



Hey everybody!

I hope you've all had a great, model-building kind of month since our last meeting.

For those of you who missed it, the Atlanta AMPS multi-day show was a fantastic event. This year's show featured an increase in entries to about 120 armor models (over 20% more than last year!), and they had to add another room for vendors. On top of all the great models, this year's seminars included presentations by Rob Ervin (formerly of Formations Models), Atlanta's own Gregg Gaither, and Dan Tsoncik and Alan Ball, two of the best figure modelers currently displaying in the US. I know that I learned a lot from Dan's and Alan's separate seminars about diorama and vignette composition and design!

(Of course, you have to also remember that all this was taking place in conjunction with the 35th Atlanta Model Figure Show, which is, in and of itself, one of the premier miniature figure shows in the country!)

AMPS Central SC was very well represented at the show, too. Everyone who attended and entered models medaled, and I have to say, the judging this year was hard but fair. So every point on those score sheets was certainly earned! We also contributed more volunteer hours (at least 22 man-hours total) in the "judging pits" than last year, with Dave Varettoni earning the prize for most shifts judged. If I have my facts right, Dave put in 5 judging shifts, for a total of 10 hours volunteer judging time. Way to go Dave! (I think Dave put in more hours judging than any other person at the show...) I know the Atlanta AMPS guys really appreciated this assistance, and it's only through this kind of dedication that the AMPS judging system can work for everyone.

AMPS Central SC also displayed our club information board (thanks, Tim!), our new contest poster (thanks, Jeff!), and we had flyers out for our up-coming contest. We capped it all off with a trip out to dinner on Saturday night which was attended by just about all of the "Wildcats" at there. (The restaurant almost had to throw us out! Nobody wanted to leave... Good times!)

Our chapter was also "up-front and in your face" with everyone wearing their club tee-shirts throughout the show, and on Sunday morning during the awards ceremony we really stood out as member after member took the trip to the front of the auditorium to receive their medals. No doubt about it, everyone at the Atlanta show knew the AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" were there!

Like I said, it was a great show, and I'm already looking forward to next year.

Last Meeting Minutes:

At our last regular meeting was held on 08 Feb, 2012 with 10 members in attendance. Members brought in 10 models for show and tell, and Dave Varettoni won last month's kit raffle.

Last month we reviewed Tim Darrah's club information board. If you missed it, it's a tri-fold display board with club information and photos. This was very nice to have in Atlanta and will be a nice addition to any other future public events we participate in. Club members also discussed, voted and approved to spend up to \$200 on a vinyl display banner and support posts. This will be similar to the IPMS club banners that were displayed at the CAAB event back in December. We discussed and approved with changes the design for our contest theme poster. Finally, we made some co-ordinations for link-up in Atlanta. Scott Amey volunteered to present a demonstration of his "hairspray" weathering technique at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda:

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 14 March, 2012.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month's business (1) Discussion and vote on commissioning our own AMPS awards medals (2) Review of design finalized by Tim Darrah and Jeff Nelson for our vinyl display banner (3) Up-date from Scott Amey on the need for members to solicit for trophy packages and vendor tables. (4) Up-date from Tim Darrah on the status of vendor table sales and raffle donations (5) Line up volunteers to man our club display table at the IPMS R-12 show.

6:20 pm (1820): Scott Amey's demonstration of "hairspray" weathering technique

6:50 pm (1850): Break / Shopping / Mixer

7:10 pm (1910): Reconvene: Show & Tell: Builds and WIP's; Raffle draw.

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 (Our Dates Highlighted):

Mar 14, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Mar, 17, 2012: 1st Annual Model Contest & Swap Meet, IPMS/Catawba Valley Scale Modelers, VFW Post 2031, 139 Jordan Lane, Statesville, NC.

Apr 11, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Apr 26-28, 2012: AMPS International Show, WW2 Victory Museum, Auburn, IN.

Apr 28, 2012, 9am -5pm: IPMS/Mid-Carolina R-12 Contest, NG Armory, Bluff Road, Columbia, SC.

May 09, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Jun 09, 2012: Summer Cruise-In, IPMS/Spartanburg Scale Modelers, Big Daddy T's Restaurant, 1100 Asheville Hwy, Spartanburg, SC.

Jun 09, 2012: ScottCon 2012, IPMS/General R. Scott Chapter, Robins AFB Museum of Aviation, Warner Robins, GA.

Jun 13, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Jul 11, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Jul 14, 2012: AMPS Central SC Regional Contest, Gym, Ball Park Rec. Facility, Ball Park Road, Lexington, SC.

Aug 15 (Changed Date!), 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. (Original date conflicted with IPMS / USA Nat'l Convention.)

Aug 8-11, 2012: IPMS / USA National Convention, Disney Land, Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), FL.

Sep 12, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Sep 15, 2012: 2nd Annual Fall Modelfest, IPMS/Piedmont Scale Modelers, Byrnes High School, Duncan, SC

Sep 22, 2012: 16th Annual Fall Classic, IPMS/Foothills Plastic Pros, Collett Street Recreation Center, Morganton, NC.

Oct 10, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Nov 14, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Dec 12, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. Christmas Party !

Special News: Raffle Requests

By Tim Darrah, #2545

As you all know, I'm the vendor/raffle coordinator for our July contest. I would like to ask that every member of our club donate at least one item for the raffle in order to enhance what we might be able to bring in. I respectfully request that the items are still in the shrink wrap, if not then the boxes are still in very good condition and all parts are present and still on the trees.

One thing that people will remember is how good the raffle was, and if we get sun-faded, dirty, torn model boxes, it would reflect badly on us. I went to a contest in the Upstate over 10 years ago, and the entire raffle looked like they were doing closet cleaning. We don't want that.

So please see what you have on-hand that might be a good raffle prize and get it to me at a future meeting. Or you might think about buying something new for the raffle (hint, hint).

It is easier to see how the raffle is forming up by me having all items in my hands before the contest. If a box is open, I will need to verify that everything is present then tape it closed.

If you have any questions, my e-mail addy is tttimmy@earthlink.net .

Thanks,
Tim

Classified Ads

John Sherrer: Looking for a Tamiya T-55 kit. Only needs the chassis, so will consider a partial kit as long as it has the parts needed. Needs this to finish a project / build for the July contest.

Mike Roof: Wanted to buy a copy of "Museum Ordnance Special 002, Iron Coffins: Italian Medium Tank M13/40" by Adam Giebel. Any reasonable condition. Needed for research on current build and not for collecting.

Newsletter Feature Article:

Product Review:

Winsor & Newton "Artisan Water Mixable Oil Gloss and Matt (Flat) Varnish"

Price: \$ 8.99 for 75 ml (2 ½ oz.) bottle

By Tim Darrah, #2545

Back in January I was talking with Dave V. during our meeting. He told me about a new product that he uses for his models. It is Winsor-Newton Artisan Water Mixable Oil Varnish Gloss and Flat, he also said that they have a satin, but I haven't found it yet.



This stuff rocks. I spray it straight through my Iwata without any problem, and clean-up is easy. I might over do it, but after I spray the W-N varnish, I run through the airbrush an entire jar (I use the Testors 1/2oz (14.7ml) empty jars for my airbrush) of Windex, then lacquer thinner, then straight water. Then I wipe off the needle and put it away. That's it.

The W&N gloss provides a nice high gloss, but the down side is it takes a few days to dry and cure. The flat provides a nice dead flat, a lot better than Testors products that I've used for the past 30 years.

I was told that you could get this stuff at Michael's, but none of the three in the area carry it. However the Hobby-Lobby does. I haven't checked A.C. Moore on Harbison yet, but they might carry it. The price is \$8.99 per bottle. That might seem a bit much, but I've used this flat coat on four models so far, and I might be less than a quarter of the way through the bottle. If you compare the price, this works out cheaper in the long run over the spray cans that cost almost as much as this bottle, but you get more completed models out of the bottle.

If you're looking for a new product to try, get this stuff; you'll love it. I will, however, continue to use the Testors Gloss & Flat coat in the spray cans for a quick coat, such as if I have to spray just one small item. No sense on spending 5 minutes prep and cleaning up if all I need is one squirt.

“The Day Room”

Alright folks, it looks like we're moving right along towards our next contest in July. Our SCMA friends have confirmed the venue scheduling, and Tim's working hard on the vendors and raffle donors.

Our website has been up-dated with the new contest information, to include this year's theme and current registration forms (with the new show theme in the special awards sections). We've got the word out on several armor modeling forums (AMPS, Missing-Lynx, and Armorama). Armorama has us listed in their on-line calendar, and AMPS has us listed on the homepage. Hopefully we'll get a mention in *Military Miniatures International*. Flyers have gone out to other AMPS events (Atlanta, Anniston, and the AMPS International Show). We'll get some additional contest posters up in the hobby shops in the region over the next couple of weeks.

So, what's left to do you ask? Trophy sponsors need to be solicited; raffle donors need to be solicited, and everyone needs to clear their calendars for 13-15 July. Just like last year, we'll need an all-hands effort to set-up on Friday, 13 July, and an all-hands effort on Saturday, 14 July (SHOW DAY!).

You guys put on a heck-u-va show last year! But that outstanding effort was only possible with the hard work and time that everyone put it. This was especially true on the day of the show. As with last year, the main focus this year will be on the judging. Although we can hope (with some good reason) that this year we'll get a few more judges from outside of our club to help, the responsibility to make sure that the judging is done and done well is ours!

If the Atlanta AMPS show is any indicator of trends, we'll likely see some increase in the number of entries in our show this year. More entries means more models to judge, and that means more judges are needed for more judging shifts.

So, get your game on! Complete those theme award entries, and start hitting up anyone you know who might be willing to sponsor a trophy package, but above all else, get ready to judge!

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"