



Hi everyone! Hope you've all had a "model building" kind of month since our last meeting.

This last month has been a busy one on the AMPS Home Front. First, we had the Atlanta AMPS Regional show February 15-17. The show, as usual for the Atlanta crew, was well put-on and run. Attendance was down a bit this year, though, with only about 55 armor entries on the AMPS side, and I was told that entries were also down about 30% on the AMFS (figure show) side. I'm sure that the pending AMPS International Show next month in the same venue accounts for the decline in AMPS entries. On the other hand, the vendors were there in full-force with several new ones (to me, at least). The model entries were, as always, of the highest caliber. Yours truly presented a seminar on Bases and Groundwork, and I suppose I didn't put too many folks to sleep since I was invited back to give an encore presentation at the International Show next month.

During the show, AMPS Chief Judge and South Region 2VP, Mike Petty, asked if our club would consent to put together a set of show signage for the international events. Mike has been very impressed with the graphics and signage that we have used at our own shows and wanted to bring that extra bit of "glitz and glam" to the "really big show." In conference with Mike Petty and Mike Reaves (the International Show's hosting chapter's prez), Jeff Nelson and I pinned down the requirements and, after some consideration, Jeff agreed to do the design and printing, and I agreed to our club doing the production. Jeff and I will elaborate on the details at the meeting on Wednesday, but I propose that we (AMPS Central SC) donate the labor and materials in lieu of sponsoring a trophy or award like we did last year.

Jeff's been hard at work ever since, and the drafts that he's done so far are looking great!

In other AMPS news, there has been a revision of the "AMPS Rules for Show Judging" effective immediately. The change has to do with the Degree of Difficulty (DoD) scoring group (1 point) and clarifies some things that had been left open to individual interpretation. The DoD rule now unambiguously states that the difficulty of all construction and finishing efforts should be assessed and that DoD applies to all skill-levels. Furthermore, DoD should be scored according to skill-level with an appreciation that some techniques and methods are more difficult for lower skilled modelers than for more advanced skill modelers.

The revised rule also makes it crystal clear that it's the modeler's responsibility to document any aspects of the build that relate to DoD rather than put the burden on the judges to figure out everything the builder did. If the modeler fails to provide this information to the judges, then he has no one to blame but himself if the judges don't give him DoD credit and commensurate scores.

I highly encourage all of you to surf on over to the AMPS website and read through these latest rules:
[http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/Documents/ContestRules/AMPS Rules for Show Judging February 2013.pdf](http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/Documents/ContestRules/AMPS_Rules_for_Show_Judging_February_2013.pdf)

New also for this year will be additional training for Table Captains (TCs) and Assistant Chief Judges (ACJs). This new training will be presented to complement the already existing Field Judge training and certification and is designed to enhance the consistency of our judging by ensuring that TCs and ACJs understand and advocate the AMPS' Judging Mission and Intent as well as the AMPS Judging Philosophy. Understanding and believing in these two concepts, the judging mission and philosophy, are essential for all AMPS judges:

The AMPS Judging Mission and Intent

- *Each model is judged fairly, thoroughly and completely. The builder is provided with feedback that's as comprehensive as the time for judging allows. Models are judged and feedback is provided with the intent to help each builder become a better, more skilled modeler. The judging system is designed to reward the builder for the good work he has done. Each model is reviewed and evaluated on its own merits, never comparing it to any other entry.*
- *AMPS' judging is a form of peer evaluation and mentoring and not a performance critique by a panel of experts.*

The AMPS Judging Philosophy

Models are not just technical scale miniatures of their prototypes, but also artistic representations of historical, hypothetical, or imaginary subjects. While mechanical precision and fidelity to detail are highly desired, there are few other absolute rights or wrongs with most of the aspects of our builds. There are many different construction and finishing techniques and methods that can be employed to create the artistic representation of our subjects. These combine to create each model-builder's unique "style." Although judges are expected to assess and score the models, they are also expected to do this within the context of the individual modeler's style and not their own.

The question to be answered [by all judges] is: How well a job did the modeler do building the model his way; not how well did he do building it your way?

These two ideas are what set AMPS and the "AMPS Way" apart from most other scale model building organizations and their contests and shows. Whereas many other organizations emphasize the aspects of competition against each other and winning awards, AMPS is all about helping its members to become better model builders.

Chief Judge Mike Petty is looking for volunteer ACJs and Ram Rods for the International Show, so if you're planning on going, I highly encourage you to consider it. Almost all of you have been certified judges for a couple of years now and have several shows under your belts. Also, these positions, ACJ and Ram Rod, are needed at our own shows, and having a few other members experienced in them would sure help to share the load. So, give it some thought.

The ACJ meeting will be conducted at 5:00 pm (1700), Thursday, 18 April, 2013 at the International Show venue. Send Mike Petty an email to tell him you'd like to volunteer, or you can send the message to our club email, and I'll forward it to him. The deadline to volunteer is 21 March, however, if you can't make the ACJ meeting, or you're not sure about taking on the extra responsibility, ask Mike if he will pair you up with another ACJ or Ram Rod so that you can "right-seat ride" for a shift or two to get some experience for our show.

Plans and preparations for our own show in June are moving right along. Tim Darrah has been up to his eyeballs in coordinating the vendors and soliciting raffle donations. He's already sold over half of

the 94 available tables, so if you know anyone who's considering vending, better tell 'em to get with Tim ASAP. Also, the raffle has grown to an enormous size with more prizes pouring in everyday. Check out our contest page to see the list of corporate donors so far.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate the two newest AMPS national members in our chapter, Tom Wingate and Bob Spagnola, who both joined AMPS this month! There are some pretty significant show registration cost savings if you're a national members (\$15 off for the International Show if you pre-register and another \$5 off our own June show registration), so that's like getting your annual membership and Boresight magazine for only \$10.

Join AMPS! Just ask Bob, Tom or any other AMPS member in the club for more information.

Last Meeting's Minutes:

Our last meeting was held at 6:00 pm, Feb 13, 2013. We had 13 members in attendance. Members brought in 9 models to show and tell.

During the meeting: Dave Varettoni went over the details for the on-going group build; Tony Abbott gave us a rundown on the latest preparations for our June show; We discussed some informal coordinations for travel and link-up plans for the Atlanta regional show; Everyone was reminded that annual dues are \$12 and should be paid as soon as possible.

Ralph Nardone presented part 2 of his 2-part airbrushing demonstration. This part focused on the actual use of the airbrush, and Ralph showed us some thinning and mixing tips as well as different spraying methods and techniques.

Next Meeting's Agenda:

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 13 March, 2013 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month's business: Reminder that annual membership dues, \$12 for adult members; Report on our June contest preparations (Tony Abbott); Report on the AMPS International Show signage project (Jeff Nelson and Mike Roof). We will need to set some tentative dates for special meetings to construct and assemble International Show signage.

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 2nd 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:

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

Mar 16, 2013: Catawba Valley Scale Modelers Contest, Hickory Regional Airport, 3109 9th Ave. Drive NE, Hickory, NC.

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

Apr 18-20, 2013: AMPS International Show and Convention, Atlanta GA. Venue is the Atlanta Marriott Century Center Hotel (same venue as the Atlanta AMPS Regional Show).

May 08, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Jun 12, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

June 21-22, 2013: AMPS Central SC contest co-hosted with IPMS Sumter/Gamecocks at the Sumter County Convention Center, Sumter, SC. This will be the IPMS R-12 Convention with AMPS handling all of the armor categories IAW AMPS judging rules and procedures with separate AMPS awards.

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

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 (T), 2013: Plan date for the AMPS All-American / Lafayette Scale Modelers show in Fayetteville, NC.

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?

“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!

As you can all see, we have a lot of things going on, especially at the national level in preparation for the show in April. However, we also can't forget that we have our own show preparations to do.

As with our past shows, the heaviest lifting required is to solicit for trophy and category sponsorships for our show. Scott Amey has already made a good start, raising over \$100 himself (at last count!), but we can't put it all on his shoulders alone. If everyone in the club would get just one or two sponsors, we'd have those costs in the bag.

Remember, we will provide receipts and promotion on our website and at the show, so any sponsorships are legitimate tax-deductible business advertising expenses.

See ya Wednesday! Happy modeling!

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"