



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

November 2020

COVID Modeling

by **Bob Bethea**

The COVID-19 lockdown has effected us modelers in numerous and varied ways. Some "ex" modelers came back to the fold to find something relevant to do when their other options shut down. Some lost their jobs and got plenty of spare time to devote to the hobby that allow them to "zen" out and forget their problems for a while. Our local hobby shop (King's Hobby) was forced to shut down a few months ago. However, it stayed alive by expanding its on-line sales and even moved to a new location with more floor space. Modeling club meetings also dried up, but telephones kept us in touch with fellow modelers and friends.

I had over the years developed a stack of half built kits which, during construction, ran into a wall and quit being fun. After all it's a hobby and not a job. Like a new year's resolution, I made a COVID pledge to hunker down and finish the kits in that stack. I



fought through the final construction of about 20 kits and felt a real sense of accomplishment in resolving their issues (tracks, photoetched parts, resin, and fit). All are now primed and ready to paint. Some even got paint as well.

(Continued on page 4)

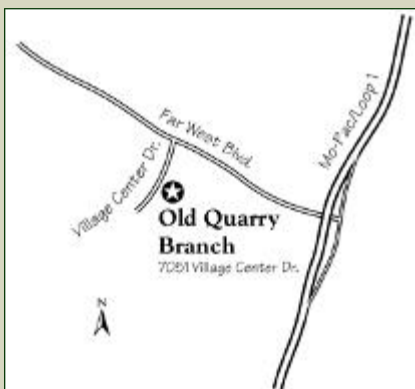
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

To Be Announced

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

- ◆ ~~Nov 4 - AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ **Dec 5 - AABS Club Meeting (& Xmas Party)**
- ◆ ~~Jan 31, 2021 - CALMEX 35, Lake Charles Civic Center, LA~~ **CANCELLED**



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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*	Martin Hebda	Russ Holm
April	N/A	Kevin Hutchison
May	N/A	Ian Candler
June*	N/A	David Bourland
July	N/A	Greg Beckman
August	N/A	Rick Herrington
September*	N/A	Chris Chany
October	N/A	Ted Andreas, Jr.
November	N/A	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

Greetings! As I write this, we are getting a blast of winter-like weather, but at least the house is warm and my coffee is hot for the moment. The local IPMS folks in Killeen have resumed gathering with the first meeting held in October at the University (Texas A & M Central Texas). I hope we can also resume ours in a very near future.

In November, 1950, it was cold in North Korea, but the fighting went hot again. After two months of stunning successes against the North Korean Army, the UN forces are now experiencing the onslaught of Red Chinese forces.

On the 2nd of November, 380 soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division were listed as missing in action as they were overrun by the Chinese during the opening stages of the Battle of Unsan. The battle would end two days later as a Chinese victory.

The UN forces, comprising elements of the US Army, the United Kingdom and Australian troops, won a fight against the Red Chinese during the Battle Pakchon on the 5th of November. The Aussies would be in the thick of the fighting during this battle.



Americans on patrol in North Korea.



Mao Anying

On the 25th of November the Red Chinese lost Mao Anying, son of Mao Zedong, in action while serving in the headquarters of the Chinese army in North Korea. The death of the reputed favorite son of the Chinese leader may have been a factor for the war dragging on as long as it did.

Meanwhile, the Battle of Chongchon also began on the 25th, and it would eventually end as a Red Chinese victory. Interesting enough, in this fight the UN forces held a slight numerical advantage.

On the 27th of November 1950, the marines of the 1st Marine Division were heavily engaged by the Red Chinese at the Chosin Reservoir. This fight would drag on into December.



An USMC defensive position.

Well, 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! Hopefully, things will start returning to a more normal time.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



“Loony Toon-Tanks!” 2020 2nd Quarterly Contest

Vive 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 2020 second quarterly contest 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)

The success of finishing unresolved problems also led to the completion of other kits on which I have started painting. The results were photographed by Eric Choy, our editor and my good friend, here in this article.

COVID may have caused a lot problems, but it helped me solve a few of my own. I hope each of you has been blessed with extra time and have donated it to your own modeling efforts. I look forward to the first in-person meeting when everyone brings in their mass of COVID projects. Better set out a few more tables...

Bob



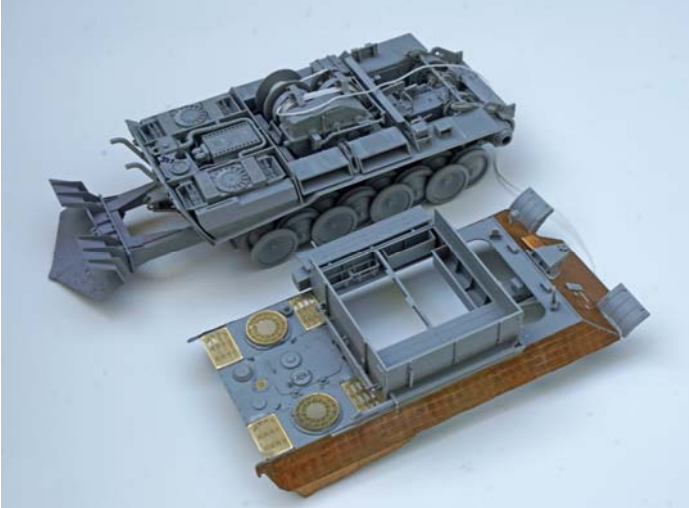
DML 1/35 Tiger I Initial Production.



Takom 1/35 Maus.



DML 1/35 Late StuG III Ausf. G w/ Zimmerit.



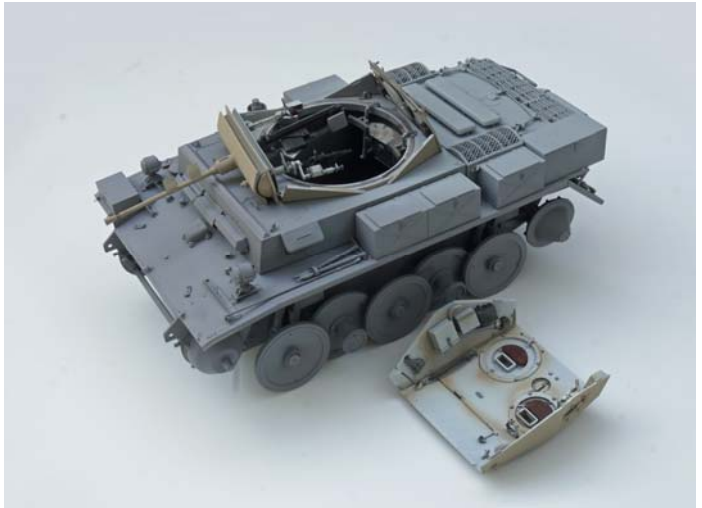
Takom 1/35 Bergepanther w/ Eduard Zimmerit.



DML 1/72 LVT-(A)1.



Italeri 1/35 Semovente M40-75/18 w/ Friul tracks.



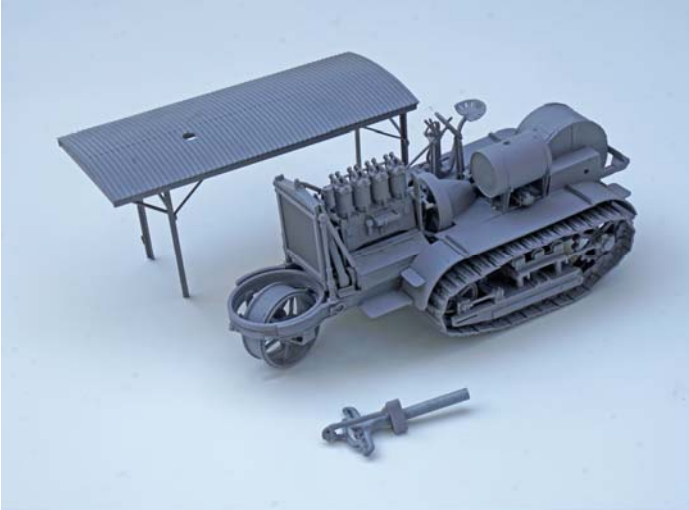
Classy Hobby 1/16 Panzer II Ausf.L "Luchs."



Trumpeter 1/72 M4A3 Marine Sherman.



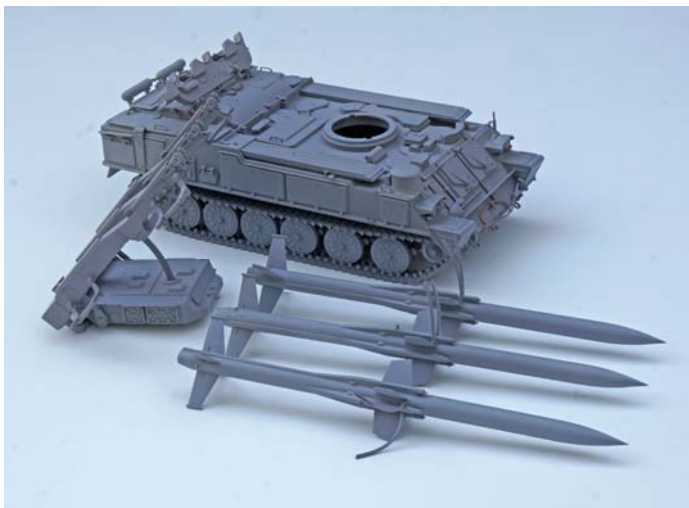
Tamiya 1/35 Elefant w/ Atak Zimmerit.



Roden 1/35 WWI Holt Artillery Tractor.



Takom 1/16 Panzer I Ausf. B.



Trumpeter 1/35 SAM-6.



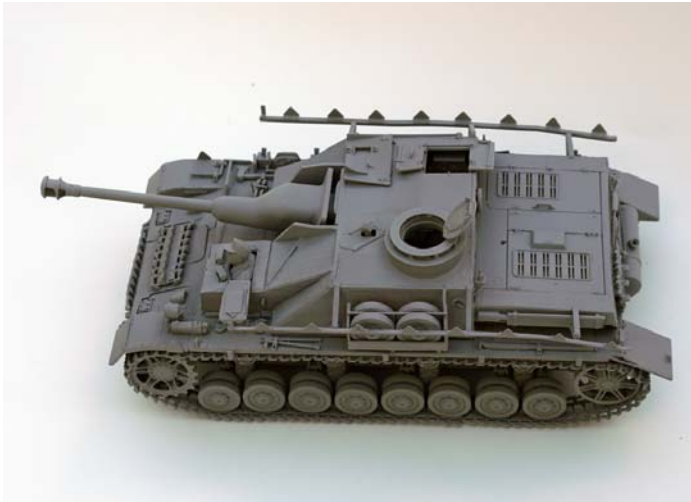
DML 1/35 Panzer IV Ausf. B w/ Snow Plow.



Pit Road 1/35 IJA Type 98 Prime Mover



Hobby Boss 1/35 WWI Schneider.



DML 1/35 StuG IV.



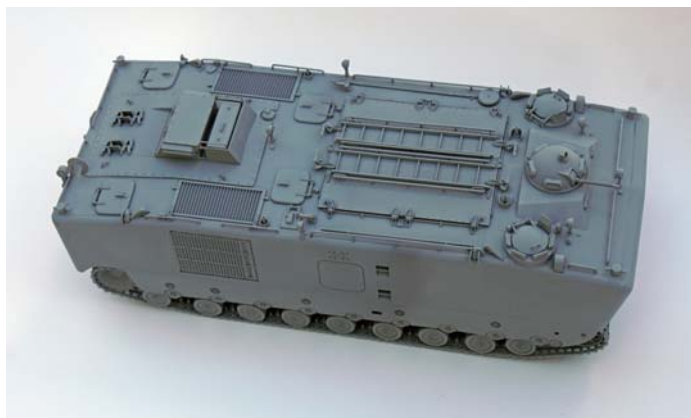
Takom 1/35 Jagdpanther w/ interior.



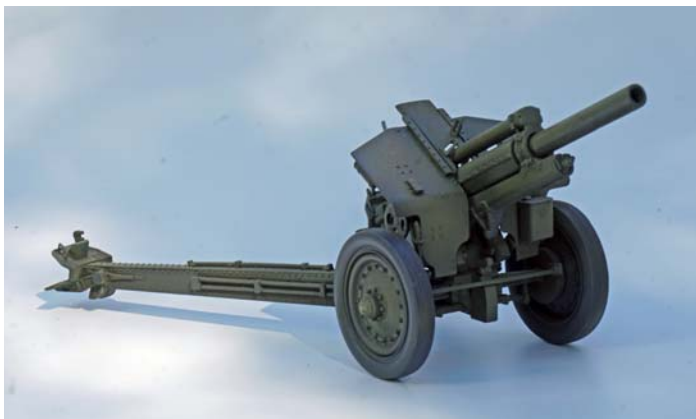
Takom 1/35 Fries Kran 16t Strabokran.



DML 1/35 5cm PaK38.



AFV Club 1/35 USMC LVTP5A1.



Zvezda 1/35 M-30 122mm Howitzer.

Members Show & Tell

Rick Herrington:

Panther Toon Tank (Meng)



Greg Beckman:

1. *Panzer III Ausf. N (Takom; work in progress)*



2. *T-34/85 Model 1944 (Rye Field Model)*



Bob Bethea:

1. *IJA Type 5 Chi-Ri (Fine Mold)*



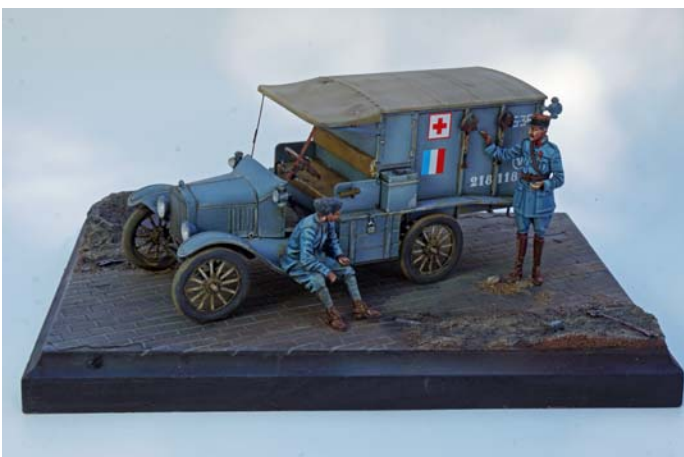
2. *M8 Armored Car, Katanga, 1960s* (Tamiya)



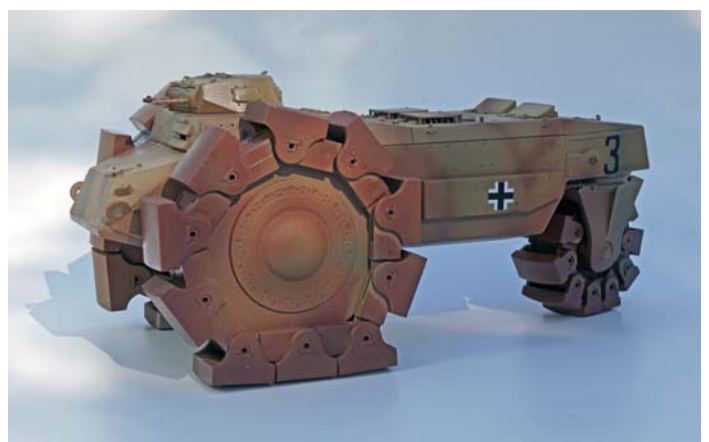
4. *USMC M26A1, Korea* (DML)



3. *WWI Ambulance* (ICM)



5. *Alkett Vs.Kfz.617 Minenraumer* (Meng)

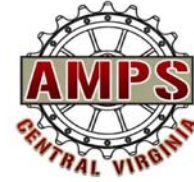
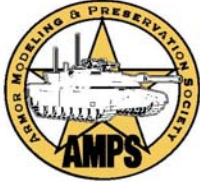


AMPS Boresight (Volume 28, Issue 5)

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

- ◆ **Project RIPCORD (Part 3 of 3)** by AMPS Central South Carolina "Wildcats"
- ◆ **The Five of Hearts** by Brian Eberle
- ◆ **Western Canadian Regional AMPS Model Show** by Anthony Swards
- ◆ **Book Review: Panzerwrecks - Forgotten Archives 3** by Michael Reeves
- ◆ **Military Modeling with Plaster** by Richard Senges





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.

AMPS-2021

29 APR ▶ 1 MAY

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.

**CONTEST/DISPLAYS · AWARDS · VENDORS
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Visit the AMPS website for all the details: AMPS-Armor.org

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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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www.amps-armor.org

New On The Block



Due any day now is Das Werk's new 1/35th Pz.Sfl.Ia (VK3.02). Intended for supporting Fallschirmjäger airborne ops, the project was cancelled after two vehicles were built and field-tested.



Say hello to Erica! Apparently the South Korean figure company SOL Resin Factory is still alive and well. Erica is their latest release. She comes in six (!) different scales: 1/9th, 1/12th, 1/16th, 1/20th, 1/24th, and 1/35th.



A new Chinese company, Jason Studio, is offering some interesting 3D-printed resin products in 1/35th scale (from left to right): IDF tank crew bulletproof vest, US military bulletproof vest, US military assault backpack, and US military duffle bag. They are also available in 1/16th scale.

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."

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:

www.austinamps.org