



# Sabot Away!



## Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

September 2015  
Volume 19, Issue 9



### **Mach Schell!**

#### **AFV Club's Schwimmwagen 128 by Ian Candler**

I have never written a scale modeling article before, but I have read a few newsletters and of

course many modeling magazines and trade books. Hopefully the experience of being an avid reader and having completed a few papers in college can help me shine through and make this a painless and interesting article.

*(Continued on page 4)*

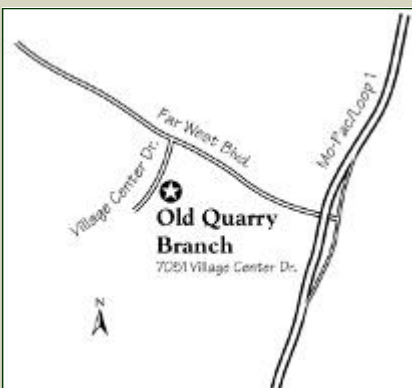
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

**September 2, 2015**

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

- ♦ **September 2 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **September 12 - SuperCon 2015** Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park, Arlington, TX
- ♦ **September 26 - AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo 2015** Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown, TX
- ♦ **October 7 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **October 10 - ASMS Capital Classic 2015** Norris Conference Centers, Austin, TX
- ♦ **November 4 - AABS Club Meeting**



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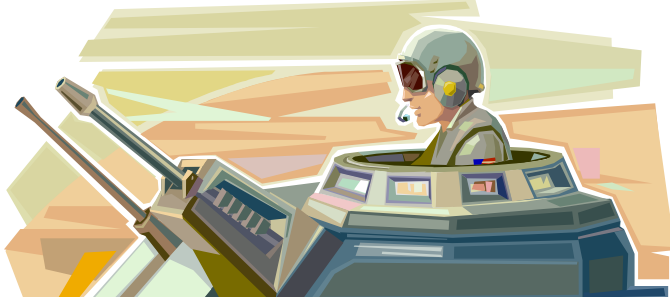
## Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January, 2015	Tom Pachalos	Tom Pachalos
February	Tom Pachalos	Dave Bourland
March	Eric Choy	Eric Choy
April	TBA	Milton Bell
May	Jake McKee	Jake McKee
June	Dave Bourland	Aaron Smischney
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
August	John Talley	Rick Herrington
September	AMPS Judging Review	Zach Talley
October	Kit Auction	Bill Menzie
November	Kevin Hutchison	Kevin Hutchison
December	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
January, 2016	Ted Paone	Ted Paone

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/she wants anytime. 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. Tom Pachalos' article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).



## *From the Turret*

**W**e have a lot going on this month as fall rolls in. Some of us have school events starting up, but on September 26<sup>th</sup>, all of us will be engaged with the AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo 2015. Let's make sure we've all volunteered to help out where ever possible, and just as importantly, get our modeling projects done and ready for the show. I'm confident that this year's "First World War" theme will bring out a lot of great models!

This month also brings us to a couple of interesting armor history anniversaries: Germany planning for Operation Sea Lion 75 years ago, and the start of the Iran-Iraq War 35 years ago.



*Submersible tanks were developed and tested in the weeks leading to the planned invasion.*

While the Germans were signing the Tripartite Pact with Italy and Japan, formalizing the Axis alliance, plans were also made for Sea Lion, the invasion of England, to launch in late September. Although ultimately cancelled after several delays in the face of RAF resistance in the Battle of Britain, German engineers developed many armor variations in an attempt to find a way to get tanks on the English shore.

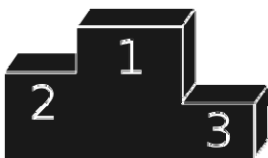
The Iran Iraq War fought in the 1980's is not frequently thought of as a subject for armor modeling, but there were nearly ten thousand armored vehicles between the combatants at the outbreak of the war, and well over ten thousand by the end of the war after nearly eight years of fighting.



*Iraqi vehicles and troops near the Iranian border.*

I hope everyone is having a great time preparing for the show on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and I'm looking forward to discussing our plans at the meeting on Wednesday!

**John Talley**  
President



## **September Is Quarterly Contest Month!**

**B**ring in your **finished** model this month to win U.S. Treasury issued greenbacks! Our quarterly

contest cash prizes are **\$40**, **\$30**, and **\$20** for the first, second, and third place winners.

To enter you must be a member in good standing. Any model that has not placed in previous quarterly contests is eligible to win. The "no sweep" rule is strictly enforced in our in-house contests.





(Continued from page 1)

It all started with me sitting at my workbench fiddling with old Tamiya figures and resin heads. I have destroyed plenty of Dragon figures, so I had tons of Gen2 gear because DML just throws tons of extras in their sets. I began to see the first figure taking shape once I put on a spare Alpine head. It looked as if his



hair was blowing in the wind. I thought how cool would it be to attempt movement. I kind of put a sense of it in my LRDG truck, but this guy's hair was really being pushed about and beautifully sculpted by Taesung Harrms. So I sat him aside and started thinking about the chariot he would be riding upon.

I looked at my stash, and I saw my AFV Club Schwimmwagen. The vehicle's top speed was around 80km per hour. So it's not crazy fast, but (1) it looks cool, and (2) it's faster than a tank! I then began working on it, and it really was a joy to build. It's an outstanding kit, and upon my first attempt at dryfitting the figure, he looked cool! I started my other attempts at kitbashing figures.



The second figure wasn't really as cool, and I ended up splitting open my thumb with my insanely sharp "Swann Morton" blade. So I took about a week off from building and focused on painting random

figures in my stash.

I looked for diorama ideas on the Internet a lot, and one day I saw this obscure surrealist diorama that someone did. The figure was like something out of a Del Toro film. I was like "Oh man, that would be so cool to incorporate that style as a way of showing speed or the obscured view of a soldier in combat." It was beyond my current skill set, and also I'm not sure how the WWII modeling community would take it. I put off the idea for a while and started painting the Schwimmwagen.

The vehicle was primed black, then basecoated with Vallejo Germany Grey, and lightened with Pale Blue Grey. I then mixed Hull Red/Red Orange to create rust colors by varying the tones and applying thin coats in areas I felt the vehicle would be beaten up and maybe retaining water.



I then clearcoated this layer and decanted some hairspray and applied it in various places. Lately I've





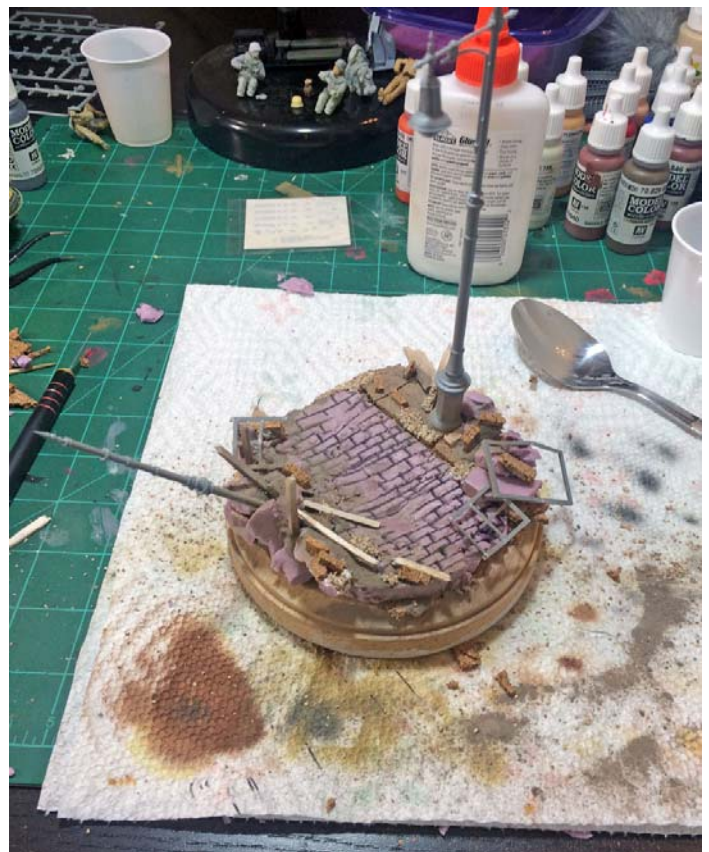
been getting a little bored with *Dunkleleib* straight out of the bottle. Attempting for a more faded color, I mixed Desert Yellow and Deck Tan. It turned out a bit too bright, so I went back to Tamiya Dark Yellow and applied a thin coat around the parts that would be shadowed. I let it dry for a bit then went to work on the scratching with hard brushes and a cocktail stick.



I finished detail painting and applied decals. After sealing the model with a clear coat, I did some oil streaking on the underside of the vehicle and broke up some Windsor & Newton soft pastels to get the water grime going.



It was getting exciting at this point as the finish line was in sight! I mixed Alpine, New World, and Dragon parts to create the driver and officer. I really liked the intensity of the character I chose for the passenger, and the driver's sculpt was one of youthful confusion. This helped influence the chaos that I wanted the base to have.







I started with cork and pink foam. At the time I had tons of cork bricks that had been cut out and some old mini-art parts. For the wood I broke pieces of balsa wood. During painting I decided to tone down what was hanging off the base. The reason for it was the base would fit better on my shelf, and I didn't want someone to trip and get their eye poked out.

And that is the story of "Mach Schnell!"



I have to put out a BIG thank you to our club member **Bob Bethea**. He sat down with me and Andrew and taught us some steps to further our figure painting skills. Without his help, there is no way my figures would be popping with light and shadow.

Ian



## A New Recruit

by Zachary Talley

The art of building scale models is generally more appreciated by adults than by kids. However, kids can appreciate the art as well. A good friend of mine, Thomas Coan, is hoping to get into the military, so I invited him to come over and build an armor model.

The model he wanted to build was my Academy 1/24<sup>th</sup> Late version Panther G. We set up a table, and he started working on it. I gave what little advice that I could, but he had a few issues with the kit while putting it together.



### Lower Hull

The wheels took longer than usual because Thomas glued the outer wheels on to the tank before installing the inner wheels. I helped him rip the glued wheels apart, and he was able to attach all the wheels correctly.



After that, everything was going well until we put the tracks together erroneously. The track links are made of rubber, and each link has two holes for a metal rod to go through to connect to another link. The



problem is if you miss one of the holes, the tracks will look weird, and it is very hard to pull the tiny rod out of a rubber hole that has been stretched. Thomas missed a hole, and we spent about five minutes trying to pull the rod out before deciding to hide that link instead of fixing it!

We got a little further on the tracks before Thomas had to leave, and I was left to finish it. At this point I realized that some of the track link pieces came broken, so I had to use cement to glue them together before adding them onto the tank. All this work added an extra hour to complete the running gears of the model.



## Upper Hull

The upper hull was easy enough with no major problem, but it was the most time consuming part of the build due to a high number of parts.



## Turret

The turret went together well until I mindlessly put the connection between the turret and the upper hull upside down and smeared cement all over to stop it

from coming off! It was stuck solid even after I tried using a knife to pry it apart! After trying for five minutes, I gave up because you can't really see my mistake from the outside unless you place the turret on carefully in the same spot.



## Conclusion

Thomas seemed to be having a good time while we were working on this model. Although I don't think he will start building regularly, I do believe he will still enjoy an occasional fun build with me when he comes over.



**Zach**



*(Editor: A photo of Zach Talley, a junior member of our society, enjoying himself at our 2013 Xmas party.)*

*"A New Recruit" is Zach's first attempt at writing a scale modeling article. We hope he can keep up with the good work, stay away from his video games, and build more armor models with us!*





# AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo MMXV September 26, 2015



*Location*  
**Georgetown Community Center  
445 E. Morrow Street  
Georgetown, TX 78626**

*Show Theme*  
**First World War**

*More Info at*  
**[www.austinarmorbuilders.com](http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com)**

Above artwork was done by renowned armor artist **Jody Harmon**. Mr. Harmon has graciously granted AABS permission to use this image for this event. This and other artwork of his can be seen and purchased at his official website **[www.jodyharmon.com](http://www.jodyharmon.com)**





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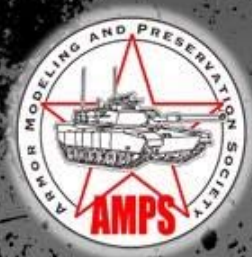
**[www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)**



# 2016 AMPS International Convention

**Scale Model Exposition:** Exhibits, Seminars, Demonstrations,  
Large Vendor Area and MUCH more!

**Show Theme:** *The Great War*



**April 7-9, 2016**

**Sumter County Civic Center  
700 West Liberty Street  
Sumter, SC 29150**

**Hosted by:**



For more information, contact Tim Darrah (Show Chair), [tttimmy@earthlink.net](mailto:tttimmy@earthlink.net)  
Mike Reaves (Vendor Coordinator), [semperfi03732@msn.com](mailto:semperfi03732@msn.com)  
or visit us online at [www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)





## NEW ON THE BLOCK



Tiger Model, a new Hong Kong based company, just released two modern French AFVs: AMX-10RCR and Panhard VBL in 1/35<sup>th</sup>.



Finally, a proper 1/35<sup>th</sup> Panzer II flametank from Bronco! And it comes with a UE trailer also. Hurray!

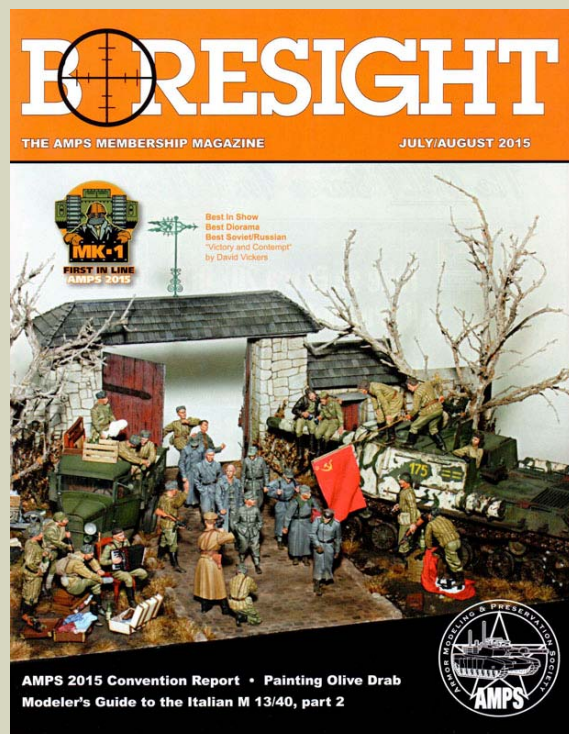


Another realistic 1/35<sup>th</sup> vignette from Master Box based on period photos we have seen many times before: three WWII German motorcyclists pushing their ride through a sea of mud.

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 23, Issue 4)

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

- ♦ **AMPS 2015 Convention** by John Robinson  
Check out the models and winning entries.
- ♦ **Italian M13/40 & M14/41, Part II** by Mike Roof  
A modeler's guide to production features.
- ♦ **Painting Olive Drab** by Brett Avants  
Steps on how to get the right look for WWII US vehicles.





## 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."



Since then AABS is the only modeling 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 model shows.

Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest armor model show in AMPS South Central Region (AMPS CENTEX). Known as Lone Star Armor Expo, we attract some of the best armor modelers in Texas as well as in the neighboring states to come participate.

To find out more about AABS, you can visit our website or pick up a club flyer at your local hobby shop.

We are on the web @ [AustinArmorBuilders.com](http://AustinArmorBuilders.com)

Check out Rick Herrington's fantastic 1/35<sup>th</sup> Leopard I A5 (Takom). Last variant of the Leopard I series, the A5 features a better fire control system and bolt-on lexan armor panels to enhance the protection of the crew.

