



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

December 2019



Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Our annual Christmas gala is on **December 7th** this year, and it will be held at the same location as last year:

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

A map to the venue and driving directions can be found on page 5 of this month's newsletter.

The Party is from **6pm to 9pm**. Your family members and friends are all welcomed to join us.

To ensure we don't run out of food, please RSVP **Kevin Hutchison**, our new Xmas party-meister, via email **fishhead32002@yahoo.com** no later than **Dec 4th**.

As usual, please bring the following to the party:

- ◆ A **side dish or dessert** of some sort.
- ◆ Your **favorite libation** to drink (NO ALCOHOL please!)



If you wish to participate in the White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a gift-wrapped **1/48th OR LARGER** model kit. It can be any of the following: Armor, Softskin Vehicle, Ordnance, Military Figure, or Proposed/Sci-fi armor model that has

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

December 4, 2019

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

- ◆ December 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ December 7 - **AABS Christmas Party** - Rattan Creek Community Center, Austin TX
- ◆ January 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ February 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ February 15 - Modelfiesta, San Antonio Event Center, San Antonio TX



AABS Officers May 2018 – Apr 2020

Ted Andreas, Jr., President
tedandreas1@yahoo.com

Ian Candler, Vice-President
iancandlermedia@gmail.com

Eric Choy, Treasurer
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

Ted Paone, Secretary
(512) 635-9516, theopaone@att.net

Eric Choy, Newsletter Editor
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

Joe Fisher, Webmaster
(512) 350-6936,
fisherjoe2014@gmail.com



Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2019	Mike Lamm	Greg Beckman
February	Ian Candler	Mike Lamm
March*	Eric Choy	Eric Choy
April	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
May	Ted Paone	Greg Beckman
June*	Rick Herrington	Ted Paone
July	Ted Andreas, Jr	Ted Andreas, Jr
August	Chris Chany	Rick Herrington
September*	AMPS Judging Review	Chris Chany
October	Kit Auction	Bob Bethea
November	Kevin Hutchison	Eric Choy
December*	Mike Maloney	Greg Beckman
January 2020	Eric Choy	Russ Holm

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. Greg Beckman's article for January 2019 was due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings and Happy Holidays! At our meeting this month we will have our annual White Elephant Model contest. In addition to that, we have a couple of awards to present. Try to make this one if at all possible!

Seventy-five years ago, the pivotal Battle of the Bulge began. The German winter offensive caught the allies completely off guard.



The battle started on the 16th of December. The Germans struck a sector of the American line facing the Ardennes. Our troops there consisted mainly of untested soldiers such as those in the 106th Infantry Division.



The American command had believed the Ardennes sector would be an ideal location for the “green” units as not much action was expected there. However, like the French Army in 1940, the American troops got a bad surprise. To make matters worse, the weather prevented air support. That situation rendered Allied air supremacy (a non-factor, at least that was true at the onset).





On the 17th of December, the Malmedy Massacre was committed by SS troops under the command of Joachim Peiper. At least eighty-four American soldiers were known to have been slaughtered on that day.



On the 18th of December, the city of Bastogne was surrounded. Four days later, General McAuliffe responded to the German demand for his surrender with one word: "Nuts!" The Americans held fast to Bastogne, and on the 23rd of December, the defenders got an early Christmas present; the skies cleared and Allied air power was unleashed on the attackers. The next day Allied forces counter-attacked. Most notably was the winter march of General Patton's Third Army. Not only did the Americans have to fight the determined, perhaps even desperate, German Army, they also had to



contend with horrific weather conditions. Nevertheless, the siege of Bastogne was broken on the 26th of December.



Elsewhere, the German efforts were coming up empty as fuel supplies were being depleted. Much of the planning depended on capturing American fuel dumps. The Germans had very little success in that regard in spite of capturing an enormous amount of American equipment but not nearly enough gasoline.

The month of December, 1944 would closeout before this battle would end. On the 29th, the Russians would begin the siege of Budapest, Hungary.

That is a wrap on the history. In the meantime, keep building and painting! Thanks to all members of AABS for making this organization one of the very best!

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President

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tracks/wheels/legs. Let's all be kind to thy fellow members, so NO started kit or kit with missing parts please!

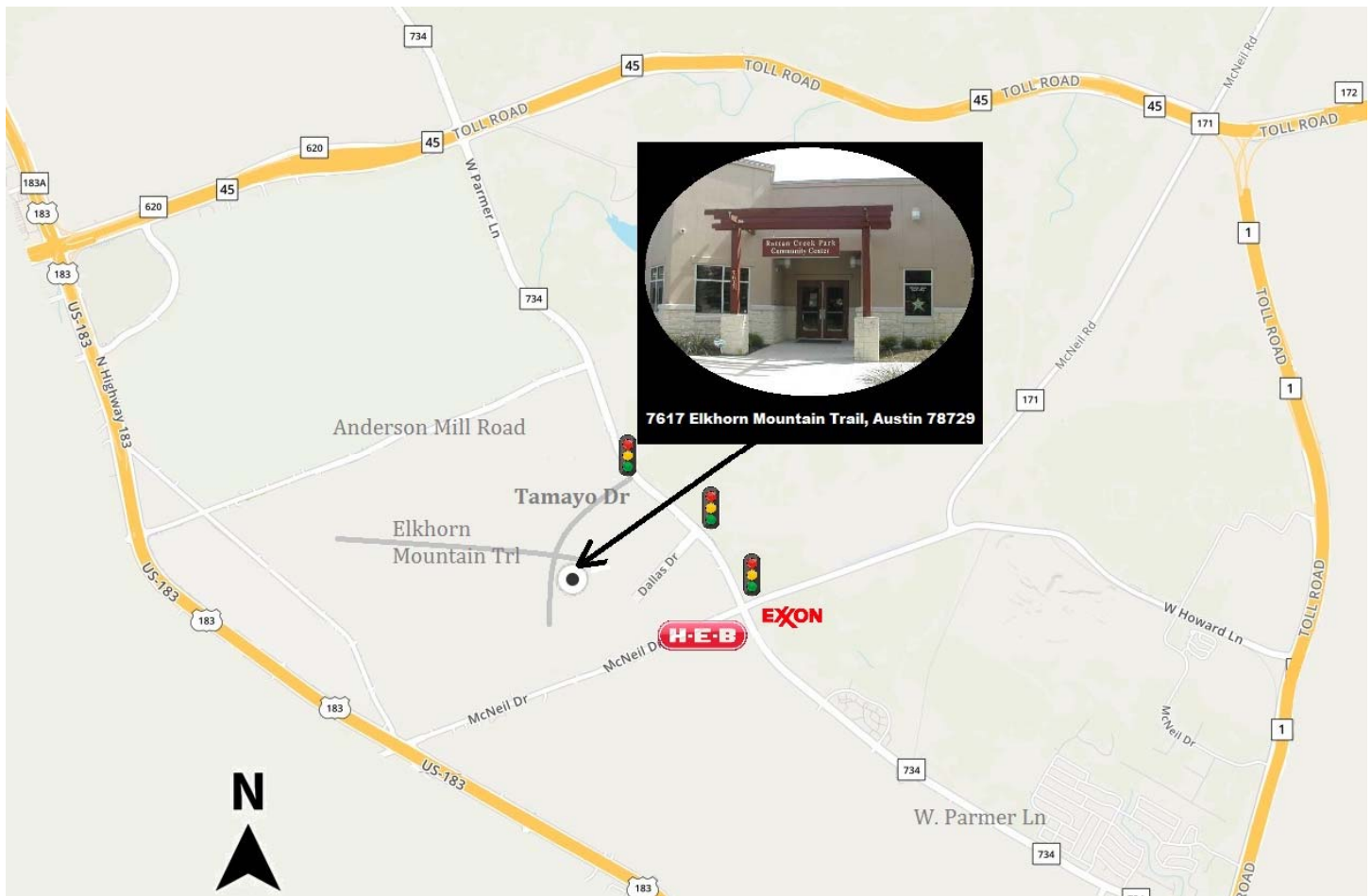
Driving directions

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 Exxon (right) and HEB (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.

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.





JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

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



Tamiya's latest 1/48th release is a Panther Ausf.D. The diecast lower hull is back!



Oh my! It's the Chairman in a jeep! The title on Meng's new 1/35th kit reads **MB Military Vehicle "New China 1949"**.

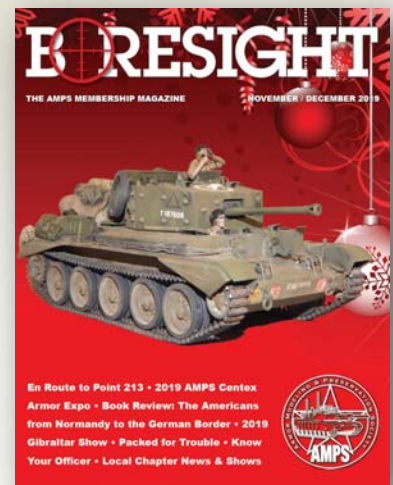


Das Werk's latest is the 10t tank trailer Sd.Ah.115 in 1/35th scale. Perfect for hauling Tamiya's upcoming 38(t)!

AMPS Boresight (Volume 27, Issue 6)

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

- ◆ **En Route to Point 213** by Henry Milton
- ◆ **2010 AMPS Centex Armor Expo** by Austin Armor Builders Society
- ◆ **Book Review: The Americans from Normandy to the German Border** by Mike Reeves, AMPS Albany
- ◆ **2019 Gibraltar Show** by Roy Francis
- ◆ **Packed For Trouble** by Kevin Hutchison
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **Local Chapter News and Upcoming Shows**



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

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



We are on the web @ austinamps.org



Mike Maloney's 1/16th scale Hetzer is the winner of our show's People's Choice Award. Check out the most excellent scratchbuild interior complete with LED lights!