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Welcome to the latest issue of our newsletter. Well gang, you've probably noticed by now that the newsletter doesn't look quite as nice or have as much content as you've become accustomed to. Unfortunately, our editor, Phil Cavender, has had to lay down his mighty (electronic) quill pen and pass on his editorship. Phil needed to concentrate on some personal medical issues and believed that he wouldn't be able to give the newsletter the attention that it deserves. He's done an outstanding job over the last couple of years, and I know that we'll all miss his work and wish him the best of luck and a speedy recovery from his surgery. Under his management, the newsletter content, design and layout were much improved. Unfortunately now, you'll all just have to put up with me again until we find a new volunteer willing to take it on. If you're that person, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Check out our website for more info & photos:
<http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/>



Visit us on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/ampscentralsouthcarolina>

Regular Meeting Minutes, 12 July, 2018

Our last meeting was held on Thursday, July 12, 2018 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Richland Library Sandhills (Village of Sandhills Shopping Center), 763 Fashion Drive, Columbia, SC 29223. **Until further notice, our meeting day and location has been changed to the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Richland Library Sandhills.**

We had 15 members in attendance, including Noah Brandes, who brought 8 models for Show & Tell. For the Raffle, we had AFV Club's "M5A1 Stuart Light Tank, Early Production", kit #00357, won

by Bryan Mueller. Please see the link below for photos of the models that were brought in for Show & Tell, the meeting, and raffle prize.

- 1) Pz.Kpfw. III Ausf. M (Tamiya + scratch-made skurtzen brackets), 1/35 – Dave Cicimurri
- 2) Type 69 Iranian (Tasca, RB Model metal Barrel), 1/35 – Dave Varettoni
- 3) Panhard AML-90 Light Armoured Car, Argentine Army (Takom + scratch-built External MG Mount), 1/35 – Dave Varettoni
- 4) 3cm Zwillling Flakpanzer IV “Kugelblitz” (Cyber Hobby), 1/35 – Bob Spagnola
- 5) Tiran 4 IDF Medium Tank (Takom), 1/35 – Bob Spagnola
- 6) M4A4 Sherman, Free French (DML), 1/35 – Ben Brandes
- 7) M4A3E8 Sherman “Easy Eight”, Korean War (Tamiya), 1/35 – Ben Brandes
- 8) GAZ-67B Field Car (Bonus with the Tamiya M4A3E8 Sherman), 1/35 – Ben Brandes
- 9) M60A2 “Starship” (AFV Club w/ Full Interior + Bronco M-48A5/M-60A3 MBT T-142 Workable Track Link Set), 1/35 – Daniel Karnes

Photo Album on our webpage at: <http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/meeting-photos.html>

Business items:

1) Treasurer’s Report:

- a. Bank balance = \$4,959.34 with one pending deposit of \$773.17 for an expected bank balance total of \$5,732.51 by the end of the month.
- b. Cash on hand reported by the treasurer was \$288.00.
- c. The pending deposit is \$773.17 which was remitted by the IPMS chapter as reimbursement for their share of the June show’s venue expenses and the AMPS share of event sponsorships.
- d. Our June 2018 show netted a profit of \$966.03 (amended from \$841.03 + \$125.00, see below). In comparison, our 2017 show netted a profit of \$652.71. A full profit and loss statement (P&L) was published in the July, 2018 newsletter.
- e. Missing from the P&L were \$125.00 in sponsorships (that amount has been added to the profit reported above). There was a miscommunication between the Chapter Contact and Treasurer that resulted in these not being counted in the P&L. These sponsorships were from:
 - (1) HQ-72 = \$25.00
 - (2) Hickory, NC HobbyTown = \$75.00
 - (3) Sumter IPMS = \$25.00

Reminder: Club Annual Dues of \$12 per member for 2018 are due starting in January. Still \$12 for adults with no dues for juniors under 18 years old. New adult member dues are pro-rated at \$1 per month for the remainder of the calendar year, first month's meeting attendance excluded. Please see the treasurer, Ralph Nardone, if you need to pay your dues.

2) June *Scale Model Mega-Show* Report:

- a. A detailed verbal report was provided on the show. (See the agenda published in the July newsletter for all the topics covered.) The P&L statement was published in the July newsletter and discussed and amended, as noted above in the treasurer's report. An additional report with critical show stats will be published in the August newsletter. (See below.)

3) We discussed and voted on the question: Do we want to host a show in 2019?

The vote was unanimous in favor of the question with all 15 members in attendance and 5 voting absentee for a total of 20 "yes" votes. There were no dissenting votes or comments.

Resolved: We will host a show in 2019.

4) We discussed and voted on the question: Do we want to invite the IPMS Mid-Carolina chapter to co-host our show?

The vote was again unanimous in favor.

Resolved: We will invite the IPMS chapter to co-host our show.

5) We discussed and voted on the question: Do we want to invite the Lexington SCMA chapter to join us in 2019?

After discussion, the unanimous vote was against the question.

Resolved: We will not invite the SCMA chapter to co-host our 2019 show. We will invite them to participate in this year's SE Toy Soldier Show and observe how smoothly they run their own show this year. Furthermore, we'll observe how well the SCMA chapter functions as a group after reforming this year. If all goes well for them, we'll reconsider the question of inviting them to co-host our 2020 show.

6) We will be participating in the 2018 Toy Soldier Show at the SC State Museum on Saturday, 11 August. This will be a joint scale model club display with the IPMS club and (tentatively) the SCMA club. We will be in the same general location in the mezzanine where we were last year.

There were no suggestions for a unified club display theme. We will put on a general display of member works.

7) The floor was opened for any new business:

- a. The only new business was a call for a volunteer to step up as the new newsletter editor. There were no takers.

- 8) After the business portion of the meeting, we held our usual **Show & Tell** of new builds and works-in-progress. We drew for the monthly raffle prize winner at the end of the meeting. Ralph, our treasurer, sold raffle tickets during the meeting. See the Meeting Photos page on our website for all of the completed and works in progress brought to this month's meeting!
- 9) After the meeting, a number of members went to Red Robin for the "after the meeting meeting". As with CiCi's last month, the restaurant was not particularly conducive to a quiet, adult social gathering. The search for a good place will continue next month.

Tentative Agenda, Regular Meeting, 9 August, 2018

Our next regular meeting will take place 6:30-8:30 pm, THURSDAY, August 9, 2018, at Richland Library Sandhills (Village of Sandhills Shopping Center), 763 Fashion Drive, Columbia, SC 29223.

Tentative Agenda Business items:

1) Treasurer's Report:

- a. **Total Treasury** = \$6,020.51 (with CoH reported last month).
- b. **Bank Balance** = \$5,732.51.
- c. **Cash on Hand** = To be reported by the treasurer.
- d. **Deposits this Month** = \$733.13 from IPMS as their residual share of the show expenses.
- e. **Expenses this Month** = None.

Reminder: Club annual dues are due this month. Still \$12 for adults with no dues for juniors under 18 years old. New adult member dues are pro-rated at \$1 per month for the remainder of the calendar year, first month's meeting attendance excluded.

2) The 2018 Toy Soldier Show is this Saturday, 11 August at the SC State Museum on Gervais Street. We will be presenting a club display / exhibition of member works along with some "live action" demos and displays.

- a. Setup time starts at 7:30 am. Doors open to the public at 10 am. Tear down starts at 4 pm. Expected end time is 4:30 PM.
- b. All club members are invited to bring models to put on display. Space available is first-come, first served. Members may arrive at any time and stay as long as they wish. Lunch will be on your own. Coolers are allowed.
- c. The club will provide the tables, table covering, do not touch signs, set up the club banner, and bring desk lamps and power cords. The museum will provide the chairs and round tables for members to build and paint models, display boxed kits and tools, etc. The "live action" demos and displays are intended to give us a chance to engage the public about scale modeling, but also consider them a chance to just hang out and build models together (kind of like a public "group build day").

d. Please let Mike Roof know if you are able to attend and if you would be willing to bring along a model or tools, etc. to be part of the “live” demo-displays.

3) 2019 June **Scale Model Mega-Show** Report:

- a. The IPMS Mid-Carolina chapter has been formally invited in writing to co-host our 2019 show. I have been informed that they discussed the invitation at their July meeting and will vote on it at this month’s, August, meeting. A copy of this letter is available for any member who would like to see it.
- b. I have submitted the application for the Bluff Road armory venue with the SC NG. The selected dates are Friday / Saturday, 21-22 July, 2019. These dates do not conflict with any other, as yet, published AMPS, IPMS or SCMA shows.
- c. Tim Darrah has already contacted both of the food truck vendors and invited them back for 2019. As yet, only Southern Mommas has replied and said that they will come back for 2019.
- d. As soon as we have a reply from the IPMS chapter, we’ll begin official promotion and solicitation efforts (other model clubs, vendors, raffle, awards sponsors, and show supporters).
- e. At the moment we’re looking for volunteers to take on the jobs for raffle coordinator and show promotion coordinator. If you’re able to give up some time for the club, let me know. You’ll get detailed guidance and instructions, so you won’t have to figure it all out or make it up on your own. We can have raffle donations delivered to either my house or to Ralph’s house and one of us will maintain an inventory, so if you don’t have room for storage, that can be worked around.

4) Floor will be open for New Business.

5) Demonstration – Discussion: Using Dry Transfers, by Mike Roof.

6) After the business portion of the meeting, we’ll **Show & Tell** of new builds and works-in-progress. We’ll also draw for the monthly raffle prize winner at the end of the meeting. See Ralph, our treasurer, for raffle tickets at any time during the meeting.

7) After the meeting, everyone is invited to join us for the “meeting after the meeting”! This month we’re still in search of a good place. A suggestion has been made to just go back to Schiano’s Pizza next to the Publix. Since we have to all get in cars and drive somewhere anyway, this is not as retro as it might seem. Other ideas and suggestions are welcome. Consider ahead of time where you might like to go this month and we’ll discuss some new options.

Mike Roof

Michael D. Roof

AMPS #1632

Chapter Contact

AMPS Central SC “Wildcats”

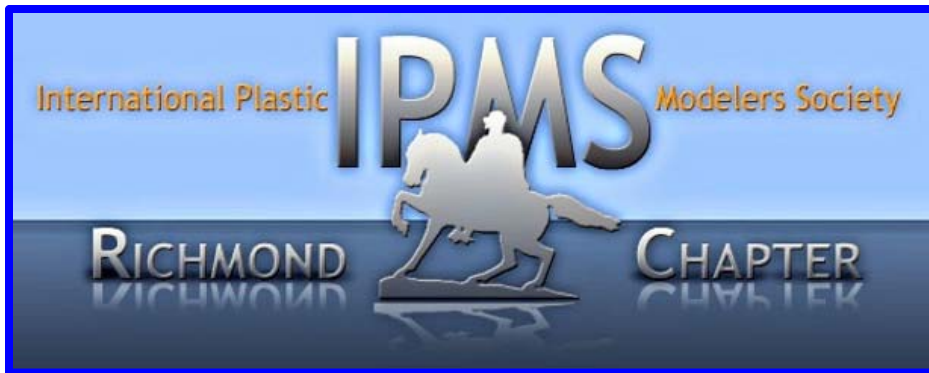
Up-coming Events

2019 Old Dominion Open, hosted by the IPMS Richmond, February 23, 2019. Richmond Raceway Complex, The Henrico Building, 600 East Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23222. Doors open 8:30. Registration closes 12:00 noon.

New Special Award: "Man in Space: Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Man's First Moon Landing". Figures and manned space vehicles (all nationalities) are eligible from the X-15 through Apollo 17. Models must be entered in the appropriate Figure category, in the Real Space category, or in Dioramas/Vignettes (Photos in Time will be a part of Dioramas/Vignettes). Free-standing special award with its own judging team.

For more information:

https://ipmsrichmond.blogspot.com/p/2017-odo_1.html



2018 New Releases

(None reported this month)

Members Build Blogs

Build Blogs give an in-depth review of the construction process and allow the builders to share their knowledge. We are fortunate to have some of the members in our club with build blogs on modeling web sites. Please note that due to a change with Photo Bucket in 2017, many build logs have been impacted and linked photos may not show. While some modelers have/are relinking their blogs to a different photo hosting site, many older build logs and postings on various forums will likely never show the original linked pictures again and are lost forever. A posting on Missing-Linx provides a (temporary) work-around for Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome browsers:

<http://www.network54.com/Forum/47211/message/1504035816/PB+-+extension+to+make+photos+viewable+again>

Mike Roof has 2 on Track-Link.com:



MiniArt T-44 Soviet Medium Tank, Kit # 35193
http://www.track-link.com/forums/site_blogs/27686



Bronco Loyd Carrier No. 2, Mk II (Tracked Tractor), # CB35188,
towing a Riich British Ordnance QF Mk. IV A-T Gun 6 Pdr, # 35042
http://www.track-link.com/forums/site_blogs/22053

Jeff Nelson has 1 on Armorama.com:



Fine Molds Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Type 60 APC, FM40
http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=213731&page=1#2056793

Additionally, Jeff did an In-Box-Review of this kit.

<http://armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=Reviews&file=index&req=showcontent&id=9272>

Keith Frape also has 2 on Armorama.com:



Chieftain Mk. 7 ARRV (Tamiya + Accurate Armor Conversion)
http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=241027



Up Armored Scimitar LEP with Bar Armor (AFV Club + Castoff Models Conversion)
http://armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquawkBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=212968

Bryan Moeller has one on Armorama.com:



Flakpanzer IV “Kugelblitz” (Cyber-Hobby's 1/35 scale “Orange Box” Series Kit #09 + Dragon's 1/35 Pz.Kpfw. IV Ausf. J Mid Production, Smart Kit #6556)

http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=SquadBox&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=250681#2120546

Interesting Articles – 2018 Scale Model MEGA-Show: AMPS Critical Stats

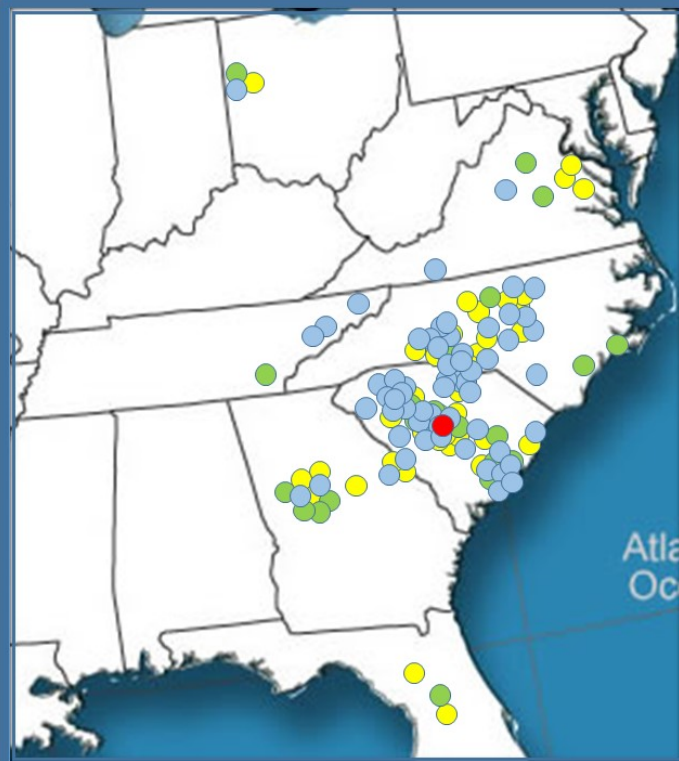
The following slides provide the final statistical details about this year’s show. This year I have omitted the charts and bar graphs since no one has ever said that they were particularly useful.

However, the collection and archiving of this data is an important post-show task. These details provide you and your contest committee members the information needed to spot trends and make predictions that are essential for planning future events. This allows us to use our resources wisely, to see what does and does not work, and keeps us from having to “reinvent the wheel” year after year. Finally, as a public, non-profit corporation, publishing this information is part of fulfilling our obligations for full disclosure of our finances and operations.

AMPS Central South Carolina “Wildcats”

**2018 South Carolina Scale Model Mega-Show:
Demographics, Major Statistics and
2019 Show Planning Considerations**

Geographic Distribution of 2018 Show Patrons



- Venue – SC NG Armory, Bluff Rd., Columbia, SC
- AMPS Entrants - 42
- IPMS Entrants - 63
- Vendors - 23

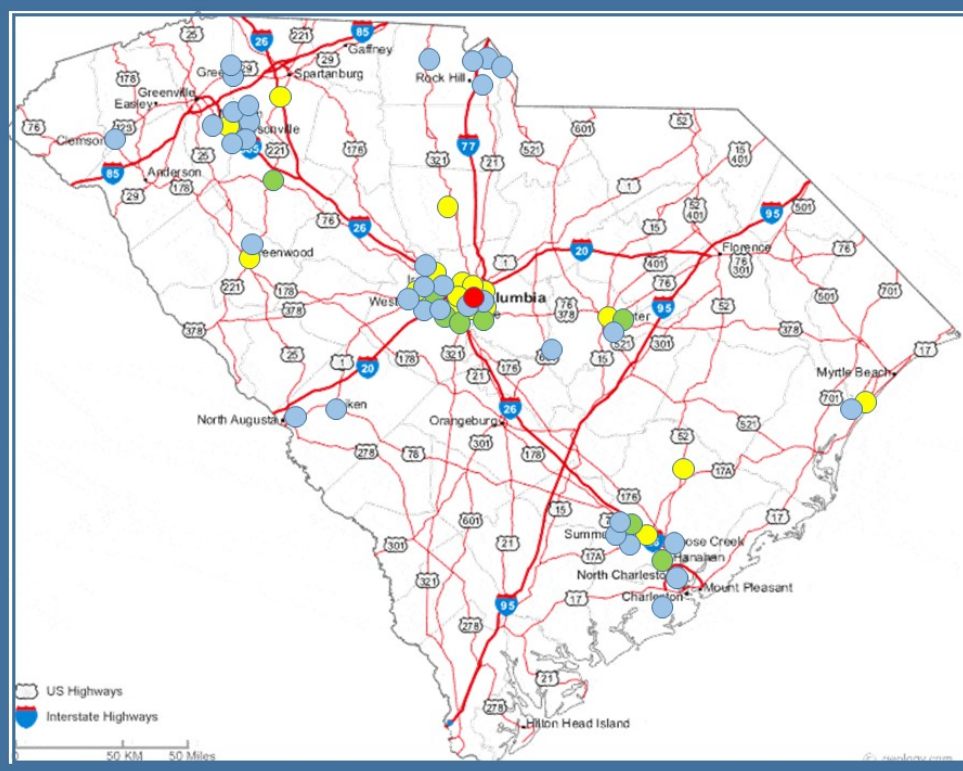
Show Patron Total - 128

105 Show Patrons from Outside of Richland and Lexington Counties

67 Show Patrons from out of state (GA, FL, NC, TN, VA, & OH)

Does not include guests of patrons and general admission / walk-ins that were not registered.

2018 Show Patrons from SC Only



- Venue – SC NG Armory, Bluff Rd., Columbia, SC
- AMPS Entrants - 43
- IPMS Entrants - 62
- Vendors – 23

AMPS Show Entrants

- **42 Entrants coming from 6 states.**
- **96 Models entered averaging 2.3 models per entrant.**
- **70 Medals awarded averaging 1.6 medals per entrant.**

Total Awards by Type and Percentages

- **70 total medals awarded:**
 - **14 Bronze = 20% of total awarded**
 - **37 Silver = 53% of total awarded**
 - **19 Gold = 27% of total awarded**

AMPS Cen. SC Show 5-Year Averages (2018, 2017, 2015, 2013, 2012)

- **36 Average Number of Entrants** (high year 2018 – 42 entrants)
- **96 Average Number of Models Entered** (high year 2013 – 115 models)
- **67 Average Number to Medals (all types)** (high year 2013 – 85 medals) :
 - Bronze avg. = 14 each
 - Silver avg. = 30 each
 - Gold avg. = 23 each

- Bronze = 21% of total awarded
- Silver = 45% of total awarded
- Gold = 35% of total awarded

AMPS Cen. SC Show 5-Year Averages (2018, 2017, 2015, 2013, 2012)

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2019 Show Planning – Trends and Measures

- Inviting the IPMS chapter to participate had no negative impact on the AMPS show entries.
- We have adequate AMPS medals on hand for next year.
- AMPS Judging was very well supported by other AMPS members in the South Region.
- Food trucks were very well received by show patrons.
- Vendor numbers were excellent because of the added IPMS participation.
- Raffle size was at its upper, manageable limit. Need to do pulls more often and award ALL the prizes displayed. Get raffle finished by published time

2019 Show Planning – Trends and Measures (cont.)

- Continue to employ local media advertising. Expand if budget will allow.
- Having no general admission did not hurt our bottom line.
- Consider adding ~ 10 more vendor tables for a total of ~ 60 vs. 50.
- Need to conduct AMPS FJ and TC refresher training before the show. Use a regular meeting or conduct training on a Saturday.
- ACJs need to monitor scores and comments more closely to try to eliminate zero sub-scores and mismatched scores / comments. There were some instances of TCs directing their teams in manners inconsistent with the published rules.
- Rearrange floor plan to move vendors to front half of venue with display area in rear (i.e. divide venue front to rear not side to side).

Michael D. Roof
AMPS #1632
Chapter Contact
AMPS Central SC “Wildcats”

The USA Historical AFV Register

Mike Roof has provided us with a great link he found that may be of interest to all.

"For those who are interested in preserved AFVs or photographing them for research, here's a link to the latest issue of the AFV Register Organization's "The USA Historical AFV Register."

The register is broken down by state and city, with the AFVs listed along with their exact locations (to include GPS lat/long coordinates). This is a good list to keep saved on your computer.

If you travel around you can plan accordingly (look up your travel destination or itinerary stops to see what interesting AFVs might be there), and if you need reference material on a particular vehicle, you can often contact one of your "virtual" friends online who lives near an exhibit to take some pictures for you".

The USA Historical AFV Register

*Armored Fighting Vehicles Preserved
in the United States of America*

V4.0

March 2016

**Michel van Loon
Neil Baumgardner**

For the AFV Association



Picture by Paul Hannah

<http://afvregister.org/Downloads/The%20USA%20Historical%20AFV%20register%204.0.pdf>

Support Our Local Vendors

New Location, New Hours



326 St. Andrews Rd suite E

Columbia, SC 29210

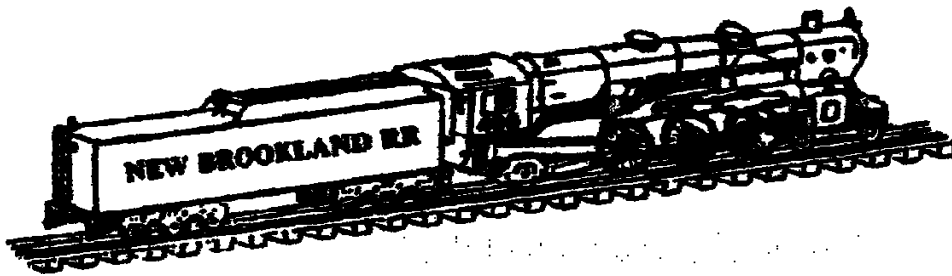
(803) 736-0959

<https://www.hobbytown.com/columbia-e-sc/l57>

HobbytownColumbiaSC@gmail.com

Store Hours

Sunday	noon – 9 pm
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	11 am – 9 pm
Thursday	11 am – 9 pm
Friday	11 am – 9 pm
Saturday	10 am – 9 pm



405 State Street
West Columbia, SC 29169
(803) 791-3958
Mon – Sat, 10am to 6pm



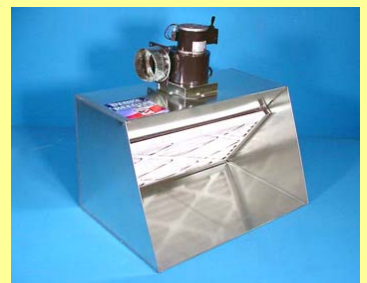
5633 Broad Street
Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 983-5084
Mon – Sun, 2pm to 7pm



Classified Ads

All submissions for entry into the Classified Ads section should be submitted to the Jeff Nelson **two (2) weeks prior to the monthly AMPS meeting**. Also, please let the Jeff know if your ad is no longer needed so we can remove it from the newsletter.

For Sale: 24-Inch Mini-Plus Home Hobby Spray Paint Booth, made by Pace Industries. Brand New. Never Used. 148 CFM Shaded Pole Exhaust Fan, 115 volt - 1.37 amp - 3,160 RPM, 26 Gage Galvanized Sheet Metal Construction, 4" Collar to Exhaust to Outside, up to 15 feet, Duty Power Switch, 24" X 12" X 1" High Capacity Pleated Air Filter. Includes exhaust Kit and extra filters. Price paid \$295.00. Price negotiable, starting at \$200.00. **Contact Herb Horvath.**



Wanted: I'm looking for a cheap 1/35th scale Hetzer, all I need out of it is the complete running gear/suspension and tracks. I don't care about the rest of the kit, so parts of that can be missing.
Contact Tim Darrah

Wanted: I am looking for the Eduard (35 233) 1/35 photoetch M110A2 SPH update set for the Italeri M110/M1102, and M107 kits. As with the Hobby Fan resin Kit, I kept waiting to buy one until it also was gone! -- Are you picking up a recurring theme here? **Contact Carl Wethington.**

Wanted: I am looking for the Hobby Fan (HF001) 1/35 resin M110A2 SPH update set for the Italeri M110/M1102, and M107 kits. As you can tell from the item number it was the first resin detailing kit make by Hobby Fan. It was an excellent set that replaced much of the traditional Italeri soft detail, and included an outstanding loader / rammer section. I kept waiting to buy one -- until, well, it was gone! If you come across one, I would be glad to "rent" the set to make resin masters for my M110 and M107 kits. Thanks for any leads you can offer!
Contact Carl Wethington.

“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...”

Alrighty then. Normally at this time of year I'd use this space to tell you all what a great job you did with this year's show. This club consistently kicks butt when it comes to putting on shows. You guys rock! But, really, you all know that by now. So...

This month I'd like to provide you some facts and information about AMPS that you might not know or appreciate. In particular, I'd like to compare and contrast some of that with the published claims and stated agenda of a new armor modeling group that has been recently established, the Military Vehicle Modeling Association or MVMA. Additionally, I'm going to give you my own opinions about this new group and its principals. Bottom line upfront, though, I think the MVMA is a terrible idea, and it is one that has the potential, if the light of day is not shined upon it, to do great harm to AMPS. I aim to shine some light here.

Some of you may have heard of the MVMA, but most of you probably not. If you want to read up on it, a Google search will turn up a “brochure booklet” in pdf format. You can read their stuff for yourself, and in it you also will find their “board of directors” listed. I won't mention any of them by name here. No need to get personal. Suffice it to say that they are this organization's “principals.” It's impossible to actually know why the principals decided to create a group that directly challenges AMPS. The principals, so far, have been silent when any questions about their motives or agendas have been asked by anyone online. At the present, they seem content to let others do their talking for them.

However, one clue as to their possible motivation comes from their claim that they will hold an annual convention in conjunction with the annual Military Vehicle Preservation Association

(MVPA) convention. Some background is in order.

At last year's AMPS I-Con in Dayton, OH, a representative from the MVPA pitched a proposal to the AMPS national officers about AMPS hosting its I-Con with an MVPA convention. The idea is, on its face, very attractive. What could be better than an AMPS I-Con held together with the largest annual exhibition of restored military vehicles in the US? Unfortunately, as interesting as the idea is, the proposal required a lot of work to be a full-fledged, practical plan. There were also the considerations of the AMPS I-Con 2-year planning and organization cycle – AMPS is already committed to hold its next I-Con in Buffalo, NY, and there are already other AMPS chapters preparing bids for other future conventions. In short, while the idea of an I-Con with an MVPA convention is nice to think about, doing so would take at least a few years of planning. One major problem was with the timing of the MVPA conventions which are usually held within a few weeks of the IPMS / USA Nationals. Clearly it is not a good idea for AMPS to try to go head-to-head against IPMS by scheduling an AMPS I-Con within a week or two of the IPMS Nats.

If these issues could be worked out in the future, to include the timing of the MVPA conventions, then the idea could be developed. Right now, though, it's not practical or possible. Note that no one on the AMPS side said "never," just that the idea needs to be fleshed out, and the MVPA would need to work with AMPS on the scheduling. Apparently, this rational and deliberate approach was not acceptable to the individuals who now make up the key members of the MVMA "board of directors," and they decided to launch what amounts to an insurrection within the AMPS ranks. In doing so, they've directly contacted dozens of AMPS members and chapters soliciting members, money and support (including at least one member of our own chapter). If you read their brochure, you'll see that their primary goal is to hold a model contest in conjunction with the MVPA convention. This provides us, then, with a convenient point to start looking in detail at this new group.

As you read the specifics of the contest they claim will be held (and note, that no one on the MVPA side has officially stated that such will ever occur), the MVMA principals state that they want to use an "open judging" system; that they want a show that will be open to everyone not just MVMA members (although MVMA members won't have to pay entry fees but all others will); and that they want to focus their award ceremony only on their best of award winners – everyone else can pick up their medals off the table. In reading this, you might also note that the MVMA has no stated objective or goals for its contest, no published rules, nor have they said anything about who gets to judge. (Maybe the principals will just pick their favorites...)

The simple fact is that if these modelers wanted an AMPS show at an MVPA convention, all they needed to do was... just do it. Sure, it might not be the AMPS I-Con, but any AMPS chapter can host a show anywhere and at any time. AMPS already employs an "open judging" system (all that really means is that there is no set number of awards). A local AMPS show can be open to anyone who wants to enter, and, at the local level, the eligibility criteria for categories and special awards is totally flexible. Entry to local shows is not limited to only AMPS members, and entry fees are set by the host chapter. Finally, any local AMPS show can structure its award ceremony any way it wants. If the hosting club wants to put the medals on the display table next to the models, they can do so. National AMPS would be 100% behind and supportive of any such effort, to include sending free G-S-B medals for their first show, providing no-cost event insurance along with providing free event promotion in the Boresight and on the AMPS website.

I'd also submit to you, my friends, that any group of modelers who aspires to host a show at a national/international level should probably host a few local shows first. Hosting a couple of AMPS shows at different MVPA conventions would be a good way to get some practical

experience and create some show/venue specific procedures and processes. As a practical matter, it would let the group work out the kinks and coordination issues with MVPA before they commit to the grand stage. Perhaps it would demonstrate, through its successes, to the MVPA leadership that changing their normal show scheduling would benefit them by allowing AMPS to schedule an I-Con with them. The principals could have easily formed themselves into a “virtual” AMPS chapter (able to move around to subsequent MVPA venues) and undertaken to host AMPS shows with the MVPA instead of creating a whole new organization. Since the principals of the MVMA could have come together to host an AMPS show any time they wanted, why did they feel the need to directly challenge AMPS in this way? One can only wonder and speculate.

For those AMPS members who actually do want an AMPS I-Con hosted one day with an MVPA convention (and who wouldn't like to see that one day?), if the MVMA succeeds, you can probably forget about that ever happening. (Assuming that the MVPA is actually on board with the MVMA. Something that is entirely uncertain.) Why would AMPS even consider it? As of right now, an AMPS I-Con with an MVPA convention is a future possibility. If the MVPA allows the MVMA to join them... Well, you figure the odds.

OK then... Let's look at the MVMA's organization. If you read their literature, they strongly imply and infer that they needed to create a new group because AMPS is deaf to what its members want. Where to even start? First, AMPS is very responsive to its membership. It recently changed its contest rules by creating new categories at the request of its members. AMPS draws its annual show theme directly from its general members. AMPS is organized and runs according to a published constitution and bylaws which are amended by members making suggestions and voting on the changes. This was done recently by changing some of the national officer positions and terms of office. In fact, the only thing that I can think of that a few members have wanted and that AMPS hasn't done is to... immediately host an I-Con with the MVPA.

Compare and contrast how AMPS is structured and how it operates to what little we know about the MVMA. The MVMA has no constitution nor any bylaws. In fact, its “members” are actually members in name only. They have no standing or say in how the “association” is run. The MVMA is run by a small group of self-appointed people who call themselves its “board of directors.” For those of you who know the history of AMPS, you'll know that it was created from the ashes of the Association of Military Modelers (AMM). You'll also recall that the AMM was organized and run just like the MVMA – a cabal of “directors” who answered to no one. They were people who took your money and did with it as they pleased. AMM members had no more of a voice in how things were run than MVMA members have now. The MVMA sure doesn't sound to me like any sort of improvement over AMPS in regards to being answerable to its “members.”

Well, then, you might ask, what about their claims that the MVMA will “be a 501c3 non-profit corporation so that any and all donations contributed to the organization will be considered a tax-deductible donation” (quoted from their brochure)? The implication is clear that somehow people who donate the “suggested \$30” to MVMA will be better off than those AMPS members who pay their annual dues, “Send MVMA your donation – It's tax deductible!”. First off, AMPS is an IRS tax-exempt 501(c)4 group. (If you want to see a copy of the IRS exemption letter, let me know.) Next, the only tax-exempt groups that donors can contribute to and then deduct their contributions from their taxes are CHARITIES. It's really not that complicated, but suffice it to say that MVMA will never be a charity, so donations to it will never be tax-deductible. Period. If you don't believe me, just read IRS Pub 557, available online (be sure to drink a cup of coffee first). Finally, in regards to AMPS, it is incorporated in the state of NY as a non-profit (for that matter, so is our chapter in SC). This claim of non-profit, tax-exempt, tax-deductible status by MVMA is total... Well, you get the picture. So what about the MVMA's claim that it will be some sort of great

promoter, educator and supporter of history? Since they haven't actually done anything yet in that regard, there's not much to say... at least about them.

In regards to AMPS, let's look at the record. In the last two years, your very own AMPS chapter has donated over \$1000 cash to the National Armor and Cav. Museum (NACM) and other local military museums. That's a fact. MVMA sure hasn't. AMPS, the national organization, has also been a strong supporter and donor to the NACM. Many local AMPS chapters have affiliations with local museums, VFWs, AMVETS and other veteran groups and have donated time, manpower and money to repairing and painting vehicles and artifacts on public display. What have the principals of the MVMA done?

In so far as education goes, think of all the club displays we've put on at the SC State Museum and other venues. Our AMPS chapter is out there in the public all the time promoting the hobby and keeping history fresh. Also consider our annual shows and exhibitions that we deliberately keep open to the general public with no admission charges. Other AMPS chapters do the same on a regular basis. Again, the MVMA talks a good game, but AMPS walks the walk.

Finally, let's look at one last claim by the MVMA. That is about how easy it is to start an MVMA chapter (called a "battalion") as opposed as to how hard it is to start an AMPS chapter. Once again, if you examine the facts, you'll see that this implied criticism of AMPS is full of baloney.

Anyone who cares to look at those facts can just turn to the AMPS bylaws and read Article 6 to see that AMPS requires only one AMPS national member to organize a local chapter. Contrast that with the MVMA that requires at least three members (presumably "donors" of the "suggested \$30"). AMPS also has no annual chartering requirements or fees to start a local chapter. In fact, starting an AMPS chapter is actually easier than starting an MVMA "battalion." As already noted, the MVMA principals could have created a "virtual" AMPS chapter and hosted an AMPS show with the MVPA just by declaring themselves an AMPS chapter and doing the work. All they needed to do to do that was... to do it. It really is just that simple.

So there you have it, boys and girls. You can make up your own minds, but as for myself, the matter is clear. The MVMA represents a personality driven devolution back to the days of the AMM. By soliciting members and donations directly from existing AMPS members, it has deliberately put itself in direct competition for those same members. The motives and agendas of its principals are questionable, it answers to no one, and its claims that it will somehow be superior to AMPS are just plain false. (Well, I guess you could send them your money and hope they send you a coin. It is true that AMPS doesn't have one of those... yet.)

If you want to keep AMPS strong and growing, then...

Join AMPS. Step up and send in your dues. If you've got the "suggested \$30" MVMA "donation," then why not spend that money on the organization that is already everything MVMA claims it wants to be and then some – AMPS?

Join AMPS Now! <http://amps-armor.org/>

Happy modeling,

Mike Roof

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