



ARMOR BITS

Newsletter of the ChicagoLand Armor Builders Society

April 2022





Well we made thru winter! Spring has arrived, the temps are hitting the 50's, and Covid has receded to an ever looming shadow in the background.

Unfortunately the War in Ukraine has taken over center stage. Once again I find myself not wanting to watch the evening news. The images are heartbreaking. At the end of the newsletter I've included a link to a Facebook site that seems to have reliable updates to the situation, although as with everything online, compare with other sources.

On a happier note, the National convention is only two weeks away. For those of us unable to go, I'm sure there will be plenty of pictures online. For AMPS members, they can attend the general board meeting online <https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteMain/agm/agmsignup.aspx> April 8th at 7pm. Also don't forget to renew your AMPS membership.

It seems that Chuck Aleshire may be the sole club member able to attend the Nationals this year. We wish Chuck a great time and the best of luck for his contest entries! Send PICTURES!

After listening to several podcasts recently (Small Subjects & Plastic Posse), I have been reading two great books by Steve Zaloga about Armored combat in WW2 Europe; **Armored Thunderbolt** and **Armored Attack 1944**.

The first, profiles the development of US armored forces and particularly the Sherman tank thru WW2. I've never been a fan of the M4 Sherman, but this book was fascinating in its portrayal of the development and the infighting behind the scenes was terrific. It was also excellent in explaining all of the variants as well as the role of the tank destroyer and explaining British armor usage and how it differed from US Army doctrine.

The second book details US armored combat from D-Day until the Battle of the Bulge. I'm still working through this but it's equally captivating and both books are loaded with pictures. These are great resources and if you cannot find them any other way, try an interlibrary loan thru your local library. Highly recommended.

You may have noticed the "UPDATE" has morphed into a full-fledged newsletter with a new name!

ARMOR BITS - The old Update will revert back to its original one page format for immediate news items.

Don't forget about our club auction in May or possibly June. Happy modeling and see you in April.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 9th in the 1st Div reference library at 10am.

March Meeting Notes



Our March meeting began with 13 members braving a frigid Saturday morning in the Medill room at Cantigny.

Among the business discussed:

- AMPS Nationals on schedule. See the web site for details.
- BOH November contest will be held Nov 5th, the first weekend at the DuPage fairgrounds. Ihor also mentioned that the O'Hare club will be hosting the IPMS regional in 2024.
- We have the 1st Div library scheduled for meetings the remainder of the year, however we may be bumped occasionally to the Medill room. Many members stated that they actually preferred it to the library since it was a shorter walk and more space.
- The club auction was discussed. It is tentatively set for May or possibly June. So please start combing your collections for kits and books you no longer need or are interested in. Since we no longer charge dues, this is our only way to raise funds for the club.
- There was a blurb in the internet that Humbrol enamel paints may become extinct due to a recent EU determination that one of its ingredients is carcinogenic. It remains to be seen if they modify their recipe. (update) They've been pulled from European shelves but are still for sale in the USA.
- Paul Larock sent out a note detailing a "Models for Ukraine" fund raiser on the "Inside the Armour" website.
- Chris Chapman brought in some books and mags to give away.
- Since many name brand manufacturers are in the Ukraine (Masterbox, ICM, Miniart, Riich models, to name a few). We might want to stock up on their kits now in case they disappear forever.
- Roscoe Turner show is April 16.

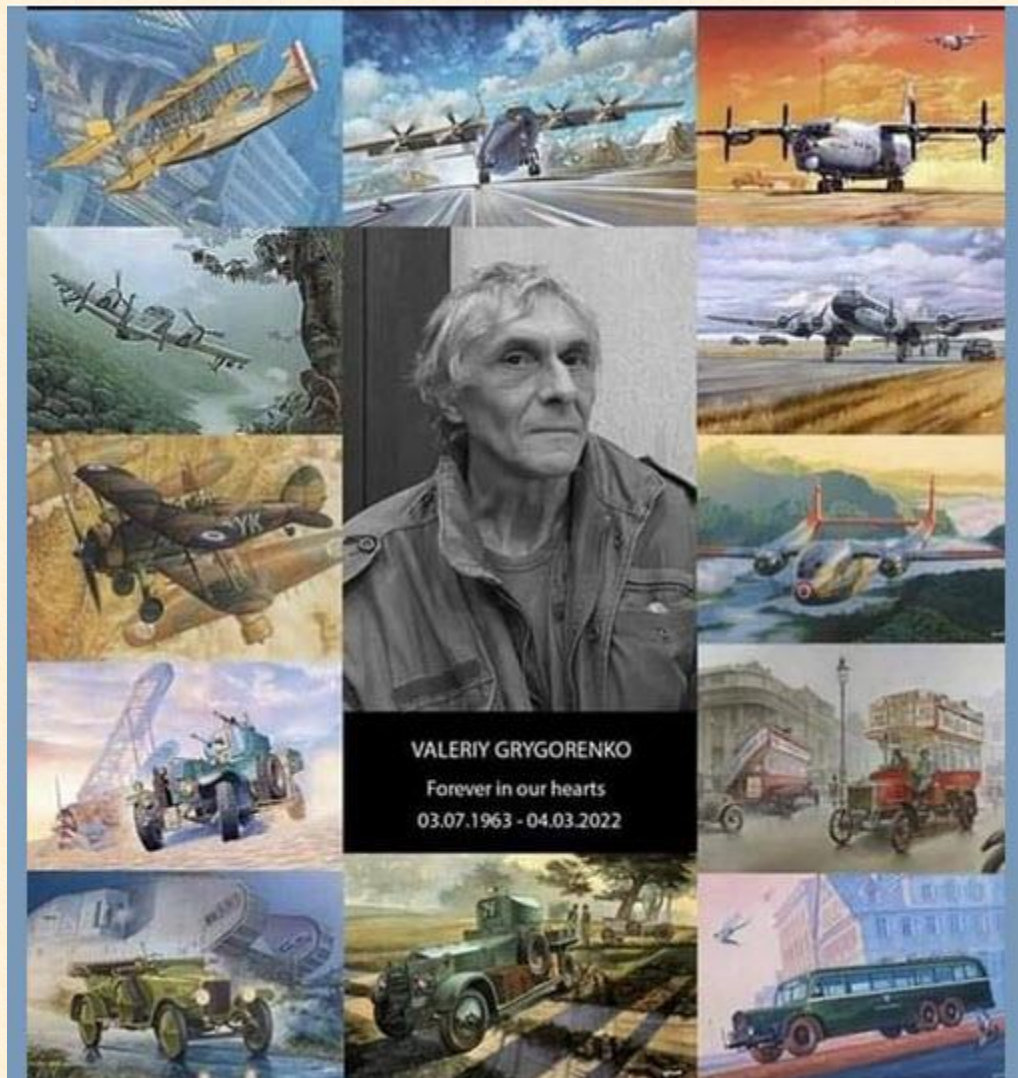
Sights & Sounds

Tour of the famous Tank Park –. Saturday, May 7 2:00-2:45 PM (Alternate May 17th 6-7pm)
Free with paid parking, no advance registration required. Several of these tours are being offered by Cantigny.
Check out their web site calendar for more tours and webinars

Learn about the history and evolution of U.S. tanks on our Tank Park Tour! Join First Division Museum Staff and volunteers from our Motor Pool on a tour of the famous Tank Park. This 45-minute tour will focus on the history and evolution of America's military tanks from humble beginnings to titans of technology. Guests will meet their tour guide in front of the First Division Museum.

Artist for Roden or Wingsy Kits

As some of you who are on Facebook and follow either Roden or Wingsy Kits may already know, a very talented Ukrainian artist, Valery Grigorenko, died on March the 4th as a result of a Russian attack on the town of Irpin.



More of his work can be seen here: <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/hyperscale/a-small-tribute-to-a-great-artist-t529970.html>

From Chris Chapman: Here is the link to the VMS products where I use their CA hybrid glue "Flexy 5K". Michigan Toy Soldier carries their stuff. This is a nice site with video tutorials.

<https://www.vms-supplies.com/>

Inside an M1. This is a great You Tube video from a TC's view of life "inside"

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=4959089997481592>

Sherman Firefly: Great video about changing track. I love the hammer and especially when the mechanic brings out the hand grinder!

[Sherman Firefly](#)

Ukraine analysis: I stumbled upon two good podcasts that give some perspective on Putin and his war as well as an update on the fighting that you might find interesting. These helped me to make sense of what is going on.

[Russia, Ukraine, and the West | Frederick Kagan | The JBP Podcast | #230](#) is an episode that explains the history of Putins actions leading up to the invasion.

<https://youtu.be/YDEIXTPm3VQ> is a later update (#231) that explains where we are on the ground now (Friday I think). I listened to this one first before the earlier #230 episode that is longer but more interesting.

There have been regular updates and analysis on the "**Angry Planet**" Facebook page. I have found these to be fairly reliable but as with all reports coming out of this war, take them for what they are; Partial, incomplete and masked by the fog of war as well as propaganda from all sides.

Show and Tell (March)

Chris Chapman



M4 Jumbo

A shelf queen from Blast models

with Fruel tracks, Formation
tools, Value equipment.



Panther A early. Zimmerit accessory and Aber super PE kit, damaged storage boxes in rear; Out of prod resin tracks.

Nearly ready for paint





Tamiya Staff car- Styer 1500 A – OOB with value gear and extra figures





Scott Graupner

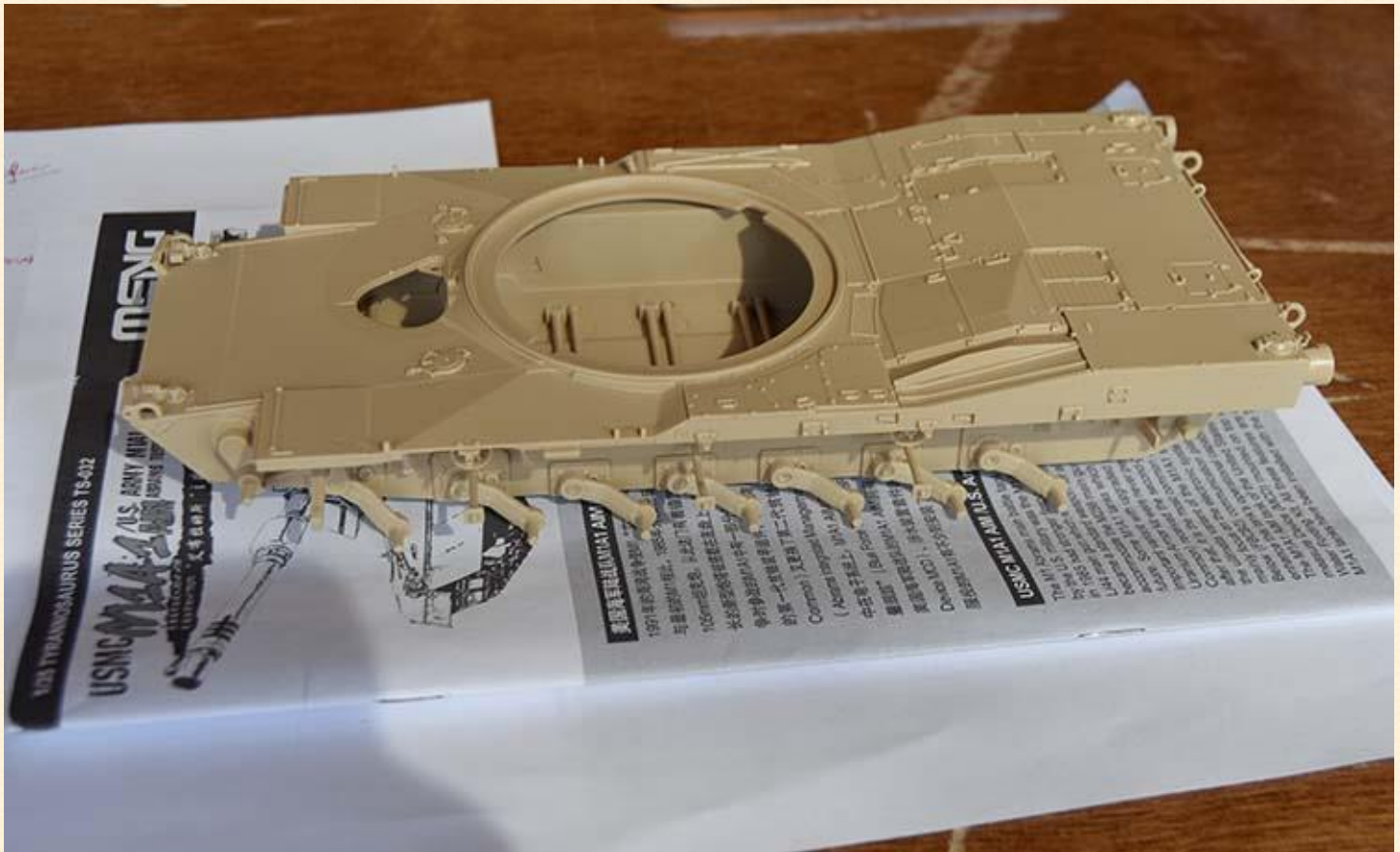
Diorama - Verlinden casting w/ minimart Chevy 2-1/2 T Truck





M60-A2 AFV Club
with Tamiya
stowage set

Meng M1A1 USMC kit in progress as an early M1



Bob - Brumbar in progress



Mountain Trooper



US Infantryman in Italy

German tanker



Dave Peschke – 746 Tank Bn, Normandy June 10

Tamiya M4 Sherman with Miniart and Alpine figures. Many extras!





Lee – Primary General for the Greeks 200 years ago





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

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at the 1st Division museum at Cantigny park in Wheaton Ill.



The Last Round



- Joe Johnson asked for help finding references for the T34-76 tank which he is currently working on. Please contact me and/or Joe if you have any information.
- Gary Totty Mar16 from FB

It's not a serious secret that TACOM is developing a new tank to replace the M1 series. I saw video of them up in Michigan fooling around with several engineers from the private sector as well as TACOM engineers.

Not much to see with the new tank as expected. The new tanks (several) have been built, and there are three or four concepts. Now a lot of the new ideas are actually being adapted into the M1 to get a one on one feel. They are doing mock combat with real T72 tanks and various Warsaw Pact pieces of equipment. They also had the latest (Greatest?) M3a3's and some other things.
- I saw this on FB about Bandai sales change. The gist of Bandai's memo: Domestic reseller shops (amiami, 1999, hlj, etc...) will stop accepting orders from overseas. Due to international resellers mass-buying model kits and the Japanese builders cannot get their hands on kits, Bandai has implement this to "stabilize" their domestic market.
 - + How International builders can get model kits now: If you're in a country with an official Bandai distributor (Bluefin for the US, HobbyCo for Australia, etc..), you will be able to get model kits from them. If your country doesn't have an official Bandai distributor, you will have to order from China or nearby countries with one.
 - + Effect on Int Builders: The price will not be as cheap as before (as there will be extra taxes and fees from the official distributor). And products might not reach your hands as quick as before. But they are still within the realm of reasonable.
- If you are interested in equipment used in the Ukraine war here are two links to get you started:
 - Here's a start for Ukrainian armor :
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_equipment_of_the_Ukrainian_Ground_Forces

https://www.scalemates.com/fr/search.php?fkSECTION%5B%5D=All&q=1%3A35+ukraine* 81





Join us in Virginia for the 26th AMPS convention! Scale modelers are invited to bring their creative work for display and plug into the friendly and instructional atmosphere.

The convention theme is Move It! Build a subject that hauls, moves, or transports supplies, vehicles or people and you could receive a theme special award.

Many of the best armor modeling product vendors will be with us to help you find great deals on new and old kits, tools, books and accessories.

Seminars from inspiring hobbyists and historians will teach you new techniques.

Come early and visit the many museums and military collections in the region.

7-9 APRIL

**CONTEST/DISPLAYS · AWARDS · VENDORS
SEMINARS · PRODUCT DEMOS · RAFFLE**

**THE MARRIOTT AT CITY CENTER
740 TOWN CENTER DRIVE · NEWPORT NEWS, VA**



Visit the AMPS website for all the details: AMPS-Armor.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.



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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

