



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

July 2020

**MEETING
CANCELLED
AGAIN!!**

NO AABS MEETING IN JULY!

Once again our meeting in July is cancelled because of the ongoing pandemic.

In the middle of June I received an S2 phone tip from member **Mike Maloney** regarding the reopening of Austin Public library on July 1st. Unfortunately due to the surge of COVID-19 cases in recent weeks, the chance of that happening has dissipated. We were so close... Oh well, another month of isolation must we endure!

In our last newsletter, I asked everyone to send in what he is building and painting, and only **Greg Beckman** responded (see *Work In Progress Pix*



on page 10). What about the rest of you good folks? How's your latest project(s) coming along? Have you bought any cool kits lately? Do you have enough masks?

Send me (aabsco@gmail.com) a few words (and pix as well) so I can tell everyone that you are still alive and well.

Eric Choy
AABS Editor

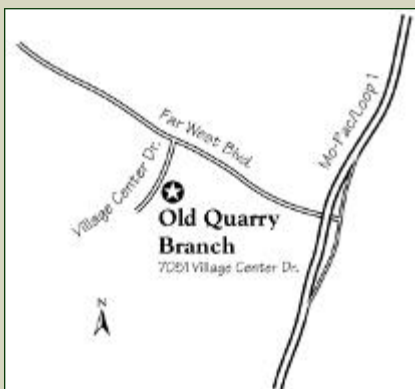
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

To Be Announced

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

- ◆ ~~July 1 - AABS Club Meeting - CANCELLED~~
- ◆ ~~July 29 to August 1 - IPMS/USA National Convention, Embassy Suites and San Marcos Convention Center, San Marcos, TX - CANCELLED~~
- ◆ August 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Sept 2 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Sept 12 - SuperCon 2020, Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park, Arlington, TX
- ◆ Sept 24 to 26 - AMPS 2020 International Convention, Danbury Crown Plaza, Danbury, CT
- ◆ Sept 27 - Modelmania 2020, Stafford Center, Stafford, TX



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2020	Eric Choy	N/A
February	Chris Chany	Greg Beckman
March*	Martin Hebda	Russ Holm
April	N/A	Kevin Hutchison
May	N/A	Ian Candler
June*	N/A	David Bourland
July	N/A	Greg Beckman
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September*	Annual Auction	Chris Chany
October	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
November	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
December*	Keith Townsend	Eric Choy
January 2021	Aaron Smischney	Aaron Smischney

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. Greg Beckman's article for February 2020 is due on the last Wednesday of January).

* Quarterly contest month



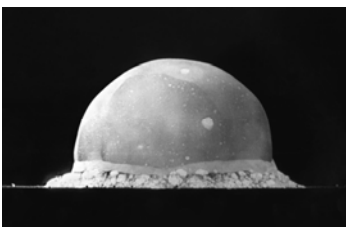
From the Turret

Greetings! As I write this, I wish there would be good news to share, but apparently the Coronavirus is causing even more havoc, and IPMS/USA has decided to **CANCEL the upcoming 2020 International Convention at San Marcos, TX.** However, the convention committee managed to renegotiate a new contract with Embassy Suites/Hilton, and IPMS has awarded the 2023 Convention to Alamo Squadron again. The Las Vegas folks will host the 2021 convention, and the venue for 2022 is Omaha, Nebraska.

When we meet again, we need to elect club officers and, hopefully, have our Toon Tank contest. In the meantime, get those T-54/T-55 tanks rolling off the production line!

In doing this article, I have followed the format by our ex-prez John Talley in presenting events of World War II that occurred seventy-five years ago. We are almost at the end of World War II as it unfolded seventy-five years ago.

On the 4th of July, 1945, the Philippine Campaign came to an end. Twelve days later, the first nuclear weapon test (Trinity) happened on the barren plains of New Mexico. The success of this test would alter the course of our history in a dramatic way.



Trinity fireball 16ms after detonation (Wikipedia)

Other fighting continued in Southeast Asia and off the coast of Japan. Kamikaze attacks were doing more damage to Allied forces than anything else the Japanese had to offer at this stage of the war.

Things in the Korean Peninsular were heating up seventy years ago. US soldiers, as part of Task Force Smith (TFS), arrived in Pusan on the first day of July, 1950. They immediately headed north to clash with the invading North Korean People's Army (NKPA) in the Battle of Osan on July 5th. This would be the first fight involving US forces in Korea. With a greater than ten to one advantage favoring the NKPA, TFS suffered over 40% casualties.



Members of Task Force Smith (Wikipedia).



US soldier Robert L. Witzig with a 2.36" bazooka during the Battle of Pyongtaek (Wikipedia).

Despite reinforced by additional units of the US 24th Infantry Division (ID), TFS was no match in strength and armor support compared to the NKPA. TFS was beaten and forced to retreat. However, it did manage to slow down the communist juggernaut and knock out some of the NKPA T-34 tanks.

In subsequent clashes (Battle of Pyeongtaek - July 6th, Battle of Cheonan - July 7th, and Battle of Chochiwon - July 12nd to 15th), the US suffered 409 KIAs.



Artillery of the US 24th Infantry Division (Wikipedia).

The Battle of Taejon began on July 14th, and it lasted until July 21st. Just like all of the previously mentioned combat actions, the NKPA emerged victorious. This battle also effectively destroyed the 24th ID. Officially, 922 GIs were killed and 2,400 were taken prisoners. Many of the POWs were later killed execution style by the North Koreans.



During the fighting, Major General William F. Dean, commander of the 24th ID, was separated from his command on July 18th. He tried to fight his way back to the UN lines but was captured on August 25th after having evaded the communists for over a month on his own.

Dean would be the highest ranked US POW during the Korean War. He was also credited with personally knocking out a T-34 before taken prisoner.



The T-34 allegedly knocked out by Major General Dean on July 20th, 1950 (Wikipedia).

While all the battles mentioned above ended in defeat for the UN forces in Korea, these actions slowed down the North Korean push down the peninsula. General Douglas MacArthur, who became the overall commander on the 7th of July, 1950, was given time to organize the Pusan Perimeter defensive line.

Well, that is a wrap on the history, in the meantime, keep building and painting! Thanks to all members of AABS for making this organization one of the very best! Hopefully, things will start returning to a more normal time.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President

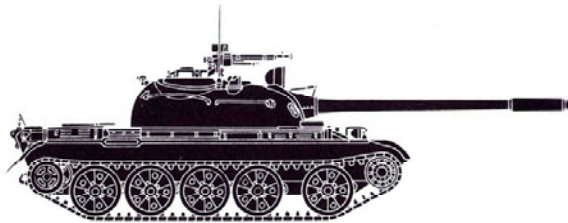


Vive l'amour! Love may be what Pepé Le Pew is into, but for us modelers, it's definitely the "amour" part that gets our attention!

The theme for our 2020 second quarterly contest is "Looney Toon-Tanks!" These whimsical egg-shaped models are fun, easy to build, and perfect for a weekend project! Should you want to make them more challenging, there are all kinds of not-too-serious conversions (e.g. Sherman Calliope, Bergtiger, T-34/85) that you can attempt.

Go build a Toon-Tank now. That's all, forks!

"Looney Toon-Tanks!" 2020 2nd Quarterly Contest



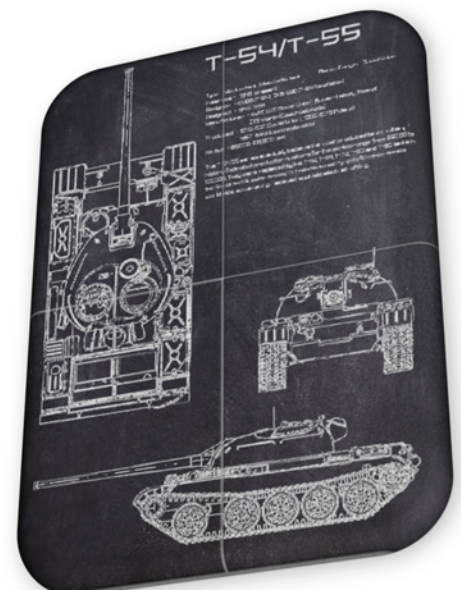
T-54/55 Group Build

Here's a trivial question for you all tank enthusiasts: what's the most produced tank of all time? No, it's not Sherman or T-34, and yes, the honor goes to the Soviet T-54/55! With so many paint schemes and upgrades open for modelers, it is a logical choice as the subject of a group project.

Here are the criteria of this T-54/55 group build:

- 1/35th scale only
- Must have gun (or guns) of caliber 57mm or larger (i.e. ZSU-57-2 and SU-122/54 are okay but NO armored recovery, APC, bridging, or firefighting variant, please).
- No operator restriction (Angola, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, DDR, Egypt, Finland, Iraq, Israel, North Korea, Poland, USSR/Russia, Vietnam, former Yugoslavia states, etc. are all welcomed).
- 4BO is optional! (i.e. feel free to paint your tank any color other than standard Russian Green as long as your color scheme is historically accurate)
- Please close all hatches and DO NOT glue your model to a base!

We are aiming for a group entry in this year's ASMS Capital Classic show in October 2020. So the rendezvous point for our T-54/55s is the **September club meeting**. That leaves us less than six months to build, paint, and weather our models. If you haven't started yet, you need to get a move on NOW. *Ura!*





SOVIET AEROSAN RF-8/GAZ-98

By the Editor

(Editor: This article was written in 2012 when Rod Bell was our editor. Recently it “resurfaced” when I was cleaning an old USB flash drive. Since I don’t recall Rod ever used it in our newsletter, I reckon it deserves to be shared after all these years! A few modifications were made to bring it up to date.)

No one knows for sure who invented the first power driven sleigh, but most agreed that honor probably goes to Igor Sikorsky, the famous aviation pioneer that gave us the helicopter. While studying at Kiev Polytechnic Institute in 1909, the twenty-year-old engineering student mounted a 15 horsepower motorcycle engine and a propeller on the back of a two passenger sleigh and created a sensation on the snowy streets of Kiev. Sikorsky might have viewed this project as nothing more than a stepping stone to his aircraft design, the idea caught on fast and in no time aerosleds were widely used in Russia (later Soviet Union) delivering passengers and mail during the winter season.

The Soviet Red Army also put aerosleds to good use in their Civil War (1917-23) and Winter War against Finland (1939-40). By the beginning of the Great Patriotic War with Germany, aerosan (Russian for aerosled) battalions were organized mainly for logistic transport, patrol, and communication duties. Rarely were aerosans used in combat on the frontline as they were built with aviation plywood screwed to a wooden frame. The wooden hull offered little to no protection from bullets or explosion shrapnel.



The Kit

This is not the first time a model of the RF-8/GAZ-98 Aerosan being offered in 1/35th scale. As far as I remember, previous efforts were made by Kirin, Vision Models, and Plus Models. However, Trumpeter’s release is the first kit that retails less than the price of a decent lunch; I picked mine up from King’s for less than \$12 (tax included).

With the low part count and fairly simple construction, I reckoned this would be a nice weekend project. So I dived right into building it without finding out more on





the subject. Needless to say, I suffered from the consequences later on.

Construction

Trumpeter's products have come a lot way as far as engineering, and the part fit for this kit is generally good. The only problem I encountered was where the front upper and low lips met. As you can see from the photo, there was a significant gap. It was easy to fix with sheet styrene though. The fit of the top of the engine housing was sluggish, but it was probably my fault because I glued the grille to the top first.



If you are going to use the kit supplied seats, they need sanding on both sides in order to fit side the cabin. Also, the fuel tank cover (A1) should be glued after, not before, the back

seat is installed. I painted the inside cabin Humbrol Khaki (26) according to instruction. Shadows and highlights were done with Raw Umber artist oil and Humbrol Dark Earth (29).



The kit includes a decent motor, but most, if not all, of it will never see daylight after being installed.

Painting & Weathering

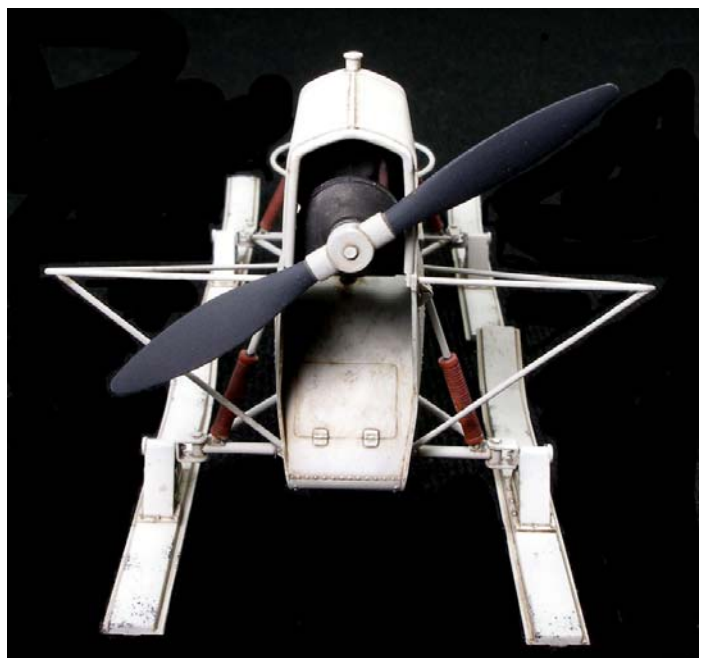
One trick I learned from figure painters is that you don't use the color white to paint things that are white. There is no color lighter than white for highlight, so always use light gray or ivory as the base coat when painting white objects. For this

reason I chose Humbrol Light Gray (64) for the exterior of my model.

While waiting for the paint to dry, I got on the Internet to kill time and stumbled on the review of this kit on Perth Military Modelling Site. Aside from the parts' inaccuracy, the biggest problem the reviewer claims is the plethora of rivets all over the hull. As I mentioned earlier, the real thing was made of plywood with flush screws, so there should not be any raised rivets at all. So much for not doing research before starting a project!

The fix is easy: just sand the hull smooth. But that was something I was reluctant to do as I had already applied the base coat. Worst still, there was no way to sand the hull without breaking the suspension and propeller guards I had already glued on. Feeling dejected, I asked a friend of mine for advice, and he suggested I should ignore the inaccuracies and move forward. His thinking was: no one, except for an aerosan aficionado, would know the difference, so just build it out of the box. I thought good and hard and decided he was right.

What's the moral of my story here (besides always do your research)? Don't read any review once you





After dullcoating the model with Alcad II's Klear Kote Flat, the clear parts were installed with Future. I drybrushed the edges of the windscreen with gray for dust/ice effect. For the machinegun, I used Gunze Mr. Metal Dark Iron (214) as base and highlighted with Tamiya Metallic Gray (XF-56).

To show chippings on the skis, I "sponged" Panzer Gray here and there and came back with a silver Prismacolor pencil for highlight. I also added top-off diesel stain around the fuel cap with leftover Raw Umber wash heavily diluted with thinner.

Much later after I completed this project, I came to find out the skis on aerosans were also made out of aviation plywood! The chippings I did were entirely inappropriate. The correct weathering on the skis should be worn wood texture instead. Argh, another strike for not doing research!

Epilogue

It took me more than a weekend to finish my aerosan. Trumpeter is commendable for bringing down the

started a kit! Also, when the kit's accuracy is in question, build it box stock. No one is going to blame you for not following the instruction on an out-of-the box project!

Anyway, back to painting. Next I mixed a color lighter than the base coat and sprayed on areas shone on by zenithal light. That was my first highlight. Allowing it to dry overnight, I painted the panels that I would decal with Future.

The choice of color for the suspension was a tough one. The box art depicts the entire suspension assembly in aged rust while the painting and marking guide shows only the springs are in rusty color. Which one is right? Accuracy be damned, I decided to go with the latter.

The kit's decals are thin, and they reacted well to Micro Sol. Another coat of Future sealed the decals and on to weathering.

For this project I chose not to apply any filter. Pin wash and shadows around the rivets were done by an artist oil wash of Raw Umber with a lot of grays. The idea was to create a slightly darker tone without a huge contrast of colors. Next I applied super highlights on high points and edges with pure white. This gave my model the feel of "white" without a monotonous color finish.



price of this kit, but the research that went into it was highly questionable. I also committed the scale modeling cardinal sin of not doing research on the subject first. Maybe I should atone by building another *aerosan*... Nah, I don't think so!

Eric



AMPS Boresight (Volume 28, Issue 3)

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

- ◆ **Rough Day at the Office!** by Chuck Aleshire
- ◆ **Project RIPCORD (Part 1 of 3)** by AMPS Central South Carolina "Wildcats"
- ◆ **History of RIPCORD** by Ralph Nardone
- ◆ **Nash Quad** by John Kirkpatrick
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **Local Chapter News and Upcoming Shows**



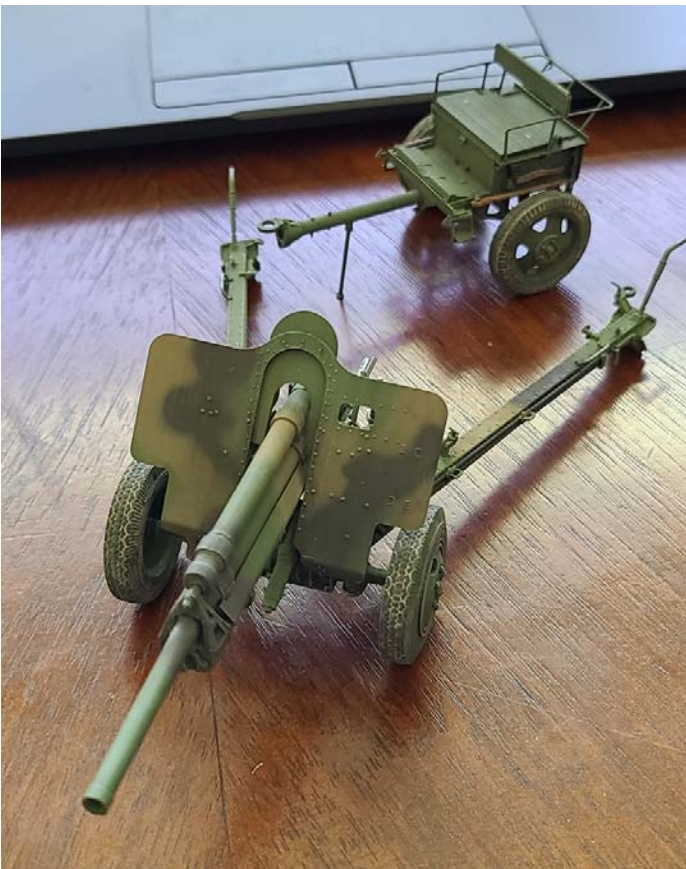
Work In Progress Pix

Greg Beckman:

1. KV-85 (Trumpeter)



2. USV 76mm AT Gun & Limber (MiniArt)



3. BMD-1 (Zvezda)



4. GAZ-69 (Bronco) with ZPU-2 (Meng)



5. Trumpeter 2S1 (Trumpeter)



Eric Choy:

1. **M3 Grant** (Tamiya + Armoured Brigade Models Conversion)



2. **44M TAS Rohamloveg** (Hobby Boss)



3. **Jagdpanther Toon Tank** (Meng Panther Toon Tank + RetroTracks Chibi Jagdpanther Conversion)



4. **Star Wars TX-225 GAVw "Occupier"** (Fantasy Flight Games 1/48th)



5. **Soviet Object 279** (Takom 1/72nd)



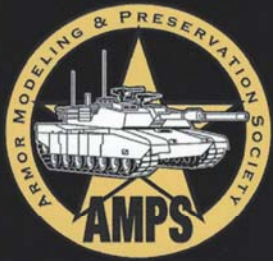
2020 AMPS International Convention

SEPTEMBER 24 - SEPTEMBER 26

At The Crown Plaza, Danbury, CT

SHOW THEME:

LAST BATTLES



HOSTED BY:



For more information contact: Peter Espada (Show Chair) at pespada@icloud.com

Get the latest Event, Registration, Schedule, and Theme information at:

amps-armor.org

JOIN AMPS TODAY

NAME: _____

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Regular Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$40)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$110)
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*For anyone living at the same address with a regular active member. Family member DOES NOT receive an individual copy of *Boresight* but enjoy vendor discounts, website access, and can enter in the national competition as long as he/she is accompanied by the regular active member.



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www.amps-armor.org

New On The Block



An A-34 Comet in 1/72nd by yet another new Chinese company Vespid. Interesting!



Not exactly armor related but who cares? It's Marilyn in Korea!!! She is available in three different scales (1/35th, 1/16th, and 1/12nd) from Life Miniatures.



...one step forward, two steps back... Do we really need another 1/35th KV-1?

Ha! Das-Werk is into Kugelpanzer also! But unlike the MiniArt offering, this is a true 2-in-1 kit: you can build two ball-tank models out of this kit.

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 first 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:

www.austinamps.org