



Welcome to the October, 2013 newsletter. I do hope that you've all gotten in some quality time at your workbench over the last month.

I also hope that you've all had a chance to scope out the latest changes to our website. Jeff Nelson has taken the ball and run with it, instituting several very nice changes to content. In particular, he's really freshened up the look of the site banner and page headers. You'll now note that each page has a different model featured at the top, and this is certainly a much better representation of our club's work. I think it's a very nice change, and hopefully in the future we can continue to change these pictures up to show off even more of our members' works.

This month we're almost ready to kick off our new club member forum – "Wildcat Chat." This will be a basic forum tool that members can use to discuss model building issues directly with each other. You should be able to use it to inform the club of what your latest projects are and ask for help with research or materials. We can also add discussions for things like links to other modeling resources (like other club newsletters, or on-line references, or modeling suppliers or vendors, etc). However, you, the club membership, will have to let us know what you want or need.

The new club forum will be pretty basic, and it's not intended to be a substitute for other more elaborate websites. For example, you'll be able to post links to photos and other websites, but not actually up-load photos to the new forum. So, it really won't be suitable for posting up build blogs and things like that. The new forum will ONLY be accessible to members in good-standing (dues paid, etc), and Keith has volunteered to be the moderator. You will need a log-in password and permission to get onto the club forum.

This month, we do have a couple of interesting proposals for club activities, so please read the ideas presented below and be ready to offer up your own thoughts at the meeting. We don't want to spend the whole meeting talking about these, but quickly decide which (if any) we want to pursue and do. Once we know that, we can make plans for later. If anyone would like to take the lead on organizing one or more of these (or some other) activities, don't hesitate to volunteer either at the meeting or get with me off-line about it.

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

Our last meeting was held at 6:00 pm, September 11, 2013. We had 16 members in attendance, and those members brought in 11 models to show and tell. Bob Spagnola won the raffle prize, an Academy M18 "Hellcat."

During the meeting: We had a brief "show and tell" of our new embroidered shirts, to include passing around Tim's embroidered fleecy. We voted and approved to sponsor the "Best Armor" trophy at the IPMS Piedmont Scale Modeler's show. We had an extended discussion followed by a vote in which the membership decided not to host a show in 2014. We will take a break in 2014 in anticipation of

hosting our own a show in 2015. Because this open discussion took longer than planned, we tabled Ralph Nardone's demo / discussion on modeler's safety concerns until October's meeting.

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

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 09 October, 2013 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month we have a couple of proposals for club activities to discuss: 1) A proposal for a club-build / intra-club contest; 2) A proposal for a club cookout / intra-club display (maybe with some judging); and 3) A proposal for cub demos and displays at the hobby shop. What we want to get from the discussions is consensus on which of these proposals (if any) we should develop into actual plans for execution. For example, a year or so ago, someone mentioned perhaps organizing a club road-trip to tour various armor exhibits in our area. Is this something we would want to do as a group?

Please read through the proposal descriptions below. New ideas for other club activities and additions to the ones proposed are welcome.

Discuss and solicit ideas and input for new club internet forum – "Wildcat Chat." Keith has volunteered to be the moderator. The forum is all set up and ready to go.

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): Demo / Discussion – Modeler's Safety Considerations by Ralph Nardone

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

7:10 pm (1910): Reconvene: Continue demo / discussion followed by 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:**

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

**Oct 12-13**, 2013, 10-5 Sat & 12-4 Sun: French Broad Model RR show at the Ag Center across from the Asheville Regional Airport, Exit 40, I-26. Over 140 vendor tables and 7 working layouts.

**Oct 26**, 2013: Spartanburg Scale Modelers "Plan 9 from Spartanburg" show, Parkway Freewill Baptist Church, 3615 Parris Bridge Road, Spartanburg, SC.

**Nov 09**, 2013: IPMS 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?

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

## **Proposals for Club Activities in 2014**

**Please review these proposals and ideas for club activities. We will discuss them at the meeting and solicit input for any additional ideas or additions.**

**1. Group-build / Intra-club Contest.** Tim Darrah has volunteered to moderate a series of group-builds that would be "theme" based with construction of the models "open" to anything the builder wants to do (AM parts or decals, conversions, etc).

Tim has developed a selection matrix that would allow members to have their build theme ideas included for consideration with the actual selection based on randomly selected numbers. This way, each build theme has an equal chance of being selected. Build themes could be anything from specific subjects or particular kits to nationalities or historical eras or events.

He has proposed a 3 to 4 month build window for each successive theme so that participants have enough time to work on their projects. Tim has also suggested that all 3 or 4 themes be selected in advance to allow time for participants to procure kits and AM. Participants could take part in any or all of the builds.

At the end of each theme's build window, we would have an intra-club contest with the models built being judged by club members using AMPS rules. We could select prizes or awards later.

**2. Club Cookout / Family day.** We would plan a Saturday afternoon cookout, perhaps sometime in the May-July timeframe, tentatively at the North Springs Park and Community Center (on Clemson Rd about ½ mile from the Sandhills Mall). The park has a large playground and the community center has rooms that we could use to set up an intra-club model display. Club members could bring as many models as they like to put on display for each other. Family members and guests would be invited. The club would cover the costs of the rec. center and most of the food and drinks. The rec. center room would cost us \$30 an hour to rent.

Wives and others who want could easily go to the mall while club members spend the day looking at and talking about models. Small children would have the park and playground available to keep them busy.

We could set up one or more judging stations where member models could be examined and scored by other club members or set up the stations with turn tables and lamps just to look more closely at models.

**3. Club "How to" demos and displays at the HobbyTown USA.** The club would provide a series of demonstrations on various modeling skills and subjects (basic kit construction, air brushing, figure painting, dioramas and bases, etc) while also putting on displays of member models. These would be hosted on Saturdays with the time windows open. Presumably, the store would promote these activities which would also provide our club with more public exposure.

This would provide the club opportunities to put member models on public display in a non-competitive environment and allow us a chance to recruit new members. As additions to the basic proposals, we could also offer snacks and drinks and also open discussions with other modeling clubs (SCMA and IPMS) to see if they would be interested in presenting demos on other, non-AFV related subjects, such as aircraft modeling, car model gloss finishes, ship modeling, etc.

## "How long have I been building models?"

Recently, a discussion on Armorama spurred our member Keith Frappe to ask this question in a semi-rhetorical manner. In an email, Keith sent me this picture, which prompted me to ask him a few, not so rhetorical, questions of my own...



Cpl. McCawley launching a line control model piloted by J/Tpr. FRAPE. Final adjustments being made on a free flight glider by J/Ldr. PALMER and Mr. B. MORTIMER.



J/Tpr. FRAPE building a free flight Frog Mixx

### MODELLING

Officer-in-Charge: Mr. B.F. Mortimer  
Assistants: Sgt. F. Denning, 3 DG,  
Sgt. J. Beeston, RTR.

Great zest and enthusiasm has been shown within the Club towards the making of free-flight gliders and line-control models.

A very large percentage of the club, which now numbers 18, consists of Junior Leaders who are in their first term of hobbies and because of this, very few models have been completed. This fact, however, did not deter a number of members from entering local competitions and from winning prizes.

At the Dorset Arts Festival held at Wimborne in March the following members were successful:

J/Cpl McCawley	-	2nd Class Award
J/Tpr Fisher	-	2nd Class Award
J/Tpr Frappe	-	Four 3rd Class Awards
J/Tpr Thompson	-	3rd Class Award

It turns out that these photos were taken and published in 1965(!) when Keith was a member of the modeling club in his Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) Junior Leaders unit. Although he claims that the airplane models are not his (so he says...), your attention is directed to the last paragraph where you'll note that J/Tpr Frape earned "Four 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Awards" at the Dorset Arts Festival. Keith told me that all of these awards were for injection molded armor models.

Keith, it appears, is only a year or so shy of a HALF-CENTURY since his first successful model show!

So, how long have you been building models?

### **“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...”*

The consensus decision last month not to host a show in 2014 was perfectly understandable. Several members felt the need to get out of the "contest mode" and concentrate back on model building, and taking a break will hopefully allow us all to catch our collective breath. Our shows have been great "team building" and "bonding" experiences, and they have done a lot to give our club a sense of identity. Our shows "have put our club on the AMPS map," and I think that we've all enjoyed meeting the many other armor modelers who have traveled to our events and helped us out.

Our club has established a well-deserved reputation for excellence, and our shows have grown in size and scope. They have all be very well run events. The judging has always been done to the AMPS standard, the raffles and vendors well presented, and the awards fair. I have never received a single negative comment or complaint about any aspect of our shows or any of the members involved in putting them on. Every member of the AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" is justified in feeling proud of this accomplishment.

However, model contests and shows can also take on a life of their own, and it's very easy to allow them to take over the club's reason for existence. After a while, they become a drag, a chore, an obligation – "We have to put on a show! Everybody's counting on us..." When this happens, the event becomes the reason for model building and not the other way 'round. The tail wags the dog, and the dog begins to feel he's out of control and obligated to the tail. And when this happens, the tail doesn't really care, but the dog certainly becomes unhappy about the situation.

In 2015, if we decide to get stuck back in with a show, hopefully we'll all be fresher and more enthusiastic about it rather than facing the idea like some chore. Taking a break is not a bad thing, nor is it a sign or symptom of any kind of internal problem with the club. It's just a break.

In the mean time, this doesn't mean that in 2014 we can't enjoy the fruits of our past labors and do some things just for ourselves and the club. Some activities that allow us the opportunity to just hang out with each other and do "model building stuff" are what the club is all about, anyways. So, even though we don't have a show planned for this year, 2014 doesn't have to be boring either.

**Mike Roof**

Chapter Contact

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"