



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

August 2021



Yay, there'll be an in-person **AABS meeting this month!** Austin Public Library's meeting rooms are still closed to the public, so we're back at my neighborhood's community center where we had our Xmas parties in the past.

Date: August 4th Wednesday

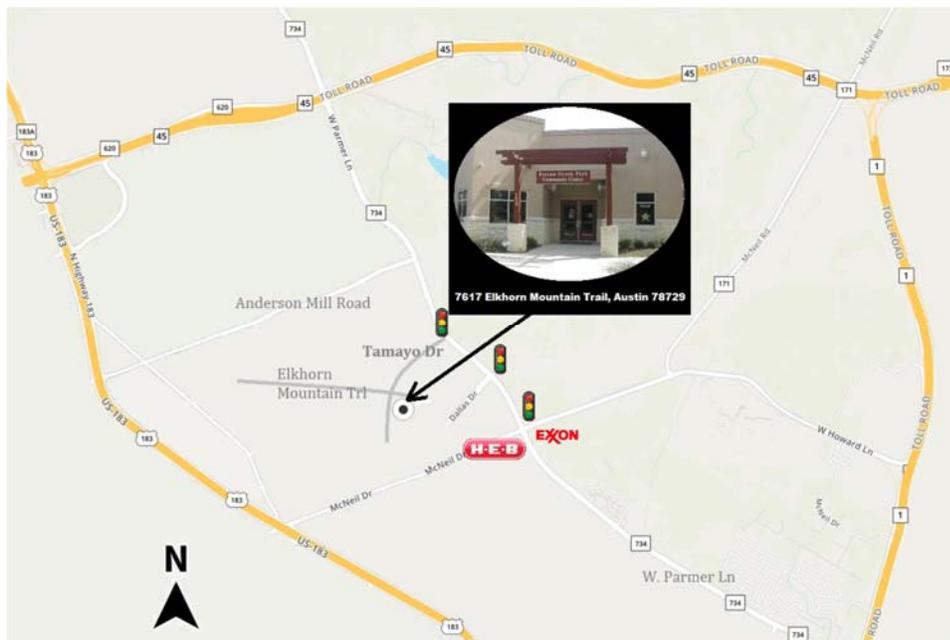
Time: 7pm - 8:45pm

Place: Rattan Creek Community Center
7617 Elkhorn Mountain Trail
Austin, TX 78729

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Map:



Driving Directions:

From Mopac (TX Loop 1) heading SOUTH:

1. Take Parmer Ln Exit.
2. Turn right onto W. Parmer Ln and travel 2.75 miles to McNeil Drive. You'll see a HEB on the left.
3. After McNeil Drive, Tamayo Drive is at the second traffic lights.
4. Turn left onto Tamayo Drive and travel 0.7 miles.
5. Turn left onto Elkhorn Mountain Trail. The Rattan Creek Community Center is on your right.

(Continued on page 6)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ August 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 12 to 14 - AMPS Super Regional, AMPS/MVPA Joint Show, South Bend Century Center, South Bend, IN
- ◆ Sept 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Sept 11 - SuperCon 2021, Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park, Arlington
- ◆ Sept 18 - AMPS Centex Armor Expo 2021, Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown
- ◆ Oct 2 - ASMS Capital Classic 2021, Travis County Expo Center, Austin
- ◆ ¿Oct 6 - AABS Club Meeting?



AABS Officers Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2021	N/A	Aaron Smischney
February	N/A	Eric Choy
March*	N/A	Greg Beckman
April	N/A	Ian Candler
May	N/A	Ted Paone
June*	Kevin Hutchison	Bob Bethea
July	N/A	Chris Chany
August	TBA	Mike Maloney
September*	TBA	Kevin Hutchison
October	TBA	Joe Fisher
November	TBA	Ted Andreas, Jr.
December*	TBA	Dane Sherry
January 2022	TBA	Rick Herrington

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. Eric Choy's article for February is due on the last Wednesday of January).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings! I hope all is well with our club members and their families. We will meet in August, and details can be found on the first page.

As our show is getting close, I hope we have good participation at the next two meetings. It is possible we may be back in the library for September, but of course the Covid issue may go either way.

I have been building and buying. I now have the new Tamiya Panzer IV ausf.F2, or rather the 'early' G version. I also purchased Border Models' rendition of

the 1/35th Crusader tank. I built the Tamiya 1/48th scale version in the past but was reluctant to obtain the old Italeri (or Tamiya reboxed) Crusader in 1/35th scale. I hope the Border kit will work out well in the near future.

In case you have not heard, Killeen lost the Hobby Center. I realize that closing will not affect too many modelers in the Austin area, but for Killeen/Fort Hood modelers, it is a somber development.

This summer I did get in a little reading time. I obtained a copy of *Panzer Ace*, a memoir of Richard Von Rosen. I highly recommend this book. It gave a firsthand account of actions in Russia, Normandy, the Ardennes, and Hungary. As a bonus, it was loaded with photos.

Thanks again to all who make this club one of the best. Keep modeling and painting!

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



Type 97 Shinhoto Chi-Ha

(Editor: This month member **Mike Maloney** makes a "guest appearance" in the *Tank In Focus* column. Ted will be back in September with his short history of the British Crusader Tank.)

In the early 1930s, the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) was experimenting with the concept of mechanized unit combining infantry and tank. However, the slow Type 89 Medium Tank could not keep pace with the motorized infantry which could move at 25mph by truck. Tomio Hara, one of the engineers who worked on the design of the Type 89, proposed a new light tank capable of 25mph in 1933. The prototype finished a year later. It was a high-speed and light-armored tank similar to the

British cruiser tank or Soviet BT-tank. Its code name was "Ha-Go" meaning the third car.

In 1935, the IJA council met, and the introduction of Ha-Go was held at the IJA Technical Bureau. At that meeting, the Ha-Go was presented as the tank for the mechanized unit. The representative of the tank force voiced an objection claiming the armor was too thin for infantry support duty. On the other hand, the representative of the cavalry said, "We don't care of the thin armor. We are content with its speed and armaments." The chairman of the council asked the representative of the tank force if this tank is unnecessary for them, and the representative of the tank force said unwillingly that it would be better than not having it as it would be used as an armored car.

Thus the Ho-Go was introduced and named Type 95 Light Tank. Although it was not a hard-hitter, the

Type 95 was the most produced tank by Japan during WWII.

Type 97 Medium Tank

Since the Ha-Go was not adopted as the main battle tank of the tank force, a successor to the Type 89 Medium Tank was needed. However, there were two different opinions on the new tank. The IJA Department requested a cheaper tank due to the limited budget, and the Staff Office agreed as more tanks could be obtained at a lower price. On the other hand, the tank force cared more about quality than quantity and was opposed to a low-price tank.

As both sides could not consent easily, two different prototypes were made. One was called Chi-Ha and another was called Chi-Ni. The prototype of Chi-Ha weighted 13.5 tons with a top speed of 22mph and a two-man turret. Chi-Ni was 9.8 tons, 19mph, and a one-man turret. The armor of both prototypes was 25mm-thick. Though the tank force had requested a 30mm-thick armor, they forbore with 25mm because of the weight increase. Chi-Ha was more expensive to produce but the preferred choice of the tank force. Chi-Ni had a lower price tag by sharing many common components with the Type 95 light tank.

The problem of choosing which design for production was solved by the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War.



Restored Type 97 Chi-Ha medium tank at the Yūshūkan Museum, Japan. (Wikipedia)

The budget of the IJA was increased sharply, and the IJA Department agreed with the introduction of Chi-Ha. The production of Type 97 Medium Tank started in 1937, and it replaced the Type 89 as the main battle tank of the IJA.

Shinhoto Chi-Ha

While the new Type 97 was much superior in almost all aspects, it was still armed with the same short-barreled 57mm gun used by the Type 89 Medium Tank. The designer Hara was not content and thought that the coming tank should be armed with a high-velocity cannon for tank versus tank fighting. However, the IJA did not foresee such engagement as China did not possess any tank at the time and was adamant with the gun of the Type 89.

Hara's worry came true in the Battle of Nomonhan during the Soviet-Japanese border conflict in 1939. The 45mm gun of the Soviet tank outranged the short barreled gun of Japanese tank, and the IJA suffered heavy losses. As a result, the development of a new tank gun became an utmost urgency.

The new tank gun developed was 47mm caliber with a long barrel. Its penetration was much superior to that of the short-barreled 57mm gun. The work on the 47mm tank gun started in 1939, and it was finished in 1941. When the Pacific War began, the Chi-Ha mounting a new turret "Shinhoto" was not yet ready for service.

During the invasion of the Philippines in 1941, Japanese tankers engaged with U.S. M3 light tanks



and found their guns could not penetrate the armor of the Stuarts. Shinhoto Chi-Ha tanks were transported to the Philippines in a hurry and tested against captured M3s. At the distance of 1,000m, three out of six hits penetrated the front armor of the M3, and six out of nine hits penetrated at the distance of 800m. Satisfied with the result, Japanese tankers were burning with revenge for a rematch. However, the campaign ended without any engagement between the two tanks.



The Shinhoto Chi-Ha first saw action on Corregidor Island of the Philippines in 1942.

Into Service

Shinhoto Chi-Ha never fully replaced all the older Chi-Ha in used by the IJA as intended since the

production never came to full speed to meet the demands. Only a few tank regiments were equipped with the new type. These regiments were the 5th, 9th, 11th, 26th, and the 77th.

Specifications:

Introduced Year: 1942

Weight: 14.8 ton

Dimensions: 5.52 x 2.33 x 2.38(h) m

Armor (max): 25mm

Speed (max): 23 mph

Engine: Diesel 170 HP/2000 rpm

Armaments: Type 1 47 mm x 1

Type 97 7.7 mm x 2

Crew: 4

Production Qty: 2,208 (Including Shinhoto Chi-Ha)

Mike

AMPS Boresight (Volume 29, Issue 4)

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

- ♦ **Fantasia on a Magyar Chief** by Eric Choy
- ♦ **A Visit to the National WWII Museum** by Chuck Aleshire
- ♦ **Wiesel A1 TOW** by Ron Hoague
- ♦ **Scratchbuilding a Military Folding Cot in 1/35th Scale** by Brian Eberle
- ♦ **Fun with Liang's Effect Stencils** by The Editor
- ♦ **Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**





(Continued from page 1)

From US 183 heading NORTH:

1. Take McNeil Dr/Spicewood Springs Road exit.
2. Turn right onto McNeil Drive and travel 1.8 miles.
3. At the intersection of McNeil Drive and Parmer Ln (HEB on your right), turn left onto Parmer Ln.
4. Turn left onto Tamayo Drive (second traffic lights after McNeil Drive) and travel 0.7 miles.
5. Turn left onto Elkhorn Mountain Trail. The Rattan Creek Community Center is on your right.

If you got lost, call **Eric** at **(512) 554-9595**

In-person Meeting Guidelines:

- Please **STAY HOME IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL**. The last thing we need is to turn this into a “super-spreader” meeting!
- **MASK WEARING IS OPTIONAL** but recommended.
- Kit swapping and selling is allowed before and after the club meeting. We ask anyone who is selling items to please donate a good-quality kit to the club. We are in need of raffle prizes for the 2021 show, so your donation is crucial and much appreciated. This rule is not applicable to those who are swapping kits.



Still haven't sent us your AABS dues (**\$12**)? We have ways to make your *arrears* disappear! It'll hurt less if you pay now... We accept cash, check, money order, or PayPal (payaabs@gmail.com). 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 **Austin Armor Builders Society** (or **AABS**).

**2021
AMPS CENTEX
ARMOR EXPO**

AN AMPS REGIONAL SHOW

**September 18th, 2021
Georgetown Community
Center**

For more info, visit:
www.austinamps.org

or contact show coordinator **Eric Choy**
(email: aabsco@gmail.com)

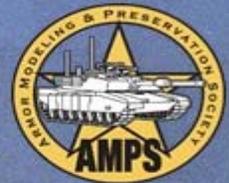


Show Theme: *Operation Barbarossa 1941*

AMPS Super Regional



Hosted by:
Military Vehicle Preservation Association
Midwest Region, Armor Modeling & Preservation Society
Century Convention Center, South Bend, IN
August 12-14, 2021



Show Theme: OPERATION DESERT STORM

Registration Fees (includes entry to all AMPS & MVPA activities, less tours):

- **AMPS Members: \$30.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **Non-AMPS Members: \$50.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **Junior Member/Non Member: \$20.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **SHOW SPECIAL! Renewing/New AMPS Members: \$55.00** USD for one year Membership & Show Registration with 1 to 5 models entries (5 MAX).
- **Renewing/New Junior AMPS Members: \$35.00** USD for a new one year AMPS Membership & Show Registration with 1 to 5 models entries (5 MAX).
- **ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO FIVE TOTAL MODELS/DIOS/VIGNETTES/FIGURES PER ENTRANT, NO EXCEPTIONS** (See AMPS webpage for eligible subjects:
<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteMain/AMPSJudgingSystem.aspx>)

Walk-in Entry Fees (entry to all AMPS & MVPA activities, less tours):

	Daily	Show (12-14 Aug)
• Adult (17 and higher):	\$10	\$25
• Husband & Wife:	\$15	\$30
• Family (children under 16):	\$20	\$35

For additional show & lodging information see the AMPS Webpage:
<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteShows/ShowMain.aspx?sid=10107>

Members Show & Tell

Greg Beckman:

1. T-72A (work in progress)
2. KV-1 (work in progress)



3. GAZ-67B (Tamiya + Blackdog Stowage)



4. Dingo 2 GE A2.3 Patsi (Revell)



5. T-60 (Hobby Boss)



Eric Choy:

Hungarian 44M Tas Rohamlöveg (Hobby Boss)



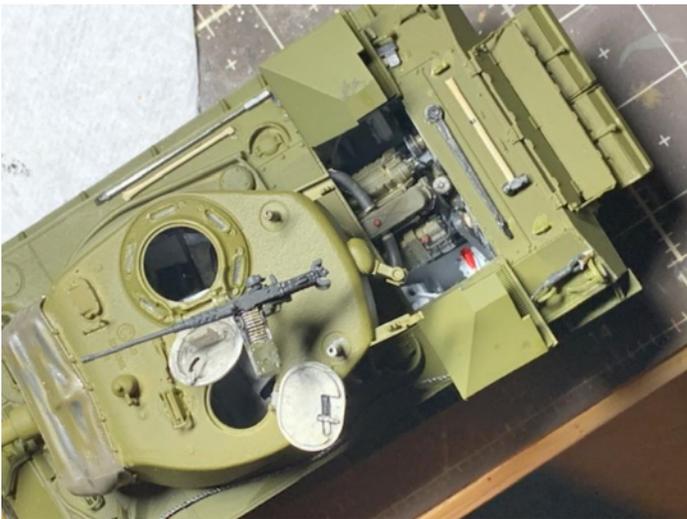
Rick Herrington:

M1 IP (DML Panther 2 hull + Tamiya turret + Trumpeter tracks; work in progress)



Stuart Wetterschneider:

M4A3E8 (RFM full interior kit; work in progress)



Ted Andreas, Jr:

1. Valentine Infantry Tank (Tamiya)



2. 1/48th Tiger I (AFV Club with Friul tracks and metal barrel bow machine gun)



Craig Bland:

(Editor: Craig is a new member of AABS who recently moved to Cedar Park from the Houston area.)

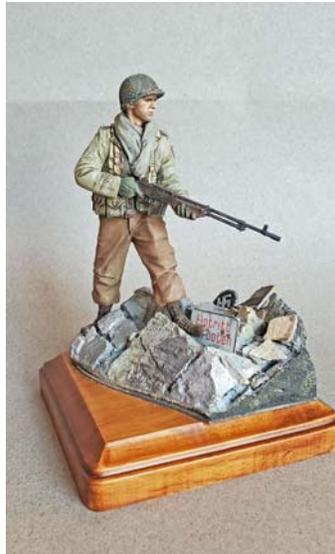
1. 1/35th US GIs (Tamiya)
2. 1/35th German DAK Officers (DML)



3. 1/35th German WWII Infantry (DML)



- 4. **1/16th German SS Machine Gunner** (Andreas)
- 5. **1/16th US BAR Infantryman, Battle of the Bulge** (Alpine)



- 8. **1/16th US Marine** (Andreas)
- 9. **1/16th IJA Officer** (Andreas)



- 10. **Custer at Little Big Horn** (Andreas; work in progress)

- 6. **1/16th German DAK Infantryman** (Andreas)
- 7. **1/16th German SS Sturmman** (Andreas)



- 11. **1/35th M10** (Academy) + Tank Crew (DML)



JOIN AMPS TODAY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

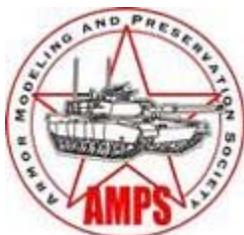
ZIP CODE: _____ **COUNTRY:** _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Regular U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$55)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$80)
Regular Canada/Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$35)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$65)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$95)
Regular Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$40)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$110)
Junior (17 or under)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$45)
Family Member*	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$ 5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)

*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.



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

AMPS

ATTN: MEMBERSHIP DEPT.

P.O. BOX 227, FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

U.S.A.



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

New On The Block



Gecko just released a 1/35th LARC-V. A modern version of the DUKW, it was used during the Vietnam War and the 1982 Falklands War.



Another 1/35th M3A1 kit? This one is from I ♥ Kit, a division of Trumpeter.



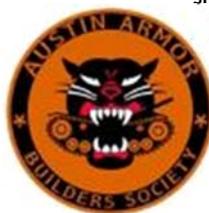
What's that funny smell? Oh, that's just ICM's new 1/35th outhouse. I wonder if it comes with scale turds...



Lots of new stuff from MiniArt lately. Of note is this 1/35th German D8506 tractor with a cargo trailer.

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. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town trips to museums and modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest armor modeling show 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.

For more info, please visit www.austinamps.org