



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

February 2014

Volume 18, Issue 2



From the Turret

Although I missed the last meeting due to family illness, the club seems to have progressed nicely. Y'all might take that into account when the next officer elections comes up... Rod did such a good job... That leads to the news that needs to be shared with those unable to attend.

Starting this month we have a new newsletter editor: **Eric Choy**. He is an acknowledged whiz at newsletters, having been a successful editor for at least three hobby clubs that I know of. He hasn't done the work in a while, but I know he'll jump in with renewed enthusiasm.

Here is where our sincerest appreciation of the work done by our outgoing editor, **Rod Bell**, needs to be expressed. Rod has handled this unenviable task for many years without complaint and with excellent results. It is no small feat that each month we received a professionally produced newsletter that was informative, fun to read, and envy of most other AMPS chapters.

At the last meeting the quorum voted to move the White Elephant Contest from our June meeting to the December meeting. What a great idea that is! Even for an old retired guy like me it seems that getting

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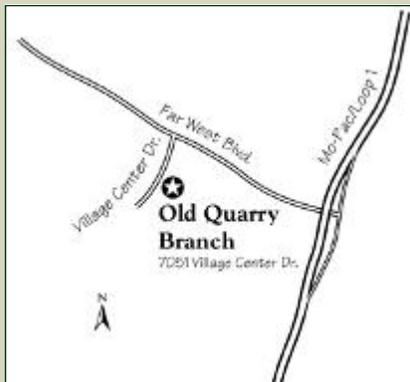
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

February 5, 2014

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

- ◆ February 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ February 15 - Model Fiesta 33 San Antonio Event Center, San Antonio, TX
- ◆ March 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ March 20-22 - The Lone Star Figure Show DFW Airport Marriott South, Forth Worth, TX
- ◆ April 2 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ April 3-5 - AMPS International Convention Fredericksburg, Virginia
- ◆ April 26 - Modelmania 2014 Stafford Convention Center, Stafford, TX



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Upcoming Programs Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
2014 - January	N/A	N/A
February	TBD	TBD
March	TBD	TBD
April	TBD	TBD
May	TBD	TBD
June	TBD	TBD
July	TBD	TBD
August	TBD	TBD
September	TBD	TBD
October	TBD	TBD
November	TBD	TBD
December	TBD	TBD
2015 - January	TBD	TBD

Here is a list of members who are responsible for providing articles for the newsletter and program presentation at the monthly meetings.

Please note any member may contribute as many articles as he/she wants anytime. The purpose of this schedule is to make sure that 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 each month.**

Editor



(Continued from page 1)

something done in six months is a chore. A full twelve-month gestation is really needed to allow for methodical and painstaking construction, painting, and display, not to mention the fudge factor of six months of procrastination. If we all start now, we MIGHT all get done by December.

Another great meeting comes up next Wednesday. Come for the companionship, great models, and helpful information. See you there.

Bob Bethea
President

Modeling with Liquid Paper

By Eric Choy

Are you serious? Ya, sure, you betcha! No, I have never sniffed (or inhaled) correction fluid to get high while building a model...



First, a short history of Liquid Paper, in case you don't know it already. Generally regarded as the last modern invention born out of a kitchen instead of from an industrial laboratory, **Bette Nesmith Graham**, a Texan who worked as a typist at a local bank (and mother to

Michael Nesmith of the 1960's band *The Monkees*), made the first batch of "Mistake Out" correction fluid in her kitchen at Dallas in 1956. The name was changed to Liquid Paper later. By the late 70s her company was making 25 million bottles annually. A year before her death in 1980, Gillette Company acquired Liquid Paper for \$47.5 million! Not bad for a typist who made too many typos!

The idea of using Liquid Paper as gap filler is nothing new. I have heard of folks doing it for years, but I never give it a try until at a fellow modeler's build gathering. I was skeptical at first, but once I found out it actually works, I'm now a true convert.

I enjoy the convenience of being able to "paint" Liquid Paper over the gaps or ejection pin marks straight out of the bottle.



When the bottle is new and its content is runny, the liquid paper shrinks slightly when dried. I believe this is due to the high concentration of solvent. After repeated uses and the fluid thickens, I hardly

notice any shrinkage at all. Its solvent is naphtha based, and together with the mineral spirit additive it bonds well with the plastic surface applied to. In contrast to super glue, hardened Liquid Paper is much easier to sand, and I have yet to see it chip off after it is dried.



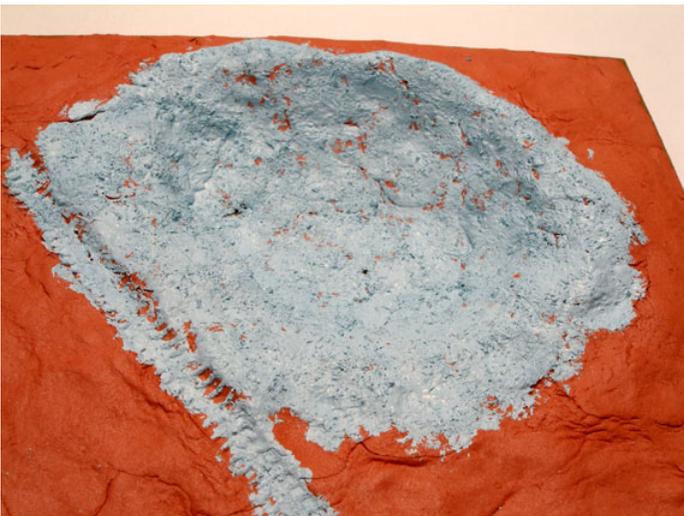
There are many choices of color, but I prefer green or blue because the color is easier on my eyes than white — you don't want to apply white Liquid Paper on Eastern European white plastic parts!

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Lately I have discovered yet another use of correction fluid in modeling. When simulating rocky (or sandy) ground work, Liquid Paper makes a wonderful texture paint. The trick is to stipple a coat of Liquid Paper you just brushed on as it hardens. The more vigorously you stipple, the more pebbly the texture. If the fluid dries too evenly, you can apply another layer on top and stipple away. It's very user friendly and requires zero cleanup.



So what's the catch with using Liquid Paper? Aside from the nasty smell (the fume is non-toxic, by the way), availability is getting to be a problem. The old brush-bottle type can be hard to find as most office supply stores now only carry the squeeze-pen and sponge-top versions. Also, correction tape is the preferred alternative these days. More than likely the fluid version will be discontinued soon. Locating any color other than white is already a challenge, so you might not have any choice but to go *blanco*.

My stash of Liquid Papers came mostly from surplus at work. Our last office manager was too young to remember things like typewriters and carbon copy forms. One day to my wonder I found a box of brand new Liquid Paper bottles in the trash! Needless to say, I took advantage of the opportunity. Did I get in trouble for doing that? Of course not. I hardly consider that stealing from work. If anyone asks, I'm just recycling!

Another place to look for Liquid Paper is small town independent office supply stores. Not only do they still have them in stock, you might even find all the colors that you desire.

Eric Choy

AMPS Boresight (Volume 23, Issue 1)

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

- ◆ **"Flowers from Angels" Diorama** by **David Vickers**.
A scene during the liberation of France.
- ◆ **Winter Wonderland Panzer 38(t)** by **John Robinson**.
Step by step building the Tristar kit in a dirty and worn whitewash.
- ◆ **Sturmgeschutz (Flamm)** by **Ashley Abernathy**.
Converting the DML StuG Ausf. F/8 into this rare variant.
- ◆ **BM-21 Multiple Rocket Launcher** by **Graham Ross**.
Trumpeter's pipe organ mounted on the Soviet Ural-375D chassis.

BORESIGHT
THE AMPS MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

Inside this issue:
"Flowers from Angels" diorama
Sturmgeschutz (Flamm) conversion
Tristar's Panzer 38(t) in a winter whitewash
Trumpeter's BM-21 Multiple Rocket Launcher



April 3-5

Fredericksburg, VA

The AMPS International Convention - our 20th year



Your invitation

Join us in Fredericksburg, Virginia for the 20th AMPS convention, widely viewed as THE armor modeling event in the U.S.

Our site for the convention is the Fredericksburg Hospitality House Hotel and Conference Center. Drop your gear in your room and enjoy the convention just steps away.

The theme for this convention is 'Tanks on Film.' Get creative and build a subject that has appeared on TV or film and bring your references so we can see your inspiration.

Back to school

Seminars have always been an attraction at the convention. A first this year is the **AMPS University**, a hands-on instruction on a variety of modeling topics. This is a classroom format with materials included that enable you to try the techniques out for yourself as you listen live to the instructors. Take home the results of what you learned as well as the knowledge to apply to your future projects. It takes place on Thursday, so register early to secure one of the limited seats.

It's all there

The vendor spread at the convention is something to behold and we draw them from all over the U.S. and abroad.

Enter your models in the competition and get the feedback and reinforcement from your peers. You may even be rewarded with a Gold medal or be among the recipients of many special awards. Starting at this convention, it now requires model entrants be current AMPS members, so make sure your membership is up to date.

www.amps-armor.org

The Armor Modeling & Preservation Society



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www.amps-armor.org



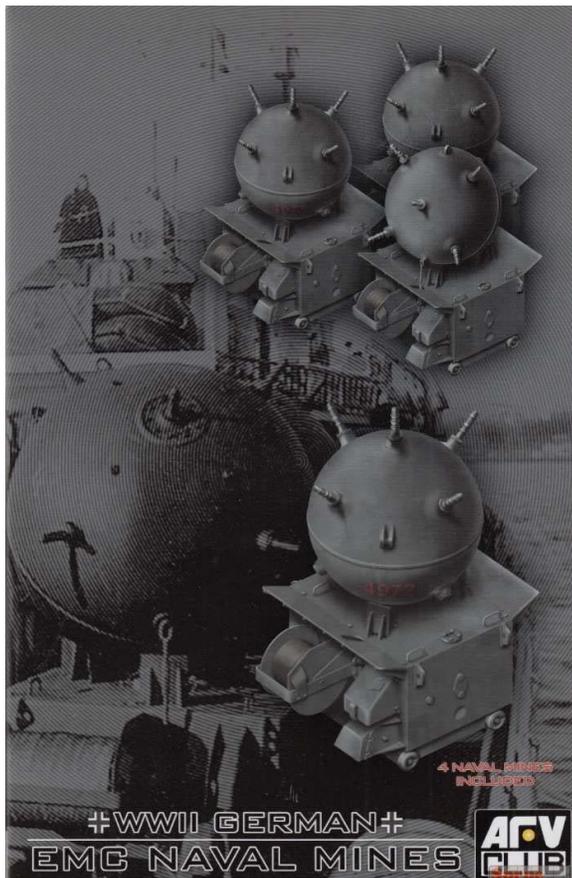
NEW ON THE BLOCK



Much anticipated 1/48th BAE Warrior from Airfix is finally here.



To commemorate 100th anniversary of World War One, Masterbox just released a British Mk.I "Female" tank in 1/72nd scale.



Here's something you don't see everyday: 1/35th German Sea Mines (4 in box) from AFV Club.



Yet another 1/35th variant of Churchill from AFV Club. This time it's a 3in gun carrier.



Taliban & al-Qaeda approved 1/35th M-B from Diopark.



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.



age groups. 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 &

Figure Expo, we attract some of the best armor modelers in Texas as well as in the neighboring states to come and participate.

Our members come from all walks of life and different

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

Editor's Postscript

Greetings, fellow armor modelers. As you all know I now have the conn to our club's newsletter *Sabot Away!* **Rod Bell**, our outgoing editor, has left some mighty shoes for me to fill. To be honest I doubt I can do any better, but I'm going to give it my best anyway.



By now you must have noticed the slightly new look to our newsletter. Nothing earth shattering but mostly cosmetic fixes. Rod has done an excellent job on the layout of the newsletter, and I want to continue his legacy. The only noticeable change I made was increasing the font size of the text to 12. I have to admit it was mostly for my own benefit. My aging eyeballs just cannot handle anything ten point or smaller any longer.

For me the job of editing is never as challenging as delivering the newsletter on time to the members. On top of that, I know many in the club rely on this publication as a reminder for our meetings. Hence I shall put in extra effort to make sure *Sabot Away!* is in your mailbox as early in the month as I can.

In return I ask for everyone's support by simply taking the submission deadline SERIOUSLY. It goes without saying if your article is delayed, my editing is delayed, and in turn the delivery of the newsletter will be delayed. So it is crucial that all the gears are in sync for this newsletter machine to work the way it is supposed to.

With that said, I look forward to the challenges that await me. May your blade always be sharp, your glue always be adhesive, and your dull coat always be flat.

Eric Choy
Editor