



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

March 2022



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PANDA BMD-2

by Greg Beckman

While attending a recent model show, I picked up Panda Models' 1/35th scale BMD-2 for a decent price. (Editor: BMD-2 is a Soviet-era airborne infantry fighting vehicle introduced in 1985).

Once home, I opened the box to look over the kit. Panda, who is now out of business, had a reputation of warped kit parts, usually with the larger pieces like the hull. I've built four different Panda kits in the past, and this is the first time I've experienced warped parts: the lower hull tub sides were



bent inwards, opposed to being straight up.

On with construction. I first wanted to deal with the warp issue. After I installed all the clear periscopes, I joined the upper hull to the lower warped hull. I glued one side and let it

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **March 2 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **March 12 - KCCON 2022**, First Church of the Nazarene, Kansas City, MO
- ◆ **¿April 6 - AABS Club Meeting?**
- ◆ **April 7-9 AMPS 2022 International Convention**, Newport News, VA
- ◆ **April 30 - Modelmania 2022**, Stafford Convention Center, Stafford, TX
- ◆ **¿May 4 - AABS Club Meeting?**



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2022	N/A	Dane Sherry
February*	N/A	Rick Herrington
March	White Elephant Contest	Greg Beckman
April	TBA	Kevin Hutchison
May	TBA	Eric Choy
June*	TBA	Ian Candler
July	TBA	Craig Bland
August	TBA	Bob Bethea
September*	TBA	Bill Menzie
October	Club Auction	Ted Paone
November	TBA	Ted Andreas, Jr.
December*	TBA	Joe Fisher
January 2023	Officer Election	Mike Maloney

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. Rick Herrington'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 our members and their families. Susan and I are still on the mend. I missed not being at the February meeting, but with possible bad weather and as it turns out, even worse, I was most likely contagious! I tested positive for the Covid. Yet, I had very mild symptoms and was able to suppress the cough with over-the-counter cold medication. Nevertheless, there would be no guarantee that anyone possibly catching it from me, would get off that easy.

Thanks to member **Bill Menzie** for sponsoring our meeting in March! It will probably continue to be more of a challenge to maintain a meeting venue; at least that seems to be true for the near future.

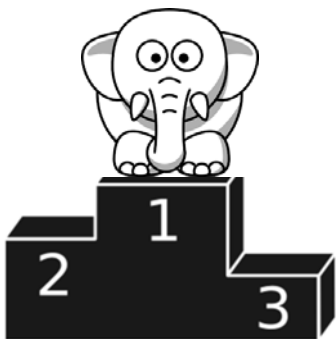
The list of our SPAAG group entry for Houston's *Modelmania* in April has grown! Here's the latest:

1. Bob Bethea: Hungarian Nimrod
2. Bob Bethea: Cold War era ZSU-57-2
3. Mike Stevens: M42 Duster
4. Stuart Wetter Schneider: M16 (quad 50. cal)
5. Eric Choy: Flakpanzer Gepard
6. Rick Herrington: Flakpanzer IV *Wirbelwind*
7. Kevin Hutchison: SdKfz 7/1 with quad 20mm
8. Bill Menzie: SdKfz 7/2 with 37mm Flak 37
9. Ted Paone: M16A1

I got word that the very talented **Mike Maloney** is laboring to build the display for our collection. Once again, thanks, and many more thanks!

Well, let's see what we can work out at the next meeting. In the meantime, keep building and painting. You all make our club one of the best.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



White Elephant Contest at March Meeting!

Bring your finished **White Elephant** kit(s) to win U.S. Treasury issued greenbacks! This special quarterly contest cash prizes are **\$40**, **\$30**, and **\$20** for the first, second, and third place winners. There will be a first place winner (**\$20**) for the Naked category (built but not painted) as well.

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.



Tiger II

A few issues back, I featured the Tiger I tank in this column. I believe I mentioned that only about 1,200 were produced. That was a very small number when compared to the production run of the T-34 and the M4 Sherman. However, the Tiger I had quite an impact in numerous battles. This month I will feature the successor of Tiger I, the Tiger II tank.

The Tiger II, sometimes called the King Tiger or the Royal Tiger, had an even smaller number built than its predecessor (somewhere between 489 and 492, according to *Wikipedia*), even though the German military placed an order for 1,500 of these tanks. Aerial bombings and the advances of Allied forces on both fronts hindered production.



Tiger II in the Tank Museum at Bovington (Wikipedia)

The first Tiger II tanks to see combat were with the 503rd Heavy Tank Battalion during the Battle of Normandy. Like many of the units in possession of the Tiger II in late WWII, the 503rd had a mixture of Tiger I and II tanks. A good account of this can be found in *Panzer Ace: The Memoirs of an Iron Cross Commander from Barbarossa to Normandy* by Richard Freiherr Von Rosen.



General Eisenhower inspecting a destroyed as Tiger II (Wikipedia)

Most, if not all, of the Tiger II tanks used by the 503rd in Normandy featured what is commonly known as the Porsche turret. This describes the turret found on early production tanks. However, that designation is incorrect. The Henschel company produced all the Tiger II tanks, but the turrets were designed by Krupp. Later production of Tiger IIs featured the "Henschel" turret which is again

It is that time of the year again. Please have your club dues (\$12) ready at the next meeting. We accept cash, check, or PayPal (payaabs@gmail.com. Please add \$1 more to cover processing fees). 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**)



inaccurate. These later turrets were an upgraded design also by Krupp.



"Porsche" turret on a early production Tiger II.



Tiger II with a production "Henschel" Turret (Wikipedia).

During the Battle of the Bulge, German Army and SS formations made use of the Tiger II tanks to spearhead their assault on American held defenses. It had a great deal of shock value.

Interestingly though, German planners knew well in advance that there was not enough fuel available in Germany for its armored units to reach their operational objectives. It was a fundamental flaw in planning that the assault could be maintained by relying on captured fuel dumps. For the most part this did not happen. As a result, after some staggering blows to the Allied lines inflicted by German Army

and SS assaults, resistance eventually stiffened. German armor literally ran out of gas. The Tiger II was a very thirsty gas guzzling creation. While some were destroyed by Allied defenders, most had to be abandoned. A tank without fuel and ammunition is of no value, even if it is a powerful weapon design.

After the Battle of the Bulge ended, a rebuilt 503rd was sent to Hungary to prevent the Magyarians from switching side to the Soviet Union. Many photos of Tiger II were taken both in main focus and in the background among the streets of Budapest.



Tiger II in Budapest (Wikipedia)

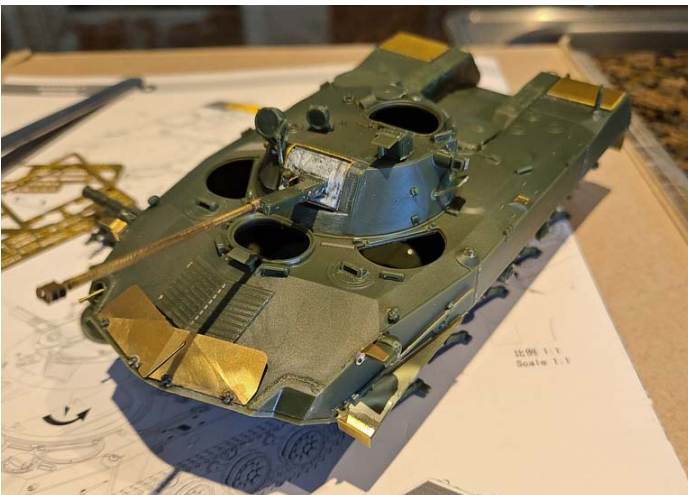
It is debatable if the development of the Tiger II was a good idea for Germany, considering its fortune of war was on the serious downturn at the time. It was a formidable weapon; and it had tremendous shock value. However, it could not be produced in large enough numbers to impact the war at the strategic level. It was also hampered by Germany's lack of fuel late in the war. Yet for modelers, it makes for an impressive subject matter.



A Tiger II on display in Belgium (Wikipedia)

(Continued from page 1)

dry for a couple hours. Then I attached the rear part, which did a lot to straighten the warp issue. After the rear was firmly dried, I finished gluing up the other side of the hull. What I found was that once it was glued up all the way around, it straightened out without any further signs of the warpage.

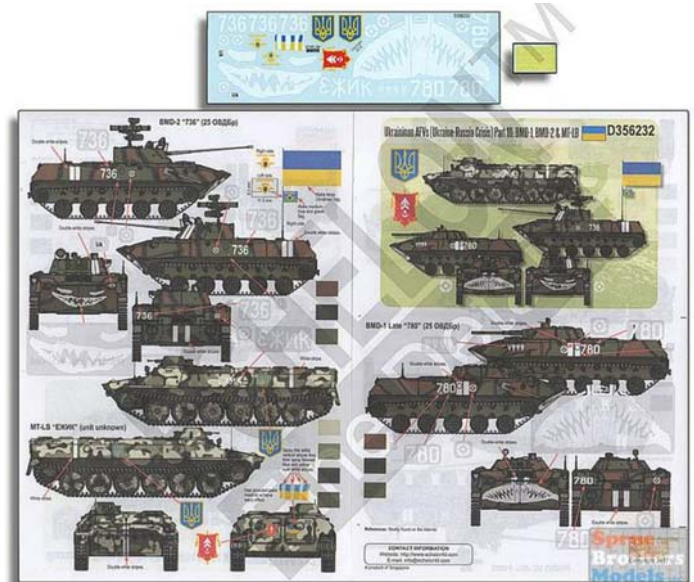


The rest of the construction was pretty straight forward. I did replace the 30mm barrel with a Magic Models brass replacement. I also replaced the co-ax and hull MG barrels with brass ones as I had them in my stash.

With the bulk of the construction completed, I moved on to the individual tracks. OMG! The guide teeth had to be glued on each track, and there is no location mark, spot, or indentation to locate the guide teeth. Being that this is a small vehicle, the tracks are also small.

My approach around this was the easiest I could think of. First, I glued about five to eight links together. Then, I used two strips of Tamiya yellow modeling tape to fix them to my work surface and to give me a center strip to glue the guide teeth on with. This worked out okay. When I installed them on the BMD-2, I applied a little more glue to loosen them so I could drape them on the model.

Paint time. Since I like modeling vehicles from the Ukrainian crisis, I found a picture of a real vehicle



and matching Echelon decals of a BMD-2 in Green with Red-Brown spots with black outlining. I filled my trusty Iwata with Tamiya and AK real colors to spray the camouflage per the Echelon decal pamphlet.





After weathering, I put two figures together. The one with the Kalashnikov is an Evolution figure from 35038. The other is a WWII tanker from MasterBox's "Bail Out!" kit (3532). I "modernized" him with a modern Russian tanker head from Hornet. Both were painted and placed on the BMD-2.



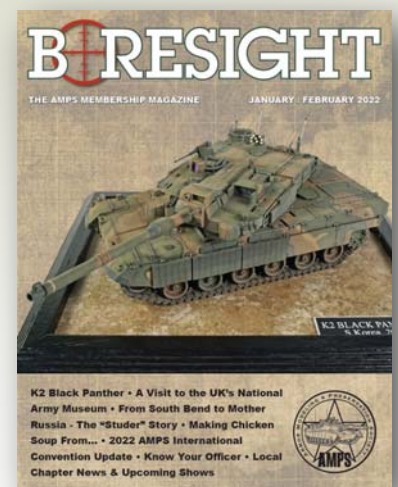
I decided to place it on a small diorama base. I had a large road sign left over from a Ukrainian road sign set I had purchased a while back on eBay. I created a small intersection with the large sign and a few other road sign additions. I used AK asphalt for the road surface and used AK cement applied to a rounded piece of wood for the cement curb. Next I added some painted cellulay for the ground work and some late-fall grass to cover some of the ground work.

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AMPS Boresight (Volume 30, Issue 1)

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

- ♦ **K2 Black Panther** by Dana Mathes
- ♦ **A Visit to the UK's National Army Museum** by the Editor
- ♦ **From South Bend to Mother Russia - The "Studer" Story** by Chuck Aleshire
- ♦ **Making Chicken Soup From...** by Bob Bethea
- ♦ **2022 AMPS International Convention Update** by Ashley Abernathy
- ♦ **Know Your Officer**
- ♦ **Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**





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The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

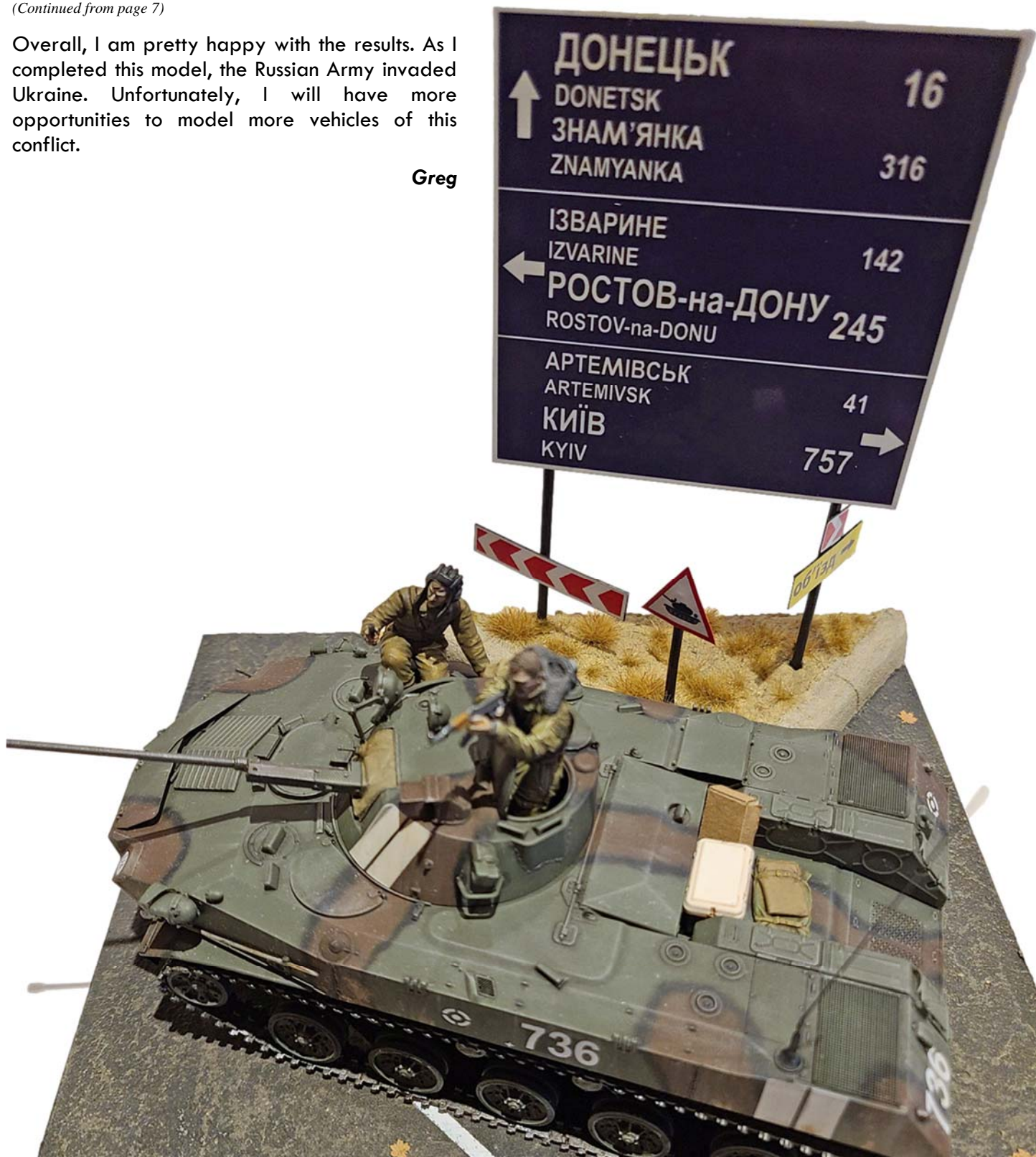
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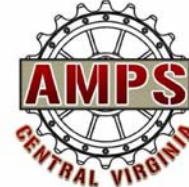
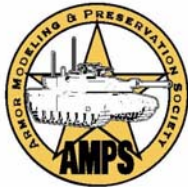
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Overall, I am pretty happy with the results. As I completed this model, the Russian Army invaded Ukraine. Unfortunately, I will have more opportunities to model more vehicles of this conflict.

Greg





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.

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Visit the AMPS website for all the details: AMPS-Armor.org

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*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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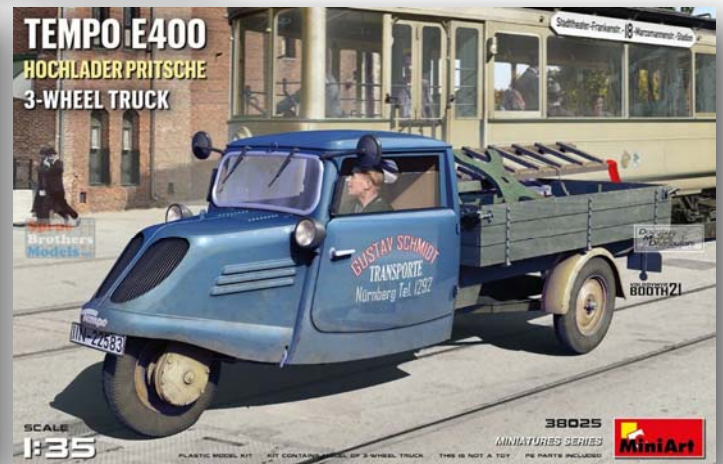


All payments must be made in U.S. funds. **AMPS** accepts payments by check and money order, as well as PayPal. To join using PayPal, just visit the **AMPS** website:

www.amps-armor.org

NEW ON THE BLOCK

Judging from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, we might not be seeing any new kits from Miniart for a while! Below are some of them that came through earlier this month (clockwise from upper left): Lend-Lease Chevrolet G-7117 1.5t 4x4 Cargo Truck with winch, German Cargo Trailer, and two versions of the Tempo motorized tricycle used by German civilians during WWII. The main difference between the 'A' and 'E' designations is the material used for the car body; the earlier 'A' version used a mixture of plywood and steel while the 'E' was an all steel construction.



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