



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

March 2020



### Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
JOIN AMPS TODAY	8
NEW ON THE BLOCK	9
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	9
ABOUT US	10
MEMBERS' GALLERY	10

## One Trip, Two Shows

### Part I: 2020 Atlanta Figure Show

by Editor

Last month your editor was on the road again. The destination was Atlanta, GA. Two great shows were hosted at the same venue on the same weekend by **Atlanta Military Figure Society** and **AMPS Atlanta**.

The Atlanta Figure Show used to be much bigger in size and attendance, but

*James Cox's impressive "Hell and Heroes" Normandy D-Day Omaha Beach diorama.*

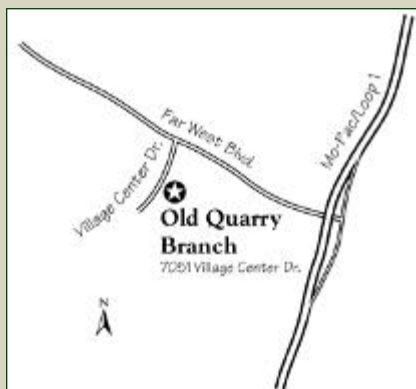
the quality of the works on display are still first rated. IMO, some of the vignette/diorama entries are far superior than those on the AMPS side! Here are photos of some that caught your editor's attention. Stay tuned next month for the pix and report on the Atlanta AMPS Show...

*(Continued on page 5)*

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

**March 4, 2020**

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](mailto: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

- ◆ **March 4 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **April 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **April 25 - Modelmania 2020**, Stafford Center, Stafford, TX
- ◆ **May 6 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **May 7 to 9 - AMPS International Convention**, Radisson Hotel Harrisburg, Camp Hill, PA



### 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 2020	Eric Choy	N/A
February	Chris Chany	Greg Beckman
March*	Wayne Sheldon	Russ Holm
April	Kevin Hutchison	Kevin Hutchison
May	Martin Hebda	Ian Candler
June*	Eric Choy	David Bourland
July	David Bourland	Greg Beckman
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September*	Ian Candler	Chris Chany
October	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
November	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
December*	Keith Townsend	Eric Choy
January 2021	Aaron Smischney	Aaron Smischney

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

**G**reetings! As I jot down a few things, we are almost at the end of February and will be diving into March Madness soon. We will be having the quarterly contest at our March meeting. Also, last month we talked about the possibility of another club build. We did not decide on anything mainly because our turnout for the meeting was sparse compared to most. There did seem to be some interest in doing a Soviet armor build if not specifically a T-34 subject. Hopefully, we can put this issue back on the table for discussion and get a motion to vote on.

At any rate, I recently built a T-34 from the old but reliable Tamiya kit. I was pleasantly surprised when

it garnered a second-place finish at ModelFiesta in San Antonio last month.



As we look back seventy-five years ago, WWII was nearing its end, especially in Europe. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, Finland turns against Germany by declaring war on her former ally.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, the Ludendorff Bridge at the town of Remagen was captured by the US 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. Thousands of troops breached the natural defensive barrier of the Rhine River using this bridge before it eventually collapsed from severe structural damage. The Allied forces were able to

*(Continued on page 4)*



**I**t is that time of the year again. Please have your club dues (**\$12**) ready at the March meeting. We accept cash, check, money order, or PayPal ([payaabs@gmail.com](mailto:payaabs@gmail.com)).

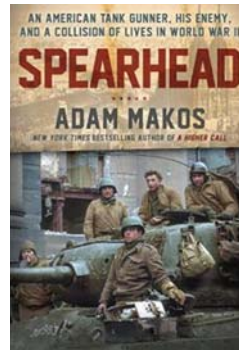
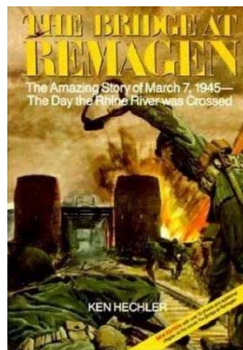
For those who prefer to make a mail-in payment, our treasurer's address is: **Eric Choy, 13213 Marrero Drive, Austin TX 78729**. Please **DO NOT** send cash by mail. Be sure your check or money order is made payable to **Austin Armor Builders Society (or AABS)**.

If you are interested in joining **AMPS**, our national organization, we are still offering a **50% dues sharing** to any AABS member in good standing. Simply bring **\$15** to sign up and AABS will pick up the rest of the tab. Hurry! This limited time offer expires after **March 4<sup>th</sup>**!

(Continued from page 3)

envelop the German industrial area of the Ruhr more quickly than planned and shortened the war in Europe. At the same time, Cologne fell to American troops mainly by the US 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division.

With these two events in mind, I would like to recommend two different books. The first is *The Bridge at Remagen* by Ken Hechler. A movie by the same name was made in 1969. It starred Ben Gazzara, Robert Vaughn, and George Segal. And was not too bad in my opinion, although it had a few unlikely fictional drama inserted by Hollywood!



The other book that illustrates events of this time frame is *Spearhead* by Adam Makos. This book tells the story of an M26 Pershing tank crew of the US 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division in the ETO and the fighting in Cologne, Germany. It also tells in part the battle from the German perspective.

In both battles, Remagen and Cologne, the Pershing finally gave American troops a tank that could readily take on the German Tigers and Panthers. Yet even at this stage of the war, the Sherman was still the main workhorse of the Allied armored units. Too few of the Pershing tanks were available, and their need would be short-lived as the war against Germany wended down. Also, German armor was getting very scarce late in the war.

In the fighting against Japan, Manila was completely liberated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, and the Battle of Iwo Jima ended on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. In this battle, the Marines suffer more casualties than the Japanese.

So that is a wrap on the history. Keep building and painting! Thanks to all members of AABS for making this organization one of the very best!

**Ted Andreas, Jr.**  
President



Crossing the Rhine on a pontoon ferry.



## “Loony Toon-Tanks!” June Quarterly Contest

**V**ive l’amour! Love may be what Pepé Le Pew is into, but for us modelers, it’s definitely the “amour” part that gets our attention!

The theme for our second quarterly contest (**June 2020**) is “**Loony Toon-Tanks!**” These whimsical egg-shaped models are fun, easy to build, and perfect for a weekend project! Should you want to make them more challenging, there are all kinds of not-too-serious conversions (e.g. Sherman Calliope, Bergtiger, T-34/85) that you can attempt.

Go build a Toon-Tank now. That’s all, forks!

(Continued from page 1)



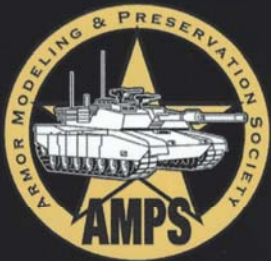


## 2020 AMPS International Convention MAY 7 - MAY 9, 2020

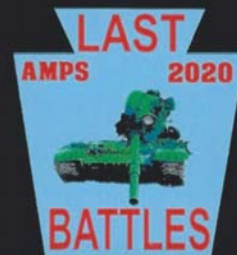
At The Radisson Hotel Harrisburg, Camp Hill, PA

SHOW THEME:

# LAST BATTLES



HOSTED BY:



For more information contact: Peter Espada (Show Chair) at [pespada@icloud.com](mailto:pespada@icloud.com)

Get the latest Event, Registration, Schedule, and Theme information at:

[amps-armor.org](http://amps-armor.org)

# JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTRY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPES</b>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>2 Year</b>	<b>3 Year</b>
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](http://www.amps-armor.org)



## New On The Block



Sans déc! Tamiya just released an 1/35<sup>th</sup> French R35 Light Tank!



Also new from Tamiya this month is their 1/48<sup>th</sup> T-55 Russian Medium Tank. If you like quarterscale armor, you don't want to miss this one!



Just in time for last month's Valentine's Day is this new set of 1/35<sup>th</sup> "Love in Wartime" figures from Stalingrad. Yes, the kittens come with the kit also!

Don't let the cartoon on the boxart fool you! Inside this 1/35<sup>th</sup> kit from AFV Club, you get three sections of concrete textured panels of the infamous wall and plenty of graffiti decals (strangely all in English only!) to decorate them.

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 28, Issue 1)

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

- ♦ U.S. Army M59A1 APC by David Black
- ♦ Modelpalooza AMPS 2019 by Ed Ingersoll
- ♦ Book Review: Solution Book - How Paint IDF Vehicles by Ron Hoague
- ♦ 2020 AMPS International Convention Update
- ♦ Ordnance QF 2-Pounder by Steve Andreano
- ♦ 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.

19990424

## We are on the web @ [austinamps.org](http://austinamps.org)

*Marty Hebda brought in his latest 1/35<sup>th</sup> IDF M51 to our meeting last month. Excellent job on chipping this Isherman!*

