



Phone: 215-426-1447
Mail: 3235 Amber St. #6 - Philadelphia, PA - 19125
Web: www.te-motorworks.com

Dispatch From The TE Labs: The Pink Panzer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia, October 15th, 2008 - Gearhead playboy Vin Marshall and the TE Labs crew have constructed a life-size, pedal-powered replica of a Panzer Kampfwagen III in only 11 days. Then, as the novelty wore off, they painted it pink and managed to get it installed as public art.

"I came up with a terrible idea, and then we did it," said Marshall about the manic and successful attempt to build a massive human-powered vehicle for Philadelphia's Kensington Kinetic Sculpture Derby. An art derby needs invaders, and surpassing last year's prize-winning pirate ship, the TE Labs crew arrived at the 2008 derby in a 20 foot long, 6 wheeled tank armed with a water canon.

A team of 10 people constructed the tank from salvaged parts of trucks and bicycles, over 70 feet of drive-chain, and several thousand pounds of steel. The tank featured a functional turret with a nitrogen powered pneumatic cannon and a sound system for Wagnerian operas. A crew of eight people was required to power the tank, navigate, and operate the cannon. As is typical for Philadelphia, piloting the tank on city streets resulted in absolutely no repercussions.

The tank was painted in pink camouflage and is now installed as public sculpture in the Fishtown section of Philadelphia. A Google maps search for "Team PzKpfw" indicates the exact location.

The construction and pastel rampage of the pink panzer is documented in episode #5 of the "Dispatch From The TE Labs" video show.

For more information visit: www.te-motorworks.com

About TE Motorworks:

TE Motorworks, Inc. is an engineering firm based in Philadelphia, PA and the San Francisco Bay Area. Projects range from decorative metalwork and chassis building to video production and software development. Known as the "Post-Industrial Laboratory," the shop is named after TE Lawrence, one of the last of the well educated swashbucklers.

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