



Sabot Away!

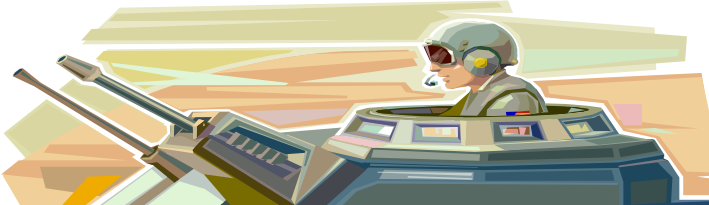


AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

Volume 15, Issue 11

November 2, 2011

From the Turret



Here is the **AMPS Centex 2011** Best American Vehicle and Judges' Best of Show. This U.S. Jeep was made by **Lonnie McIntosh** of Abilene, Texas.

Time flew by in the blink of an eye during the last few weeks. I was so occupied with the show that I hardly noticed anything else happening. Now that it is finally over and done with, I can

take a breather and assess how well (or bad) we did this go-around.

As usual there is good and bad news. The good news is everyone had fun. Those who came to shop enjoyed the

variety of our vendors. Those who entered in the contest believed the judging was fair. Those who judged loved the spacious and brightly lit room we had prepared. Even I had to admit I was having fun while running the show, which had never occurred to me before (it might be something to do with all the pretty ladies that I lured to come help all showed up!).

I hope you all are taking advantage of the cooler weather and the residual energies from the show to get something accomplished.

Continued on Page 2

Special points of interest:

- ◆ CLUB MEETING PLACE
- ◆ UPCOMING PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
- ◆ GERMAN 39(H) 10.5CM LEFH18 (SF) AUF GESCHUTZWAGEN
- ◆ 2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY
- ◆ AMPS CENTEX 2011 - MY THOUGHTS
- ◆ BORESIGHT VOLUME 19 NO. 3
- ◆ AMPS 2012 CONVENTION

Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
CLUB MEETING PLACE	3
UPCOMING PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	3
GERMAN 39(H) 10.5CM LEFH18(SF) AUF GESCHUTZWAGEN	4
2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY	11
AMPS CENTEX 2011—MY THOUGHTS	12
BORESIGHT VOLUME 19 NO. 3	16
AMPS 2012 CONVENTION	17
JOIN AMPS	18
NEW KITS	19

Austin Armor Builders Society Membership Dues

Dues are collected in January. This will make it easier for us to track and easier to maintain the membership cards.

As always, membership is \$12.00 USD per year. The membership cards will be presented to members at the January meeting.

The card will be valid for one year and a new card will be created each year as long as your club membership is in good standing.

New members will be given a card after they pay their dues. Dues will be prorated based on the month they join.



Sabot Away!

From the Turret - Continued



Here is the **AMPS Centex 2011** Best of Show—People's Choice award. "*Ivan the Terrible*" by **Michael Picard** of Schertz, Texas.

I know I had, and I'll be bringing what I finished as well as what I 'm working on to the meeting. Be sure you do the same. See you all there.

**Von Erich
(Eric Choy)**

Calendar of Events

- ♦ **November 2, 2011** - Club Meeting; Program by **Aaron Smischney**
- ♦ **December 10** - **Christmas Party** (Russ Holm's House). **White Elephant Gift Exchange**
- ♦ **December 7, 2011** - Club Meeting: Pearl Harbor Day; Program by **Roy Ott**
- ♦ **January 4, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Bob Bethea**
- ♦ **February 1, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Russ Holm**
- ♦ **March 7, 2012** - Club Meeting; **Red Cross Month Contest**; Program by **Greg Beckman**
- ♦ **April 4, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Eric Choy**
- ♦ **May 2, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Worth Haggerton**
- ♦ **June 6, 2012** - Club Meeting; **White Elephant Contest**; Program by **Roderick Bell**

Club Meeting Place

By Roderick Bell

Starting with our January 2011 meeting (January 5, 2011) we will be meeting at the **Austin Public Library - Old Quarry Branch**.

This is a change of venue but there is not much we could do about it. We are looking forward to the new year at

the Old Quarry Branch Library on 7051 Village Center Dr.

The meeting time is still 7PM. I hope to see you all there!

Roderick Bell



Upcoming Programs / Presentations and Newsletter Articles

By Roderick Bell

Month	Program / Presentation	Newsletter Article
2011 - November	Aaron Smischney	Bill Menzie
2011 - December	Roy Ott	Roderick Bell
2012 - January	Bob Bethea	Bill Johnson
2012 - February	Russ Holm	Roy Ott
2012 - March	Greg Beckman	Bob Bethea
2012 - April	Eric Choy	Thomas Pachalos
2012 - May	Worth Haggerton	Ted Paone
2012 - June	Roderick Bell	Karl Leidy
2012 - July	Bill Menzie	TBD
2012 - August	TBD	TBD

Here is a list of members who are responsible to provide a article for the newsletter and to perform a program / presentation. Please note that you may contribute as many articles as you want anytime. This schedule is to insure that we have at least one article in the newsletter per month.

Please make sure you get the newsletter editor the article as soon as possible. He must have it the Friday before the meeting.

Roderick Bell

Sabot Away!

German 39(H) 10.5cm LeFH18(Sf) auf Geschutzwagen

By Bill Menzie

History

The German Army made good use of captured enemy armor as the basis of many different vehicles. Following the fall of France, the French Light Hotchkiss H39 tank had a proven, reliable chassis and thus became a candidate for modification into a self-propelled artillery piece. Of the 72 H39's captured, some twenty-four were converted to use the 7.5cm PAK40 (anti-tank gun 1940), while the rest carried the 10.5cm leFH18 (light field howitzer model 1918). The combination of the large 10.5cm gun with the light Hotchkiss H39 results in an ungainly looking vehicle. The tall superstructure overhangs the hull quite a bit.

All were assigned to the 155 Artillerie Rgt under command of the 21st Panzer Division in Normandy. They saw much action in the weeks after D-Day.

The Kit

The Trumpeter kit (no.00353) consists of 214 tan plastic parts on 4 sprues labeled A, E, F, and G, 2 vinyl tracks, 3 Balkan Cross decals, and instructions.

Getting Started

Upon inspection, there were numerous punch marks to be filled, most notably on the interior armored sides. I used a combination of glazing putty, liquid cement, and enamel paint as fillers. After wet sanding, the end results are quite satisfactory.

I decided to tackle this project in 3 assemblies: the hull and wheels, the superstructure, and the gun. The hull construction was fairly easy. The only problem was that the joints where the drive bodies mated to the hull had to be filled as period photos showed these areas to be cast in one piece with the nose.



I was extra careful to ensure that the road wheels were on line and fit flush to the table. The attachment points of the wheels is weak so I over-glued those areas and periodically checked alignment as the cement dried.

On the rear of the hull there are 2 objects to attach. These are shown in Section 4 of the instruction sheet as parts 'B2'. This is an error. The correct parts are 'G36'

German 39(H) 10.5cm LeFH18(Sf) auf Geschutzwagen - Continued

as shown in Section 20. The hull carries a bare bones interior with transmission, driveshaft, and driver's seat.

The gun assembly is pretty easy and the fit is good. There is a noticeable gap where the breech assembly joins with the barrel. The breech opening arm is missing the handle. I fashioned one out of stretched sprue. At this point, I could have opted to add a turned metal barrel. I decided to use the kit's plastic barrel and brake as the quality of the kit did not warrant the extra expense.

The superstructure needed some hand fitting in order to figure out the instructions. There are no locating pins. I got it together by sheer luck. There were open gaps on the seams where the sides meet the back. Everything else in the assembly is exactly described. I did not install the radio or ammunition racks at this time. I wanted to paint them separately.

1st Painting

The major assemblies were given a primer coat of Flat Black. This was to give a dark base for the subsequent color sprays, The black also showed places that needed more filling and sanding. Next came a coating of Tamiya Khaki XF49, sort of a dark shade of the main color Tamiya Dark Yellow XF60. This was sprayed on in a cloud pattern on the main panel surfaces so that the sharp corners would stand out. The hull was painted khaki inside and out as well as the gun.



Sabot Away!

German 39(H) 10.5cm LeFH18(Sf) auf Geschutzwagen - Continued

Next the hull interior was sprayed with future to protect the paint before a wash of rusty black artist oils was applied. I decided to put some mud on this vehicle. I gathered some dry dirt from my yard and pulverized it in a porcelain cup. After carefully painting diluted white glue onto the wheels, hull sides, and underneath the fenders, I sprinkled on the fine dirt and let it all dry. I knocked off some of the dirt with a stiff toothbrush where it looked to be too heavy. I was happy with the mud.



The major components were over-sprayed with the Dark Yellow, again in a cloud pattern. The hull was only painted with this color on the exterior, wheels, etc. I wanted the interior darker than the rest of the vehicle.



German 39(H) 10.5cm LeFH18(Sf) auf Geschutzwagen - Continued

2nd Painting

Prior to this step, I cemented the superstructure to the hull. This step had me adding the transmission cover too. I had to add a shim of plastic card behind the cover as the fit was terrible. Next I had to fill any gaps. Once complete, the painting could begin.

I painted the front end with the Dark Yellow, covering the unpainted transmission cover. Upon drying, the whole exterior and the gun were sprayed with the Tamiya Field Grey XF65 in sweeping strokes.



The whole exterior was then sprayed with Future and then the decals were added. The decals had a slight registration offset which I did not notice until they were on the model. The muzzle brake on the gun was blackened. This was achieved by holding a burning sprue near the brake. The smoke produced was enough to do the job. Care must be exercised so the flame doesn't melt the muzzle brake.

Weathering

I speckled the kit with random spots of artist Burnt Umber oil paint. The spots were pulled downward with a wide brush saturated with mineral spirit. The spots soon began to appear as rust streaks. I probably overdid the affect. Next came a dark pin wash around the raised details of the exterior, rivets, hinges, etc. The interior was also given a general wash.

Sabot Away!

German 39(H) 10.5cm LeFH18(Sf) auf Geschutzwagen - Continued



Paint chips were simulated by application of tiny black spots with a tiny brush. Once again I probably overdid the affect as these vehicles did not see much action. The rivet heads, hinges, etc. were highlighted with the Dark Yellow.

The wheels were given a wash of black. The wheel rims and track contact points were given a silver highlight. The mud was dry brushed to raise the detail. Finally, the tools and taillight were painted.

The Tracks

The vinyl tracks were put together according to Section 1 of the instructions. They turn out to be way too loose. I tried to shorten them by removing links and using thin wire as a connector. It did not look good. At some point in the future, I may buy a set of individual track links (Hobbyboss 81003).



Conclusion

This Trumpeter kit (00353) is sub-par. I would not recommend the kit to anyone except beginners. It omits much detail and the tracks are a bad joke. The snail drums for the MG34 are very bad. I left them off until I can find the Tamiya German Weapons Set, which has nice drums.

German 39(H) 10.5cm LeFH18(Sf) auf Geschutzwagen - Continued

For those interested in this vehicle, there is a better kit. It's the Bronco #35005.



Sabot Away!

German 39(H) 10.5cm LeFH18(Sf) auf Geschutzwagen - Continued



German 39(H) 10.5cm LeFH18(Sf) auf Geschutzwagen - Continued



Bill Menzie

2011 Christmas Party



Our annual Christmas Party will be held on December 10, 2011 at Cheryl and Russ Holm's house. The party will start at 6:00 PM and run to 10:00 PM.

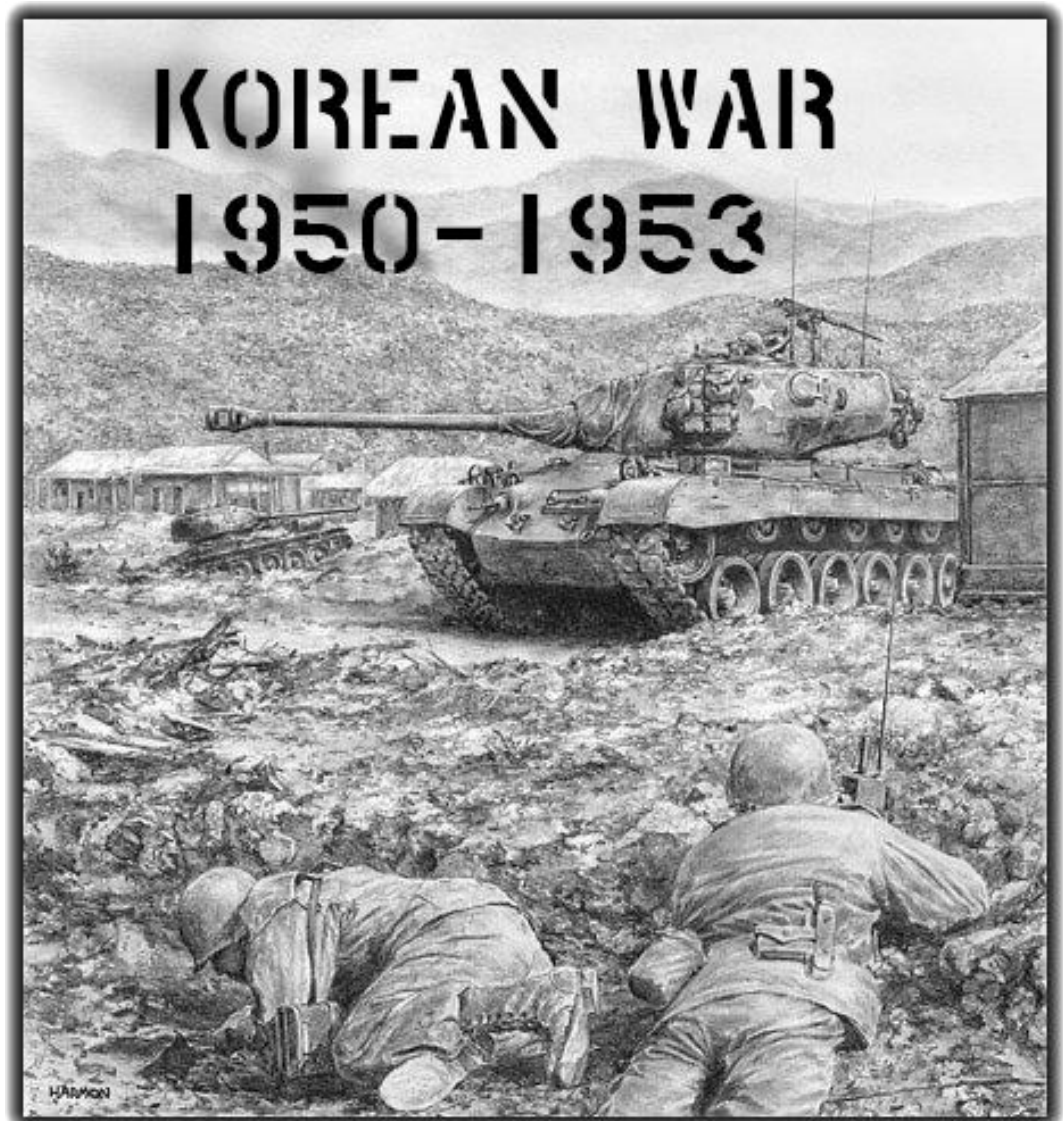
We will have another White Elephant Gift exchange. The kits donated should be 1:48th Scale or larger. The kit should be either armor, military soft skin, artillery, or military figure kits. Kits CANNOT BE STARTED and must be complete. We have had this rule for two years now and it seems some still gets a started kit. This will not be tolerated this time around.

The plan is for BBQ provided by the club, bring a dish of what you like. Soft drinks will be provided. If you would like something stronger to drink BYOB. In other words....LIKE LAST YEAR!

The Editor

Sabot Away!

AMPS Centex 2011- My thoughts



By Roderick Bell

This isn't the official AMPS Centex report. I will let our President and Show Coordinator **Eric Choy** speak to that. However, I will give you all some facts on how this show compares to our previous shows. Again, some of this is backed up by facts and numbers and the other is my personal opinion.

Why do we put on a show? Here are my opinions:

- ♦ To compete against yourself against an International judging standard.
- ♦ To enjoy comradeship with fellow armor and figure modelers.
- ♦ To represent your Club to the rest of the modeling community in our area.
- ♦ To have FUN! This is the most important one in my opinion and it ties into comradeship.

AMPS Centex 2011- My Thoughts - Continued

So how did we do on these four points? I think we did very well.

Judging

Judging was done using the AMPS Judging System. We have come a long way with this. I was pleased with the overall judging effort and I want to thank all the judges who helped out with the judging. However, there are several points where we need to improve on:

1. We need a RamRod to enforce the rules, double check the judging table scores and comments, etc. The chief judge can't always be in the judging pit. There were several teams that didn't put down feedback comments. Modelers love to get feedback. The feedback needs to be helpful. Saying that "You did a nice job on this kit" and the modeler's overall score doesn't reflect that; then there will be questions. Positive comments are always welcomed but make them specific. Point out where the modeler needs to improve but do it in a constructive way. With constructive feedback the modeler will improve.
2. I overheard several "Experts" saying it was never like this or they should have used this color because the one on this vehicle isn't the correct shade. This is where the RamRod would step in and remind the team on what the judging criteria is.
3. Also, while scoring the scores, I noticed that there was a wide range in scores between the judges on a given model. For example, All the way from a 9.0 to a 5.5. As a judging team you should always look at why there is such a huge discrepancy between the judges score. If they are off by .5 or a point then that is acceptable. But 3.5 range isn't and it needs to be addressed by the table team lead OR the RamRod.

Again, I want to thank **Bob Bethea** and **Eric Choy** for getting the Judging off on a good foot. The AMPS Chief Judge (**Mike Petty**) will be coming to Texas in the near future to help certify more of us as judges.

Comradeship

Well, I saw a lot of people having fun and enjoying themselves. Seeing old friends and making new friends. This is one of the reasons why people come to shows. I enjoyed talking with other modelers, vendors, and even some pretty ladies (Thanks **Eric**). Personally, I had a very enjoyable time and I hope you did as well.

If you didn't, I would like to hear from you at the club meeting. Again, feedback is important.

AMPS Centex Reputation

This is hard to gauge. So let's look at the involvement of club members at the AMPS Centex 2011 show. We have 30 paid members. We only had 17 members participate at the AMPS Centex show by being a Contestant, Vendor, Judging, being a runner, or doing other show activities. That is more than 50% participation but we about 75% of the members vote to have a show. So around 25% of the members that voted for the show didn't show up. I am disappointed by that. If you vote to have a show, be there at the show. Support the show and your club! I think we need to determine the reasons why we can't get more club members to participate at the show.

The majority of the modelers were from Texas though we did have a very small contingent from Oklahoma. We had a large contingent of Houston and San Antonio modelers come to our show. I thank them and we should try to attend their local shows as well.

Having Fun!

As mentioned above I had fun and I saw a lot of people having fun. I think we passed this. I

Sabot Away!

AMPS Centex 2011- My Thoughts - Continued

would have liked more members to be there but we can work on that for the next show.

Highlights

- ♦ The Venue. I think we finally have found a home for our show. Yes, it is the most expensive venue we have had to date but it was well worth the expense. The rooms, the lighting, and the overall layout flowed very well. Thanks to **Eric Choy** for finding the venue.
- ♦ Master of Ceremonies: **Bob Bethea** did such a wonderful job with awards ceremony that I would like to make him permanent MC! **Bob** was able to handle the crowd and actually was able to joke back and forth with them. The crowd appreciated it even when we were having some difficulties he was able to make them seem trivial.

Lowlights

- ♦ The cost of the show. We knew that we wouldn't make money on the show. We will just have to do better fund raising in the future to offset the costs.
- ♦ Lower turnout in models and participants. We need to market the show in different ways so we can get more people to come to the show.

Comparisons from our Previous Shows

I don't have all the information from the previous shows but I do for a few items and I will present them here:

Medals

AMPS Centex							
<u>Medals</u>	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	Totals
Bronze	38	31	12	45	48	20	194
Silver	51	49	29	44	73	41	287
Gold	33	40	36	35	29	18	191
Total Medals:	122	120	77	124	150	79	672
Total Entries:	258	234	156	159	172	140	1119
Total Contestants:	69	81	87	43	46	36	362

Our best show for entries was our first show in 2001. We came close to matching the entries highmark in 2003 but have been way down since 2003. The three previous shows (2005, 2007, 2011) we were seeing a slight increase show over show until this year but it is still in the range of entries for our last three shows.

This was also our second lowest number of medals awarded; only the 2005 show had less medals awarded. I think the primary reason for the lower medals awarded is that we are getting better at AMPS Judging.

The average models per entrant for our show was 3.89 models. This is better than the 3.74 average in 2001 and 2009. There were fewer modelers and models but you had most model-

Volume 15, Issue 11

AMPS Centex 2011- My Thoughts - Continued

ers bring quite a few models to the show.

Classifications

The modelers were distributed in this manner:

Registrants	#
Junior	3
BASIC	4
Intermediate	15
Advanced	14
Masters	0
Total	36

We actually had 1 Master show up but we asked him not to enter his entries since no one could judge them. He happily put them in the Display Only category.

Award Winners

Award	Winner	Description
Tank Buster Challenge (Rotary) - 1st Place	Richard Kern	RAH-66B Comanche
Tank Buster Challenge (Fixed Wing) - 3rd Place	Rick Cotten	P-47D T-Bolt
Tank Buster Challenge (Fixed Wing) - 2nd Place	Dave Orloff	A-36A
Tank Buster Challenge (Fixed Wing) - 1st Place	Richard Kern	A-10C Thunderbolt II
Best Junior	Matthew Jimenez	Emhar Mk-IV Male
Best American Vehicle	Lonnie McIntosh	U.S. Jeep
Best Commonwealth Vehicle	Tom Moon	Cromwell Mk. IV
Best Russian/Soviet Vehicle	Lyn Julian	T-34/76 Model 1942
Best German Vehicle	Lonnie McIntosh	Tiger II
Best Small Army Vehicle	Michael Picard	Syrian Hummel
Best Figure	Henry Nunez	Soviet Officer
Best Diorama	Steve McCarthy	'Go For Broke' Tribute to the 100 / 442nd RCT
Best Vignette	Henry Nunez	Surrender of Aachen
Theme Award: Korean War	Michael Picard	Chinese T-34/85
Best of Show: People's Choice	Michael Picard	Ivan the Terrible
Best of Show: Judges' Choice	Lonnie McIntosh	U.S. Jeep

I should have the photographs of each model on the website by the meeting.

Conclusion

Overall, a very nice show. I am happy with the outcome; however we do need to work on getting additional funds raised prior to our next show and a few minor issues with judging and scoring needs to be worked out with the RamRod and additional training and the reports.


Roderick Bell

Sabot Away!


Boresight Volume 19 No. 3

BORESIGHT

THE AMPS MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE | VOLUME 19 | NO. 3



In this issue:
U.S. Army M2A1 105mm Howitzer from AFV Club
Lebanese Phalangist Sherman Conversion
Iraqi Street Scene from Dioramas Plus
Panzerkampfwagen II Book by Tankograd



Boresight Volume 19 No. 3 - Continued

By Roderick Bell

The latest issue of the **AMPS Boresight** is out. Here is what is inside the Volume **19**, Issue No. 3:

- ♦ **Editor Notes**
- ♦ **Membership**
- ♦ **AMPS Review Crew News** by **Chuck Aleshire**, Review Coordinator
- ♦ **U.S. Army M2A1 105mm Howitzer from AFV Club** by **Mark Corbett**
- ♦ **Lebanese Phalangist Sherman Firefly** by **Greg Buechler**.
- ♦ **Iraqi Street Scene Diorama Base** by **Sean Lynch**
- ♦ **Book Review: Panzer II** by **Matt Deck**

Roderick Bell

AMPS International Convention 2012



By Roderick Bell

The 18th AMPS International Convention will be held at the **National Military History Center**. Home of the **World War II Victory Museum** in Auburn Indiana from Thursday April 26, 2012 to Saturday April 28, 2012.

Looks like I will be going to the AMPS 2012 convention in April 2012. I like that it is late April closer to May then it has been in years. I will probably be driving to Auburn again. I will know more about the trip as it gets closer.

Roderick Bell

Sabot Away!

JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

COUNTRY: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

☐ 1 Year US (\$30) ☐ 2 Year US (\$60) ☐ 3 Year US (\$90)

**IF PAYING BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER SEND YOUR
MEMBERSHIP DUES AND COMPLETED FORM BELOW TO:**



AMPS
P.O. BOX 373
ELMA, NY 14059



MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD:

\$30.00 USA, \$35.00 CANADA/MEXICO, \$40.00 REST OF THE WORLD

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 AND CLICK ON “JOIN *AMPS*”. IF PAYING BY CHECK
OR MONEY ORDER, SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AND COMPLETED FORM TO THE ADDRESS
ON THE FORM**

WWW.AMPS-ARMOR.ORG

New Kits

By Roderick Bell

Bronco Models has released two new kits of the M-24 "Chaffee" Light Tank. One in British Service and an Early version in US Service. The US Service Chaffee will include a Dragon US Army tank crew figure set! The new kits are 1:35th scale. The Bronco kit numbers are CB35068 and CB35069.

AFV Club will be issuing a Chaffee as well and a M42 Duster and M41 HMC. If you love the Chaffee, you will be seeing a lot of them and its variants in the near future.

Roderick Bell





Seek, Strike, and Destroy

AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

Roderick Bell
2002 Boxwood Path
Round Rock, Texas 78664-7129
Phone: 512-507-6104
E-mail:
information@austinarmorbuilders.com

The Austin Armor Builders Society is an organization where members gather and share information on building scale armor and figure kits. The Austin Armor Builders Society was founded in 1997 and has about 30 active members. The Austin Armor Builders Society is the local chapter for the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS). Every two years the organization host an AMPS Regional show known as AMPS Centex. This show attracts armor and figure modelers from around the state of Texas and is one of the Premier AMPS Regional shows.

We are on the web: AustinArmorBuilders.com

Support our Troops



Port of Pusan, Korea, These factory fresh Bradley M2A3 Infantry Fighting Vehicles equipped with the Bradley Urban Survival Kit arrived on October 12, 2011. These Bradley's will replace the older models in the Army Propositioned Stocks - 4 (APS-4) at Camp Carroll, Korea.