



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

May 2021



Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
TANK IN FOCUS: PANZER 38(T)	4
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	5
AMPS SUPER REGIONAL	9
MEMBERS SHOW & TELL	10
OKC METROCON 2021	12
2021 AMPS CENTEX ARMOR EXPO	12
JOIN AMPS TODAY	13
NEW ON THE BLOCK	14
ABOUT US	14

It's Showtime Again!

by Eric Choy

Yay, we finally had a show after over a year of Covid lockdown! On May 8, **Modelmania 2021**, hosted by IPMS Houston, was held once again at the Stafford Center inside the Houston metro area.

The venue was buzzing with people all day just like a typical pre-Covid *Modelmania*. Lots of folks from the local area and the neighboring state of Louisiana. The same cannot be said for attendees from other parts of our state, with the exception of modelers from San Antonio showed up *en masse*. Only four AABS members (Bob Bethea, our prez Ted Andreas & wife Susan, and yours truly) were there, and even less (3!) from ASMS. I suppose the ongoing pandemic is still making everyone

nervous and leery of attending an out-of-town public event.

Despite a stringent health guideline limiting the number of people tending to the vending tables (one person for each 8' table, imposed by the city of Stafford), 76 tables were sold. A few vendors I talked to reported there were plenty of looking but not enough buying. Amazon and other on-line hobby shops must have taken big chunks of modelers' wallets during the lockdown.

Before the show, there was much talk of the possibility of 1000+ contest entries after the huge success of RiverCon at Shreveport, LA (817 entries and 106 contestants) in March. Unfortunately, *Modelmania* came close but no cigar: 726 entries and 110

(Continued on page 6)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ ~~May 5 - AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ **May 8 - Modelmania 2021**, Stafford Center, Stafford, TX
- ◆ **June 5 - AABS Club Meeting & Modeling Day**
- ◆ **June 12 - OKC MetroCon 2021**, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK
- ◆ **July 7 - ¿AABS Club Meeting?**



AABS Officers Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

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

Chris Chany, Vice-President
christopherchany@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 2021	N/A	Aaron Smischney
February	N/A	Eric Choy
March*	N/A	Greg Beckman
April	N/A	Ian Candler
May	N/A	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. Eric Choy's article for February is due on the last Wednesday of January).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings! First I would like to remind everyone that we will not meet in May. In June, Kevin Hutchison and his wife Teri will host our meeting in Smithville at their residence and place of business. Please attend if possible... you will enjoy it.

This month I will continue writing about a featured tank for the month. I hope some of you out there enjoy that format. I have enjoyed writing it, and quite honestly, the research has not been that hard.

The featured tank for this month is one that would not normally come to mind as a significant piece of armor. However, I would like to lay out the case that this AFV played an important role in the early part of World War II as the Germans shocked the world with the spectacular success of *blitzkrieg*.

In his presentation to our club a few years ago, retired Sergeant-Major David Davis made the comment that the Germans made war on the cheap as they over ran Poland, France and the Low Countries in the first three years of WWII. The featured tank for this month does support that contention.

Well, I hope we can get more members to attend the next meeting. In the meantime, keep building and painting. Thanks for making AABS one of the best modeling clubs in the nation.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



Still haven't sent us your AABS dues (\$12)? We have ways to make your arrears disappear! It'll hurt less if you pay now... 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**).



June Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Bring in your finished model this month to win U.S. Treasury issued greenbacks! 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). Any model that has not placed in previous quarterly contests is eligible to participate.

Note: the "no sweep" rule is strictly enforced (i.e. no single contestant is allowed to win ALL THREE cash prizes in any of our in-house contest.



Panzer 38(t)

When Germany stunned the world as its army and Luftwaffe quickly defeated Poland and a few months later overran France, the panzer divisions were the chief weapon of *blitzkrieg*. However, during these events, Germany did not have Tiger or Panther tanks in their armored formations. In fact, it was not until Germany invaded the Soviet Union when it fully realized that the tanks being used had been outclassed by the armor of the Red Army.

The success of Germany in Poland (and especially in France) was largely because of tanks such as the Panzer 38(t). While Germany had better tanks such as the Panzer III and IVs, these tanks were few and did not have effective main guns until being upgraded after Operation Barbarossa in 1941.

The 38(t) was not a German designed or built tank; it had been acquired from Czechoslovakia after German annexation. Thus the 't' being the German designation for Czech. This tank proved to be a better than the German Panzer I and Panzer II. And with the need to equip a rapidly expanding army, Germany had over 1,400 of them produced by the Czechs.



Panzer 38(t) in France, 1940

The Panzer 38(t) proved to be mechanically sound and was able to defeat most allied tanks of the day. The exception being heavier armored infantry support tanks such as the Matilda. Panzer Divisions such as the 7th "Ghost" and 8th, were heavily dependent on the 38t.

Panzer I	34
Panzer II	68
Panzer 38(t)	91
Panzer IV	24

Tanks used by The 7th Panzer Division at start of Fall Gelb (invasion of France)

Panzer II	58
Panzer 38(t)	116
Panzer IV	23

Tanks used by The 8th Panzer Division at start of Fall Gelb (invasion of France)



A restored Panzer 38(t) with 7th PD markings.

At the opening stage of Operation Barbarossa, the 7th and 8th Panzer Divisions were still mainly equipped with 38(t)s. In addition, newly formed panzer divisions such as the 19th, 20th, and 22nd were also heavily dependent on 38t for its armored strength. It did not fare well against Soviet armor, but it soldiered on the front lines until well into 1942.



Panzer 38(t) In Russia.



Marder III Ausf.M Tank Destroyer.

Because it was a reliable tank, the 38(t) continued to serve behind the lines or in reconnaissance roles.

Production of 38(t) finally stopped in 1942, at least in part. The turrets were no longer made, but the hull was still manufactured and modified to produce Marder III models of tank destroyers. In this new form, this AFV once again became an effective weapon until Germany was able to field better systems.

Ted



A Panzer 38(t) still in running condition.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 29, Issue 2)

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

- ♦ **AMPS 2021 is Rescheduled to April 7-9, 2022** by Ashley Abernathy
- ♦ **Barbarossa Casualty** by Brian Mikulencsek, Henry Núñez, Bob Bethea
- ♦ **Steve Andreano Built A Truck!** by Steve Andreano
- ♦ **Ancient Tank Modeling** by Dave Hansen
- ♦ **Introduction to 3D Printing for Scale Model Maker** by Mike Roof
- ♦ **A Genie For Your Tamiya Square Bottles** by Eric Choy
- ♦ **Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**





Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

May 2021 Page 6

(Continued from page 1)
contestants. But it still set a record for the hosting club.

As for our group project entry, many thanks to member **Kevin Hutchison's** wonderfully "converted" display stand, our "T-54/55 Tanks" placed first in the category and was the envy of everyone (including our competitor!).

After witnessing so many models from so many contestants, it gives me comfort and joy knowing that we have survived the pandemic, and our hobby is still alive and well.

Here are photos of some of the armor models I took at the show:



Even though *Modelmania* 2021 did not go as smooth as other years', I still think it was a huge success simply because it didn't get axed like most other shows last and earlier this year. Being able to shop at vendors' tables and visit with old friends make me feel like old times again.



Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

May 2021

Page 7



Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

May 2021

Page 8



AMPS Super Regional



Hosted by:
Military Vehicle Preservation Association
Midwest Region, Armor Modeling & Preservation Society



Century Convention Center, South Bend, IN
August 12-14, 2021

Show Theme: OPERATION DESERT STORM

Registration Fees (includes entry to all AMPS & MVPA activities, less tours):

- **AMPS Members: \$30.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **Non-AMPS Members: \$50.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **Junior Member/Non Member: \$20.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **SHOW SPECIAL! Renewing/New AMPS Members: \$55.00** USD for one year Membership & Show Registration with 1 to 5 models entries (5 MAX).
- **Renewing/New Junior AMPS Members: \$35.00** USD for a new one year AMPS Membership & Show Registration with 1 to 5 models entries (5 MAX).
- **ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO FIVE TOTAL MODELS/DIOS/VIGNETTES/FIGURES PER ENTRANT, NO EXCEPTIONS** (See AMPS webpage for eligible subjects:
<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteMain/AMPSJudgingSystem.aspx>)

Walk-in Entry Fees (entry to all AMPS & MVPA activities, less tours):

	Daily	Show (12-14 Aug)
• Adult (17 and higher):	\$10	\$25
• Husband & Wife:	\$15	\$30
• Family (children under 16):	\$20	\$35

For additional show & lodging information see the AMPS Webpage:
<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteShows/ShowMain.aspx?sid=10107>

Members Show & Tell

Eric Choy:

Finnish T-55 (Trumpeter kit with tracks from Italeri/ESCI T-55 kit)



Bob Bethea:

1. WWI Minerva Armored Car (Copper State Models)





2. **WWI Italian Armored Car 1ZM** (Copper State Models; work in progress)



3. **French FCM 36 Light Tank** (ICM; work in progress)



Greg Beckman:
Italian Autocannone 3RO with 90/53 90mm Anti-Aircraft Gun (IBG)





IPMS METRO OKLAHOMA CITY
In association with SOONER AMPS
Presents

OKCMetroCon 2021

Saturday, June 12th, 2021 9am-4pm
Council Road Baptist Church
Building is named "The Cube" north of main church building
7903 NW 30th Bethany, OK 73008

Theme: **Operation "Desert Storm"**
30 Years Later

2021 AMPS CENTEX ARMOR EXPO

AN AMPS REGIONAL SHOW

September 18th, 2021
**Georgetown Community
Center**

For more info, visit:
www.austinamps.org

or contact show coordinator **Eric Choy**
(email: aabsco@gmail.com)

Show Theme: Operation Barbarossa 1941



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



Amusing Hobby has been busy lately. After last month's Krupp-Entwurf W1466 paper panzer, two more 1/35th kits arrived at our hobby shops: Slovakian T-72M2 "Moderna" (top) and Ferdinand Final Production Vehicle #150100 (bottom).



The new 1/35th Jackal from Hobby Boss should keep all the modern British armor modelers busy for a while.



AFV Club's latest 1/35th Husky series of VMMD (Vehicle-Mounted Mine Detection) is a Mk.III with an interrogation arm to assist IED/mine disposal.



Need a figure to go with your Korean War Easy8 or Pershing? Check out DEF Model's latest 1/35th USMC Tank Crew. What a gorgeous figure!

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 good 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. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town trips to museums and modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest armor modeling show 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.

For more info, please visit www.austinamps.org