



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

December 2020



## We Meet In December!

**E**xtra, extra! AABS is meeting in December! After almost nine months of government and self-imposed lockdowns, the club finally agreed and found a place to meet. Read all about it here...

**Date & Time:** Saturday 7PM, December 5, 2020

**Place:** Wingate by Wyndham Hotel & Conference Center

1209 North, N Interstate 35 Frontage Rd  
Round Rock, TX 78664

**Map:**



**Important:**

We are meeting in the **Conference Center** (the two-story building behind the hotel) on the **second floor in the High Tech Hall**. As you walk into the building, there is an elevator on the left. You can park anywhere around the Conference Center building.

### Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
TOON TANK CONTEST	4
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	5
A DOWNSPOUT WHAT?	6
MEMBERS SHOW & TELL	9
AMPS 2021 INT'L CONVENTION	11
JOIN AMPS TODAY	12
NEW ON THE BLOCK	13
ABOUT US	13



(Continued on page 5)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Dec 5 - AABS Club Meeting (& Xmas Party)
- ◆ Jan 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ ~~Jan 31, 2021 - CALMEX 35, Lake Charles Civic Center, LA~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ Feb 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Feb 20, 2021 - ModelFiesta 40, San Antonio Event Center, San Antonio, TX



### AABS Officers May 2018 – Dec 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*	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*	N/A	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! I would like to start off by giving thanks to Eric Choy for setting up our Christmas party. I would also like to acknowledge gratitude towards Kevin and Teri for their support of our club. Kevin has volunteered to prepare the meats for our dinner, and I am sure his wife Teri is also helping with that. She also has been a blessing to both this club and the IPMS chapter in Killeen for her work on club items such as shirts and caps.

We are entering the last month of the year, and so far 2020 has been very memorable mainly for all the wrong reasons. For those of us who are still healthy and well fed, we have much for which to be grateful.

In Korea during December 1950, it soon became readily apparent that the war would not be over by



*Soldier of the U.S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in North Korea.*

Christmas. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, the Red Chinese victory in the battle of Chong Chon spelled the end of UN forces being able to hold on to North Korean territory.

The U.S. 8<sup>th</sup> Army barely avoided being encircled, and it started the longest retreat of American forces in history. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, UN troops, along with many North Korean civilians, started evacuating through the North Korean port city Hungnam.



*General Peng Dehuai*

On the next day, General Peng Dehuai of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army requested a temporary suspension of operations so that his troops could rest. Mao Zedong denied that request and demanded the army to push on into South Korea. The Red Chinese had won most of its battles against the UN forces but were in need of

recovery time as losses had been very high.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division broke through the Chinese encirclement and opened up a path to Hungnam. Three days later the battle of Chosin Reservoir ended. Marines and soldiers would retreat to Hungnam to be evacuated by sea.



*U.S. Marines in the Chosin Reservoir Area.*



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, Lt. General Walton Walker was killed in a vehicle accident. His jeep rolled over after the driver swerved to miss a vehicle that had crossed into his lane. Born in Belton, TX, Walker was a veteran of both world wars and the commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Korea at the time of his death.



*Lt. General Walker*

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of December, Red Chinese troops crossed the border into South Korea. Seoul was assaulted on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. The Red Chinese, along with North Korean troops, retook Seoul again. The year 1950 ended on very a somber note for UN forces.



*Chinese Troops celebrating the recapture of Seoul.*

That is all for now. Thanks to all who make this club one of the very best! May the year 2020 ends well for all of our members and their families.

**Ted Andreas, Jr.**  
President



## WORLD-WAR TOONS



## Loony Toon-Tank Contest is Here (Finally)!

**“Z**e arms of Pepé are upon you!” After months of delay by Covid, our Loon Toon-Tank contest will finally be held at the December meeting.

As usual, our quarterly contest cash prizes are \$40, \$30, and \$20 for the first, second, and third place winners. To enter you must be a member in good standing (i.e. you need to pay your dues). The **“no sweep”** rule is strictly enforced (i.e. no single contestant is allowed to win ALL THREE cash prizes!)

If you wish to enter in the contest but unable to attend the meeting, please ask someone coming to bring your Toon Tank. **You don't have to be present to win!**



(Continued from page 1)

**Guidelines:**

- Due to occupancy limitations imposed by the venue, this meeting in December is for AABS members and their families only. The club is NOT signing up any new member until 2021.
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well. The last thing we need is to turn this into a “super-spreader” meeting!
- Mask wearing is REQUIRED when not eating or drinking inside the meeting room. It’s for your own protection as well as the others.
- You can bring your own non-alcoholic beverage inside the meeting room. You are welcomed to show up with a liter of soda (or a gallon of iced tea) for your own consumption but NOT for sharing with the others. You drink what you bring!
- **No outside alcohol is allowed.** If you have the urge to drink, there is a cash bar downstairs where you can purchase beer and wine.
- Don’t drink and drive. If you don’t want to call a cab/Lyft/Uber, the hotel is right next door!

**Agenda:**

We normally do not publish an agenda ahead of time, but since we don’t know when we will gather again in 2021 and we have a lot items to cover in



this meeting, I have prepared one so we won’t leave anything out:

**1. Old business:**

- Club financial status
- 2021 Show

**2. New business:**

- Election of new officers
- Where to meet in 2021
- Newsletter article assignment
- Most Prolific Modeler Award

**3. Quarterly Contest: Toon Tanks!**

**4, Show and Tell**

**5. Special entertaining program (if time permits)**

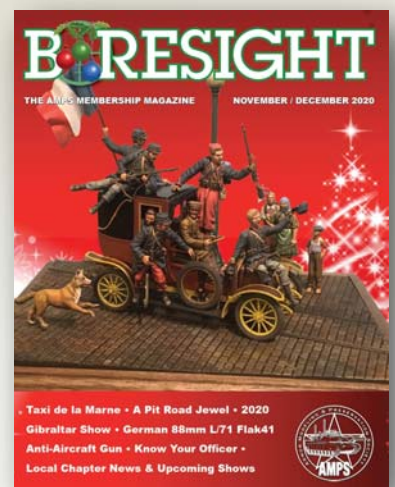
I look forward to seeing everyone there on Dec 5.

*Editor*

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 28, Issue 6)

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

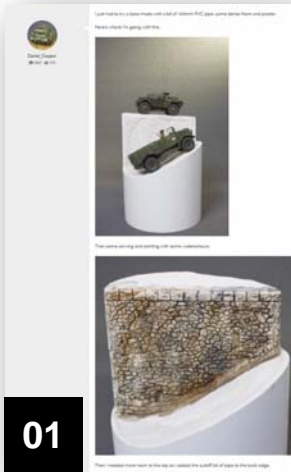
- ◆ **Taxi de la Marne** by Doug Cohen
- ◆ **A Pit Road Jewel** by Brandon Jacob
- ◆ **German 88mm L/71 FlaK41 Anti-aircraft Gun** by Steven Andreano
- ◆ **Know Your Officers**
- ◆ **Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**





## A Downspout What?

**M**y story here started with a trip to the neighborhood hardware store. Some time back I read Daniel Cooper's posting on Track48 forum on how to convert a PVC pipe (photo 1) into a model display base (another story for another time). So while hunting for a pipe of the right size at Home Depot, I came across a contraption called "offset downspout adapter." A downspout whaaaaatttt? I know nothing about plumbing and have zero interest in gardening, but the shape of the adapter was intriguing, and the price was just right (\$2.57 plus tax!). So I bought one to try it out.



Later I found out the real function of a downspout adapter is to connect the downspout (vertical pipe for draining rain water) to the sewer pipe underground. Because the pipes in each system are of different shapes, hence the top of the adapter is rectangular (gutter side), and the bottom is round (sewer side). The one I purchased was a 2"x3"x4" (2"x3" are the dimensions of the downspout, and 4" is the diameter of the pipe) adapter.

The reason I prefer the downspout adapter over a regular pipe is because it involves less cutting. Plus Home Depot does not sell "patch" PVC pipe; the shortest length available is 10ft! Lowe's, on the other hand, sells 4"x2' sections, but each still costs over \$7 plus tax.

Anyway, as soon as I got home, I took out my hacksaw and started cutting the adapter. Since I

didn't want to make the downward slope too steep, I made my horizontal cut at about  $-15^\circ$  (or  $15^\circ$ , depending on how you look at it). Once I finished, I realized the 2"x3"x4" might not be the right choice for my favorite scale (1/48<sup>th</sup>) as there was not enough room on the slope to place a vehicle (photo 2). On the hand, there is plenty of space for a few figures (even one or two in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale).



The next size up for downspout adapter is 4"x5"x6". Unfortunately, you have to order it on-line as no hardware or plumber store in Central Texas carries it (believe me, I checked!). The price ranges from \$16 to \$35 (before shipping and tax). Why the big difference? I have no idea.

By the way, I noticed a nasty smell when I made my cuts in the adapter. I did not realize until my friend Brandon Jacob told me later that PVC fume is toxic! So make sure you wear a mask and work in a well ventilated area!

Once I patched the hole with Evergreen sheet styrene and superglue, I closed the top and the bottom in the same manner (photo 3). At this stage you could call it done and start painting the base (no longer an adapter now). But I didn't like the rectangular sides of the top not matching the rim of the circular part of the bottom (see 'X' gaps in photo 4). So for pure aesthetic reason, I decided to extend the sides out (photo 5). You could say it's just me nitpicking, but I feel the base looks way better with the extra work I put into it (photo 6).





04



05



06

Next I placed tile grout on the top and the slope surfaces (photo 7). I could do cobblestones, but since I have already decided to do a vertical stone wall, I didn't want stones on every surface!



07

After letting the grout dry overnight, it was time to paint the rest of the base. In the railroad section of Hobby Lobby I found a Moss Green texture paint (made by Rust-Oleum and selling under Testors label, photo 8) that I thought it would look great on my base. So I base-coated the base with



08



09

rattlecan Flat Black first and applied the texture paint in multiple light coats (photo 9). BEWARE: instead of a paint mist, texture paint rattlecan shoots out paint droplets. So you need something (e.g. a posterboard or newspaper taped to the wall) to catch the overspray behind the base. If you don't, you'll have an ugly mess to clean up afterwards. Trust me; I learned my lesson the hard way!

With the texture paint applied, I went back to paint the grout. You can choose any earth tone, and the one I used was Dry Steppe from AMMO of MIG. After the paint dried, it was time to install the vertical stone wall.

Instead of sculpting and painting the stones, I cheated with a product I purchased from MicroMark: Medium Random Stone Wall by Chooch Enterprises (photo 10). All I had to do was cut out a piece of the pre-painted texture fabric to the correct size, superglued it to the vertical surface, and voilà,



11



10

instant stone wall built and painted (photo 11)!



But wait! I noticed the top row stones were of different shape and size from the rest. Worst of all, only a tiny fraction of them were provided on the top side. To make them appear “whole” on the top of the base, I had no choice but to sculpt the rest with epoxy putty. But first I have to remove some of the grout I laid down earlier (photo 12).



This was my first attempt to sculpt stones, so I wasn't sure if I was doing it right (photo 13). One thing I learned was I needed to be “rough” with the putty more than usual. The last thing you want is your stones end up looking like sandbags!



Once the putty dried, I painted the entire top row of stones (top and side) with a coat of light yellow together with dark brown for shadows and buff for highlights (photo 14, 15). Now I have a fine looking base ready to go. Hard to image it started off as a fitting from the plumbing aisle at the hardware store!

Eric





## Members Show & Tell

Ted Andreas, Jr.:

1. StuG III (DML)



2. StuG III Ausf. G (Tamiya)



3. StuG III Ausf. G (Tamiya)



4. StuG III Ausf. B (Tamiya)



Greg Beckman:

1. Marder I (Tamiya)





2. **Object 292 (Trumpeter)**



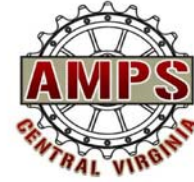
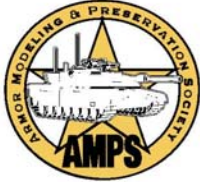
4. **Typhoon VDV (Meng)**



3. **Panzer III Ausf. N (Takom)**







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  
SEMINARS · PRODUCT DEMOS · RAFFLE**

**THE MARRIOTT AT CITY CENTER  
740 TOWN CENTER DRIVE · NEWPORT NEWS, VA**



Visit the AMPS website for all the details: [AMPS-Armor.org](http://AMPS-Armor.org)

# 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](http://www.amps-armor.org)



## NEW ON THE BLOCK



**H**ip, hip hooray! TOTS fans rejoice! Suyata, a brand new Chinese company, is releasing an 1/48<sup>th</sup> Panzer A with 16t Strabokran crane and display base in December.



**T**rumper's latest release is the Russian Club-K variant of the 3M54 Kalibr anti-ship cruise missile (NATO SS-N-27 "Sizzler") battery inside a standard 40ft shipping container that can

Two new 1/35<sup>th</sup> kits from Tamiya just in time for the holiday season: Jagdpanzer Marder I (top) and Panzer IV Ausf. F (bottom).

be placed on a truck, rail, or merchant vessel. Sneaky!

### 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](http://www.austinamps.org)