



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

January 2020



New Date and Location for January Meeting

Happy New Year, everyone! By the time you received this newsletter, I should be back in Austin from my Far East Tour. This is probably the longest vacation I have ever taken, and I have to say I really miss my stuff (and you guys, of course)!

Because this year's New Year's Day public holiday happened to be the first Wednesday of the month, we were unable to meet, and our usual location is booked solid for the rest of January.

Fortunately, I managed to find another date and location elsewhere that can accommodate us. So, for this month (and this month ONLY), we meet:

January 7th 7PM

**Austin Public Library
Howson Branch**

2500 Exposition Blvd
Austin TX 78703

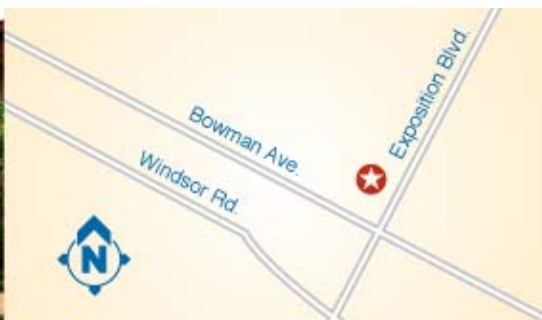
We'll be back at **Old Quarry Branch** for the rest of 2020 starting February, so don't get too attached to the Howson location, and please don't show up at the wrong place on the 7th!

Also, your **2020 dues (\$12)** are due at the meeting. As usual, we accept cash and personal check. If you prefer electronic payment, we can also take Paypal now!

Eric

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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

- ◆ January 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ February 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ February 15 - Modelfiesta, San Antonio Event Center, San Antonio TX
- ◆ March 4 - AABS Club Meeting



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2020	Eric Choy	N/A
February	TBA	Greg Beckman
March*	TBA	Russ Holm
April	TBA	TBA
May	TBA	TBA
June*	TBA	TBA
July	TBA	TBA
August	TBA	TBA
September*	TBA	TBA
October	TBA	TBA
November	TBA	TBA
December*	TBA	TBA
January 2021	TBA	TBA

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 February 2020 is due on the last Wednesday of January).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings and Happy New Year! Our Christmas party for 2019 went well, even though our turnout was somewhat smaller than the previous year. Thanks mainly to Kevin and his wife Terri, the food was great!

Congratulations to **Bob Bethea** on winning the White Elephant Contest. Also, we recognized **Greg Beckman** on being the most prolific AABS modeler for 2019, and our Member of the Year award went to **Mike Maloney**. Congratulations to both!

On the 1st of January 1945, the Germans conducted *Operation Bodenplatte*. This was an attempt by the *Luftwaffe* to destroy a large portion of the Allied Air Forces using a massive surprise raid. The Germans did destroy a lot of aircraft but lost 143 pilots killed or missing. They also lost 70 pilots captured. Although many of the pilots involved in this operation were inexperienced flyers, among the casualties were some of the best that Germany had. These losses were virtually the undoing of the *Luftwaffe*, and it was the last major air offensive by the Germans in WWII.

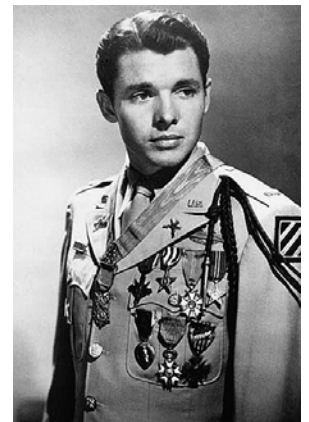


On the Eastern Front, the Soviets were gaining ground. Warsaw, the capital of Poland, fell to the

Soviets on the 17th of January. Auschwitz Concentration Camp was liberated by the Red Army on the 27th of January.

On the 25th of January, the Battle of the Bulge ended. In retreat the German military loses most of its armor, in most cases, because of a lack of fuel.

On the 26th of January, First Lieutenant Audie Murphy won the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in combat. He stopped a German assault by manning a machine gun mounted on a destroyed and burning US tank destroyer. After running out of ammunition, he fell back to organize a counterattack in spite having been wounded.



The Battle of Königsberg began on 29th of January. This siege by the Red Army would not end until nearly the very end of the war in Europe.

In the Philippines on the 30th of January, The Great Raid occurred. Together with the Filipino guerrillas, the US Army Rangers and US Sixth Army Special Reconnaissance Unit "Alamo Scouts" liberated 552



Allied prisoners held at the Cabanatuan POW camp by the Japanese. The Japanese had plans on executing POW's before they could be set free by the Allies.

So 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

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

New On The Block



Tamiya's 1/35th Pz.38(t) is here! Too bad it's a late version, in my opinion...



Takom's new 1/16th Pz.Kpfw.I DAK is now available. The Spanish Civil War version from AMMO by MiG is the same kit with Breda gun turret added.



Das Werk in conjunction with Amusing Hobby just released this paper panzer Borgward IV "Wanze" in 1/35th scale.

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 least one night talk tanks.”



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.

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.

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.

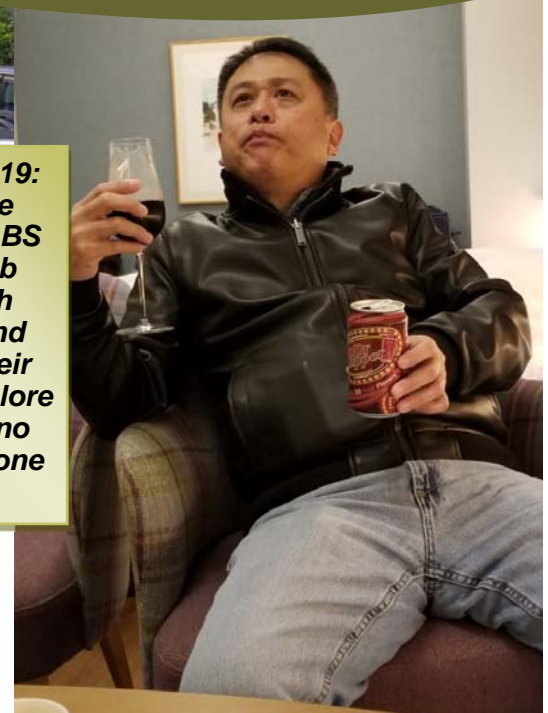
19990424

We are on the web @ austinamps.org



Bob and Eric in front of Leonardo LG, one of the best second-hand kit stores in Tokyo.

Stardate 11-2019:
These are the voyages of AABS members Bob Bethea, Keith Townsend, and Eric Choy. Their mission: to explore Japan where no modeler has gone before!



Eric having an eureka moment after finding a can of Dr. Pepper from a vending machine on a Tokyo backstreet.



Two tired Americans on the train to the naval port of Yokosuka.