



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

January 2021



2021 is here! I hope everyone had a merry and safe Christmas holiday. With the Covid vaccines coming any time now, it wouldn't be long before serious scale modeling activities resume again.

Yes, the rumor is true! **The club is meeting again this month.** Here are the details:

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Date & Time: **Wednesday 7PM, January 6, 2021**

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 Bowie Room**. As you walk into the building, there is an elevator on the left. You can park anywhere around the Conference Center building.

(Continued on page 4)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ January 6, 2021 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ ~~January 31 - CALMEX 35, Lake Charles Civic Center, LA~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ~~February 3 - AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ~~February 20 - Model Fiesta 40, San Antonio Event Center, San Antonio, TX~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ March 6 - AABS Club Meeting & Modeling Day



### AABS Officers Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

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

**Chris Chany,** Vice-President  
christopherchany@gmail.com

**Eric Choy,** Treasurer  
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**Ted Paone,** Secretary  
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**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 2021	TBA	Aaron Smischney
February	TBA	Greg Beckman
March*	TBA	Eric Choy
April	TBA	Ian Candler
May	TBA	Ted Paone
June*	TBA	Bob Bethea
July	TBA	Chris Chany
August	TBA	Mike Maloney
September*	TBA	Kevin Hutchison
October	TBA	Joe Fisher
November	TBA	Ted Andreas, Jr.
December*	TBA	Dane Sherry
January 2022	TBA	Rick Herrington

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 is due on the last Wednesday of January).

\* Quarterly contest month



## ***From the Turret***

**G**reetings! We had a very good Christmas party thanks to all who attended. Thanks again to Eric Choy and Kevin Hutchison for the roles they played making it happen. Eric won our toon tank contest. Ironically, I got a toon tank kit from the CTSMS Christmas gift exchange! Too bad it was not in time for our contest!

As I write this, we are on the verge of 2021, and although the libraries are not open for us yet, Eric has made plans for us to meet temporarily at the Wingate Round Rock Hotel and Conference Center (the same place where we had our Christmas Party back in December last year). More details can be found on page one of this newsletter.

Seventy years ago, in the Battle of Vin Yen, the French inflicted a severe defeat on the Viet Minh. This battle raged from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of January, 1950. It temporarily turned the tide in favor of the French in Indochina.

In Korea, UN forces were trying to stabilize the front lines as the Red Chinese and resurgent North Korean



*Retreat over the Han River.*

armies continued their push southward. The Battle of Uijeongbu took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and ended three days later. Casualties were light, but it was a Communist victory as British and Australian troops were forced to retreat.

A big change took place in the US 8<sup>th</sup> Army, however. General Matthew Ridgeway was now in command, succeeding General Walker who was killed just before Christmas. Ridgeway was anxious to stabilize the front and go back on the offensive. He shook up the command and staff structure and formulated a new tactical doctrine emphasizing heavier use of artillery power. Ridgeway had also received permission from his superior, General Douglas MacArthur, to run the 8<sup>th</sup> Army as he saw fit. For now, Ridgeway conceded the lost of Seoul as top priority was given to stop the retreat of UN forces.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, *Operation Pohang* began. The goal of this operation was to eliminate North Korean forces operating guerilla style after being trapped behind the UN defensive lines. Rather than surrender or attempt to break through to their own main forces, approximately 16,000 North Korean soldiers continued the fight behind the UN forward positions.



*An M16 during Operation Pohang.*



On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, the second Battle of Wonju ended in an UN victory. The first battle saw the South Korean city of Wonju fall to the Chinese and North Korean forces. This time the UN forces did not reclaim Wonju but push the communists out of the city into the range of artillery fire and air strikes. As General Ridgeway had desired, UN forces went on the offensive with *Operation Thunderbolt* on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

That is all for now. Thanks to all who make this club one of the very best! May the year 2021 turn out well for all of our members and their families.

**Ted Andreas, Jr.**  
President



It is that time of the year again. Please have your club dues (\$12) ready at the January meeting. We accept cash, check, money order, or PayPal (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).**

(Continued from page 1)

**In-person Meeting Guidelines:**

- 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 during the meeting. It’s for your own protection as well as the others.
- It’s okay to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage into the meeting room, but eating is not allowed!

I have asked the Wingate Conference Center staff to line up extra tables in the room for us. So bring all your finished/work-in-progress models as you desire.

**The meeting starts at 7PM, but we have the room reserved from 6PM to 9PM.** Feel free to come early to chit-chat or swap kits. There will be free modeling items and magazines to give away also.

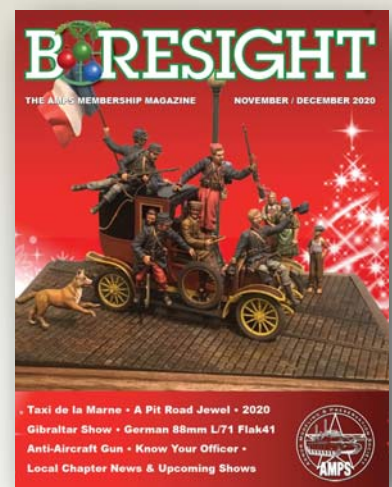
I look forward to seeing everyone there.

**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**



## Some Words of Encouragement

by  
Aaron Smischney

Well, it's the start of a new year, and with that the usual new year's resolutions. I hope some of y'all will join me in pledging to build more.

One of my all time favorite authors is Kurt Vonnegut. I recently came across this very interesting and appropriate quote from him:

*When I was 15, I spent a month working on an archeological dig. I was talking to one of the archeologists one day during our lunch break and he asked those kinds of 'getting to know you' questions you ask young people: Do you play sports? What's your favorite subject? And I told him, "no, I don't play any sports. I do theater, I'm in choir, I play the violin and piano, I used to take art classes."*

*And he went "Wow. That's amazing!" And I said, "Oh no, but I'm not any good at any of them."*

*And he said something then that I will never forget and which absolutely blew my mind because no one had ever said anything like it to me before: "I don't think being good at things is the point of doing them. I think you've got all these wonderful experiences with different skills, and that all teaches you things and makes you an interesting person, no matter how well you do them."*

*And that honestly changed my life. Because I went from a failure, someone who hadn't been talented enough at anything to excel, to someone who did things because I enjoyed them. I had been raised in such an achievement-oriented environment, so inundated with the myth of Talent, that I thought it was only worth doing things if you could "win" at them.*

I have heard people say that they don't bring models to shows or club meetings because "they are not good enough." If I could do one thing to improve our hobby overall, it would be to banish this thought process. From myself as much as from others.

We have all seen some amazing work, and we really have some of the best miniature artists in our midst. The thing that I think is amazing is how approachable and willing to teach so many of our local artists are. I encourage everyone to experiment, to play, and to come to build days. I have never once heard any discouraging words or put downs or judgment. This is a hobby. A hobby is not something you do in a pursuit of excellence but to enjoyably pass the time. If you achieve excellence on the way, that's great! But don't let some perceived lack of quality get in the way of participating.

Recently I have started gluing plastic again, I decided to start back up with something easy and got an AFV Club Magach (that's a joke as whoever designed the M60 suspension is my mortal enemy), and for once I'm not stressing out over every mold line and injector mark. And guess what: most of them are hidden anyway. It has been more enjoyable just building and not stressing about every little issue and perceived lack of skill. I can't count how many projects I have abandoned because I "messed them up." It's time for that to change, and I also plan on resurrecting some of those "failures" and finishing them up.

I hope to see y'all at the meetings once we get out of the pandemic, and I hope to see everyone bring something they are working on!

**Aaron**



## 2020 Christmas Party & Club Meeting Recap

While countless people on this planet spent most of 2020 under lockdowns, at least some members of AABS had one night of fun to remember for years to come.

The club managed to meet at the Wingate Hotel in Round Rock on the first Saturday of December last year after nine months of Covid-induced quarantine. Thirteen people showed up for the Christmas dinner, and we all enjoyed **Kevin Hutchison's** four meat BBQ entrée, **Joe Fisher** wife's wonderful jello-salad, **Bob Bethea's** mac&cheese, **Greg Beckman's** green bean casserole, and **Ted Paone's** sweet banana pudding. No one left that night without a full stomach, and we all took home enough leftovers for the next few days!

Kudos to Kevin the chef, he was also the "masked maker" of our shindig: everyone at the party received an official AABS face mask produced by Kevin and his wife **Terri Couteau's** embroidery company ([www.welogoanything.com](http://www.welogoanything.com)).



After the meal, we did the white-elephant gift exchange and conducted our first meeting since March of 2020. The last quarterly contest ("Toon Tanks") was held (see results on page 10), and we crowned **Bob Bethea** the Most Prolific Modeler of 2020 (23 models). It was a tightly contested race this

year between Bob and runner-up Greg Beckman (21 models).

The club officer election followed, and we welcomed our new veep, **Chris Chany**, for the next two years. The rest of the e-board positions stay the same (Ted Andreas, Jr as prez, Eric Choy as treasurer, and Ted Paone as secretary).

To top-off the evening's festivities, I prepared a challenging quiz-night program to test everyone's armor and modeling knowledge. Both Greg Beckman and Ted Paone scored the most points and shared the \$30 cash prize.

Many thanks to **Rudy Cline** donating a gift basket to us from his new store **LionHeart Hobby** ([www.lionheart hobby.com](http://www.lionheart hobby.com)) in Kyle, TX. We raffled off the basket, and it went to... **Ian Candler's wife Ashley!** Yay!!!



Just about the only disappointment of the evening was your editor, *moi*, completely forgot to take in-action photos of the party! I blame all the excitement that overwhelmed me and made me neglect my official duties.

We came, we partied, and we didn't get sick. I dare say that's enough to declare our 2020 Christmas party and club meeting a total success!

*Eric*



White Elephant Group Picture. It appears we have a "virtual" member who doesn't want to miss out! 😊

## Members Show & Tell

Ted Andreas, Jr.:

1. StuG III Ausf. G Late (DML)



Greg Beckman:

1. Zil 131 with ZSU-23-2 Chechnya (ICM & Meng)



2. BZ38 with Fuel Trailer (Miniart & Mirror Models)



### 3. 45mm AT Gun and Limber (ICM & Miniart)



### 4. AC-40-137A (ICM)



### Bob Bethea:

#### 1. 1/16<sup>th</sup> Panzer I Ausf. B (Takom)



#### 2. Marder I (Tamiya)



#### 3. Panzer IV Ausf. B with Snow Plow (DML)





4. 50mm Pak38 AT Gun (DML)



5. VsKfz.617 Minenräumer (Meng)



6. IJN Type 5 Ho-Ri II Gun Tank (Amusing Hobby)



7. Jagdpanther (Takom)



8. SdKfz.234/4 (DML)



# 2020 Final Quarterly Contest Winners



**1st Place:  
Eric Choy**

*Toon Tank Jagdpanther*



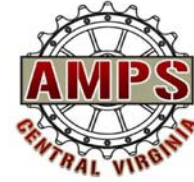
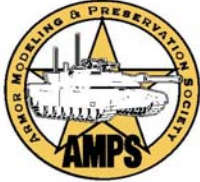
**2nd Place:  
Bob Bethea**

*Toon Tank Tiger I*

**3rd Place:  
Mike Maloney**

*Toon Tank Panther*





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

**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



**B**order Model is expanding into 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale market. Its first release is a Leopard 2 A5/A6.



**A**musing Hobby's latest is the 1/35<sup>th</sup> Centurion MK.5 AVRE used in the first Gulf War. The Royal Engineers units that operated them were nick-

**Y**ou probably have seen Miniart's \$100+ T-34/85 in store already. The D8506 Tractor should arrive in early January.

*named "The Antiques Roadshow" after the famous BBC/PBS TV show! It stood for a good reason: most, if not all, Centurions in the British Army were almost 40 years old in 1990 when they went to war to liberate Kuwait!*

### About Us

**T**he 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)