that time of the year again. Please have your club dues (**\$12**) ready at the January meeting. We accept cash, check, or bit coins (no, not really!).

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 incurrance 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 rest of the tab. Hurry! This limited time offer will expire on **March 1<sup>st</sup>!**

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 25, Issue 6)

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

- ◆ **U.S. Army T30 Cargo Carrier "Tiny"** by John Kirkpatrick.
- ◆ **Bright Lens, Dull Tank** by Eric Choy.
- ◆ **Soldier's Creed** by Paul Webb.
- ◆ **2018 AMPS International Convention Update** by Chuck Willis.
- ◆ **Working with Photoetch (Part II)** by Mike Roof.
- ◆ **Local Chapter News**



U.S. Army T30 Cargo Carrier "Tiny" • Bright  
Lens, Dull Tank • Soldier's Creed • AMPS  
2018 International Show Update • Working  
with Photoetch • Local Chapter News



# Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

January 2018



Page 5

(Continued from page 1)

You then enter a replica of “Old Fort Bliss” which explains the reasons for the founding of the fort. The self-guided tour then progresses through the Civil War, the Indian wars, Pancho Villa, WWI and II, and modern times.

There is a very nice WWII home front display with a typical house and the radio playing war news.

The back of the museum is sort of hidden, but it contains most of the armor. A lot of it is in a scenic setting. Think 1 to 1 scale diorama. There is also a story about the V-2 rockets. It seems that Operation Paperclip decided that all the German rocket scientist would love to live in El Paso because it is so like Germany. Well, one of the V-2 test flights “attacked” Mexico. Even though it didn’t have a warhead, the quasi-Mach 1 impact formed a crater that measured 50 feet in width and 24 feet in depth. Luckily no one was killed or injured.

Fort Bliss was also home to the Spartan/Sprint/Safeguard ABM missile training center. There is a missile silo “park” that you can tour. The Sprint missile could reach Mach 10 in five seconds!

Hopefully I will have to return to El Paso and can tour the Noncommissioned Officer Heritage and Education Center. Put this museum tour on your bucket list!

Chris



Chris: Please excuse my usage of photos I downloaded from the Internet. I left my SD card at work during the holidays!



# Sabot Away! The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

January 2018



Page 6



Copyright © 2014 Loren Hannah



# Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

January 2018



Page 7





## THE 2018 AMPS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION DAYTON, OHIO, MAY 3-5

**That's right.** THE armor modeling event in the U.S. is heading to Dayton, Ohio, the home of the **U.S. Air Force Museum!** Our theme this year is 'Mishaps and Oh Crap!' Tanks get in all sorts of predicaments, so we hope to see lots of creative entries.

Enter your models in the competition and get the feedback and reinforcement from your peers. You may even be rewarded with a Gold medal or be among the recipients of 14+ special awards.

Our seminars connect you with experts in the field that will inspire you to finish that stalled project. Enjoy presentations on military vehicle history and research.

Modeling vendors come from all over the U.S. and abroad so you will no doubt find that book, accessory or model you've been looking for.

Mike Reaves, Vendor Coordinator  
semperfi03732@msn.com  
706.594.7109

Glen Martin, Sponsor Coordinator  
WalkerBullDogBoy@verizon.net

Dave Koukol, Event Chairman  
Dave.Koukol@ipmsdayton.com  
937.602.6033



Hope Hotel &  
Richard C. Holbrooke  
Conference Center  
10823 Chidlaw Rd.  
Area A, Gate 12A  
Wright Patterson AFB  
Dayton, OH 45433

Please visit  
[amps-armor.org](http://amps-armor.org)  
for the latest event and  
registration details.







# JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **POSTAL CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTRY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**IF PAYING BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AND COMPLETED FORM TO:**



***AMPS***  
**MEMBERSHIP DEPT.**  
**P.O. BOX 543**  
**ELKTON, MD 21922**



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:

[www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)

and click on "join *AMPS*" If paying by check or money order, send dues and completed form to the address on the form.



## 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 at least one night talk tanks.”



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.

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.

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

## New AABS website coming soon...



Group photo of 2017 Christmas Party White Elephant Gift Exchange