



Hi'ya gang!

Welcome to the March, 2014 issue of *The Wildcat*. So, if it's March, then it must be time for our first intra-club contest!

I've reprinted the intra-club contest rules and procedures from our December, 2013 newsletter. This month, March, the theme is "Anything American," and eligibility will be decided, in the usual AMPS convention, by markings. I will have standard AMPS registration forms and judging tally sheets at the meeting, and we'll set up our meeting area with judging stations instead of in its normal configuration.

We'll see how this works out (since it's a first time for us), and unless someone has new business to introduce, I think we'll limit the business portion of the meeting to the bare minimum. Once we finish the judging and determine the winners, we'll spend the rest of the meeting talking about models.

So, even if you don't have an entry for the club contest, don't hesitate to bring in whatever you're working on or have finished (or anything else you think the club members will find interesting).

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

Our last meeting was held at 6:00 pm, February 19, 2013. (The meeting was rescheduled from planned 12 February because of weather.) We had 17 members in attendance, with at least 10 models present for Show & Tell. Because of time constraints, we did not hold a club raffle.

During the meeting: 1) Report on the 2016 convention bid by the convention committee. 2) Discuss any mutual travel and hotel arrangements for the Atlanta AMPS Regional Show, 14-16 February, 2014. Note: The Atlanta show was canceled because of the weather and will not be rescheduled. 3) Reminder that our first intra-club contest will be held during the March, 2014 meeting. 4) Reminder that club dues for 2014 are due. 6) Notice about the new date for the up-coming AMPS All-American chapter's show, August 30, 2014. 7) Discussion about the up-coming AMPS elections.

Mike Roof presented the figure painting seminar that had been planned for the Atlanta AMPS Regional Show.

Be sure to check out the meeting photos on our website for all the models brought in and for Mike's seminar.

## Next Meeting's Agenda:

Our next regular meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 12 February, 2014 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – 1) Reminder 2014 Dues are due. 2) Floor is open for nay new business. 3) Intra-club contest – “Anything America.”

REMINDER: 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.

6:15 pm (1810): Intra-club contest judging.

6:50 pm (1850): Break: Shopping & Social Mixer. Cash registers close at 7:00 pm.

7:10 pm (1910): Reconvene: Continue 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:

**Mar 12, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. **Our first Intra-Club Contest / Group Build!** Theme – Any US Subject (AMPS eligible, of course).

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

**Apr 09, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**May 14, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Jun 11, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Jul 09, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. **Intra-club contest / group build.** Theme – Any T-44 to T-62 Family AFV (T-44, 54, 55, and 62 and vehicles built on that chassis).

**Aug 13, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Aug 30, 2014:** AMPS All-American contest and show, Fayetteville, NC. This show will be a unilateral AMPS effort.

**Sep 10, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Oct 08, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**Nov 12, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. **Intra-club contest / group-build.** Theme – Any Light Tank 20 tons and under (any era, nationality, or scale).

**Dec 10, 2014**, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS Christmas Party at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

### **Intra-Club Contests / Group-Builds for 2014 (Reprinted from V4-N12, *The Wildcat*)**

**Moderator:** Tim Darrah

**Rules and judging:** We will set-up standard AMPS judging stations and use the current AMPS rules and scoring for the models. Each model will be judged and scored with standard AMPS written scores and comments provided to the builder. The three highest scoring models will further be awarded 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for that intra-club contest. Prizes will be HTU gift cards purchased from our treasury - \$25, \$20, and \$15 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places, respectively. In the event of tie scores, the LOWER skill-level builder will be the winner. Tie-scores within a skill-level will be judged against each other using a comparative process by members other than the two (or more) entrants.

**Eligibility:** Entries are restricted to the listed subject areas. You must be an AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" member in good-standing in order to enter (dues, delinquent or new member, may be paid on the spot, if necessary). Modelers will be allowed to enter any number of qualifying entries, and all entries will be judged and scored, but only their single highest scoring model will be eligible for one of the monetary awards. In the event that we have more entries than we can reasonably judge during the meeting, modelers may be asked to self-select certain of their entries for judging with the remainder being considered "display only."

All entrants and members present will be asked to join one of the judging teams. We will organize these teams with AMPS certified Table Captains. AMPS judging certification will not be required to judge. Table Captains and other certified AMPS judges will mentor any inexperienced field judges, as necessary.

#### **Subjects / Categories by tri-annual periods:**

March 12, 2014 – "Anything American"

July 9, 2014 – "T-44/54/55/62 Family" – In addition to the T-44, there are 5 variants of the T-54, 13 variants of the T-55 and 39 variants of the T-62.

November 12, 2014 – "Light Tanks, under 20 tons" – There are numerous vehicles that fit in this description such as FT-17 (6.5t), M-2 (11.6t), M-3/5 Stuart (16t), M-24 Chaffee (18.4t), Type 95 Ha-Go (7.4), T-26 (9.6t), Fiat M11/39 (11t), Soviet BT-series (11.5t), Pz I (5.4t), Pz II (8.9t), 35t (10.5t), 38t (9.85t), PT-76 (14.6t), M-551 Sheridan (15.2t)

### **REVIEW: Hobby-Trax Track Assembly Tool**

**By Tim Darrah, AMPS #2545**

I'm in love!! For our 2012 contest, Hobby-Trax sent us two of their track making tools which looked very interesting. Recently, I read a couple reviews on the AMPS web site, and the builders used

Hobby-Trax track making tools on their kits. They said that the tools makes track construction very easy. So I had to try them.

My current project is a DML/Cyber-Hobby Panzer I variant, and after seeing just how small those kit tracks are, I had to try a set of Hobby-Trax. A quick look on their web site determined that HT-0010 for the Panzer I – Late variant was the correct one, I ordered them. Ordering from them is kind of strange, you e-mail them what you want & to see what the current AMPS discount code is (members get a 10% discount), they send you an invoice which you can pay with Pay-Pal. The set was shipped the day I first contacted them, and they hadn't received my payment yet. It's cool that a company will trust a first time customer.

So what do you get in your set? Since this was for a track with two guide horns, I received three aluminum plates, three nuts & bolts and six spacers. I removed the adhesive from the plates, and then constructed them with one spacer between each plate secured with the nut & bolt. You don't need to torque the nut down, just nice and snug works. The track tool for a Sherman just has one plate, since the guide horns are on the outside.



The only other tools that you will need is a nice set of tweezers, the cement of your choice and I had a 6" metal ruler to assist in the taping down of the tracks, but your finger works just as well; be advised your fingers might stick to the track.

After the tool is built, you can start building your tracks. Figure out which way the track goes before you start, then pick a place on the tool and start placing the links on it and glue them together, one link at a time. After you have a few track links together, I used some masking tape to secure the tracks to the tool; otherwise they will float on the tool and might make life a bit difficult (don't do as I've

done in the photo, start on the bottom). Once that's done, then go ahead and work your way around the tool with the track links until you complete the track run. Of course you'll want to keep your idler and drive wheels un-glued so any adjustments can be made to ensure a tight fit. I also kept the tracks on the tool for 3 days so the glue would cure completely. Remember to leave one link joint un-glued so that you can remove the middle plate.

For my Panzer I, it has 99 links per side and it took me about an hour to do that run. There is no need to keep test fitting them on the kit as the tool does that for you.

The tracks are a bit pricey, they range from \$16 to \$30 but are well worth it to reduce the stress of scratch-building a jig or doing it by hand. One other thing that is great about these tools is that they can be used multiple times, not just on one kit then never used again or thrown away.

So go to [www.hobbytrax.net](http://www.hobbytrax.net) to see what they have to offer. I'll go there again without a problem.

Timmy

## **2014 AMPS International Convention Judges' Schedule**

### **AMPS Chief Judge Mike Petty**

#### **Thursday, 3 April**

5:00 - 6:00 PM ACJ meeting: Mike Petty

6:00 - 7:00 PM RamRod Training: Bill Schmidt

6:30 - 8:30 PM Judge Certification Class: Mike Roof and Mike Del Vecchio

6:30 - 8:30 PM Table Captains Certification Class: Mike Petty and Chuck Aleshire

#### **Friday, 4 April**

8:00 - 9:30 AM Field Judges Training: Mike Petty

9:30 - 10:30 AM Diorama/Vignette Judges Training: Mike Roof/Jeff Nelson

#### **Saturday, 5 April**

9:00 - 10:00 AM Diorama/Vignette Judges Training: Mike Roof/Jeff Nelson (if needed)

Judging shifts will run in 2-hour shifts starting Thursday night through Saturday afternoon.

**Thursday judging** starts with Session 1, 6:30 - 8:30 PM on Thursday night. (Only one shift)

**Friday judging** shifts start with Session 2, 9:00 - 11:00 AM through Session 6, 4:00 - 6:00 PM.

Diorama / Vignette judging runs on Friday from 3:00 - 6:00 PM.

**Saturday judging** shifts start with Session 7, 8:30 - 10:30 AM through Session 9, 12:30 - 2:30 PM. Special category judging (Diorama / Vignettes, Figures, and Juniors) runs on Saturday from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

## **“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...”*

Ok then, that about wraps it up for this issue.

Thanks to Tim for the Hobby-Trax review! Looks like a very nice product and definitely worth checking out, especially if you’re a fan of some particular subject and want to build several copies of it.

Also, be sure to say “thanks” to Jeff Nelson for keeping our website up-dated and current with meeting photos and uploading our newsletters.

Hopefully, those of you who are able are making your final plans for attending the AMPS International Convention in a couple of weeks up in Fredericksburg, VA. It’s shaping up to be a very nice show, and, don’t forget, once you get there be sure to volunteer for a judging shift or two. If you need to attend the Field Judges Certification Seminar, note that there are two available seminars – one Thursday Night and one on Friday Morning. Also, if you would like to help Jeff Nelson and I out with the Diorama / Vignette judging, we’ll be conducting those seminar sessions on Friday and Saturday morning. See the abbreviated judges’ schedule above.

So, time for me to wrap this issue up and head to the workshop to see if I can finish my intra-club contest entry (Display ONLY!).

See ya Wednesday and Happy Modeling!

***Mike Roof***

Chapter Contact

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"