



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

November 2023

# Chicken Soup Out of Chicken Poop!



By **Bob Bethea**

You can't always get the subject you want in 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale produced by a top-notch model company, but you can usually find it produced by another lesser label.

Knowing that I like that scale, a friend gave me an aftermarket stowage set for the WWII US halftrack. I felt the obligation to use it, so I bought the Academy M3A1 kit. Although it was a little less detailed than I've been used to with Flyhawk (or even Dragon), it does build up into a very respectable simulation of the real thing. Some parts



were thinned but otherwise it was built straight from the box.

Period photos from WWII show halftracks were utilized as a true "battle taxi" loaded with whatever the GIs could carry. I wanted my version to simulate that look. The aftermarket

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Nov 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Dec 1 - **AABS Xmas Party**. Rattan Creek Community Center, Austin
- ◆ Dec 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Jan 3, 2024 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Jan 20 - Winterblitz 2024, The Museum of the American GI, College Station



### AABS Officers Feb 2023 – Jan 2025

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## Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2023	Officer Election	Mike Maloney
February	* Cancelled *	Eric Choy
March*	2023 Winterblitz Pix	Kevin Hutchison
April	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
May	Martin Hebda	Greg Beckman
June*	Eric Choy	Martin Hebda
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Mike Bird
August	Mike Maloney	Rick Herrington
September*	AMPS Judging Review	Mike Maloney
October	Bill Menzie	Craig Bland
November	Glen Stevens	Kevin Hutchison
December*	Bill Zych	Chris Chany
January 2024	Chris Chany	Ted Paone

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. Mike Maloney's article for January is due on the last Wednesday of December).

\* Quarterly contest month



## From the Turret

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow...*

**O**n the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918, an armistice was signed thereby ending “the War to end all Wars.” The Treaty of Versailles officially ending the war a year later sowed the seeds for WWII. While the Commonwealth countries now observe Armistice Day as Remembrance Day, here in the US we take this day to honor all veterans. In our club we have a few veterans: **Ian Candler, Marty Hebda, Mike Maloney, Russ Holm, Stuart Wetterschneider, Ted Andreas, Jr., Bill Menzie, Dane Sherry, and Craig Bland.** Thank you for your service. If I have left anyone out, I am sorry.

At this month’s meeting, we will have a presentation by **Glen Stevens**. We will also discuss the upcoming Christmas party on Dec 1 and see what everyone has built and brought in to show. The business portion should be short and sweet.

See you Wednesday!

**Chris Chany**  
President

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TABLETOP GAMES PUZZLES CHESS RPGS CCGS

(Continued from page 1)



pieces only went part of the way to the over-stowed look, so I added various items and weapons from my stash and Value Gear ([valuegeardetails.com](http://valuegeardetails.com)).

No vehicle looks good without a base, so I built one by sculpting in the bricks and adding a casting of a crushed 50-gallon fuel drum. It needed figures, so I used several from the Spanish figure company Scale75. They are magnificent and in scale. Scale75 also offers these computer-designed figures in 1/48<sup>th</sup> and 1/35<sup>th</sup>. All have great details and animation.



The figures were done with Vallejo acrylic paints, and the halftrack was in Tamiya Olive Drab and highlighted heavily with Olive Drab combined with Dark Yellow for fading and scale color. Weathering was done with artist oil paints and pastel chalks.

This was my attempt to make the most out of an uninspiring kit, and I hope you like it.

**Bob**





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**Opening Hours**

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm

## Winterblitz 2024



# WINTERBLITZ 2024 The Battle of the Bulge 80th Anniversary

Saturday

January 20, 2024

The Museum of the American GI

19124 Hwy 6

College Station, Texas 77845

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

[www.winter-blitz.com](http://www.winter-blitz.com)





2020:



2019:





# JOIN AMPS TODAY

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

# New On The Block



What do we have here? A ramming vehicle based on the Ferdinand/ Elefant tank destroyer chassis! Das Werk along with Amusing Hobby are responsible for this 1/35<sup>th</sup> oddball paper panzer.



Takom's 1/35<sup>th</sup> M29 Weasel is finally here! Check out AMPS Secretary Brian Eberle's in-box review of this kit ([www.amps-armor.org/SiteReviews/ShowReview.aspx?id=15189](http://www.amps-armor.org/SiteReviews/ShowReview.aspx?id=15189))



Everyone is releasing older kits in Ukraine markings these days! RFA 1/35<sup>th</sup> 2in1 M1A1 is one of them.



After years of hiatus, Hobby Boss is finally back in releasing more kits in TOTS. First off is a newly tooled Panzer IV ausf F2. Gone are the awful rubberband tracks in the Sherman series. This new release has link-and-length type similar to Tamiya's 1/48<sup>th</sup> offerings.

## 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. Subjects of our interest range 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.ampscntex.org](http://www.ampscntex.org)