



Welcome to the October issue of the “Wildcat.”

It’s looking like we’re going to have a pretty busy month. In addition to our regular meeting, we have our “Club Members Estate Sale and Swap Meet” scheduled for Saturday, 25 October at the North Springs Rec Center, and several of you have expressed interest in getting the club together to go see the movie “Fury” which opens in a couple of weeks.

The club sale is intended to convert the donations to the club made by Scott Amey’s family into funds for our treasury. We’ve already paid to rent the large meeting room in the rec center, so please mark the day down on your calendars and attend if you can. Trevor Edwards put the rec center reservations in his name, so this saved us the non-resident surcharge. Thanks, Trevor!

For those that can’t make it on the 25th, we will allow proxy purchases if you arrange for another club member to act on your behalf. See below for the process that we’ll use to run the sale.

Also, we will have tables available for those club members who would like to bring kits, books or other items to sell or swap. This portion of the proceedings will be open to anyone, but the estate sale portion will only be open to club members.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that Ralph Nardone has volunteered to be our new treasurer. When you see Ralph next, please be sure to thank him for stepping up and taking on this job for us all. As we discussed a couple of years ago when Scott volunteered, it’s essential to good order and operation of the club that we have at least two people managing the club’s funds. This is both for accountability and to avoid having a “single point of failure” in this critical area. With Ralph as our treasurer, we now have responsible continuity in the position. Thanks, Ralph!

In addition to our new treasurer, we have now established a club bank account with First Citizens. The account is in the club’s name using its IRS assigned TIN/EIN. Ralph Nardone (Treasurer) and Mike Roof (Chapter Contact) are the authorized account signers, but the authorized signers can easily be changed when anyone new assumes either of these positions. Also, we have now filed with the SC Secretary of State to incorporate our club as an SC state non-profit. With these actions, our club is now well established and set for the long term.

Last Meeting’s Minutes:

Our last meeting was held at 6:00 pm, 10 September. We had 18 members in attendance and 14 models – WIPs and competed builds – brought in for Show & Tell. The raffle prize was a copy of the

Stackpole book, "Cracking Hitler's Atlantic Wall: The 1st Assault Brigade Royal Engineers on D-Day" (Hardcover), by Richard C. Anderson, Jr., which was won by Michael Child.

1. Churchill Mk. III - Africa (AFV Club), 1/35 – Mike Roof
2. Sd.Kfz.182 King Tiger, Henschel Turret (Tamiya 35160, Cavalier Zimmerit, Verlinden Interior), 1/35 – John Sherrer
3. M-46 Patton Tank with G.I. Pusan Perimeter Crew, 1950 (DML), 1/35 – Trevor Edwards
4. King Tiger, Porche Turret w/ Zimmerit on a Rail Car Bed (DML + Spade Ace Transport Tracks), 1/35 – Tom Wingate
5. Sd.Kfz.186 Jagdtiger Porsche Production Type (DML + Spade Ace Tracks, PE extras, scratch Radiator & Fans), 1/35 – Tom Wingate
6. British Main Battle Tank Challenger 2, Desertised (Tamiya + PE IFF Panels), 1/35 – Tony Kelly
7. Russian KV-1 Mod 1939 (Trumpeter), 1/35 – David Varettoni
8. T-34/76 Cast Turret (Tamiya), 1.35 – John "Turkey" Melton
9. KV-1B Russian Tank (Tamiya), 1.35 – John "Turkey" Melton
10. M35 WWII US Army Prime Mover (AFV Club), 1/35 – Michael Child
11. 5.5cm Zwilling Flakpanzer (DML), 1/72 – Paul Lovell
12. British Heavy Assault Tank A39 Tortoise (Meng), 1/35 – Mike Bishop
13. Sd.Kfz.186 Jagdtiger Porsche Production Type (DML + , PE extras, scratch Radiator & Fans), 1/35 – Tom Wingate
14. Char 2C French Super Heavy Tank (Meng), 1/35 – Mike Bishop
15. RAFFLE: Cracking Hitler's Atlantic Wall: The 1st Assault Brigade Royal Engineers on D-Day (Hardcover), by Richard C. Anderson, Jr. – Michael Child

Photo Album on our webpage: <http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/MemberPhotos.php>

The agenda items covered: 1) In memoriam – Scott Amey. The floor was open to talk and share stories about Scott. We discussed and a motion was made to establish a special award named in honor of Scott to be made at our future shows and contests. The motion to establish this award was approved by acclamation. This award will be for the "Best Intermediate Model." 2) We discussed the disposition of the donations made to the club by Scott's family. The consensus was to hold a club members only sale at the North Springs Rec Center. Any items not purchased by club members will be used as future raffle prizes at meetings or shows. All proceeds from the sale will go into the club's treasury. 3) An interim treasurer's report given by Mike Roof. All club funds were accounted for and received from Scott's family. The treasury balance was reported, and a solicitation was made for a volunteer to be the new treasurer. As noted above, Ralph Nardone has volunteered and has been accepted as the new treasurer. 4) Brief update on the status of our 2016 AMPS convention bid. We have reserved the Sumter County Civic Center and are working on the detailed floor plan to determine additional resources required for the venue. 5) Solicit suggestions for the Saturday October date for our next Club Build Day. The consensus position was to substitute the club members' estate sale for the next Club Build Day. 6) Floor was opened for new business. No new business was brought forward.

We welcomed a new member, Mike Bishop, to our group. Mike's a very experienced and talented modeler who was the owner/operator of "MB Models" and "Blue Water Navy" some years ago. Mike has a lot of knowledge about the model industry in addition to being an accomplished scratch-builder. His addition to our little band is sure to benefit us all. Welcome aboard, Mike!

Next Meeting's Agenda:

Our next regular meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 08 October, 2014 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – 1) Treasurer's report by Ralph Nardone. 2) Discuss any final coordination for the club members' estate sale at the North Springs Rec Center. Questions: Refreshments and numbers of members wishing to bring items to sell or swap. 3) Brief update on the status of our 2016 AMPS convention bid. We have reserved the Sumter County Civic Center and are working on the detailed floor plan to determine additional resources required for the venue. 4) Question: Do we keep our club forum "Wildcat Chat" or convert the virtual space back to another page on our website? 5) Discuss and coordinate, if desired, to meet as a group to watch the movie "Fury." The movie opens Friday, 17 October. Dates proposed so far are 18 Oct (Sat), 19 Oct (Sun) or 26 Oct (Sun). Other dates are open as possibilities. 6) Floor will be open for new business.

Demo: Mike Roof presents an encore of the "Pigments and Pastels" how-to originally presented in 2010.

REMINDER: The HobbyTown USA store will close at 8:00 pm (2000). 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): Admin business and Show & Tell.

6:50 pm (1850): Break: Shopping & Social Mixer. Cash registers close at 8:00 pm.

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

8:00 pm (2000): Meeting ends (officially)

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:

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

Oct 25, 2014, 11 am to 4 pm: AMPS Central SC "Club Members Sale and Swap" at the North Springs Recreation Center, Clemson Rd., Columbia (NE).

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.

Feb 13-15, 2015: AMPS Atlanta 2015 Show "Retreads." Atlanta Marriott Century Center, 2000 Century Center Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30345. For reservations, phone: 404-325-0000. Show information: <http://www.ampsatlanta.org/amps-atlanta-annual-show.html>

2015 Club Group Build Themes

Tim Darrah, AMPS #2545

At our June "Model Geek Day" we picked the subjects for our 2015 Club Group Build Themes, which are as follows:

March 2015 meeting - The subject is "Heavy Tanks, 47 tons & over". That was my idea and was picked by Mike R. and Carl W. So basically any armored vehicle that was 47 tons & up are eligible. Please provide reference on the weight of the actual vehicle.

July 2015 meeting - The subject is "Germany, 1945". That was Tom W.'s idea and was picked by Tom W. and Rebecca H. Tom's idea covers anything that was found/used in Germany at the end of WW2; Russian, Polish, English, American and of course German.

November 2015 meeting - The subject is "Militarized Civilian Vehicles". That was John S.'s idea and was picked by Ralph N. and Keith F. This covers any vehicle originally made for civilian use but put into use by the Military, from the "technicals" we see on the news to a Chevy Blazer used by the US Army or Air Force. I can see HobbyTown getting several of the Meng or Takom kits in for this.

Again, these builds are for us to have fun, hopefully to get us to build subjects out of our comfort-zone and expand our building knowledge. Participation is voluntary but it would be nice if we had more than a couple entries. Remember, the winners get HobbyTown gift cards.

You will have noticed that Tom unknowingly picked his idea for July. How this was done: I picked two members at random that hadn't picked before and asked them for a letter between "A" and "E" or a number between "1" and "6". These were then located on my matrix and that's how the subject was picked. Rest assured that there are no favoritisms in this project.

Other subjects on the list are: Vietnam, British 1945-1960, Halftracks/Armored Cars, Any Japanese, North Africa, Wheeled Vehicles, Artillery/Missile Launchers, General Purpose Vehicles (such as the Jeep or Kubelwagen), and Any Arab/Israeli War subject. Artillery/Ant-Tank, Sci-Fi Mech or Armor, Any M26-M60 Family, Operation Market Garden, Anything Russian, Battle of the Bulge, Any Small Army Armor, Halftracks, Italian Front WW2, 1950s – Cold War US, Any Sherman, Any M26-M60 Family, Modern Armor, any ETO Vehicle and Any Israeli, Post-War subject. As you can see we have plenty of interesting subjects that will keep us busy until 2024.

Editor's Note: My apologies to Tim. I was supposed to include this information on the Group Builds in last month's newsletter.

Dioramas versus Vignettes: Emotion and Drama

Mike Roof, AMPS #1632

As most of you know, AMPS changed its rules this year to, among other things, provide clarity and distinction between the existing Diorama and Vignette categories. An unambiguous line has now been drawn between the two, and the difference is "story line." Dioramas are intended to have a story and vignettes are not. It's incumbent on the modeler to make the distinction between diorama and vignette for his or her works when they're entered for judging. Vignettes in the diorama category are not going to score well no matter how well the work has been done. The same applies to

dioramas which might have a clever and imaginatively told story. Dioramas entered in the vignette category will not receive any points for their story or the modeler's efforts to tell it.

All the judges can do is "score 'em like they see 'em" in the category that they were entered in. Modelers themselves must enter their works in the correct or best categories.

During the recent AMPS show in Fayetteville, NC, I was the ACJ / Table Captain for the diorama judging team, and one of the issues we had was that most of the works entered as dioramas would have scored much better as vignettes. The common problems that these dioramas had were weak stories and poor composition. And to be clear, poor composition always follows a weak story. The story drives the composition, and if the story is weak, composition always suffers as well.

Modelers need to understand this intimate connection between story and composition. They also have to appreciate that dioramas are about their story first and foremost. All of the elements on the diorama are there to support and tell the story. Unfortunately, too many modelers assemble a collection of models onto a landscaped base and hope that as they put it all together, somehow a story will develop. What they don't understand is that the diorama should be planned and composed from its inception to tell a story, and the models for it are then built to support that composition. All too often, this relationship is reversed, and models are built first and arranged to try to tell some story, a story that is, all too often, obviously a weak and incomprehensible afterthought.

To help understand this issue, I would submit that we should perhaps look at all landscaped model art as forming a continuum that is something analogous to a similar continuum of fine paintings.

Some landscaped model art works are the compositional equivalent of portraits, some are composed like landscapes, and still others are composed like Don Trioani action paintings of epic battle scenes (or other events with high drama).

This first kind of landscaped model art, works that are the compositional equivalent of portraits, are vignettes. There is clearly no intent to "tell" a story, but the modeler can still create an aesthetic that can evoke feelings and emotions in the viewer, even if those feelings are as simple as an appreciation of, and emotional response to, the beauty and appeal of the subject and its presentation.

Landscaped model art in the second group, those works that are composed like landscapes, are also vignettes. Again, there is no clear story. Here we have more compositional elements, and the landscaped portion of the work takes on greater significance and role. Once again, though, these works can be appreciated for their aesthetic qualities, which again can evoke emotional responses in the viewer. Sometimes these works can include figures, but just because there are figures in the work, there is not necessarily drama and a story. Figures can be included simply for their own aesthetic qualities, to emphasize or contrast aspects of the main subject, or to fulfil some other compositional purpose. If these landscaped works lack the qualities of drama and storyline, they are vignettes and not dioramas.

The final group, those landscaped model art works that are composed like paintings that illustrate drama and story are true dioramas. (By the way, there is no need to "gild the lily" and create some new term like "diodrama" to describe these works.) As with the good vignette, the diorama work must be of the highest caliber in order to create the aesthetic qualities that are appreciated in the subject and other elements, to include the landscaped portions, but here the dioramist must also compose the various elements to "tell" his story and create the sense of human drama necessary to

evoke rational understanding and appreciation of the event and circumstances as well as to evoke emotional responses that are based on the work's human qualities and not just its aesthetics.

Another way of putting this is that the real difference between the vignette and the diorama is the kind of emotional reaction that the particular work evokes in the viewer (or is intended to evoke by the builder). The vignette draws the viewer's emotional response primarily from its aesthetics, and the diorama draws its emotional response primarily from its human story and drama.

The vignette is created, like the portrait and the landscape, to evoke emotional and rational appreciation of the aesthetic, technical, and historical qualities of the modeled subject and landscaped elements. The "good" vignette is beautiful, and it's the beauty of the subject and its modeled surroundings that is appreciated by the viewer.

(The viewer's understanding is of the nature of beauty and ugliness in their aesthetic senses and not in their romantic senses.)

The diorama is created, like the epic painting, to evoke rational and emotional connection between the viewer and the "human subject" of the work. Story and drama are human qualities that only incidentally involve machines, weapons, the landscape, etc. The good diorama must be created so that its elements are aesthetically beautiful, the same as the vignette, but those same elements must ALSO be composed so as to convey a HUMAN story that can evoke an emotional connection between the viewer and the subject. Only humans have storylines and drama (even by their absence), and so the diorama is always about people.

The less "human" drama there is, the less emotional impact the diorama has with its viewer, and the less "good" the diorama is. The model artist's skill in both technical and compositional aspects as well as his imagination are what separates the best dioramas from the average dioramas and from the "dioramas" that have no story and which are, by default, vignettes.

It's not about size, the number of models or figures, or the nature of the landscaping, that makes a diorama a diorama, it's all about the human story and drama that it depicts.

No matter how well it's created, if there's no story, there's no diorama. Works that fall into this group should be entered by the modeler into the vignette category.

Members Estate Sale and Swap Meet

Mike Roof, AMPS #1632

Chapter Contact

On Saturday, 25 October, 11 am to 4 pm, we will hold our estate sale and swap meet in order to liquidate the club donations made to us by Scott Amey's family. These donations have already been inventoried and given valuations. The list of these items and their values was sent out by email to club members in August. Any member who needs or would like to have this list resent to him or her should send a message to the club email account.

The sale will take place at the North Springs Recreation Center, on Clemson Road. See the map for directions. The event will be open to the public. However, only AMPS Central SC chapter members in good standing may participate in the estate sale portion of the event. Anyone may participate in the general sale and swap meet.

We have the large meeting room at the North Springs Recreation Center starting at 11 am. If we want to have refreshments and drinks available, we need to discuss and coordinate that at the Wednesday, 08 October meeting. Also, those club members who would like to have table space to display items to sell or swap need to let me know as soon as possible. I will try to arrange for these (the number of tables at the center is limited).

The procedures for the estate sale portion of the day are as follows:

1) All participants must be members in good standing with their dues paid for this year, 2014, at the time of the sale. You may pay any delinquent dues on the day of. New members may join the club and participate on the day of as long as they pay their dues before the sale starts. See the club treasurer to confirm your dues status or make any dues payments required.

2) Club members who would like to participate, but who cannot be present, may arrange with another club member to act as a proxy buyer. The proxy buyer must declare at the start of the sale that he is acting in your behalf. The proxy buyer may also participate on his or her on behalf. Both the absent member and the proxy buyer must be club members in good standing, as 1) above.

3) Club members present will draw numbers to determine the order that they will buy items. Proxy buyers must declare before they draw whether the number they are drawing is for themselves or their absent member. The names and numbers will be recorded. All of the club members, in numerical order, will constitute a single "buying round."

4) Club members will be allowed to select one item to be purchased during the first buying round. After the last club member in the numerical order has made his or her selection, the order is over. Proxy buyers will select for their absent member in the numerical order that that member has been drawn and for themselves in the order that they drew for themselves. It is incumbent on the absent member to let the proxy buyer know before the sale what items he or she wants and in whatever priority.

5) During the second round, club members will be allowed to select two items for purchase. The number of items allowed per each participating club member will increase by one for each subsequent buying round.

6) Participating club members may stop their participation at any time during the sale. That is, participating club members may make as many or as few purchases as they wish, and no one will be required or compelled to keep buying.

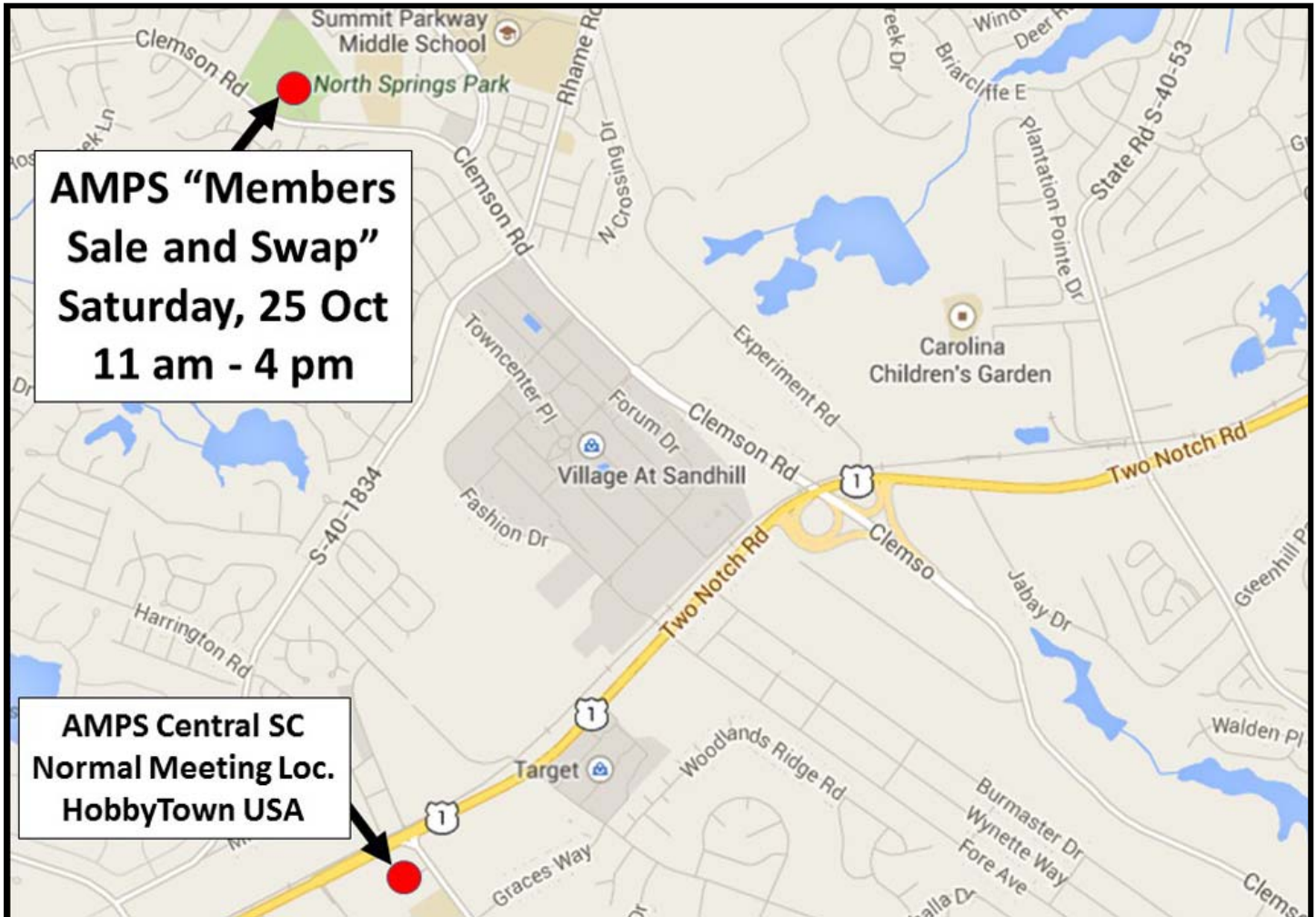
7) The estate sale rounds will continue as long as any participating club members wish to keep buying items. The sale will end when the last participating club member has decided that he or she no longer wishes to buy any more items.

8) Items will be sold at the prices assigned during the inventory and as listed.

9) Participating club members must pay for the items they buy on the day of the sale. You may pay in cash or with a personal check. You may pay for each purchase as it's made or wait until the sale is over and add all of your purchases together and pay for them at once.

The goal of the sale is to liquidate all of the donated items, thus members may buy as many items as they wish for as long as the sale continues. This may include any member who, at the end of the sale, is the sole club member participating and who wishes to buy all of the remaining items at their listed values.

Any items remaining, after the last participating member has declared that he or she is done, will be held by the club and used as raffle prizes for our monthly meetings and / or for future contests and



shows. The exceptions may be any of the miscellaneous magazines and periodicals that remain. These periodicals and magazines will be donated to the Dorn VA Medical Center through our IPMS / USA "Support the Troops" contact in Sumter.

All proceeds from this sale will be go into our club treasury as general funds.

Members who bring in their own items to sell or swap will deal directly with one another. The club is only providing the table space and will not be involved in these transactions.

"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, that's about all for this month.

Don't forget that the next Group Build / Theme Build will be judged at the November meeting. That's just one month away! The theme is light tanks, so 'get your build on'!

Before I close this issue, I want to leave you all with one final thing to think about.

You did decide a few months ago that we were going to host another local show in 2015. What I need pretty soon are some ideas on the timing for this.

I've been on the lookout for potential venues and have a couple of possibilities, but in order to discuss more than "we have an idea" with the venue operators, I need some dates and windows.

Our past shows have fallen around the end of June up to about the middle of July, but if we're going to do this, I need to lock in a venue pretty soon. So, give it some thought and let me know.

See ya Wednesday and Happy Modeling!

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"