



Hi everybody and welcome to another issue of the *Wildcat*. This month we have a report on the Atlanta AMPS Regional show and some information on the special contest coordination meeting we held on Sunday, 28 Feb. For those of you who missed it, the Atlanta show was a great event, and one that you might want to start planning to attend next year. Also, coming up, don't forget that the AMPS International Show in Fredericksburg, VA is going to be 6-9 April. This is the AMPS equivalent to IPMS' annual show and definitely one not to be missed by armor-fans! This year's show has some fantastic tours and seminars scheduled along with what is sounding like one of the best vendor years ever. It's certainly within a one day's (loooong...) drive, and if you can't make it an overnighter you might want to think about doubling up and making a day-trip out of it.

Finally, Tim Darrah has an open letter to the membership concerning the issue of dues. Please read his letter and consider what he has to say. We will discuss it at our next meeting.

Last Meeting Minutes:

Well, once again yours truly missed the last meeting. Yea, that ol' 1:1 scale world got in the way of my model building again!

But thanks to Tony Kelly and Jeff Nelson, all the important stuff was covered-down on. Tony did his usual (well... it is getting to be *usual*) job of *honcho*'ing the meeting, and last month Jeff jumped in with both feet and took all the photos of the models that were brought in for Show & Tell.

Tony reports that the meeting was a pretty casual affair with some great discussion about models and model building, and from the photos that Jeff took, I see that I missed some fantastic builds and WIP's.

Great job guys! And thanks again to Tony and Jeff to keeping things rolling along.

Photos of Models at Last Meeting:

This month we have a change to our previous newsletter format. Since we now have a website up and running, we also have a special page where we'll post the photos from the meetings. So, for those of you (and me!) who miss a meeting, now you won't have to wait all month to see what went on at the last meeting model-wise. Check it out!

Minutes for the Special Contest Coordination Meeting

On Sunday, 28 Feb, we held a special meeting to discuss and coordinate tasks and actions for up-coming contest on 16 July, 2011. In attendance were: Tony Abbot, Tim Darrah, Dave Varettoni, and myself, Mike Roof.

At the meeting we discussed the following:

AMPS registration, judging and contest organization // The Ball Park Road venue // Vendor table sales // Solicitation for raffle prizes // Registration costs // Raffle ticket costs // Contest promotion and flyers // Special awards and show theme // Field awards // Judging training // Insurance // Possible participation of the local MVPA chapter (to show restored vehicles).

Although the four of us did not constitute a quorum, we made several decisions. These are listed here. We will open up each of these decisions for discussion at the next meeting. If no one present (or by proxy) requests changes or votes, we will consider the following points as settled:

- 1) Vendor tables will be sold at \$20 ea. (with an exception that we will discuss at the next meeting).
- 2) Registration will be \$12 for adults (unlimited number of models) and \$10 for AMPS national members. Juniors (17 and under) will be \$5 (unlimited models). General admission will be free.
- 3) Award sponsorship will be \$20, to include special awards and the show theme.
- 4) Raffle tickets will be \$1 each with a graduated scale for increased numbers purchased (i.e. \$5 for 6 tickets; \$10 for 13 tickets; \$15 for 19 tickets; and \$20 for 25 tickets).
- 5) We will table the final decision on special awards and show theme until the next meeting. If anyone has any suggestions for the show theme, please make them known by the next meeting.
- 6) Tim Darrah volunteered and will be our POC to sell vendor tables and solicit for raffle prizes.
- 7) Everyone in the club will be asked to donate one complete (preferably still in the shrink wrap) plastic or resin kit for our contest raffle.
- 8) Dave volunteered to check out a new tee-shirt and printing shop in Lexington to price shirt printing and embroidery (the digitalization fee is substantially less than our last vendor) and possible show awards and club-logo name plates.
- 9) Mike will survey the venue, obtain dimensions and develop a floor plan. He will attend the next SCMA meeting (Monday, 7 Mar) to coordinate, and he will draft up a contest flyer.

10) Everyone, please start now keeping your personal schedules and agendas clear for Friday and Saturday, 15 and 16 July.

11) We will conduct a field judges training seminar on Friday, 15 July (tentatively at the Lexington County Public Library on US 1 – Augusta Highway). This will be conducted by Mike Petty, the AMPS National Head Judge. All club members who are able should plan to attend this training in order to be ready to conduct judging the following day. Note the field judges training is different than the judges' certification seminar (which is developed for table captains, ACJ's, Chief Judges and show chairs).

Next Meeting Agenda:

Next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm Wednesday, 09 March, 2011.

Meetings are held on 2nd Wednesdays at the HobbyTown USA store, 10120 Two Notch Road, Suite 5, Columbia, SC 29223, (803) 736-0959.

6:00 pm: Meeting starts / Admin Business / Raffle Tickets: We will also discuss the latest information on the contest plans.

6:30 pm: Show & Tell: Builds and WIP's

6:50 pm: 20-min Break / Shopping / Mixer

7:10 pm: Reconvene / Draw for the Raffle / Continue: Show & Tell: Builds and WIP's

8:00 pm: Meeting ends (officially – but we'll carry-on as long as the store will stay open)

Classified Ads:

Send your requests for assistance with references, help or advice resolving building and finishing problems, or needed "bits and bobs" for your latest project to the editor for inclusion in the next newsletter.

If you can help out your fellow club members, please bring what you have to the next meeting. If you think that you could present your method or technique to solve a problem or accomplish a building or finishing task, let the editor know. Maybe we can organize your info into a demo for general presentation to the whole group and add it to the following meeting's agenda (or an extemporaneous presentation at the next meeting).

Research Assistance / Info Needs: No requests this month.

Construction / Building / Finishing Problems that Need Help / Advice: None.

Parts-Swap Needs: None

Up-coming Events of Interest:

April 6-9, 2011: "17th AMPS International Convention," Fredericksburg, VA

April 13, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

May 11, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

June 8, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

July 13, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

July 16, 2011: Our Inaugural Contest, jointly-hosted with the Midlands Chapter of the SCMA! Gymnasium, Ball Park Road Recreation Facility, 432 Ball Park Road, Lexington, SC 29072.

August 3-6, 2011: IPMS / USA National Convention, Omaha, Nebraska.

August 10, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. **(Our one year anniversary!)**

September 14, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

October 12, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

November 9, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

December 14, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. **(Christmas party anyone?!)**

Armor Modeling Forums where we “hang out:”

Send new sites and links to the editor for inclusion in the next newsletter.

AMPS Central South Carolina: <http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org>

Well, of course it's the first one listed!

AMPS Homepage: <http://www.amps-armor.org/>

Armorama: <http://www.armorama.com/>

Historicus Forma: <http://www.hfmodeling.com/>

Missing-Lynx: <http://www.missing-lynx.com/>

Track-Link: <http://www.track-link.net/>

Tanks & Things: <http://tanksandthings.com/>

IDF in Scale.com: <http://www.idf-in-scale.com/index.html>

Armour Workshop:

<http://www.armourworkshop.ca/index.php?sid=042e18c7e22a67e8049fcb153c9d89d8>

Ralph Nardone's "Iron Modeler Blog": <http://www.ironmodeler.com/>

Mike Roof's Firefly:

<http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=Sections&file=index&req=viewarticle&artid=3516>

Dave Varettoni's Heller AMX 30 B2:

http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=169849&page=1

Keith's "Map Reading by Lamp Light" Diorama:

<http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=Sections&file=index&req=viewarticle&artid=2072>

Newsletter Feature Article:

Recon Report: Atlanta AMPS Regional Show

Date: 18-20 February, 2011

By: Mike Roof, AMPS #1632 and Dave Varettoni, AMPS #

Location: Atlanta Marriott Century Center, 2000 Century Blvd, Atlanta, GA

The AMPS Atlanta Regional show was presented jointly with the Atlanta Military Figure Society's 34th annual show. This was the AMPS club's 3rd show, and the AMPS portion of the show was organized and conducted according to the AMPS National Contest rules and show SOP. It featured 43 entrants showing 91 models and receiving 68 medals in 4 skill levels: junior, basic, intermediate, and advanced.

The show started for us on Friday, 18 February with Mike Petty's (the AMPS National chief judge) Judges' Certification Training and Seminar. Both of us attended this, and all I can say is: wow! Mike Petty has an excellent presentation and the seminar was attended by 10 future AMPS judges. After Mike's thorough presentation and some great discussion, it was on to early registration and my first judging session.





AMPS conducts its judging using teams of (usually four) trained members one of which is the supervising Table Captain. Each judging shift runs about 2 hours, during which the team is expected to judge about 8-10 models per hour. However, results vary, and with our team (the first shift of the night) getting off to a slow start, our patient (and undoubtedly long-suffering) table captain was only able to get us up to 6-8 models per hour.

As it turned out, this was about the actual speed for all of the shifts that I participated in (a total of five shifts). (Hmmm...? Maybe it was it just me slowing 'em down!) Actually this is OK because a thorough, deliberate look at each model coupled with scoring and written comments aimed at helping the model builder improve his or her craft is what it's all about.



In the end, both Dave and I completed all of our required sessions as field judges (and then some!) along with at least one each session as a table captain, and at the end of the show, we both earned the coveted "AMPS Certified Judge" pin!

By now, I'm sure that many of you have heard the saying that "one of the best ways to improve your own model building is to spend some time judging." You, know, this isn't just a bunch of empty talk. I'm an old-salt when it comes to model shows, competing, and judging, and in fact I judged at the AMPS International Convention in '95. Trust me- I am no cherry when it comes to judging. Dave can speak for himself, so I won't put words in his mouth. But I can say with complete honesty that I always learn something to apply to my own modeling every time I judge, and this show was no exception.



(I highly encourage every one of you to get involved with the judging at the next show you attend. Don't worry about thinking that you don't have enough "experience" to be a judge, or that you're not an "expert" modeler and therefore not qualified, etc. Sure, it takes some *cojones* to walk up to a bunch of strangers and ask if you can help out with the judging, but you'll be glad that you did. Our up-coming show in July is a perfect chance for everyone in the club to get some experience as a judge – don't pass it up!)

The show itself was outstanding! Nearly 100 world-class armor models and 2-300 unbelievable figure models could have kept me busy for days and days of "ooh'ing and aaah'ing." There was not even close to enough time to look at all the entries and garner the full measure of even most of them much less all of them. Fantastic!

The Atlanta club had a display of their latest club project (group-



build), the DML Jagd Panther. Like all the rest of the show, it was a great display of some outstanding work!



The vendor showing was – well the Atlanta guys packed 'em in for sure! Hardly enough room to walk between the vendor set-ups. Among the many vendors was Badger, Formations (Rob Erving also gave a great seminar on resin casting), Commanders, and Tiger Model



Designs. I could have spent a "zillion" dollars.



In the end, the "Best US" and "Judges' Best of Show" were both awarded to Ken Guntin's 1/72 scale M60A3. This was a model that was very deserving of the accolades and a fine example of the AMPS judging system at work. I'm not too sure that I've ever been to any other show venues (in literally over 40 years of model competitions) where a 1/72 scale anything would walk away with all the marbles! However, AMPS judging ensures that each and every model gets the exact same hard look as every other model gets. And that hard look is given by a group of the modeler's peers who have the time to give each entry a thorough, methodical, and detailed examination, which includes any building information provided by the modeler, so small, but outstanding examples don't get overlooked.



By the way, the "Wildcats" were fairly represented at the show, with 4 entries, which earned 4 medals (one silver and three gold's – four for four – not too shabby!) and one "Best of" (Best Commonwealth)! Dave Varettoni had a great showing for his first contest!

AMPS Atlanta 2011 – What'a show!

An Open Letter to the Membership from Tim Darrah

As you all know that we are hosting a contest in July and hosting a contest costs a considerable amount of money before the event takes place. Yes we do have a small amount from our monthly raffle, but this will drop quickly after buying the awards, postage/printing costs, etc.

We also have that great web site now, and that has a monthly fee. That fee can go up in order to get more storage space for articles, archived photos, etc.

Therefore, I propose to the club that we now introduce membership dues of \$12 per year. I feel that this is a small enough amount not to cause any member much "financial discomfort".

Tim Darrah
AMPS # 2545

Chapter Contact Note: Hopefully, Tim will be able to attend out next meeting and bring this issue before the membership. In the event that he can't make it, we will consider this letter to be a "motion" and open to debate. With a "second," we'll take the issue to a vote if we have a simple majority quorum. If you know that you can't make the meeting, please let me know (by phone or e-mail) any time before the meeting how you stand on this issue, "yes" or "no," and I will count your vote by proxy. Mike Roof

“The Day Room”

Well, guys, that's about it for this issue.

We have a lot of hard work and heavy lifting to get ready for our show in July, but I think we're well on the way to getting everything organized.

I'd like to especially thank Tony Abbot, Tim Darrah, and Dave Varettoni for turning up for the contest meeting. We had a very productive session and accomplished a lot, and I believe our show will be much better for it.

Don't forget to give some thought to Tim's open letter about dues, and also keep in mind the extra work that Tony Kelly and Jeff Nelson have done to keep the ball rolling on our monthly meetings. We owe our newest member, Dave V., a big thanks for taking the time and expense to go to the Atlanta show and earn his judge's certification. We'll be relying on him to carry a heavy load during our contest.

Although we're maybe not quite there yet, the time will soon be upon us when we'll need and benefit from some more structure to our club's organization. We should probably give some serious thought to holding elections (or simply soliciting volunteers) to hold regular officer positions. The work that Tony Kelly has been doing to run the meetings while I've been gone is a perfect example of what having a vice president would do for us. Also, after our July contest, our treasury will certainly be large enough that we should have at least two people managing it (a treasurer to maintain it and co-authorize all expenditures and one other club officer to co-authorize the same). There are also a couple of "house keeping" positions that we could fill to share some of the work involved in running things (anyone out there who wants to OJT running a website?!).

But those are matters for the future. Right now, I think we're going gang-busters in making things happen, and for a chapter that's as new as a shiny penny, we're doing great! I hope you think so too!

Mike Roof
AMPS #1632
Chapter Contact