



# Sabot Away!



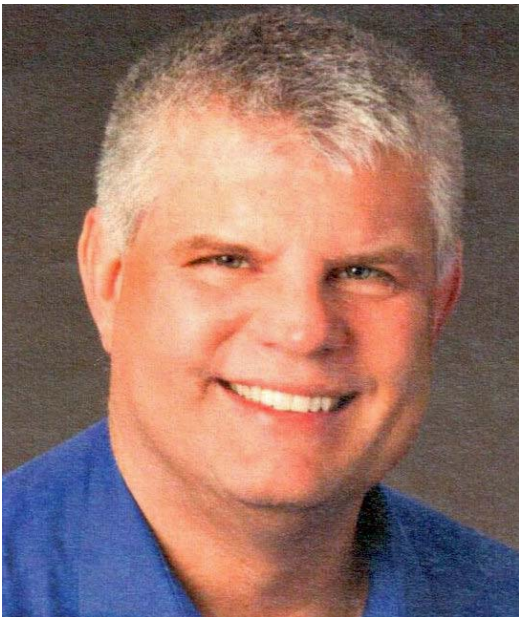
Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

December 2016

## Farewell to Roderick "Rod" Bell

It is with sadness that I inform you our friend **Rod Bell** passed away due to complications from colon cancer on November 17<sup>th</sup>. He is survived by his loving wife Janet and his daughters, Caitlin, Allison, and Erin.

Born and raised here in Austin, Rod went to Lanier High School and



graduated from Southwest Texas State (now Texas State) University with a degree in Business Computer Information Systems. He worked at various hi-tech companies in Central Texas, including Dell Computers and Emerson Process Management.

A founding member of AABS, Rod was the "Swiss Army knife" of AABS. Since our club's inception in 1990, he had held every officer position and served every time with distinction. We were always amazed by his ability to recall everyone's name, regardless of short-term members or curious "walk-in" guests. We also came to rely on him to settle disputes on historical events and armor trivia. Rod was a walking AFV encyclopedia with an eidetic memory!

As an officer for AMPS, our national organization, he was their 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Central Region for a few years, and he also served as the webmaster up till the end of 2015. Before he felt ill, he was a familiar face at AMPS International Conventions

*(Continued on page 4)*

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The next meeting of Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) is at 7PM on

**December 7, 2016**

at the **Austin Public Library Milwood Branch**  
(12500 Amherst Drive, Austin, TX, 78727)

**Sabot Away!** is the official newsletter of AABS and is published twelve times a year on/before each monthly meeting. Any inquiry on subscription issues or assistance on article contribution please contact editor Eric Choy via email [aabsco@gmail.com](mailto:aabsco@gmail.com). The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of AABS.





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ December 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ January 4, 2017 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ January 28 - CALMEX XXXI Recreation District 1, Westlake, LA
- ◆ February 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ February 18 - Modelfiesta 36 San Antonio Event Center, San Antonio, TX



### AABS Officers May 2016 – Apr 2018

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## Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2016	Ted Paone	Rick Herrington
February	Kevin Hutchison	Ted Paone
March*	David Davis (Guest)	Alex Gashev
April	Aaron Smischney	Rod Bell
May	Dave Bourland	Russ Holm
June*	Bob Bethea	Greg Beckman
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Eric Choy
August	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
September*	Rick Herrington	Ted Andreas, Jr.
October	Kit Auction	Joe Fisher
November	John Talley	Greg Beckman
December*	Eric Choy	Bill Menzie
January 2017	Worth Haggerton	John Talley

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 January was due on the last Wednesday of December).

\* Quarterly contest month



## *From the Turret*

**T**he meeting last month went well. I appreciated the interest in micro armor that members appeared to be showing during my presentation. I'm always uncertain about others' perception in this small scale (1/300<sup>th</sup>), but knowing that there is some interest I will try to bring in more and completed samples.

It seems impossible that it is already December and winter is coming fast upon us. The year certainly does fly by. With the unusual occurrence of our Christmas party happening before the delivery of the December newsletter, I also have the chance to not only thank everyone for coming out to celebrate with us but also wish you all a Merry Christmas again. The party was a great time, and as always, it was a lot of fun to visit with everyone, including all the family members!

I'm going to make my inspirational history short and sweet and focus on December 1941. I shouldn't have to remind anyone that this month is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, even if the only tanks involved were the ones the Navy had filled with oil, but were somehow overlooked by the Japanese. The real armor inspiration is more likely to come from the "Dodranscentennial" of the Battle of Moscow.

During the final German drive for Moscow in late 1941, the Germans actually lost more men and material than in the Battle of Stalingrad. There are so many incredible winter scene images available for modeling inspiration from this time period that I will have to share just one of my favorites. As strange as this may sound, this image reminds me of my

childhood in Minnesota, although we weren't allowed to carry our guns with us out on the playground!



*German column near Moscow in 1941.*

Before wrapping this column up, I'd like to take a moment to show my deep respect for **Rod Bell**. He provided encouragement when I first took over this office, and more importantly, he was a welcoming soul when Zack and I first showed up at the club. His passing is a surprise and shock, and he will be missed.

Even with having just seen you all at the Christmas party, I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone again at the year-end meeting, where we determine the winner of the white elephant contest and the recipients of our yearly awards!

Don't forget the meeting this Wednesday has been re-located to the **Milwood Branch** of the Austin Public Library.

**John Talley**

President



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**







(Continued from page 1)

(Nats) in charge of data entries and contest scoring. Known as “Big Tex” to other non-Texans, he was a crucial element to the success of every AMPS Nats in the last decade.

Other than modeling, Rod spent his life devoted to his family and his church. He was proud of his daughters’ accomplishments, whether in school or in life. He rarely missed church services, yet he never imposed his religious belief on others. He loved spending time with his dog, Schultz. A few of us even

got to know Schultz well when Rod met with us on weekend gatherings.

We send our heartfelt sympathy to the Bell family. Rod will be missed by all of us.

**Editor**

## White Elephant Contest is Here!

December is our final quarterly contest of 2016, and we’ll decide who built the best White Elephant kit from the 2015’s Xmas party (see photo below). As usual there will be two categories in this contest:

- ◆ **Naked** - built (including tracks!) but not painted. Only the top Naked winner will receive a cash prize of \$15.

- ◆ **Finished** - built and painted. First, second, and third winners in this category will be awarded \$40, \$30, and \$20 respectively.

And for those who haven’t touched or finished their kits, the club would like to thank you for your graceful \$10 donations to our treasury...





# ODDBALL ARMOR

**AMPS CENTEX ARMOR EXPO MMXVII**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

**GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY CENTER**







## 2016 Xmas Party

**B**limey, we sure picked a miserable day for our Christmas party this year! But the rain and cold weather did not deter us from showing up. In fact we might have broken a club record with 25 people in attendance.

Many thanks to member **Kevin Hutchison** and his lovely wife **Terri Couteau**, everybody has a surprise gift to commemorate our 2016 shindig. I still have a few of these limited edition AABS beer/soda koozies for those paid members who couldn't make the party. Relax, it's all good.



Aside from the usual briskets from Rudy's, someone (gee, I wonder who that was) brought Chinese BBQ (duck and pork) to the party. They were well received, and we had practically no meat leftover by the end of the evening. That was good news as none of us has to consume "surplus" brisket, but it was bad news for those who tried to stay awake for the White Elephant gift exchange! Our high-protein dinner left us all feeling warm and dozy. By 9pm we were all ready to split and hit the sack!

Hip, hip hooray! Another excellent Christmas party with good time shared by all.

*Editor*





# Sabot Away!

The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

December 2016



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## Tamiya's 1/35<sup>th</sup> Panther D

by Bill Menzie

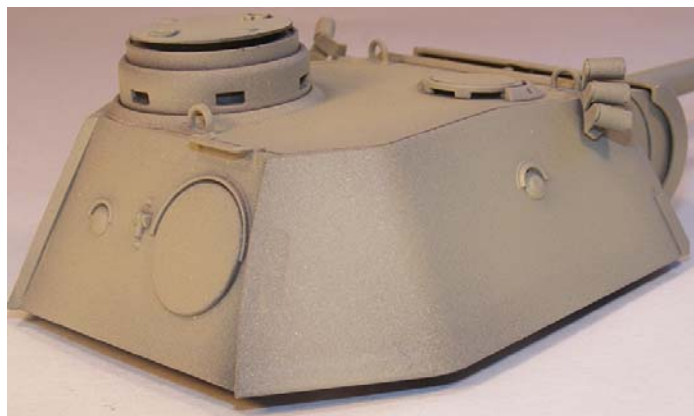
**R**eleased in August 2015, Tamiya's 1/35<sup>th</sup> Panther D kit contains 311 plastic parts and a pair of poly tracks. While the molding and parts fit are excellent, I notice the plastic in my kit is slightly oily. I recommend washing the parts in a dish soap solution with warm water. This will help the paint to adhere better to the model. I did not wash mine, and I end up with paints rubbing off due to too much handling of the model.

### Painting

The assembled turret, hull, and wheels were painted Flat Black from a spray can. This was used as a primer and also to provide a uniform color for the subsequent paint coats. The axles were masked with tape to prevent difficulties in mounting the road wheels later.



Next, the components were painted with Tamiya Flat Earth (XF-52). The wheels and hull were then sprayed with Dark Yellow (XF-60) mixed 60/40 with Flat White (XF-2). The mixture was thinned and lightened further by adding more white. This was applied to the upper surfaces that reflect sunlight. This color was concentrated on the panel centers and avoided from edges. The following photo shows how this defined the panels much better than a solid paint coat.



### Camouflage

The camouflage scheme I used for my model was the Red-Brown and Olive-Green splotches. Typically applied in the field, it was quite common on late-war German armor. I used Tamiya Khaki Drab (XF51) and Red Brown (XF-64) with added Flat Red (XF-7). The camouflage colors were thinned with Tamiya Thinner (X-20A).



### Decals and First Wash

The kit decals for the turret numbers were a problem because of the side pistol ports. So I used smaller numbers taken from my spares box instead. Micro-Sol was used to soften the decals.

I mixed Burnt Umber and Cadmium Yellow artists oil paints for the first wash. This was reduced with fast drying Zippo lighter fluid. This mix was wet brushed onto all surfaces, including wheels, and then dabbed off with a paper napkin and drybrushed. The result was a slight darkening of the paintwork and a greater emphasis of the Zimmerit details on the hull.





## Tool/Details

The wooden tool handles were painted with Vallejo Yellow Ochre as a base. The darker grain was then painted using Vallejo colors Leather Brown and English Uniform. The shovel blade, ax head, and hammer head were given a Flat Black basecoat followed by a Chrome Silver and black mix. The wooden jack base was painted varying shades of black, brown, and tan starting dark and finishing light to pick out the wood grain.

## Second Wash (Pin Wash)

A pin wash using black artists oil was used to pick out protruding details (like the many wheel bolts) and also to darken outline of the hatches, vision blocks, and weld points. I also pin-washed the tools and jack base to produce shadowing effects.



## Chipping

Paint chipping was done with a very tiny brush and an artist sponge held in a hemostat. I prepared a dark mixture of Tamiya black, brown, and red. This was randomly sponged and brushed on the rear deck and roof where the crew would have walked (hobnailed boots). Special attention was given to chipping high points and work areas. A truly unique feature of this chipping process was the highlighting of spots on the around the chips where the basecoat of Dark Yellow is exposed by wear, but not enough to expose the underlying metal.

## Tracks

Molded in one flexible piece with excellent details on both sides, the kit supplied tracks are very similar to the Dragon DS tracks. There is nothing wrong with

them. Nevertheless, I decided to use Tamiya's accessory Track Link set (12665). This set consists of 180 individual plastic track links and separate guide horn parts. The links snap together to create workable tracks. Instructions state 85 links per side.

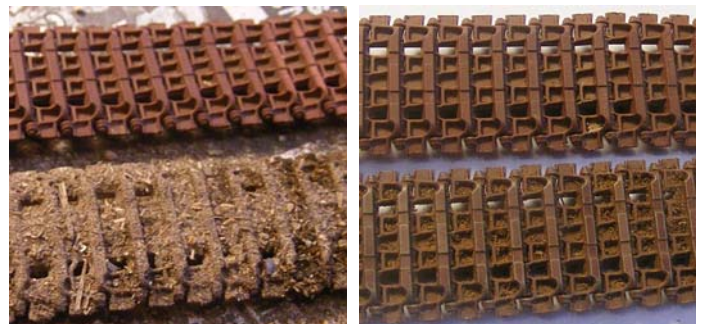


The links went together with no trouble. There are noticeable punch marks, but hopefully they won't be seen once tracks are weathered.

The tracks were sprayed with Hull Red (XF-9). This is a good color for medium rust. This was followed by drybrushing Nato Brown (XF-68).

## Mud Effects

A mud mixture was obtained from artist oil (Burnt Umber, Raw Sienna) thinned with Zippo. This mix was daubed to the undersides of the sponsons, hull bottom, and tracks. A homemade powder of fine dirt was sprinkled on the still wet artist oil. The dirt was taken from my yard, dug up with a spoon, and pulverized by a makeshift mortar and pestle. Heavy deposits were removed with a stiff brush.



Before cleaning

After cleaning

The final step was to hit the high points on the track cleats and guide horns with Chrome Silver (X-11).



The drive sprockets and inner road wheels were also painted silver to simulate track wear.

## Side Skirt Panels

After reviewing many historical photos, I noticed that it was common to lose some, if not all, of the side skirt panels. The kit skirts are molded in one piece. Removing the thin sections was accomplished with a sharp blade. The panel overlap was sanded off. Panels received the same painting, overall wash, pin wash, and chipping as the rest of the model. One panel was brush-painted in a different color scheme to represent it was “borrowed” from another tank.

The side skirts looked good when mounted to the Panther, but a problem arose when painting the tiny scratches onto the panels. Next time I’ll not install the panels until the painting of them is done.

## Figures

Two figures are supplied with the kit. Both are of good quality and will be added to Panther in the near future.

*Bill*







# AMPS 2017

## International Convention

April 20 to 22, 2017

Hosted by:



**Danbury Crown Plaza Hotel**  
18 Ridgebury Rd, Danbury, CT 06810

Show Theme: ***Smile for the Birdie!***

For more information, contact:

**Michael DelVecchio** (Show Chair), [redleg12@aol.com](mailto:redleg12@aol.com)

**Mike Reaves** (Vendor Coordinator), [semperfi03732@msn.com](mailto:semperfi03732@msn.com)

or visit us online at [www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)





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## NEW ON THE BLOCK



Trumpeter's new 1/35<sup>th</sup> Su-101 was no paper panzer; one prototype was actually built (now preserved at Kubinka) before production cancelled.



Replacing the Russian Army's aging fleet of BTR-80s and 90s is the new amphibious wheeled Bumerang APC. Once again Panda Model beats out the competition by being the first to release a kit in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale.



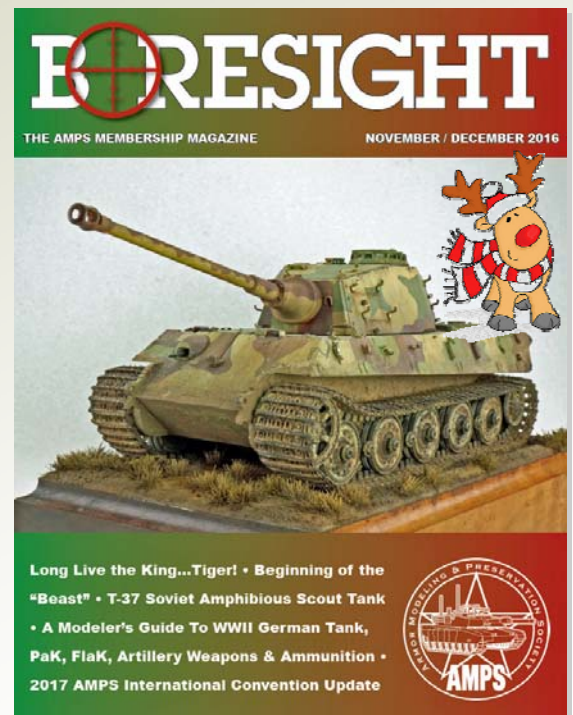
Pitroad always brings us exotic armor subjects. Such is the case for their latest 1/35<sup>th</sup> release: the IJA Type 98 4ton Prime Mover. Less than 800 were built during WWII.

Taking advantage of the "Easy Eight" chassis from the Sherman release, Tamiya now gives us a nice 1/35<sup>th</sup> M40 with Korean War markings.

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 24, Issue 6)

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

- ♦ **Long Live the King...Tiger** by Anders Heintz  
What a figure modeler builds on his off-days.
- ♦ **Beginning of the "Beast"** by John Kirkpatrick  
Converting the DML M103A1 kit to the T43 prototype.
- ♦ **2017 AMPS International Convention Update**  
by Mike DeVecchio.
- ♦ **T-37 Soviet Amphibious Scout Tank** by Danny Egan  
Building Hobbyboss' latest swim tank.
- ♦ **A Modeler's Guide To WWII German Tank, PaK, FlaK, Artillery Weapons & Ammunition** by Dan Mouritzsen
- ♦ **Local Chapter News**  
What's going on in the AMPS community.





## 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 at least one night talk tanks."



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.

AABS is the only 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.

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.



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We are on the web @ [AustinArmorBuilders.com](http://AustinArmorBuilders.com)



Hooray! Not-so-new member Andrew Bodin finished his 1/20<sup>th</sup> Maschin Krieger S.A.F.S. kit. Check out the excellent chipping effects!

