



Sabot Away!

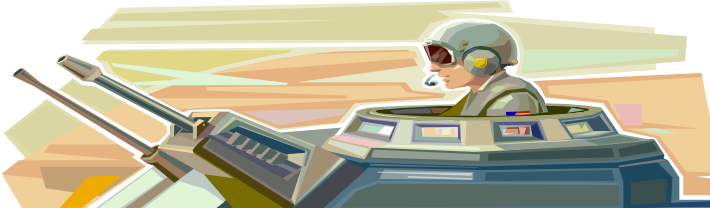


AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

Volume 16, Issue 3

March 7, 2012

From the Turret



This month instead of writing about the weather or yet another kit build, I want to talk about our upcoming



election. That's right, it's been two years already, and the club will be deciding for a new leadership next month. While our bylaws do not include a term limitation clause, I would really like to see some new faces at the front table for the next two years. Russ and I both enjoyed being your commanders in the last four years, but we also believe in the democratic process. It's about time we retire and be told what to do.

Jefferson once said "a little revolution now and then is a good thing." I believe changes bring nothing but positive to the club. Even if they were bad, at least we know not to repeat them in the future. But for changes to happen, we need someone

to yell "I have got an idea. Let's do things my way" or "I want to do something for the club. Please let me be in charge." We need someone to stand up and speak up. We need someone with the best intention of making AABS bigger and better and lead by examples. There is no shame in wanting to be a leader, only in being a moaning and groaning minion.

See you all at the meeting.

**Von Erich
(Eric Choy)**

Special points of interest:

- ◆ CLUB MEETING PLACE
- ◆ UPCOMING PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
- ◆ MAKING MODELS NOT LOVE IN BED
- ◆ BOOK REVIEW: ESCAPE FROM DAVAO
- ◆ MRAP MINESWEEPER PHOTOS
- ◆ BORESIGHT VOLUME 19 NO. 6
- ◆ AMPS 2012 CONVENTION

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.



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From the Turret - Continued



Aaron Smischney's Ferdinand which won Theme award at SWAMP/CALMAX IPMS Show in Lake Charles, LA. Photo by Eric Choy.

Calendar of Events

- ♦ **March 7, 2012** - Club Meeting; **Anti-Aircraft Contest**; Program by **Greg Beckman**
- ♦ **March 16-17, 2012** - **Open House 2012** (Brent Mullins and The Museum of the American G.I.), College Station, Texas
- ♦ **March 30-31, 2012** - **Lone Star Figure Show** (Renaissance Hotel, Dallas, Texas)
- ♦ **April 4, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Eric Choy**
- ♦ **April 26-28** - **AMPS International 2012 Convention** (Auburn, Indiana)
- ♦ **April 28** - **ModelMania 2012** (IPMS Houston Show), Stratford, Texas
- ♦ **May 2, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Worth Haggerton**
- ♦ **May 19, 2012** - **ScaleFest 2012**, Mesquite, Texas
- ♦ **June 6, 2012** - Club Meeting; **White Elephant Contest**; Program by **Roderick Bell** (D-Day Tanks)
- ♦ **July 5, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Bill Menzie** (Meeting on Thursday instead of Wednesday)
- ♦ **August 1, 2012** - Club Meeting; Program by **Russ Holm**

Club Meeting Place

By Roderick Bell

We meet at the **Austin Public Library - Old Quarry Branch**.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Old Quarry Branch Library on 7051 Village Center Dr.

The meeting time is still 7PM on the first Wednesday of

the month (See **Calendar of Events** for schedule) I hope to see you all there!

Roderick Bell



Upcoming Programs / Presentations and Newsletter Articles

By Roderick Bell

Month	Program / Presentation	Newsletter Article
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	Roy Ott
2012 - August	Russ Holm	TBD
2012 - September	TBD	TBD
2012 - October	TBD	TBD
2012—November	TBD	TBD
2012 - December	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

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MAKING MODELS, NOT LOVE, IN BED

By Bob Bethea



As an old retired guy, I have options not available to other modelers: adequate time and opportunity to build my kits. A few of you know that about three years ago I had a bit of a health challenge that put me in bed for a while. I found that I had the easy options of reading and watching TV to fill my time. However, as an avid armor and figure modeler, I realized that I had more kits than I ever could get to, but wanted to build EVERY one I owned. Restriction to the bed logically inhibited my options to building in lieu of painting. It is easier to tolerate plastic shards and dust than paint spills in bed, so my decision was made.

All I found that I needed was a kit, X-Acto knife, flush clippers, emery board, sandpaper, Tamiya putty, and Tamiya cement. All of those still live in the lower drawer of my nightstand. This is where being single has been to my advantage, as no woman is around to tell me I can't operate in this manner.

There is a TV on my bedroom wall to keep me busy, but there is always a tank kit or two next to me on my king sized bed that let me keep my hands occupied during commercials. As time progressed, my stomach grew giving me a great worktable on which to clean tank parts.

In bed you can easily review instructions and parts, and plan construction options and paint schemes before you build. As I progress through the instructions, I take it one step at a time and clip all the parts from that step from the sprue and place them inside the empty box top. Next comes cleaning all those parts of seams and unwanted protuberances. When they're all clean, I break out the Tamiya cement and glue the parts from that step together. I continue making subassemblies until I need to break out the Tamiya putty to fill seams or add texture to parts. As the build progresses, all subassemblies are combined and the final product emerges. I have

MAKING MODELS, NOT LOVE, IN BED - Continued



never been successful in building single link plastic track so that they can be removed for painting. I find they break too easily or stick to the wheels and drive sprockets. Therefore, I just build them and glue them to the kit and paint them in place. Single link track can be supremely boring, but with the TV and a plan, they move right along and are very usable.

The height of my success in building in bed was completion of Trumpeter's Morser Karl WITH the train car carriers. That process used up the whole king sized bed, but I'm sure I never would have put that much time into one project were it not for the "in bed" building opportunity.

One downside of this way of building models is that painting is delayed and such procrastination has become epidemic in my household with over 130 models awaiting paint. The other downside is the inevitability of ruining multiple bed coverings. On the flip side, I'm one of the few modelers who has had the opportunity to actually build a major part of his collection of kits. The ease of building in bed in front of the TV has obviously become addictive, but I'm trying to break the habit and spend more time at the airbrush and painting desk. Time will tell if I'll be able to get the bed modeling monkey off of my back.

Bob Bethea

See more photos of Bob Making Models, **NOT LOVE in Bed on page 6 & 7.**

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MAKING MODELS, NOT LOVE, IN BED - Continued

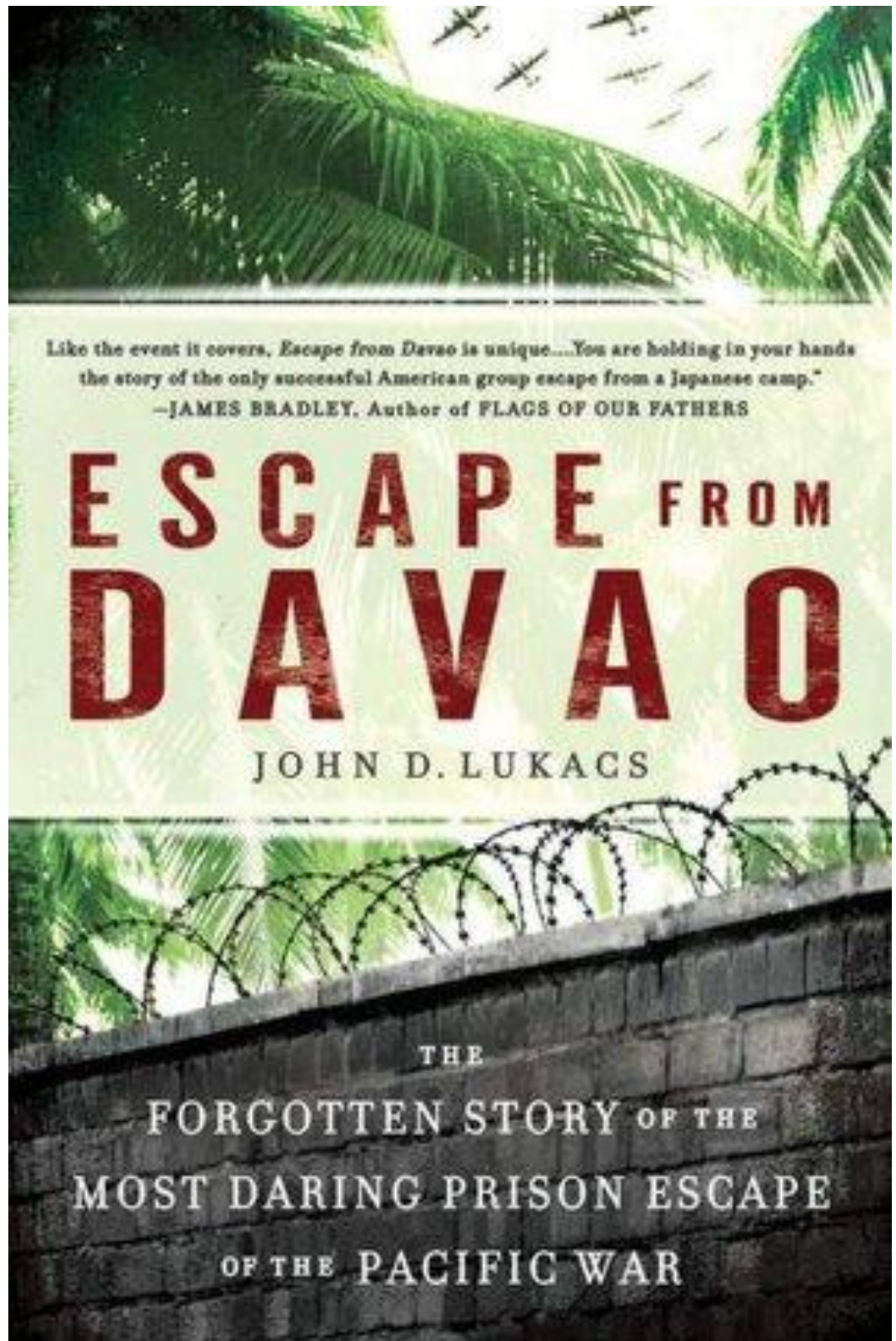


MAKING MODELS, NOT LOVE, IN BED - Continued



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Book Review: Escape from Davao



Book Review: Escape from Davao - Continued

By David Bourland

Escape From Davao: The Forgotten Story of the Most Daring Prison Break of the Pacific War by John D. Lukacs

Lukacs (<http://www.johndlukacs.com>) journalist and historian and Norte Dame graduate. While researching a story on former Golden Dome and PTO veteran Mario 'Motts' Tonelli he became aware of this escape story. Motts is well known in the lore of the small Indiana college but not so well known outside of that state or their grads. Lukacs spend years researching the topic interviewing as many participants as possible and even traveling to the site of the camp. The book is well written and strikes a balance between personnel accounts and the contextual bigger picture.

Motts was in the same camp with these ten men but was not part of the escape. This is the story of ten American POWs and two Filipino guides escape from Davao prison camp in April of 1943.

Most escape stories start at the planning and end as the party arrives safely home. Lukacs has taken a much more complete approach. He starts with a short profile of each of the ten growing up and why they joined the service. Two grew up in Texas. Most were driving into the service by the depression.

Then he tells the story of the surprise start to the war and the Battan and Corregidor weaving in each of the party's contribution as well as many other significant players. After the surrender he covers the Death March and the first Japanese Camp.

One day the Japanese asked for volunteers to transfer to another camp. They were given almost no information but most felt it could not be worse. They traveled by ship. During this time they were feed and treated considerably better by the IJN personnel then the Army did in the camps.

The camp was Davao and converted prison and work farm. That gave this party two crucial elements for escape. First, it still housed a few Filipino convicts. A murderous past was little concern to American POWs; they were bonded by being in the same situation and a hatred for their captors. Secondly as it was a farm they were around and able to steal food.

Indeed one of the first elements of the plan was the long term aim of being able to steal enough food to restore their health to a level that would allow them to be strong enough for a jungle trek.

The plan was to make their way to the coast, steal a boat and sail to Australia. This is why the party was so large, the Navy leader felt he needed that many people to navigate successfully. This is also the reason the party was so diverse, they needed to blend skills. The final party was part Navy, marine, Air Corps and Army.

Escape itself was pretty easy, it was the plan and provisioning that was hard. Also these ten were able to keep this a secret from the rest of the camp for fear of loose talk foiling their efforts. When the fateful day came they left camp to go to their various work area and never returned.

Once in the jungle they had navigation trouble and probably would have died or been recaptured if not for a bit of luck. They first heard a battle between the Japanese patrols from the camp and Filipino guerrillas.

Eventually they made contact with the guerrillas and were able to prove their legitimacy. There were then able to cross the island. At that point the party broke up somewhat. Some where

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Book Review: Escape from Davao - Continued

picked up by US Subs. Some stayed longer, some helped the Allied presence on the island or the guerrillas. Eventually all but one of the ten made it back to American lines and safety.

One of the strongest motivators for the party was to tell their story to the American people of the mistreatment of POWs. However when they returned they were ordered to maintain secrecy. The issue became a public relations and political hot potato. There were fears that news would de-rail a Red Cross Ship, make the Japanese treat prisoners worse and increase criticism of the Europe first policy.

I hope this small review has interested you enough to read the book and meet these characters.

David Bourland

MRAP Minesweeper Photos

By Michael Burns

I am working in Afghanistan and while I was on my way to the mess hall at the Kandahar Airfield I saw a vehicle that I knew some of my armor buddies back in the states would like to see. It is one of the new MRAP-ATV or M-ATV vehicles built by Oshkosh configured as a mine-



MRAP-ATV Minesweeper in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Note the anti-RPG cage. Photo taken January 8, 2012 by Michael Burns.

MRAP Minesweeper Photos - Continued



Here is a photo of a Russian T-34/85 with “Bed Spring” armor welded onto it to help protect it against Panzerfaust or Panzerschreck attacks. Photo taken in Berlin, May 1945.

sweeper!

This vehicle also has a unique anti-RPG cage on it. It differs quite a bit from the slat armor you see on the Strykers or Leopard A2A6's you see in country. It reminds me of the “Bed Springs” attached to Russian T-34/85's late in the war to help prevent penetrations from Panzerfaust or



Here is a unit marking on the MRAP gun shield. It is a Skull Face. Photo taken January 8, 2012 by Michael Burns.

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MRAP-ATV Minesweeper Photos - Continued

Panzerschreck attacks.



In Afghanistan, most of the vehicles don't have any distinguishing markings. Some do. This particular vehicle does show two types of unit markings.

Editor: Here is another unit marking. It is a shield over two crossed Rifles. I can't make out the image... maybe a wolf? Photo taken January 8, 2012 by Michael Burns.



Editor: Frontal shot of the minesweeper attachment. Photo taken January 8, 2012 by Michael Burns.

MRAP-ATV Minesweeper Photos - Continued



Editor: A couple of nice shots of the MRAP-ATV Minesweeper showing the minesweeper and the cage armor. Photo taken January 8, 2012 by Michael Burns.

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MRAP-ATV Minesweeper Photos - Continued



Editor: A shot of the minesweeper connecting to the MRAP-ATV and a good shot of the Cage Armor. Below is shot of the Michelin tire. On higher resolution you can see MICHELIN on the tire. Photo taken January 8, 2012 by Michael Burns.



MRAP-ATV Minesweeper Photos - Continued



Editor: A few more shots showing the cage armor. Photo taken January 8, 2012 by Michael Burns.



Michael Burns (with comments by the Editor)

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Boresight Volume 19 No. 6

BORESIGHT

THE AMPS MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE | VOLUME 19 | NO. 6



In this issue:

Creating the Egyptian Sherman with French Turret
Academy M3 Grant kit bash **AMPS 2012 Update**
IDF M1 & M51 Sherman Walk Around
Scale ModelWorld Show Report



Boresight Volume 19 No. 6 - Continued

By Roderick Bell

The latest issue of the **AMPS Boresight** is out. Here is what is inside the Volume 19, Issue No. 6:

- ♦ **Editor Notes**
- ♦ **AMPS Review Crew News** by **Chuck Aleshire**, Review Coordinator
- ♦ **Egyptian Sherman with French FL-10 Turret** by **Greg Beuchler**
- ♦ **2012 AMPS International Convention** by **John Charvat**
- ♦ **M3 Grant Kit Bash** by **Ed Hall**
- ♦ **Change in AMPS Leadership** by **Danny Egan**
- ♦ **IDF Sherman Part 1 - M1** by **Robert Goldman**
- ♦ **IDF Sherman Part 2 - M51** by **Robert Goldman**
- ♦ **AMPS Local Chapter News** by **Chuck Aleshire** and **Tim Darrah**
- ♦ **Writing Articles for Boresight** by **John Robinson**

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. This year's theme is "Flak'n Ack-Ack". Anti-Aircraft defense weapons.

Looks like I will be going to the AMPS 2012 convention in April 2012. As of now, I have two traveling companions. **Bob Bethea** and **Aaron Smischney** will be driving up to Auburn with me and we will be sharing expenses. Sharing the expenses will give us more money to spend at the vendor tables!

If you would like to tag along let me know. We can talk about getting a larger vehicle to haul us all to Auburn! From Round Rock, Texas it is only 1,218 miles or about 20 hours away.

If you can't make Auburn but would like to send models with us; please let us know and we will be happy to take it. As mentioned before I like that the show is in late April (almost May). This is one of the latest shows that I can recall. I will have a show update at the next meeting. See you there.

Roderick Bell

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New Kits

By Roderick Bell

AFV Club as mentioned in last months newsletter here is the box art for the AFV Club US Army Duster (M42A1) used in the Vietnam War. It is a 1:35th scale kit. Kit No: 35042.

Dragon will be releasing a 1:35th scale Panzer-kampfwagen I Ausf. A 4. Serie/La.S. Light tank.

This will be a "Smart Kit". Kit No: 6451.

Roderick Bell





Seek, Strike, and Destroy

AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

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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



US ARMY PFC Dewy So, 172 Infantry Brigade "Blackhawks" in Marzak, Afghanistan. Photo taken January 15, 2012.