



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

December 2021



Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
DECEMBER IS QUARTERLY CONTEST MONTH	3
TANK IN FOCUS: U.S. MAIN BATTLE TANK M48	4
AMPS 2022 INT'L CONVENTION	8
MEMBERS SHOW & TELL	9
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	9
A NOTE FROM OUR FRIEND TERRY...	10
JOIN AMPS TODAY	11
NEW ON THE BLOCK	12
ABOUT US	12



2021 AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo After-Action Report

Howdy, folks! The ongoing pandemic might have gotten our phones off the hook, but when it came time for our biennial AMPS regional shindig, it was business as usual here in the Lone Star State!

The show was held on September 18th inside the Georgetown Community Center at Georgetown, Texas. The theme was *Operation Barbarossa 1941* to commemorate the opening battles of the Eastern Front that happened 80 years ago.

With all of our vending tables sold six weeks prior to the event, it was a good

omen of a successful show. Sure enough, we had 197 entries on the tables, eight more than 2019. While the number of entrants (41) was down slightly, the walk-in traffic went up almost 37% this year. We reckon lockdown and Zoom fatigues are the reasons for the surge.

Despite having many fantastic prizes, the raffle sales were down. Perhaps it is due to a lack of attractive hostesses working at the door prize table? Our rafflemeister "**Grandpa**" **Joe Fisher** definitely has to put on fishnet stockings for the next show!

To tackle the complaint of taking only cash or check payment, the club invested in a debit/credit card dongle. It worked great for the first and only

(Continued on page 5)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Dec 4 - **AABS Xmas Party** and Club Meeting
- ◆ ¿Jan 5 - **AABS Club Meeting?**
- ◆ **January 8, 2022 - ModelFiesta 40**, New Braunfels Civic Center, New Braunfels, TX
- ◆ **January 22 - Winterblitz**, Museum of the American G.I., College Station, TX
- ◆ ¿Feb 2 - **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*	Kevin Hutchison	Bob Bethea
July	N/A	Chris Chany
August	N/A	Mike Maloney
September*	N/A	Kevin Hutchison
October	N/A	Joe Fisher
November	Kit Auction	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! I hope all is well with club members and their families. We had a meeting in November, and although the turnout was small, we accomplished quite a bit. I believe the kit auction went well also. Our treasurer reported we made \$388. That's not bad at all for 40 minutes of auction action!

Tentatively, we plan on taking our T-54/55 collection display to the upcoming 2022 AMPS International Convention. Eric will be in contact with owners of those particular models.

We also voted to do another group build for next year's IPMS Houston *Modelmania*. The chosen theme this time is "Mobile AA Gun Systems." This would include any anti-aircraft gun(s) mounted on a wheeled or tracked vehicle. I was selected to be the coordinator for this effort.

Once again, we will need ten models to compete. So far, we have four commitments:

- Bob Bethea: Hungarian Nimrod
- Bob Bethea: Cold War era ZSU-57-2
- Mike Stevens: M42 Duster
- Stuart Wetterschneider: M16 (quad 50 .cal)

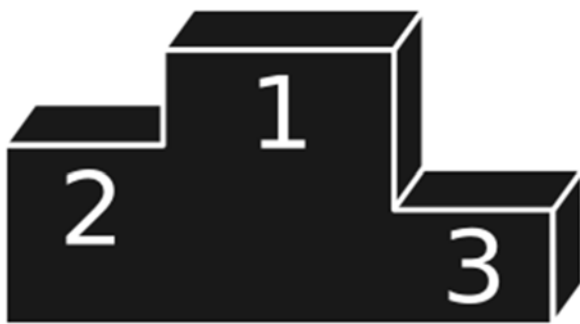
I have three 1/35th kits that I will donate for this cause. All of them are by Tamiya: M16, Flakpanzer IV *Wirbelwind*, and a Sdkfz 7/1. They will be brought to our Christmas party and will not be part of the White Elephant gift exchange. Please consider taking one unless you already have a kit that you plan on building already.

We meet again in December for our annual Christmas Party and a short (hopefully) business meeting. Be sure to RSVP Eric if you plan to attend.

Well, let us enjoy the season! Hopefully, in spite of the hectic nature of the holidays, most of us will find some time to build and paint.

Hope to see you in December!

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



December Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Bring in your finished **White Elephant Model** from last year (or yesteryear) 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 white elephant 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.



U.S. Main Battle Tank M48

The featured tank for this month is the M48 Patton. This tank was produced from 1952-61. About 12,000 were built.



An M48 assigned to the 5th Infantry Division.

This tank has the distinction of being recognized as America's first generation of Main Battle Tanks. The initial production batches of M48 were powered by gasoline engines, but later starting with the M48A3 a diesel engine developed by Continental Motors was used instead.



An M48 supporting US Marines in the battle to retake Hue during the TET Offensive.

Around 600 M48 "Pattons" were sent to South Vietnam during the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. It provided US Army and US Marine units with excellent infantry support. However, it saw limited tank-to-tank combat.

The M48s in Vietnam used a 90mm main gun. When NATO was able to evaluate a Soviet T-54, concern was raised that our MBTs needed to be up gunned to better deal with this heavily armored potential threat. The final version of the M48 would be equipped with a 105mm main gun, and this version of Patton would be designated as an M48A5.



A Patton used by Army Engineers in Vietnam.

Once US forces left Vietnam in 1975, M48s, now under control of South Vietnamese troops, fought on to the bitter end. Although South Vietnam would fall to the North Vietnamese Army, M48s inflicted heavy losses on NVA armored forces during several desperate engagements. Nevertheless, the Pattons in Vietnam would all be destroyed or captured by the communists.

Besides Southeast Asia, the M48 saw action in other wars and conflicts in the hands of other nations' armies, including by the IDF during the Arab-Israeli Wars of 1967 and 1973.

Before phasing out their M48s, the IDF also modified those equipped with 90mm main guns with 105mm L7



An Magach, Israeli designation for M48/60 based main battle tank, on its way to the front in 1973.

guns. During combat with Arab armies, the Pattons had mixed results, and in many respects the IDF Centurions outperformed the M48 tanks.

Despite its age, M48 Patton is still currently being used by the armies of South Korea, Republic of China (Taiwan), Thailand, Turkey, Greece, Morocco, Iran, and Lebanon.

Ted



(Continued from page 1)

time! Yes, only one person preferred to pay with plastic to register his entries this year. Whether this is a “much ado ‘bout nothin’” lesson remains to be seen, but at least we now have the technology to deal with such occasion in the future.

Once again this year we held pre-show judging nights to ease the judging workload. Big thanks to **Eric Choy**, our show coordinator, for initializing an



Interesting display of 1/1 scale replicas of tank ammo by Dan Vreeland and Mike Maloney.

early registration program and bringing in entries from in-town and nearby area contestants, we knocked out almost 20% of the entries even before the doors of the show were opened.

By far the biggest achievement for this show is that we finally have a definitive solution for judging entries in the “Mobile & Armored Suits” category: aside from the usual construction and finishing scores, we added “Posing” points to reward the animation of the model. No one wants to see a handicapped or stiff-like robot barely standing on its feet. Making a Gunpla or Machinen Krieger look as it appears on the boxart/manga/anime is what modelers attract to this genre in the first place.

Congratulation to **Bob Bethea** for winning the Best of Show award with his 1/72nd WWI Mk. I tank. **Mike Maloney** took home the People’s Choice Best Model with his 1/16th M5A1 Stuart. Houston based modeler **Richard Kern** won our show’s Most Prolific Modeler award with an astounding 23 entries!

All in all, a jolly good time we all had. Many thanks to **Ashley Candler** and **Laura Galvan** for doing the data entry for us. Kudos to our club members who helped out with various tasks. The monetary support



from our award sponsors is much appreciated. Last, but not least, we want to give thanks to all the vendors, contestants, and the general public for attending our event during these trying times.

Many thanks to **Dane Sherry** for sharing some of the "in-action" photos (see page 1) he took at the show.



*Best German and Theme Award: **Rick Cotton's Opel Blitz Radio Truck.***



*Best US/American: T10 Halftrack by **John Kirkpatrick***



*Best Figure: U.S. Infantryman (45th Infantry Division) in Sicily by **Henry Núñez***



*Best Vignette: End of an Empire by **Bob Bethea***



Best Small Army: IDF Merkava Mk. 1
by **Vince Barrale**



Best Diorama: Under New Management
by **Bob Bethea**



Best Fictional: Warhammer Goliath LRDG
by **Stan Spooner**

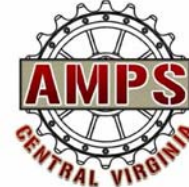
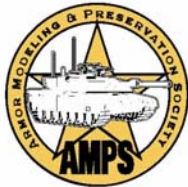


*Best Commonwealth & Best of Show:
WWI British Mk.I* by **Bob Bethea**



Best Russian/Soviet: T-28 (Early) by **Ed Rains**





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-2022

7-9 APRIL

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

Members Show & Tell

Greg Beckman:
Syrian Arab Army T-72A (*Trumpeter*)



Photo of a SAA T-72A. I tried to make my model very beat up to match the real tank.



AMPS Boresight (Volume 29, Issue 6)

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

- ◆ Soviet IS-4 by Eric Reinert
- ◆ A Visit to the National WWI Museum by John Kirkpatrick
- ◆ Western Canadian Regional AMPS Model Show by Anthony Swards
- ◆ TX-225 GAVw Occupier Combat Assault Tank by the Editor
- ◆ Armor Fiesta... Texas Style by AMPS CENTEX
- ◆ Book Review: Japanese Tanks & Armoured Warfare 1932-45 by Steven Andreano
- ◆ Know Your Officer
- ◆ Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows





A Note From Our Friend Terry...

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all my fellow A.A.B.S. modelers. Hope you have a great and fun Christmas and club party. When I asked Eric to act as my long distance proxy to participate in the White Elephant Exchange it was more of a spur of the moment thought that I don't think has been done before. But, what the hell, just trying to do my part to "keep Austin weird". Hope someone can appreciate the [redacted] and make a winner of it. I had 4 of these in inventory which is 3 too many! Best wishes to everyone and a blessed New Year.

-- TERRY LOWMAN



Kit name redacted by your editor to keep it a surprise!



Season's Greetings





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

New On The Block



AFV Club's latest Centurion variant is the Mk.5/1 4th RTR Berlin Infantry Brigade of the BAOR. In case you haven't noticed, AFV Club also released a set of "quick assembly" link-and-length tracks in its MBT series. That should make things easier for us modelers. I wonder if this track set can convince our prez Ted to build yet another Centurion!



Just in time for this holiday season is Tamiya's quarterscale Nashorn. TOTS* rules!

*The_One_True_Scale ☺

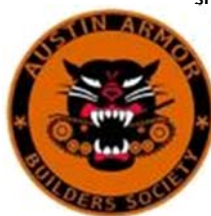


ICM's 1/35th 7.5cm PaK40 auf FCM(f) (top) is a lesser known member of the Marder family. Only ten were converted, and they saw combat only in France. On the other hand, over 167,000 G7107 4x4 1.5t trucks (bottom) were built by GM's Chevrolet during WWII. While not as famous as the US6 "Deuce-and-a-half" by Studebaker, some 47,000 were sent to the Soviet Union to help the Red Army reaching Berlin.

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. 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