



ARMOR BITS

February 2024

Newsletter of the ChicagoLand Armor Builders Society





ARMOR BITS



Welcome to another edition of **ARMOR BITS!**

Well, after a week's delay for a storm and frigid temperatures, 13 members were able to meet at Chuck Aleshire's house for our January meeting and Holiday party.

There are 3 pages of pictures for those who were unable to attend. And although the model builds this month were on the light side, it looked like everyone had a great time sitting around for several hours, eating and talking about modeling.

We owe a big thanks to Chuck and his better half Kim, for hosting the meeting. The food was overflowing the tables and if anyone was still hungry after that spread, there's no hope for you!

Hopefully, I will have info about the February meeting by the time you are reading this (I do, see below). We have been very fortunate with the support from Cantigny and especially the free lodging for our meetings that will continue in 2024!

The arrangements for the South Bend Convention are proceeding without any hitches. It looks like a great venue, and being so close to Chicago,

don't let this opportunity to attend slip by. Even a day trip is worth your while!

Shortly, I will be sending out several variations of a club commemorative coin for consideration. We would distribute these to any members working at the convention and also award medals to those models displayed at the show which the club found outstanding.

I hope you are working on your convention builds as we only have 11 weeks left!

I hope to see you at the February meeting!

Cheers

Stan

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday **10am Feb 10th@ Education Bldg, Cantigny** Watch for the reminder to verify the location

JANUARY '24 MEETING NOTES

Welcome –

Treasure's report/AMPS Nats Update – *everything proceeding well. The treasury is in fine fettle.*

AMPS Best Diorama award sponsorship - *Vote approved to sponsor award for \$30*

2024 Cantigny Meeting list – *No update yet*

Inside the Armor publisher going out of business—*You can use “ENDOFITA” for 50% discount*

IPMS contest in Madison Wi.— *Informational web site link in the newsletter*

Commerative Coin for So. Bend— *presented one possible design for the coin.*

Today's events: Meeting/Auction items/Show & Tell/ White Elephant exchange/Lunch-mingling/ Build session

New business?

Show & Tell

1944



AMPS '24

GLOBAL FRONTS

SOUTH BEND April 11–13



Volunteers needed for the 2024 AMPS Nationals Security Team

The job is easy. The time commitment: a short stint at the door (checking for wristbands) or where needed and a watchful eye as you go about your normal show business over the course of the weekend. Be my backup if I have any problems. Report to me if you spot any problems.

If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions about volunteering for security please email me at docon9780@sbcglobal.net .

From you I will need your email, cellphone number and the dates when you arrive and when you leave so that I can prepare a schedule.

I will also have an on-site signup sheet in the registration area.

Thank You

Dan O'Connor

So Bend Convention info update

Greetings Fellow Armor Modelers,

The year 2023 is in the books and that means the AMPS 2024 International Show in South Bend, IN, April 11-13, 2024, is that much closer. In fact, the show is less than 80 days away. So, keep hunkered down in the man cave and build away so you are ready to roll when April gets here.

A few updated notes, reminders and AMPS 2024 Convention Fees (near the end):

Hotel Reservations: Hotel reservations for the show are open and you can book yours fast and all on-line by visiting the AMPS homepage (<https://www.amps-armor.org>). So, if you didn't reserve your room before the New Year, now would be a good time to start the year off right and ensure you've got a place to stay. For the best service, use the links for the Doubletree by Hilton or Courtyard by Marriott on the AMPS homepage and check this chore off your list.

NOTE: Both hotels are just across the street from the Convention Center.

Pre-registration: Pre-registration is open and ready to go. This is a great time saver, especially for when you arrive at the show. Simply drop off your paperwork, hand off your model to the ramrod, meet up with friends, recon on the vendor tables and enjoy the show. Follow the easy links on the AMPS homepage (<https://www.amps-armor.org>), pay on-line and register your entries. Remember, you don't need your entries to be completed when pre-registering.

NOTE: Once you complete your registration forms, remember to print them out and bring them with you to the show.

Category Sponsorships: AMPS is still looking for sponsorships in the "Best of's" and in most entry category sponsorships. Sponsoring a specific category or a "Best of" is a great way to directly support the show. Visit the AMPS homepage, select "The Society" link at the top of the page, then select "Contact the AMPS Executive Board" and send Marketing Director Frank Froment a message indicating what you or your chapter would like to sponsor.

Call for Judges: It's not G-2 (Intelligence and Security) information that AMPS always needs many judges to help ensure all entries are reviewed and scored by the judges. If you haven't judged before, now would be a great time to step up and give it a try. It will help make you a much better and observant modeler. Check out the Judges' Training modules on the AMPS home page (<https://www.amps-armor.org>) and consider volunteering for a shift or more at the show.

NOTE: When you pre-register, you can sign up for judging shifts or volunteer for other duties needed to help make the show run smooth for everyone.

Kit Donations: It's no surprise the ever-popular AMPS raffle is one very cool convention activity that people get excited about. Attendees have a chance to win exciting items like kits, aftermarket items and reference materials. At the same time they are donating to help support AMPS through raffle ticket purchases. AMPS relies on donations from manufacturers, vendors and AMPS members like you to add to the diversity of raffle items. So, as you wander through your stash of kits, aftermarket items, and books; please consider making a donation to help grow the AMPS raffle. This directly supports the society to host future shows and preservation projects. Newer (complete) kits, diorama items, figures, aftermarket items, photo-etch sets, decals, reference books/manuals, and unused tools, are most welcome. Contact Raffle Coordinator Georg Eyerma via email at zululand66@gmail.com regarding what you will be donating before heading to the show.

TRACK LINKS

From **J Wendt** - Here's the AK Models FJ SUV with Chinese Model 63 rocket launcher from Trumpeter -Libyan Para Unit. And

the Takom MAZ 537G with Italeri T62 Iraqi in 1/72. Still Building slowly!

John Wendt





TRACK LINKS

Here is a nice article about Germany's giant half-track



Germany, WWII

Sd.Kfz. 9 Famo – Germany's Giant Half-Track

[Tank Historia](#)

TRACK LINKS

This is a great interview with the author of the book below. He presents many fascinating tidbits from his research. The story about the Nagasaki bombing was one I never heard before. [Podcast](#)

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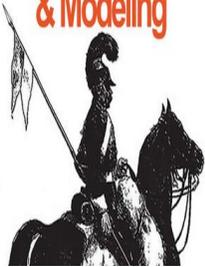
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TRACK LINKS

**small
SUBJECTS**
Big Ideas About Miniatures
& Modeling



Small Subjects is a podcast devoted to discussing big topics in the worlds of scale modeling, diorama-building, and sculpting and painting miniature figures, as well as presenting interviews with some of the top artists in the field, including every era, and ranging from historical to fantasy subjects.

<http://www.boxdioramas.com/smallsubjects>



Model Club

Don't forget about the **Zoom call reminiscence** up on the club web page in 3 parts for ease of viewing; <http://www.amps-chicago.org/PhotosMeetings.htm>

For a meeting by meeting description go here:

<http://www.amps-chicago.org/News.htm>

For a simple list of photos try this:

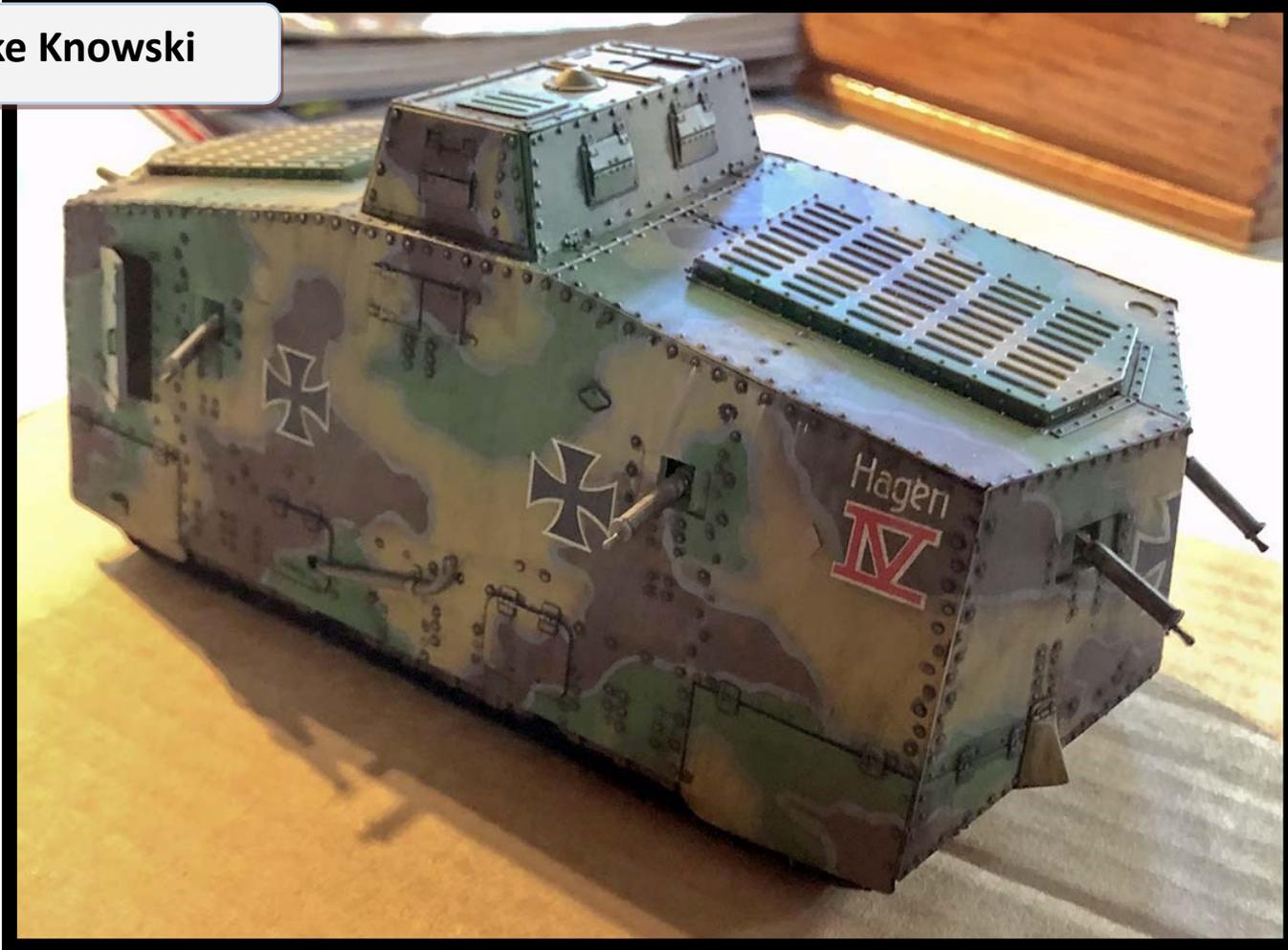
<http://www.amps-chicago.org/PhotosMeetings.htm>



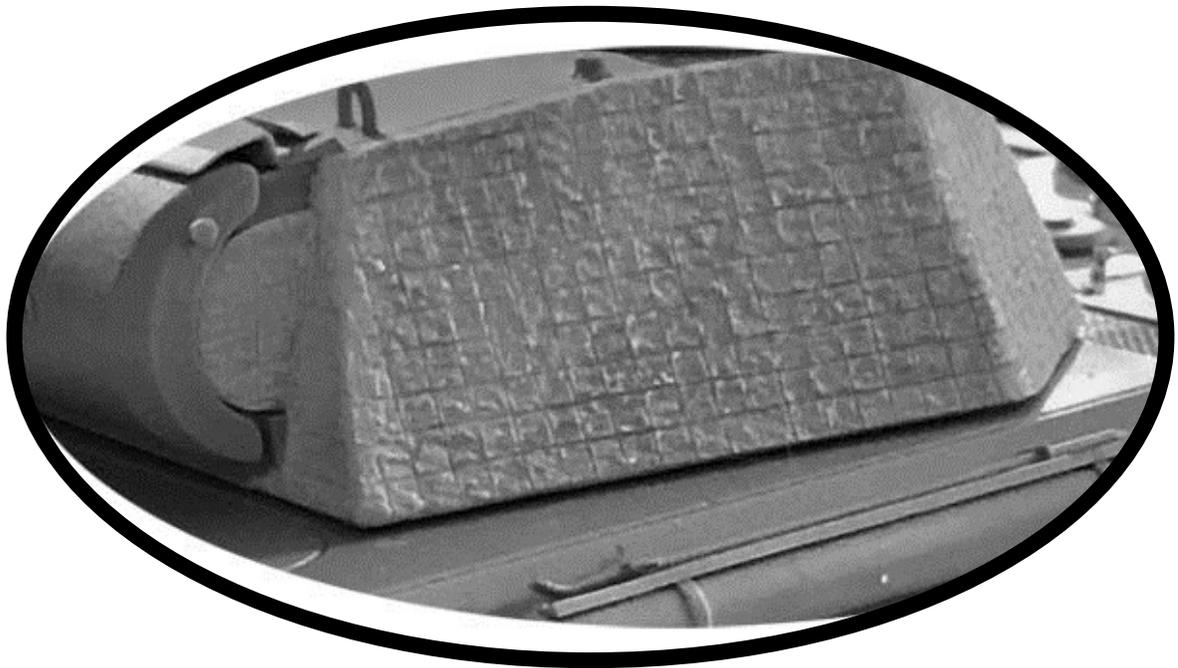
Jan Show & Tell

Bill Horn	1/35 DML Panther G
Mike Knowski	1/35 A7V Tauro WW1 tank
Chuck Aleshire	1/16 Trumpeter SDKFZ 251D halftrack build
Pat Vess	3d printed 1/72 Sherman tank tracks & horse
Lee Lygiros	We missed posting this in last months edition: CSM 1/35 5.3cm Gruson Fahrpanzer

Mike Knowski



Bill Horn





Bill Horn



Chuck Aleshire



Chuck Aleshire





Previous resin kit was the only one I could find up until CSM came up with the above kit. Didn't come with the carriage which I was going to scratch build, and the casting itself was out of round. I plan on fixing it and using it in a fortress setting.



Also bought after-market parts, including horses and a driver.



Jan Meeting & Party









AMPS ChicagoLand

On September 8, 2007, 11 people met for the first time in Pat Keenan's living room, creating AMPS-Chicagoland. Since that day, AMPS Chicagoland has been an active chapter in the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS) with members from Southern Wisconsin, throughout Illinois to Northwest Indiana. We specialize in all eras, scales and aspects of building military ground vehicle models.



These subjects include tracked vehicles, wheeled vehicles, artillery and figures. Our members consist of novice to master level, so all are welcome in our fun and inviting environment.

The AMPS – Chicagoland Chapter's philosophy is that having a good time and enjoying oneself while engaging in the military modeling hobby is of paramount importance. This means we do NOT take the hobby or ourselves too seriously and its members are expected to "play nice with others". There's just no drama.

For more information about AMPS Chicagoland, please visit our website at www.amps-chicago.org

JOIN AMPS TODAY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **COUNTRY:** _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

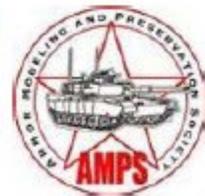
MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Regular U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$55)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$80)
Regular Canada/Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$35)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$65)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$95)
Regular Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$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

THE END