



Well, guys, you did it again! Another great show that was even larger than the last one – Physically and operationally, it was our biggest show yet!

The detailed show statistics are below, but by any measurement you want to use, this was definitely our best show ever. We had more entrants and more models: the venue was much larger along with more vendors and a bigger raffle. Although our net income was down a bit from our last show, this was because of the greater expenses of the larger venue, and the difference in net was not really that large. However, the intangible gains realized by the larger venue and show cannot be measured in terms of money.

In my opinion, the most important "improvement" in this show was the much greater number of people, from both the general public and the model-building community, who were exposed to AMPS for the first time. As many of you are aware, there was quite a bit of controversy around the IPMS "Gamecocks" (Sumter / Shaw AFB) chapter's decision to invite our AMPS chapter to participate in their Region 12 Convention and Show. Some of this concern was based on legitimate differences in opinion about what the nature of an IPMS event should be. That, however, is a purely internal IPMS issue that will require an IPMS consensus and solution. It's not the place of AMPS or AMPS members to advocate or try to dictate how IPMS (or any other organization) should run their shows.

As a national and local IPMS member in good-standing, I have certainly voiced my own opinions and thoughts on these matters in various IPMS forums. If you're also an IPMS member, local or national, I encourage you to let your IPMS leaders know what you think about the future direction of IPMS. However, as AMPS members, we should appreciate that just as we wouldn't want IPMS or anyone else dictating to us how we run our shows, AMPS has no place or interest in doing that to anyone else.

From an AMPS member perspective, though, I was grateful for the opportunity to participate and host the show with our IPMS friends. I believed at the time they invited us, and still do, that it was a win-win opportunity for both chapters and parent organizations.

On the other hand, there's no denying that there was a lot of "anti-AMPS" attitude expressed before this show. I believe that the majority of that negative attitude was founded on ignorance and misunderstanding about AMPS: how we judge, what our show procedures are, and what our exhibition and modeler recognition goals and objectives are. In short, I believe that most of the nay-sayers simply didn't have any first hand knowledge and experience with AMPS, and this lack of understanding, coupled with misunderstandings and misinformation, created a situation full of uncertainty about what would happen if AMPS was involved. As is human nature, uncertainty leads to fear of the unknown, and fear leads to defensive behaviors and rhetoric, some of which we witnessed in the lead up to this show. All of this was unfortunate, but it was also understandable.

However, I believe that we've laid those fears to rest for anyone who attended and participated in the show. The broader AMPS community came together for this show and put our absolutely best foot forward. Our AMPS friends from near and far traveled to this event to lend us their support and assistance. It was quite telling that we had guys from other AMPS chapters as far away as Atlanta GA, Fayetteville NC and Northern VA, who attended our show, not to enter models or to exhibit their work, *but for the sole purpose of assisting us with judging and other show operations*. With their help and your hard work, we showed the greater model-building community in our area what AMPS is all about – helping other modelers become better and more skilled in the modeling art form.

AMPS is not about some politically correct notion of "everybody's a winner." Our G-S-B awards system is about recognition of the individual's demonstrated skill. Our judging and scoring methods are not some sort of exercise in "rivet counting," but are conducted in order to give each and every show entrant targeted, constructive feedback on his model building. My long association with AMPS has made me a total convert to the efficacy of the "AMPS way" in helping modelers to become more skilled. It's quite obvious to anyone who's involved with AMPS for any period of time that as soon as a model builder starts to exhibit and enter his work for judging that his learning curve steepens sharply, and his skills increase dramatically. This is the quite natural result of giving that modeler individualized, written scores and comments about his work and suggestions about what he can do to improve. Helping our fellow modelers to realize their full potential in the model-building art form is the AMPS exhibition and judging mission.

This show was no different. Every entrant on the AMPS side was provided with the scores and comments for each of his works, and all of that feedback was done to the high (and consistent) standards that AMPS judges adhere to. The majority of these entrants will now see and understand, first hand, exactly what AMPS is all about, and those that appreciate what they have received at the show will in turn become ambassadors for AMPS with their friends and local clubs. What's more, all of the participants could see that in the AMPS recognition system, our G-S-B medals awarded by skill-levels and categories, that there was no "AMPS bias" or prejudice towards non-AMPS members, nor were there any "rivet counting" judges at work. The show results clearly demonstrate that no matter the entrant's modeling organization affiliation (if any) or skill-level or personal building and finishing "style," everyone earned their medals equally. The special awards, our "Best Of's," were also made to the best works exhibited, again regardless of any organizational affiliations. If anyone does not believe this, all they need to do is to look at the published show statistics (in this issue) and the *complete* list of entrants who earned awards published on our website. The numbers don't lie.

Finally, as word filters out from our show partners, the Sumter IPMS chapter, about their experience in working with an AMPS chapter, others in our greater model-building community will see and come to understand some of the benefits of multiple clubs joint hosting events. Our Sumter IPMS friends experienced faster show judging, reduced workload and reduced costs for their own awards, as well as having someone to share the overall expenses and work. The double-organization billing attracted more vendors and raffle donors than might have otherwise contributed to the show. From the operational and financial points of view, the joint show was very successful. Far from being a negative, multiple organizations working together create a synergy that's beneficial to all and which achieves more than any single group could achieve on its own.

So, my friends, as you contemplate our show results and (deservedly!) bask in the glow of yet another job well-done, consider the broader view and appreciate not only how you accomplished the AMPS mission of helping your fellow modelers who entered this show, but also appreciate how much your hard work and hospitality have done to promote AMPS and the "AMPS-way."

*Note: The above comments are not a statement of official AMPS policy. They are entirely the personal opinions of this newsletter's editor.*

### **Last Meeting's Minutes:**

Our last meeting was held at 6:00 pm, June 12, 2013. We had 11 members in attendance, and those members brought in 09 models to show and tell.

During the meeting: Scott gave us a treasurer's report: We have approximately \$2530 after the latest awards sponsor donations and show expenses; Our engraved special award plaques were available for review. John Sherrer identified a misspelled work on one of them, and Keith offered to return it to the trophy shop for correction. (Note: This was done and Keith had the corrected plaque in hand by COB Friday, June 13. Thanks, Keith!); We discussed the contest timeline and duties that will need to be done; We noted that our website has exceeded 71K hits; Tom Wingate made a personal \$100 donation to sponsor awards. (Thanks, Tom!)

### **Next Meeting's Agenda:**

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 12 June, 2013 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month's business: Treasury Report (Scott Amey) – Detailed Financial Report from the show; Detailed show operations report and discussion with emphasis on lessons learned; Report from Tony on the IPMS side of the show, to include vendors and the raffle; IPMS representative (Tony) transfers to AMPS our share of show receipts; Discuss and vote on sponsoring an award at the AMPS Armorcon Show.

Discuss the recent site visit of the Medallion Center, a proposed venue for a possible bid to host a future AMPS International Convention in Columbia, SC.

Discuss and get volunteers for the AMPS Central SC chapter exhibition at the "Toy Soldier Show," Saturday, 10 August, SC State Museum. Set-up tentatively scheduled to start at 7:00 am.

NOTE: Starting this month, the HobbyTown USA store will close at 7:00 pm (1900). This means that all purchases at the store must be made before then so that the cash registers can be closed. Keith will keep the store open for our meeting until 8:00 pm (2000), but the store will be closed for business NLT 7 pm. I suggest that if you need to make purchases or want to do some lengthy browsing of new items, you try to show up a few minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting. If necessary, we may delay the meeting start to accommodate the new shopping hours.

6:10 pm (1810): Show & Tell: Builds and WIPs.

6:50 pm (1850): Break: Shopping & Social Mixer

7:10 pm (1910): Reconvene: Show & Tell: Builds and WIPs

8:00 pm (2000): Meeting ends (officially – but we'll carry-on as long as the store will stay open)

*Regular meetings are held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 pm (1800) at the HobbyTown USA store, 10120 Two Notch Road, Suite 5, Columbia, SC 29223, (803) 736-0959.*

### **Up-coming Events of Interest:**

**Jul 10, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800):** AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Jul 13, 2013, 9:00 am – Until Complete:** Mid-Lands Chapter SCMA contest and show, Gymnasium, Ball Park Road, Lexington, SC.

**Aug 10, 2013, Times TBA:** Toy Soldier Show, SC State Museum. SCMMS. AMPS exhibits member models and mans information and recruiting table at the show. (Tentative).

**Aug 14, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800):** AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Sep 11, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800):** AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Oct 09, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800):** AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Nov 09, 2013:** AMPS All-American / Lafayette Scale Modelers show in Fayetteville, NC in conjunction with IPMS Lafayette Scale Modelers.

**Nov 13, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800):** AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Dec 11, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800):** AMPS Christmas Party anyone?

**Apr 3-5, 2014:** AMPS International Convention, Fredericksburg Hospitality House (Convention Center), Fredericksburg, VA. Convention theme: "Hollywood Tanks."

### **AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" 2013 Show Statistics**

The following graphics depict some of the most important statistics for our recent show.

As you read these, keep in mind that this year's show was our largest ever – a larger venue, more entrants, more models entered, more vendors, a larger raffle, and a larger obligation of chapter funds.

Also keep in mind that much of this growth in size was directly related to our co-hosts. The combined show participation numbers illustrate this. Together, both chapters had over 450 models on display with 100 entrants. The general admission numbers largely reflect the advertising and promotion efforts by our IPMS friends in their local newspapers, with large numbers of families attending with their children to participate in the IPMS "Make-n-Take" program along with free-admission promoted for folks in uniform: military, law enforcement and emergency services, and Scouting members.

One statistic graphic might not be immediately understandable – the "Entry Flooding" slide. Most folks immediately assume that more models entered in a show is automatically a good thing. However, because AMPS' exhibition and judging mission is to provide written constructive feedback on each and every model, more models equates to a greater expenditure of judging resources – more judges, more shifts, more teams, and more time. AMPS' judging is not an exercise in comparative assessments, pitting one model against the next, with larger numbers of entrants increasing the odds of the entrant "winning." AMPS' judging is about assessing, scoring, commenting and providing written feedback for each entry.

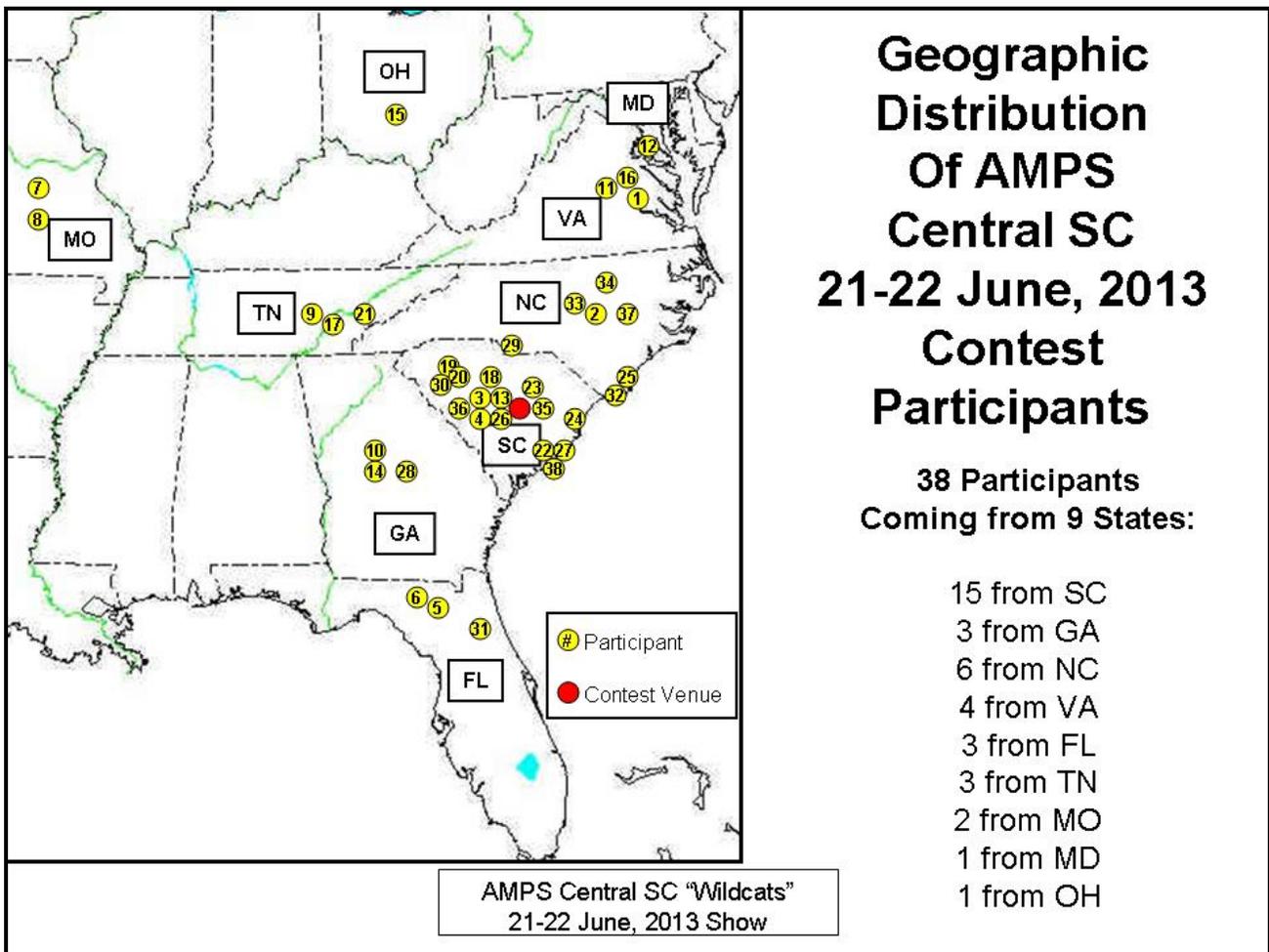
While it's understandable that everyone wants feedback on all of their models, AMPS is organized to around the idea that the judges are assessing the entrant's *best, most current work*. *Feedback is most useful if it's about what the modeler is doing now and not about what he was doing years ago*. When the judges are looking at significantly older work, work that's not representative of the modeler's current skills, the feedback provided is likely not telling the modeler anything that he hasn't already learned and moved beyond. However, the amount of judging resources needed to assess and score an old model is the same as is needed for more current works.

While we want everyone to enter their models and get the feedback that they want and need, from a resource allocation point of view, it's better to get more modelers entering fewer models each than fewer modelers entering more models each. That is, getting more folks to enter the show with each getting feedback on his best and most current works is better than have the same number of models entered by fewer guys, providing feedback on older models that has been overcome by recent developments in skill.

We really want each entrant to only enter his best and most recent work for judging, and we'd rather have those older models exhibited on the "display only" tables. Of course, AMPS has lots of categories and multiple models entered in any given category that do represent the modeler's best and most current work are exactly what AMPS wants to provide feedback on.

The ideal is for each entrant to "self-select" his best work and enter that for judging, no matter how many models this might be. But if his skills have clearly advanced beyond the quality of his older work, then he should want to allow those judging resources to be used for his fellow modelers and for their best and most current works. This is a balancing act with repercussions as noted on the slide.

One more average that I found interesting was the AMPS Central SC 3-year scoring averages. As a test, I compared these to the most recent AMPS International Show averages that I had access to, '95-'01 (seven years). It turns out that our 3-year scoring averages are +1.9 points over those 7-year international show averages. Over these same seven years, the AMPS International Show average scores varied by +/- 4 points from their highest to lowest averages between any two years. Our own variation over our 3-year highest to lowest averages was only +/- 2.4 points. Keep in mind that SINCE 2001, AMPS has standardized its Field Judges training, and the most current AMPS' International Show scoring averages are likely to be much more consistent year to year than before that date. However, I think that these average scores demonstrate both the consistency of AMPS judging in general and that our local show judging rates right up there in quality with the "Big Show."



# Modeling Organization Affiliation\*

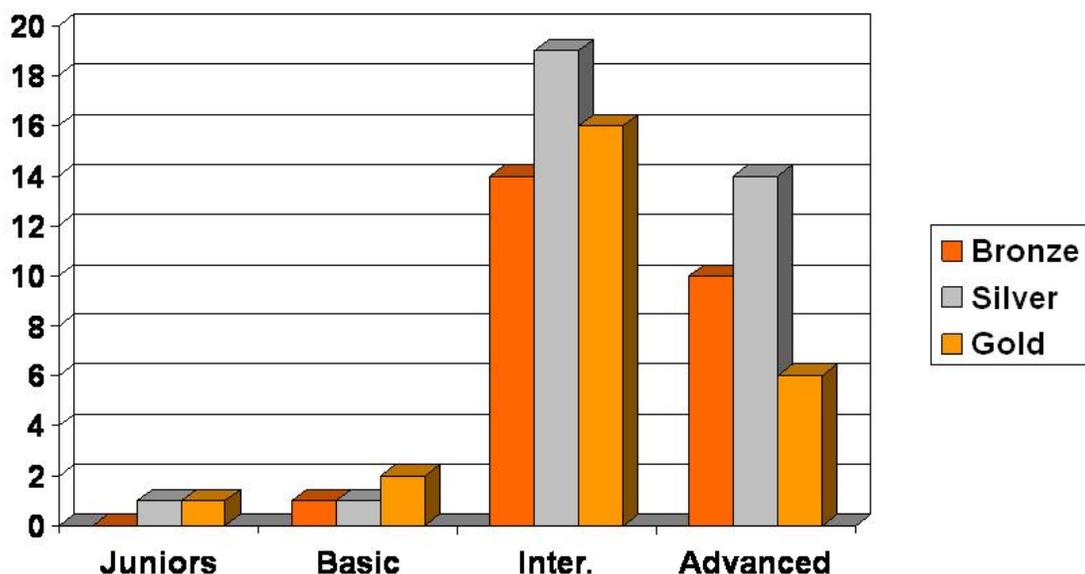
- 17 entrants were AMPS members or members of local AMPS chapters – 45%.
- 13 entrants were IPMS members or members of local IPMS chapters – 34%.
- 2 entrants were members of the SCMA – 5%.
- 6 entrants provided no affiliation – 16%.

***66% of the AMPS participants were not IPMS-only!***

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

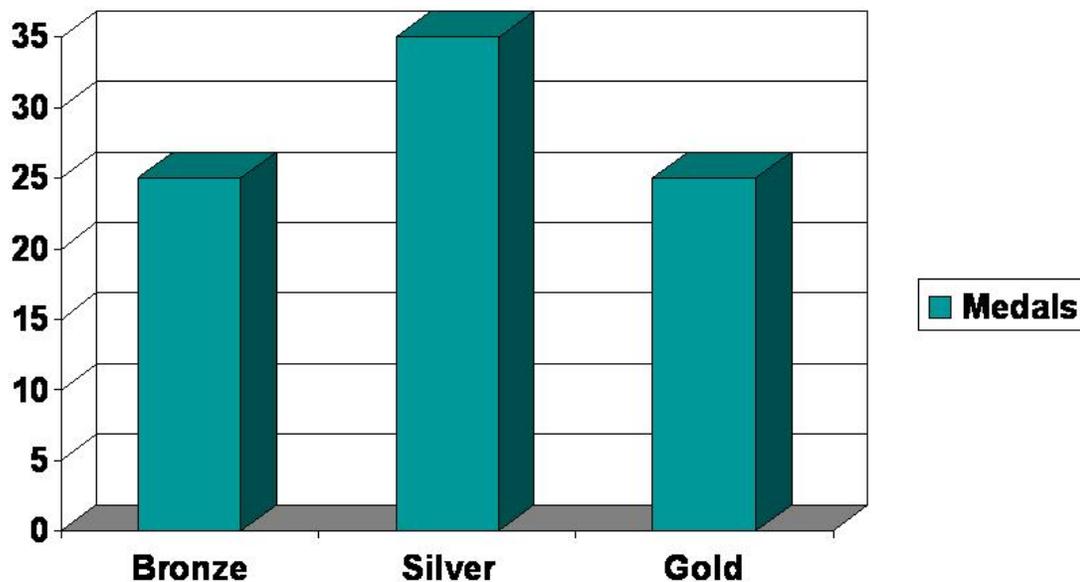
\*Duel AMPS-IPMS  
Memberships not noted.

# Medals Awarded by Skill-Level and Type



AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

# Total Medals Awarded by Type



AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

## Medals Awarded by Skill-Level and Type during this Show

85 total medals awarded.

2.2 medals earned per entrant.

- 25 Gold in all Skill-Levels = 29.4%
- 35 Silver in all Skill-Level = 41.2%
- 25 Bronze in all Skill-Levels = 29.4%
  
- Advanced: Gold-6; Silver-14; Bronze-10 = 35% received
- Intermediate: Gold-16; Silver-19; Bronze-14 = 58% received
- Basic: Gold-2; Silver-1; Bronze-1 = 5% received
- Juniors: Gold-1; Silver-1; Bronze-0 = 2% received

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

# Scoring Averages by Skill-Level

2013

- Advanced = 24.9 pts
- Intermediate = 24.5
- Basic = 23.5
- Junior = 25.8

2012

- Advanced = 26.1
- Intermediate = 23.4
- Basic = 23.4
- Junior = 24.3

2011

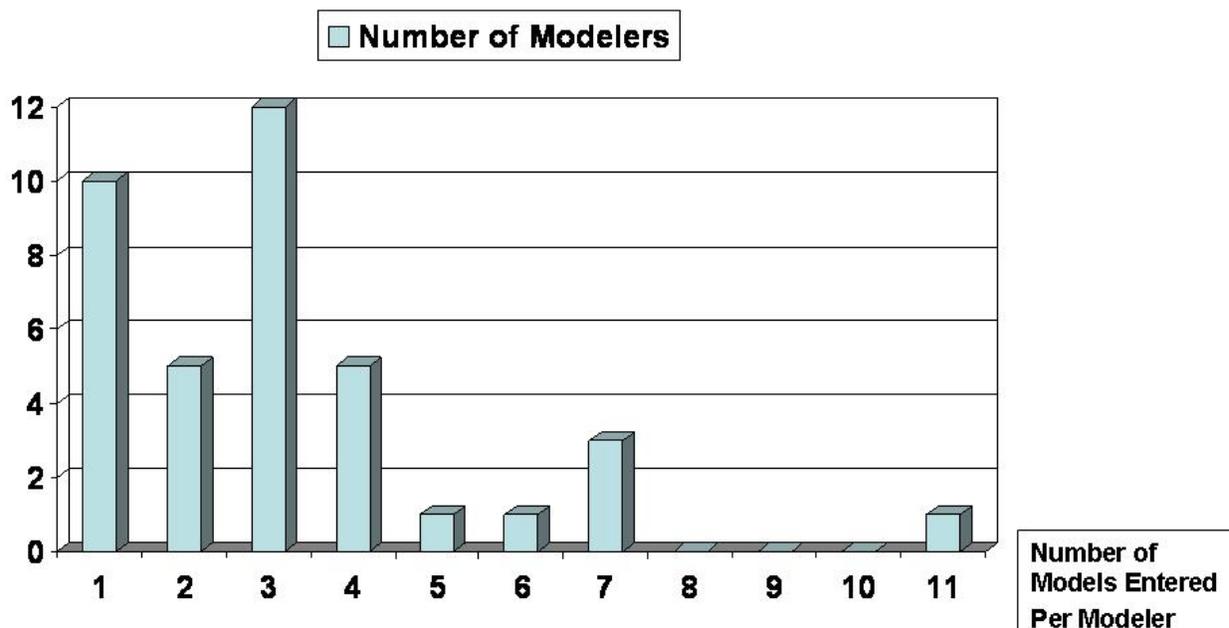
- Advanced = 26.8
- Intermediate = 24.1
- Basic = 24.6
- Junior = 24.8

3-Year Averages

- Advanced = 25.9
- Intermediate = 24
- Basic = 23.8
- Junior = 24.9

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

## Number of Models Entered by Participants



AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

# Number of Models Entered by Participants

115 total models entered for judging by 38 participants.

- 10 Modelers entered 1 Model = 8.6% of total.
- 5 Modelers entered 2 Models = 8.6% of total.
- 12 Modelers entered 3 Models = 31% of total.
- 5 Modelers entered 4 Models = 17.3%
- 1 Modeler entered 5 Models = 4.3%
- 1 Modeler entered 6 Models = 5.2%
- 3 Modelers entered 7 Models = 18%
- 1 Modeler entered 11 Models = 9.5%
  
- Average number of models entered by each = 3 models

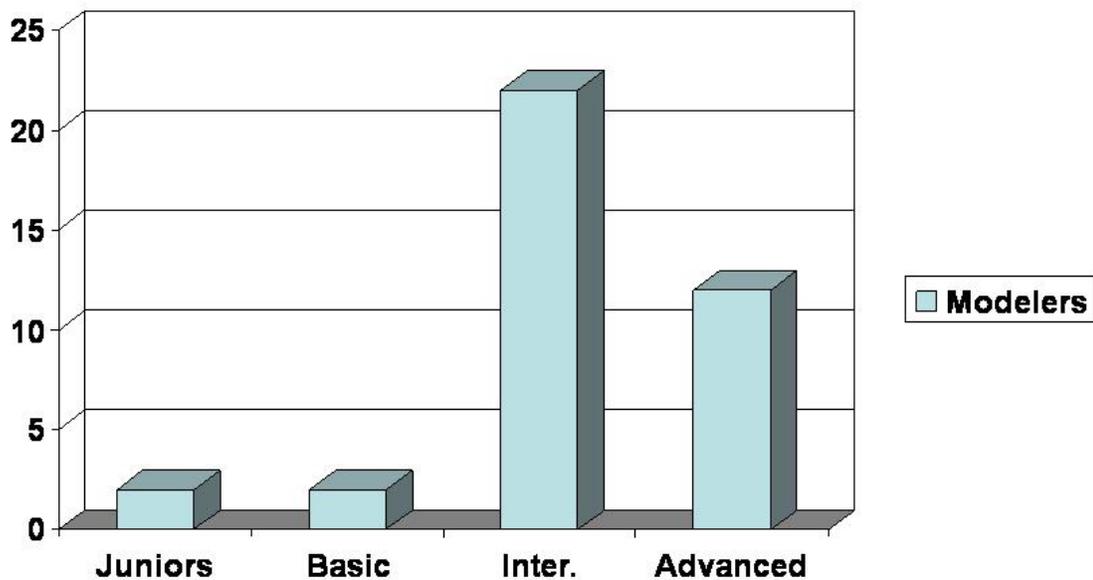
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

## Entry Flooding Skews the Numbers

- 4 entrants entered 32 of the 115 models.
- That is, 10% of the entrants entered almost 28% of the models.
- If those 4 had entered the normal average number, 2.9 models per, the total entries would have been ~ 95 (~20 models fewer).
- Regular Judging would have required about 3-1/2 judging-team hours less effort.
- Or, about 1-1/2 fewer judging team-shifts.
- Or, Judging could have been completed about 2 hours earlier than it was at the same judging rate.

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

# Modelers by Skill-Level



AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

# Modelers by Skill-Level

38 Participants entered in the show for judging

- 12 Advanced Modelers = 31.5% of total participants were awarded 35% of medals
- 22 Intermediate Modelers = 57.8% of total participants were awarded 58% of medals
- 2 Basic Modelers = 5% of total participants were awarded 5% of medals
- 2 Junior Modeler = 5% of total participants were awarded 2% of medals

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

# Judging Shifts and Teams

- Judging was performed:
  - Friday from 6:30 until 8:30 pm, approximately two hours.
  - Saturday, from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm, approximately 7-1/2 hours.
- We employed standard 4-man teams in 2-hour shifts:
  - Six Judging Team hours on Friday.
  - Sixteen Judging Team hours on Saturday.
- Shift 1, Friday, 6:30 to 8:30 pm had 3 teams.
- Shift 2, Saturday, 8:30 to 10:30 am had 2 teams (one was 3-judge team).
- Shift 3, Saturday, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm had 3 teams.
- Shift 4, Saturday, 12:30 to 2:30 pm had 2 teams.
- Diorama / Vignette Shift, Saturday, 2:00 to 3:00 pm had 1 team.
- Figure Shift, Saturday, 2:00 to 3:00 pm had 1 team (3-judges).
- “Best Of’s” Judging, Saturday, 3:00 to 4:00 pm had 4 teams.
- Not counting “Best Of’s,” we used a total of 12 team-shifts, each either 2 or 1 hours long for a total of 22 judging team hours.

AMPS Central SC “Wildcats”  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

## Judging Shifts and Teams (cont.)

- We had 115 models entered for judging.
- Not counting the “Best Of’s” judging, teams judged approximately 5.2 models per hour ( $115 / 22 = 5.2$ ).
- This rate was slightly lower than last year’s (2012) rate of 5.5 models per hour per team.
- Judging of all “regular” entries (ex: dio, vignettes, and figures) was completed by 3:00 pm.
- All judging was completed by 4:30 pm and the awards ceremony was completed by 1800 pm (after the IPMS awards ceremony).
- Significant Observations about the Judging this year:
  - Judging rate was only slightly lower than the standard of 6 models per hour.
  - Almost none of the non-AMPS participants judged.
  - We did not solicit judges pro-actively during registration.
  - Without the assistance of AMPS “out-of-towners,” we probably would not have completed the judging in time for the scheduled awards ceremony.

AMPS Central SC “Wildcats”  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

# AMPS Central SC 3-Year Averages

(Years 2011, 2012, & 2013)

- 32 average participants.
- Average of 91 models entered for judging.
- Average of 67 medals awarded:
  - 17 bronze
  - 34 silver
  - 16 gold
- Bronze = 25 % of total awarded.
- Silver = 51 % of total awarded.
- Gold = 24 % of total awarded.

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

# AMPS Central SC 3-Year Averages

(cont.)

- Each participant entered approximately 2.9 models.
- Each participant earned approximately 2.12 medals.
- Model judging rate per team per hour has been 5.1 models.

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

## 2013 Show Comparisons with 3-Year Averages

- Attendance up from 29 average = +26% 
- Model entries up from 79 average = +32% 
- Models entered per entrant was up from 2.8 to 2.9 
- Judging rate of models per team per hour was slightly up from 5.1 to 5.2 
- Number of medals awarded (all types) per entrant was up from 2.07 to 2.23 

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

## AMPS Central SC 2014 Show Planning

- Expect trends in entrants and total models entered to hold at ~35 entrants and ~95 total models.
- Need to push harder during registration for volunteer judges. We need to increase the overall judging rate by adding additional judges AND keeping up the rate by the teams in the "pits."
- Awards earned levels will remain about the same – 2.2 medals per entrant with a total of ~77 medals awarded at ~39 silver, 20 bronze and 19 gold.
- Re-order chapter medals, 200 total at 90 silver, 50 bronze and 60 gold. When added to current on-hand numbers this will give us 260 total medals – 130 silver, 65 bronze and 65 gold.
- Sustain display space at about 12-14, eight-foot tables.
- Consider adjusting the entry fees. Keep basic fee at \$15 with first 3 entries, but INCREASE additional model entry fee from \$4 to \$5 each. Goal is to DECREASE models entered per.
- Add resources for a fourth judging team in the "pits" and supplies for a fifth team judging "on the tables." Have extra 6-foot table available to set-up for judging.
- We need to add more judging teams to complete judging in a timely manner. Judging rate per team per hour will probably remain stable, so any increase has to come from adding more teams.
- Continue to push judges' training and certification to develop size of local / regional judging cadre. Push decentralized FJ training seminar to other AMPS chapters in area.
- Non-AMPS members need to be educated / informed during the awards ceremony that medals are earned by and presented to the modeler and not to a particular piece of work.
- Add signage to awards display area with scoring / awards breakdowns by skill-level and explanation of the "one medal per category per modeler" rule.

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"  
21-22 June, 2013 Show

## **“The Day Room”**

*In the US military, most company-level units have a “day room” in the barracks where the troops hang-out, relax, and BS. When you want to learn the latest in “rumor control,” you swing by the day room and chat-up the Joes and Janes hanging out there. They might not always get it right, but they’re always willing to tell ya just what they think! So, welcome to “the Day Room...”*

Well, folks, that about wraps it up for our show this year. We'll get a financial report at the next meeting, and I think that everyone will be pleased with the show income this year. I'm sure that we'll all have a lot to consider when thinking about another show for 2014, but I personally think this show was well worth the time and effort it took to put it on.

Again, I want to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you who came to the show and helped out. You all did a superlative job, and I think that your hard work paid off by making a very positive impression on the local modeling scene. Well done, everybody!

In the mean time, model-building marches on...

Next month, we'll have an opportunity to put on a public exhibition of member works at the SC State Museum as part of the annual "Toy Soldier Show" put on by the SC Military Miniatures Society (SCMMS). This is their 25<sup>th</sup> annual show, and it draws a lot of visitors in addition to the usual Saturday museum patronage. I think that those of us who participated in last year's show really enjoyed ourselves and had a great time hanging out and showing off our models to the folks who came to the show. We received a lot of interest and many positive remarks and complements from a crowd of people who shared our enthusiasm for military history. There's also a ton of very well restored military vehicles as well as some great uniform and weapons displays by local reenactor groups that make attending the event worth while, too, so don't forget to bring your cameras.

Oh, yea... There's also dozens and dozens of vendor tables selling all sorts of related figures and figure collecting accessories and materials. I always find way more to buy than I have funds for, so the shopping is also makes attendance well worth it.

As you plan your personal schedules over the next month, please be sure to try and set aside Saturday, 10 August, as a day for play. Then plan on coming to the SC State Museum and joining the rest of the club for a very nice and relaxed day.

Hope to see ya all at the next meeting!

'Til then, Happy modeling!

*Mike Roof*

Chapter Contact  
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"