



Newsletter Special Edition: 2013 Contest Decision

Hi guys, at our last meeting, August 15, 2012, we discussed the invitation by our friends in the Sumter / Shaw AFB IPMS "Gamecocks" Chapter to jointly host a contest with them on 21/22 July, 2012.

We tabled the issue pending more time for everyone to consider the details and scheduled a vote for our next regular meeting, September 12, 2012.

This special edition to our newsletter will outline the proposal and invitation, give you the estimated bottom-line budget numbers, and provide you with some of the other things that we should consider before we make a decision.

At our next meeting, we will hold a vote to either accept or decline the Sumter IPMS invitation. I would ask all of you to make the meeting and cast your vote. As you will see below, this possible change in venue to our regular show will affect the entire club, so everyone in the club should make their opinions known. If you can't make the meeting, you may vote by proxy (either coordinate directly with another member or send me your vote by email).

The Proposal and Invitation:

IPMS/Gamecocks will host the IPMS Region-12 (R-12) Regional Convention 21/22 July, 2013. This date is fixed and based on their winning the bid to host the convention.

The location will be in the Sumter County Convention Center (SCCC). This venue is fixed.

They have invited us to joint-host the contest at the SCCC. They have offered to organize the R-12 contest over 1-1/2 days (Friday, 21 July: 5-9:00 pm and Saturday, 22 July: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm). These times are flexible within reason. Adding hours to either day increases the venue cost slightly.

Each club would:

- o Conduct their portion of the contest IAW their own governing bodies and competition rules. We will run the armor portion of the show using AMPS categories, rules, and judging procedures. We will present awards IAW the results of AMPS judging.

- o Split the total costs for the SCCC.

- o Pay for their own "extra" rooms. We will need a room for judging and conducting our judges' training seminar.

- o Pay for their own tables for competition and administration.
- o Split the costs for vendor, raffle & food court tables.
- o Split the cost for chairs.
- o Split any other SCCC costs.
- o Split the income from General Admission (GA), all raffle sales and vendor tables sold. All visitors will pay for GA. The clubs will run a single, joint raffle. There are 94 planned vendor tables to be sold at \$20 each. The income from the raffle and vendor tables depends on participation.
- o Keep all monies gained by their portion of the contest. Each club will conduct its own contest/show registration charging fees according to its own schedule.

Estimated AMPS Budget:

I have a detailed, line item budget that breaks down all the estimated and known costs. I will have this available at the next club meeting if anyone wants to see it. If you have a particular question before the meeting, just ask me (call or email).

The bottom line AMPS figures though, for the day-and-a-half show described above are:

Total estimated costs: \$1440.00

Total estimated gross: \$1880.00 (does not include any estimated share of the GA)

Estimated after-show net profit: \$440 (does not include any estimated share of the GA)

The above figures assume that we'll operate the venue 4 hours on Friday and 8 hours on Saturday. The budget also allows for \$250 for AMPS special awards, but does not count the cost of our medals (already purchased).

These figures also assume that we will sell 100% of the vendor tables, that we will take a \$400 share in the joint raffle, and that the AMPS portion of the show will have 40 entrants who will also pay for an additional 15% for extra models entered in the AMPS show.

Bottom line: We should be able to do a little better than break-even (~+\$500).

Estimated AMPS Entries:

Based on the statistics from our last AMPS contest, 14 July, 2012 and the general entry numbers from last year's IPMS R-12 show, I have estimated that:

AMPS will have about 40 entrants (some double-tapping both shows). I assumed that we would charge the same for registration as our last show - \$12 per entrant for the first 3 models plus \$3 for each additional model.

At our last AMPS show, about 15% of the models entered were paid for over the base entry fee of \$12. The R-12 contest had about 120 armor models entered.

I estimate that if we jointly host the R-12 show, we will see about the same level of armor entries – 120 models. Using 40 entrants paying full entry (\$12) plus \$3 each for an extra 20 models, I estimate our registration take at about \$540.

Our last AMPS show had 83 models entered for judging. My estimate of 120 models entered for the proposed joint show is about a 30% increase.

Other Considerations:

1. If we jointly host the proposed show in Sumter, we will not host our regular show approximately 3 weeks later in Lexington. This proposal puts us in an either/or situation. We can do one show or the other, but not both. We simply do not have the manpower resources (since about half of the AMPS membership will be involved in the Sumter contest already).

2. The Sumter IPMS chapter will not host a show or contest in 2014. They are in an every-other year contest cycle. We will be on our own in 2014 to find a venue and host a show if we want to do that.

3. If we accept the invitation from Sumter, we will probably lose our "habitual" relationship with the Mid-Lands Chapter of the SCMA and will not be invited back to joint-host a show at the Ball Park Road Gym in 2014.

4. We have made a tentative proposal to the IPMS Mid-Carolina "Swamp Fox" chapter to joint host a contest in 2014 at the SC National Guard Armory on Bluff Road. A decision by them will not be made before the end of this year.

5. If we cannot find a venue or event in 2014 where we can joint host a show, if we at least break-even on the Sumter show, we should have sufficient funds in our treasury to rent a venue and host a show on our own.

6. However, this change in venue does position us for the future. A large 2 or 3-way contest for 2014 involving AMPS, IPMS and possibly the SCMA at the Bluff Road Armory represents an "ideal" solution for the Columbia Metro area. If we were able to that, then hosting another show the following year, 2015, again with Sumter would create a very good regional scale model contest cycle, benefiting all of the clubs in our area.

7. Driving times and distances for most of the AMPS members will be significantly longer with a show in Sumter. This drive will have to be made at least twice – Friday and Saturday.

8. The increased number of models entered (+30% over our past shows) will require that we conduct registration and judging on both Friday evening and all day (judging) on Saturday.

9. These last two points, longer drives and more judging time, will demand a total commitment from all AMPS members to pull the show off while maintaining our high standards of excellence. Our previous two AMPS shows have established our club as a group that doesn't take short-cuts. We have a well-respected and hard earned reputation to up-hold.

So What Do I Think?

Ok, guys, you can see the facts and assumptions.

I believe that accepting the proposal and jointly hosting a show with our Sumter friends is "doable." We have the budget and manpower. The practical aspects of running two shows in the same venue

at the same time can all be managed. We've done it before with the SCMA and it should even be easier with our Sumter friends.

To be sure, we WILL NOT make as much money as we have over the past two years. In fact, we'll be lucky to make about half of what we netted last year. On the other hand, we shouldn't go in the hole, either, and after all, we're not in it for the money. As long as we can keep our operating capital high enough to run the club and have the seed money for the following year's contest, we're good.

The major cons are that we'll be taking a chance on not sustaining our contest cycle for 2014 and the proposed show in Sumter will take quite a bit more time and effort from everyone in the club – more driving time and more time judging.

The major pros are:

We're helping out our Sumter club mates. In this respect, we're getting a lot of "bang for our buck."

We're extending the AMPS influence to a whole new constituency and taking the AMPS presence in our region to a higher level. IPMS regional shows are "big events," and participating as an equal partner in one raises the level of AMPS awareness way beyond our previous show efforts.

By taking our show efforts to the next higher level, we're posturing ourselves and AMPS for the future in our region. If everything works out well, we stand a good chance of convincing the IPMS Mid-Lands "Swamp Fox" chapter to joint-host a show at the Bluff Road NG Armory. Starting a two-year cycle of joint hosting shows with the Sumter and Mid-Lands IPMS chapters is a worthy goal. If we're successful with that, then there are many other paths that could open up for us.

So, we can do this, but only if everyone in the club is 100% percent behind it.

Give it some thought.

See ya next Wednesday. "Til then, Happy Modeling!

Mike Roof

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