

#### AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

Volume 16, Issue 10

# From the Turret

Feel Proud! Through the hard work of several local authors and the influence of Roderick Bell and Eric Choy, our local AMPS Chapter (AABS) now has its own issue of Boresight, the National AMPS Magazine. Congratulations to all who participated. Last year Boresight had an issue focused on the projects from the Southern California Chapter of AMPS. Now we have become the ONLY other chapter to enjoy such fortune. We were lucky to have such a talented base of builders, painters and authors to choose from. However, we were even luckier to have the talent of Eric Choy as Co-editor of Boresight and Roderick Bell

Continued on Page 2



# **RESIGHT**

AMPS Centex Special Issue: 'Achtung Jabo!' Diorama Renault UE Chenillette Potato Masher in 1:1 scale Rommel's Rod Member Gallery Egyptian T-34 & more...

# 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.



#### Special points of interest:

- CLUB MEETING PLACE
- UPCOMING PROGRAMS / PRESENTA-TIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
- A TURN FOR THE BETTER
- CRETE: THE BATTLE AND THE RESISTANCE
- DEATH'S DOOR
- CLUB AUCTION RESULTS
- QUARTERLY CONTEST PRIZES
- NORMANDY INVASION FAILS
- BORESIGHT VOLUME 20 NO. 5
- AMPS 2013 CONVENTION

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October 3, 2012

# Sabot Away!

MY THANKS GO OUT TO ALL THE MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR ARTICLES AND TO ERIC AND RODERICK FOR A JOB WELL DONE. IF WE WEREN'T ON THE AMPS MAP BEFORE, WE ARE NOW!

## From the Turret - Continued



**Oscar Perez's** Rommel's Rod made a big impression to the AMPS *Boresight* readers of Volume 20, Issue 5. Photograph by **Eric Choy**.

as "Senior" vice president pushing such an issue.

order one for \$6.00 each from the AMPS website where you email Chuck Aleshire to set it up. While

If you want a copy you can

**Calendar of Events** 

- October 3, 2012 Club Meeting; Quarterly Contest; Program by Eric Choy
- October 6, 2012 The 2012 Austin Scale Model Show. Norris Conference Center, Austin, Texas. Show theme: "Made in Hollywood"
- November 1, 2012 Club Meeting (Meeting on Thursday instead of first Wednesday); Program by Robert Mesch
- December 5, 2012 Club Meeting; Program by Richard Eaton
- December 8, 2012 Christmas Party; "White Elephant" Gift Exchange
- ♦ January 2, 2013 Club Meeting; Program by Roderick Bell
- February 6, 2013 Club Meeting; Program by Russ Holm
- March 6, 2013 Club Meeting; Quarterly Contest; Program by Oscar Perez
- April 3, 2013 Club Meeting; Program by Joe Fischer
- May 1, 2013 Club Meeting; Program by Dave Bourland
- June 3, 2013 Club Meeting; Quarterly Contest "White Elephant" Contest; Program by Aaron Smischney
- July 3, 2013 Club Meeting; Program by Tom Pachalos
- August 7, 2013 Club Meeting; Program by Ted Paone

your at it go ahead and Join AMPS.

My thanks go out to all the members submitting their articles and to **Eric** and **Roderick** for a job well done. If we weren't on the AMPS map before, we are now!

#### **Bob Bethea**

# **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	Here is a list of members who are responsible to
2012 - October	Eric Choy	Ted Paone	provide a article for the newsletter and to per- form a program / pres- entation. Please note that you may contribute as many articles as you want anytime. This sched- ule is to insure that we
2012 - November	Robert Mesch	Roy Ott	
2012 - December	Richard Eaton	Greg Beckman	
2013 - January	Roderick Bell	Jerry Opperman	
2013 - February	Russ Holm	David Edgerly	
2013 - March	Oscar Perez	Greg Beckman	have at least one article in the newsletter per
2013 - April	Joe Fischer	Karl Leidy	month. Please make sure you get the newsletter editor the article as soon as possible. He must have it the Friday before the meeting.
2013 - May	Dave Bourland	Eric Choy	
2013 - June	Aaron Smischney	Rick Herrington	
2013 - July	Tom Pachalos	Roderick Bell	
2013 - August	Ted Paone	Russ Holm	
2013 - September	Club Auction	Bill Menzie	
2013 - October	Bill Menzie	Jorge Aduna	Roderick Bell
2013 - November	Rick Herrington	Ted Paone	
2013 - December	Roderick Bell	Jeff Forster	

# A Turn for the Better

#### By Ted Paone

The wheels of most soft skin, armored car and halftrack models are modeled to point straight ahead. I think that is boring. Turned wheels add interest to a model, they can add excitement to vignettes and dioramas as the jeep careens around a corner or the armored car pulling a quick U-turn, escaping certain doom. Unfortunately, few kits provide any way to display the vehicles except driving in a straight line, right over the edge. For some kits, there are aftermarket parts which replace the axles but they are expensive and you have to hunt them down. I'm going to show you an easy way to turn the wheels of any model without spending lots of money.

When you are attaching wheels to an axle, the wheels have to be turned parallel, vertically straight and aligned across the chassis. Well, not really vertical in real life but you will get dinged at a contest if they are not. The wheels turn at the end of the axles. The amount they can turn is usually limited by the body so you can't turn very much, even if you want to display violent action. I go about 10-15 degrees, this seems to look pretty good for most jeeps and trucks I model.

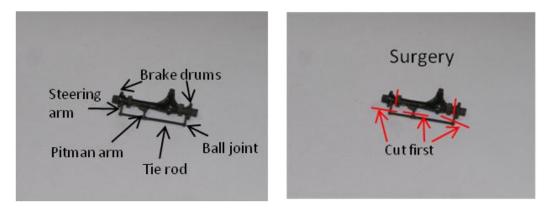
Gather your forces. For tools you need a razor saw, I got a new one from Kings plastic rod, some 90 degree angle brackets, some blue tack and masking tape, and Testors liquid glue. The angle brackets I use are small magnetic welder's angles with a steel sheet for a base.

From the model you will need to assemble the rear axle but leave the turning axle unattached. I usually use the kit wheels for this exercise and then replace them if the model calls for different wheels.

You have to make the changes before assembling the frame and drive train. The join between the turned wheels and the axle is a potential weak spot; you want to reinforce the joint with brass wire. On the front axle, drill through each axle end at least as far back to get a brass wire into the original plastic after the surgery. I use a .017 drill for a .015 wire.

The tie rod connects the two wheels on the turning axle through the steering arm which is rigidly attached to the brake drum. The tie rod connects the steering arms together and causes the wheels to turn. The Pitman arm connects the steering box to the tie rod and moves the tie rod left and right which turns the wheels. There are ball joints at each tie rod connection. Carefully cut the tie rod at the end of the steering arm at the so the ball joints remain connected to the tie rod. Remove the center connection from the steering box to the tie rod, you will replace this later.

Next, cut the brakes off the front axle flush with the brake and remove a short section from each side of the axle. On the jeep I removed section between the springs and the brake.

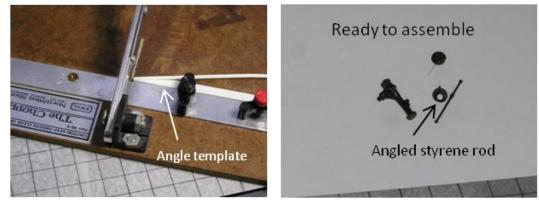


ATTACHING WHEELS TO AN AXLE, THE WHEELS HAVE TO BE TURNED PARALLEL, VERTICALLY STRAIGHT AND ALIGNED ACROSS THE CHASSIS. WELL, NOT REALLY VERTICAL IN REAL LIFE BUT YOU WILL GET DINGED AT A CONTEST IF THEY ARE NOT. THE WHEELS TURN AT THE END OF THE AXLES. THE AMOUNT THEY CAN TURN IS USUALLY LIMITED BY THE BODY SO YOU CAN'T TURN VERY MUCH, EVEN IF YOU WANT TO DISPLAY **VIOLENT ACTION. I** GO ABOUT 10-15 DEGREES, THIS SEEMS TO LOOK PRETTY GOOD FOR MOST JEEPS AND TRUCKS I MODEL."

"WHEN YOU ARE

# A Turn for the Better - Continued

Cut the angle connectors from styrene rod, two short sections, one side is straight, the other is at the angle. I use a chopper and a plastic template I made for the angle. Cut the angle from each end of the rod and then cut the angled ends from the rod with straight 90 degree cuts. The piece should be about the same size as the section you removed earlier when measured across the middle of the flat side.



Assemble the frame so that the rear axles are attached. You can glue on the front axle as well, you may want to use superglue (CA) so you can break the bond later. Use blue tack and secure the rear wheels on the axle. Set this between the angle brackets to hold it up. Use a jig or some modeling clay to hold up the front end to the correct height for the wheels.

Use blueTack to attach the wheels to the brake drums. With blueTack attach the angle connectors to the brakes so the angle part is against the brake. The brake drums are handed, the steering arm points to where the tie rod will be, usually the front of the vehicle. The angles must be aligned with the steering arms and they should be point in the opposite directions on the two wheels. Align the wheels and prop with angle brackets. You may have to adjust the fit but be sure that the steering arms are parallel for the tie rod connection. If you sand some off the angle connectors, remove equal amounts from each angle connector.

Look from the all angles, sides front, back and above to make sure the wheels are straight and parallel and are aligned across the chassis. Place the body on the frame to make sure there is no interference.

Once you are happy, remove the front wheels, brakes and angle connectors. Mark the connector location and angle before removing. Make a straight alignment mark on both pieces. Glue the angle connectors to the brake drums. Use Testors cement as the Tamiya is too fast for a "USE BLUETACK TO ATTACH THE WHEELS TO THE BRAKE DRUMS. WITH BLUETACK ATTACH THE ANGLE CONNECTORS TO THE BRAKES SO THE ANGLE PART IS AGAINST THE BRAKE."

# A Turn for the Better - Continued

good bond. Coat the face of the angle connector and the brake drum where they will attach. Let dry for a few minutes. Re-coat with glue and join, aligning with your marks. Use masking tape as a clamp while it dries.

Glue the wire into the axles with CA.

Once dry, drill a hole from the center of the connector rod to the center of the brake drum axle end. This is not straight in from the face but angled. It should exit the same hole drilled previously.

Dry mount the brakes back on the axle, threading the wire through the axle. You have to bend the wire to get it to fit correctly, then cut it at the end of the axle. Now blue tack the wheels and adjust again using the angle brackets. When happy, mark your alignments and remove the wheels and brakes as a single piece. Put CA on the wire and glue the pieces with Testors as before, glue on both parts, let stand, glue on both parts again and assemble. Check your alignment from all sides again. Set aside to dry.

Turn the frame over and attach the tie rod ends to the steering arms. Create a new Pitman arm and glue it at an appropriate angle between the tie rod and the steering box. This is a delicate assembly as the attachment points on the tie rod and the steering arms are small so do it as a final assembly step.

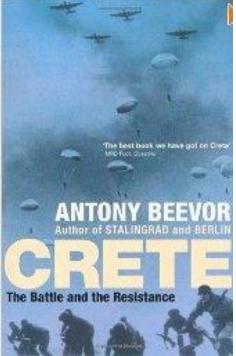
Be sure to turn the steering wheel appropriately when assembling the interior. If you add a driver, the arms may need adjusting to show the act of steering.

Now when your drivers see a fork in the road, they can take it. When they are comin' round the mountain, the can go round rather than straight over the side.

## **Ted Paone**

"BE SURE TO TURN THE STEERING WHEEL APPROPRIATELY WHEN ASSEMBLING THE INTERIOR. IF YOU ADD A DRIVER, THE ARMS MAY NEED ADJUSTING TO SHOW THE ACT OF STEERING."

#### **CRETE:** The Battle and the Resistance



#### **By David Bourland**

The author of this paperback book is Antony Beevor. The ISBN13 Number is: 9780719568312. I saw a review of Beevor's new book on Normandy. I was not familiar with him and looked at his previous work. I found this book on Crete. I had read articles and chapters about the battle but never a full length work. So I picked this up. Overall the book is good but with a couple of faults, there were some natural questions I feel he left unanswered.

Beevor covers the allied point of view from boots on the ground to high level command. The German point of view is covered but just supplemental.

The book is organized in three parts. Part I sets up the context with British special forces, spys and professor and the battle for the Grecian mainland. Part II is the battle for Crete and Part III is the resistance eventual evacuation. This is one of the best elements of the book, you can't understand the battle without understanding the mainland conflict immediately prior and covering the resistance completes the "BEEVOR COVERS THE ALLIED POINT OF VIEW FROM BOOTS ON THE GROUND TO HIGH LEVEL COMMAND. THE GERMAN POINT OF VIEW IS COVERED BUT JUST SUPPLEMENTAL."

#### story.

A lot of the first part is about British professors and eccentrics in special forces. Some very interesting stories about Ian Flemming's brother Peter. Germany realized the importance of Crete, seemingly as an after thought of the mainland campaign. Britain realized the value sooner but not by much. It seems to me Britain would have been better served to use their limited troops and resources to fortify Crete and avoid conflict on the Greek mainland entirely. He points out how this could have been useful but never addresses it directly.

Beevor mentions that had Crete remained in Allied hands it could have become a massive airbase capable of bombing, among other things Ploiesti oilfields earlier and more consistently than the actual course of the war.

In short the German's landed spread out over the island in a plan more suited to a light or unorganized resistance. Some Anti-aircraft unit cleverly held their fire against the faster fighters and diver bombers and waited for the slower and more vital transports. British forces on the ground stoutly resisted but did not organize counterattacks. Once an airfield was captured the German pulled a logistical miracle landing enough troops quickly enough to secure victory. The window for successful counterattacks had passed.

I think the book could really benefit from more material from the German leadership point of view. Why did the spread their forces around three major objectives instead of concentrating on one. The story behind landing enough troops quickly enough to secure the victory is incredible but only told from the observer point of view.

Beevor lets his own point of view influence his writing I think he is transparently upset that this was a lost opportunity instead of the first British land victory of the war.

Much of Beevor's ire is aimed at New Zealand, Major-General Bernard Freyberg the UK commander on the island. He feels he should have trusted his ultra reports more and ignored

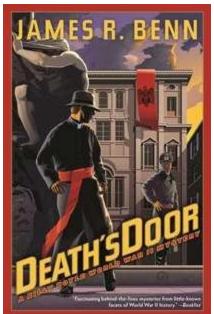
# **CRETE:** The Battle and the Resistance - Continued

the possible sea landings and focused on the airborne threat. He did make mistakes but, I think Beevor gives him too much heat and too high expectations. He is asking a combat veteran to completely trust a brand new source of information, ignore a form of invasion existing since man first made a raft and focus entirely on a mode of island invasion that had never occurred before in history. True airborne troops had contributed to invasions but never been the soul or primary force.

It is a good book on an generally under the radar topic. Despite the areas I would build out more or disagree with I am happy I read it and recommend it.

## **David Bourland**

#### **Death's Door**



#### **By David Bourland**

I just finished Death's Door, the eighth book in the Billy Boyle Historical Mystery series by James R. Benn.

I have read the complete series now but I think a new reader could start at any point and get full enjoyment from the stories. I enjoy historical fiction but I have stayed away from WWII subjects as I have read a lot in that area and was afraid that inaccuracies would bug me too much.

Benn has completely earned my trust. Not only has he never written anything that didn't ring true but he has piqued my curiosity about some items and I have learned things about little covered areas of the conflict.

The main character is Billy Boyle, a young Irish police man from a family of policeman and detectives from Boston. Family connections get him assigned as a staff officer to a distant cousin they think will spend the war as an administrator in Washington. Billy' Dad and Uncle lost a brother

in the Great War and don't want to lose any more in, 'another war to save the British empire."

That cousin turns out to be Eisenhower. He uses Billy and others to solve crimes that may disrupt Allied Unity. This set up lets Billy get involved in many situations AND know the big picture.

Billy's co-star is Lieutenant Baron Piotr Augustus Kazimierz: Known as "Kaz". He is a well educated Polish refugee.

The series, to me, is getting better and better. I think in part because the characters are growing and changing. In the first books Billy was wide eyed trying to figure out his job. He had only recently become a detective, with a little help from family members on the testing board. Over the course of the books he has learned more about his job, human nature, himself and how he fits in a very complicated picture of the war effort. Benn doesn't hit you over the head with these changes, they are subtle and a natural part of the stories.

In the course of the war/series Billy has been in Norway, Morocco, Sicily, Northern Ireland, Lon-

"THAT COUSIN TURNS OUT TO BE EISENHOWER. HE USES BILLY AND OTHERS TO SOLVE CRIMES THAT MAY DISRUPT ALLIED UNITY. THIS SET UP LETS BILLY GET INVOLVED IN MANY SITUATIONS AND KNOW THE BIG PICTURE."

# **Death's Door - Continued**

don and Italy. In this book Billy and Kaz are sent to Vatican City to investigate the murder of an American Priest serving there. This is pretty tricky, they have to smuggle themselves in, investigate a murder the Vatican Police think they have solved and avoid upsetting the delicate balance of Vatican neutrality. On top of that when they arrive they find their real identity and purpose is an open secret.

This is a wonderful setting. There are so many moving parts of this puzzle all with agendas. Those that are not hidden from sight are hidden in obtuse, verbose language. In the course of this book we meet, among other notables Sterling Hayden as agent John Hamilton and Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty who aided or hid many refugees and escapees.

Not only does Billy have to solve this crime but he hopes to find a way to find our more about or save his girlfriend. She is also an agent, sent to Rome undercover as a Nun in the last book we learn that she has been captured.

Very enjoying for al Benn/Boyle fans, WWII history buffs and readers of historical mystery fiction.

# **David Bourland**

# **Club Auction - Results**



Here is a photograph of the kits available for the auction (more arrived later). Photograph by **Roderick Bell**.

#### By Roderick Bell

Our annual club auction was held at last month's **Austin Armor Builders Society** meeting. I want to thank everyone who participated by showing up for the auction, donating kits to the auction and to those who went above and beyond by buying kits.

We had a nice turn out from the membership and some really "THIS YEAR WE RAISED **\$672.00**! I BELIEVE THIS IS OUR THIRD HIGHEST AUCTION TOTAL IN OUR CLUB'S HISTORY. A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED."

nice kits. This year we raised **\$672.00**! I believe this is our third highest auction total in our club's history. A big thank you to everyone who participated.

All funds go back into the treasury to help with show and club expenses.

## **Roderick Bell**

# Sabot Away!

## **Quarterly Contest Prizes**

HERE ARE THE PRIZES FOR THE QUARTERLY CONTEST. SINCE WE ARE HAVING OUR CLUB AUCTION IN SEPTEMBER WE ARE DELAYING THE QUARTERLY CONTEST TO THE OCTOBER MEETING.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC CHOY.



#### By Eric Choy

The Quarterly Contest Prizes for October are:

- German Half-Track L4500R,Maultier by Revell
- Krupp/Ardelt Waffentrager 105m leFH-18 by Trumpeter
- Polish PT-76B Amphibious Tank by Trumpeter
- U.S. M3A1 White Scout Car by Hobby Boss
- T-80 Soviet Light Tank by MiniArt

Be sure to bring your work to October meeting to compete in the Quarterly Contest. The more the merrier!

#### **Eric Choy**

## **Normandy Invasion Fails**



#### **By Roderick Bell**

**News Flash! Normandy Invasion Fails!** No, I am not rewriting history but our wayward travelers **Rick Herrington, Russ Holm,** and **Eric Choy** were not able to get to Normandy because of a French Ferry Strike.

This was the last leg of their trip so it didn't cause too much of a problem to the travelers. They were able to divert to other museums on the coast and back in London.

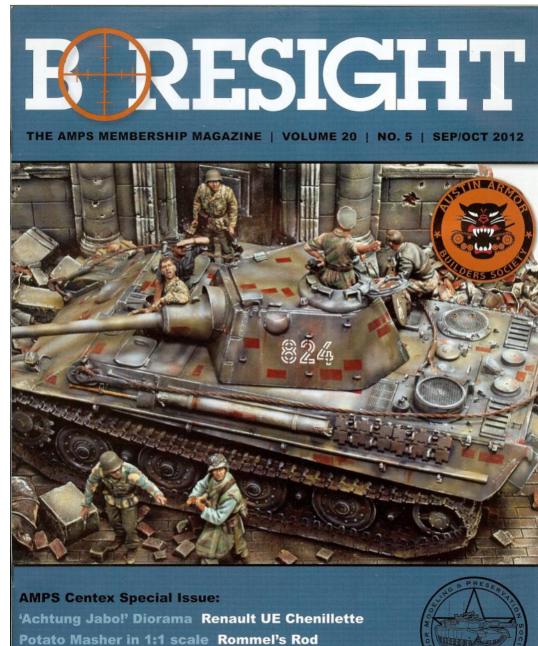
Make sure you come to the October meeting to hear more about their trip to Europe. See you all then!

NO, I AM NOT REWRITING HISTORY BUT OUR WAYWARD TRAVELERS RICK HERRINGON, RUSS HOLM, AND ERIC CHOY WERE NOT ABLE TO GET TO NORMANDY BECAUSE OF A FRENCH FERRY STRIKE.

**Roderick Bell** 

# Sabot Away!

# Boresight Volume 20 No. 5



BORESIGHT VOLUME 20 ISSUE 5: IS THE AMPS CENTEX ISSUE. MANY OF OUR CLUB MEMBERS HAVE ARTICLES OR MODELS IN THIS ISSUE.

> Boresight Volume 20, Issue 5 is the AMPS Centex, Austin Armor Builders Society issue. This is our club and members issue. The cover photo is Achtung Jabo! By Bob Bethea and Henry Nunez.

Member Gallery Egyptian T-34 & more...

# Boresight Volume 20 No. 5 - Continued

#### By Roderick Bell

The latest issue of the **AMPS Boresight** is out. This issue is the AMPS 2012 International Convention issue. Here is what is inside the Volume **20**, Issue No. **5**:

- Editor Notes by John Robinson
- AMPS Review Crew News by Chuck Aleshire, AMPS 1st Vice President and Review Coordinator
- Achtung Jabo! by Bob Bethea and Henry Nunez
- Meet the CENTEX Gang by Rod Bell, AMPS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, US Central Region
- Renault UE Chenillette by Eric Choy
- Steilhandgranate 24: aka 'Potato Masher' ARRII Kit in 1:1 scale by Russ Holm
- Lost in Mexico: Donde Fregados estamos? by Oscar Perez
- Member Gallery By AMPS CENTEX
- T-34 1:25 Scale: A Moldie Oldie by Pat Rourke
- When In Texas, do what Texans do! Don't miss the fantastic museums and events in Central Texas by Rod Bell

#### **Roderick Bell**

# **AMPS International Convention 2013**



#### By Roderick Bell

The 19<sup>th</sup> **AMPS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION** will be held in Atlanta Georgia from Thursday April 18, 2013 through Saturday April 20, 2013. The convention will be held at the Atlanta Marriot Century Center, 2000 Century Blvd NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 USA. More show information can be found at:

#### http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/default.aspx

The 2013 theme is "Civil Warriors" - Tanks or military vehicles named after Civil War Generals". Once again, our show Logo was created by **Matt Deck**. See you there!

## **Roderick Bell**

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#### WWW.AMPS-ARMOR.ORG

# **New Kits**

#### **By Roderick Bell**

**Dragon Models** has a new release of the T-28 Super Heavy Tank. It is a Smart Kit in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale. This looks like a monster of a kit.

Dragon also has a new figure set of Rommel and his Staff in North Africa in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale.

**Bronco Models** As mentioned last month, Bronco has been very busy and has released another kit. This kit is the German Versuchsflakwagen 8.8cm Flak AAuf Sonderfahrgestell (Pz.Sfl.IVc) in 1:35<sup>th</sup> scale.

#### <u>Tamiya</u>

Tamiya has a new 1:48<sup>th</sup> scale release. It is the German Flakpanzer IV Mobelwagen with Flak43. Kit No: 32573.

## **Roderick Bell**



 Versuchsflatwagen 8.8cm Flatur

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#### 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 April 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



A U.S. Army paratrooper with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division fires his M4 carbine at insurgents during a firefight June 30 in Afghanistan. Photo by U.S. Army.