



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

April 2018



## From the Turret

I had to miss the last club meeting, which was very disappointing, but I trust that you all had a good time and the rest of the officers managed to keep things running smoothly through the final month of winter 2018.

As April rolls in this year with a fresh spring rain and new growth, so our club will experience a fresh air as we elect a new officer team for the next two years. Our officers have done a great job, and I understand most are

planning to run again, but I encourage everyone to consider stepping up to the plate to run for one of the officer seats. The club can't function without officers, and although the job can be quite rewarding, it does take dedication, and we all need to take a turn now and again to fill one of these important roles. Everyone benefits from new ideas and actions being brought into the group as well, so it really is important that all of us consider what role we can best attempt to fill and run for that position in the elections this month.

*(Continued on page 3)*

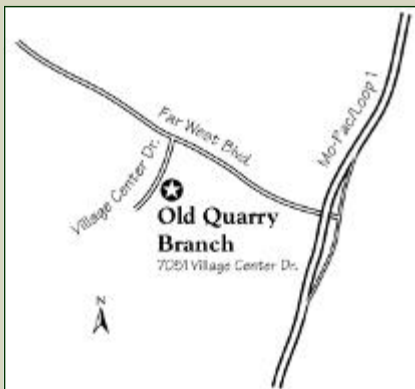
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library**. Our next meeting is on

**April 4, 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

- ◆ **April 4 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **April 28 - Modelmania 2017** Stafford Centre, Stafford, TX
- ◆ **May 2 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **May 3 to 5 - 2018 AMPS International Convention,** Dayton, OH
- ◆ **June 2 - Scalefest 2018,** Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine, TX
- ◆ **June 6 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **June 9 - SoonerCon 2018,** Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK



### AABS Officers May 2016 – Apr 2018

**John Talley, President**  
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## Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2018	Greg Beckman	Chris Chany
February	Kevin Hutchison	Kevin Hutchison
March*	Eric Choy	Bob Bethea
April	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
May	Aaron Smischney	Greg Beckman
June*	Alex Gashev	Joe Fisher
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September*	Ted Paone	Ted Paone
October	Kit Auction	Dave Bourland
November	Russ Holm	Dane Sherry
December*	Bob Bethea	Eric Choy
January 2019	Mike Lamm	Greg Beckman

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

*(Continued from page 1)*



This month's inspirational history is taking us to 75 years ago, in April 1943, during the Battle of Longstop Hill in North Africa. The was actually the Second Battle of Longstop Hill between the British and the Germans, taking place in the same location in Tunisia as a battle the previous December. There are a couple of interesting armor events that took place in this fight.



*British soldiers at Longstop Hill with a Churchill from the North Irish Horse in the background.*

The first intact Tiger I was captured by the British in fighting that occurred just before the attack on Longstop Hill. Although Tiger 131 was returned to England for study and later became a museum display, there is more recent photo analysis that suggests Tiger 131 was not the first Tiger captured in the lead up to Longstop Hill.



*Tiger 131 being inspected by British soldiers.*

The other interesting armor event was the important charge by Churchill tanks from the North Irish Horse up one of the hills that make up Longstop Hill. The tanks surprised the defenders by climbing a steep grade and quickly eliminated enemy positions and captured many Germans, including all of the III/754th Grenadier Regiment's senior officers.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting on Wednesday night. I hope you each will seriously consider running for one of the officer seats, and if you do run, I wish you the best of luck in the election!

**John Talley**  
President

## Playing With MUD and SNOW From A Bottle

by Ian Candler

For the last few years, premixed tile grout has been my go-to for groundwork. It is an excellent material, but sometimes it lacks control, especially when figures are involved. Armor projects have somewhat slowed for me, but what I have been learning with figure painting hopefully comes to play when creating groundwork for my future armor projects.

Vallejo has released a “Weathering Effects” line, and the first bottle I picked up was “Thick Russian Mud.” The material naturally has adhesive properties. It can be shaped and thinned with Tamiya’s X-20A thinner. The mud is a water based acrylic, and it can be painted.



My first example and kinda of test phase was this 54mm Theodore Roosevelt from Andrea Miniatures. This being my first run with the product, it is admittedly a bit sloppy but effective. Originally Milliput (yellow) was added to the base allowing a pin through the figure’s foot. After about an hour, I pressed the figure into the putty. When the putty cured, the mud was applied with an art spatula and “garnished” with various grass products.

For the Tamiya 1/35<sup>th</sup> Panther D at Kursk project, I used the same method. But this time I thinned down the mud to a couple different consistencies and applied to the road wheels and tracks. This was a challenge to try. I got multiple results from one product but a lot of fun. I mixed in paint and finished with dry pigments to create even more variation.



For the splatters, a brush loaded with paint and mud was hit with air from the airbrush. I think I got the results I was aiming for.



Another option of using this mud product is actually mixing in sparse grass. This works to some great effect, although since experimenting with it, the writer has learned that Vallejo also makes one with grass pre-mixed in. WOW! Could it get any easier?!

Recently I took figure painting in two new directions: not only in the Napoleonic genre but also the winter



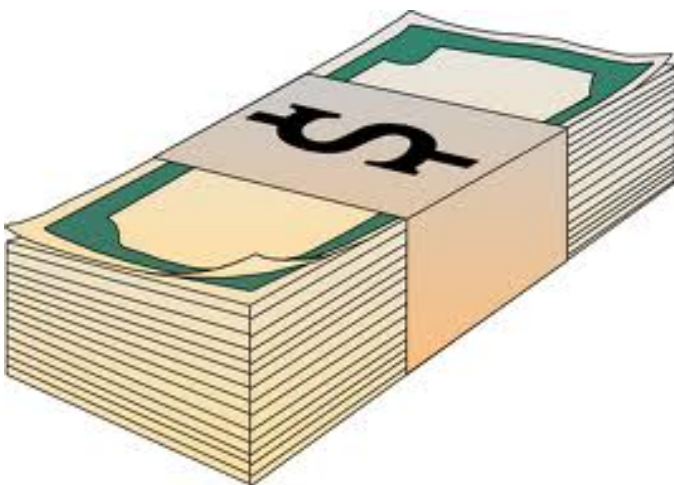
retreat from 1812. This was a challenge in all accounts. I tried to create my scene using Woodland Scenics Snow, but it felt out of scale and toy like. So I took to the Internet and peaked further into the Vallejo product line. THEY HAVE SNOW! I quickly looked for info on how to use the snow effect which took about 30 seconds on the old Internet.



Once again the product can be applied with a spatula, but I found it more useful to create fluff when stippled on with a stiff craft paint brush. The sweet thing is being a water based product, there is no throwing the brush in the bin afterwards. The brush cleaned up quick and easy with warm soapy water. The results have me pretty excited about tackling a European or Eastern front winter scene when I get back to armor modeling!

Vallejo is not the only bull in the ring when it comes to environmental effects. AK Interactive, Wilder, and many more have been introduced to me upon figuring out this cool and simple way of dressing up and basing projects. These products allow the modeler of any skill level to put their work in the type of environment that one chooses, thus adding not only story but a sense of realism.

Ian



**H**ave you paid your **2018 Club Dues** yet? If not, please have your **\$12** ready at our April meeting. Remember, you have to be a paid member in order to run for office or vote in the election!

We accept cash, personal check, and money order. If you 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 and be sure your check or money order is made payable to **"AABS."**

## 2018 First Quarterly Contest Winners



**1st Place:**  
**Ian Candler**  
*1/35<sup>th</sup> Panther D*



**2nd Place:**  
**Ted Andreas, Jr**  
*1/35<sup>th</sup> IDF  
Achzarit APC*

**3rd Place:**  
**Greg Beckman**  
*1/35<sup>th</sup> Sd.Kfz 250/1  
Vignette*



## 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@lpmsdayton.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

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To join using PayPal, just visit the **AMPS** website:

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



# NEW ON THE BLOCK



If Takom's 1/144<sup>th</sup> P.1000 Ratte is not big enough for you, how about the latest 1/72<sup>nd</sup> release from Modelcollect? The finished model is almost two feet long!



Blimey! Another 1/35<sup>th</sup> T-14 Armata MBT! This Trumpeter kit is the fourth one since Panda, Zvezda, and Takom released theirs in recent years.



DML has brought us another field-modified SPG kit in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale. Only one was ever made by mating the 15cm s.IG.33 gun with an obsolete Panzer III chassis.

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 26, Issue 2)

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

- ♦ **Sturmtiger!** by David B. Bridges.
- ♦ **Leopard II A7** by Paul Webb.
- ♦ **Review: Special Armour 7.5cm Gebirgskanone M15**    
by Steve Andreano.
- ♦ **2018 AMPS International Convention Update**
- ♦ **WWII IJA Sergeant Major** by Henry Núñez, Jr.
- ♦ **Know Your NCOs**
- ♦ **Book Review: Technicals: Non-Standard Tactical Vehicles from the Great Tokyo War to modern Special Forces**    
by Chuck Aleshire.



## 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.

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## New AABS website coming soon...

*Mike Lamm built this classic 1/76<sup>th</sup> Matchbox Sd.Kfz 232 6-Rad kit straight out of the box. That's including the figures and the building ruin as well. Well done!*

