



Ah, spring has sprung, and in spring a young man's fancy turns to... OH YEA! The AMPS International Convention and Show!

Finally, it's almost here, and, if I may say so, it's about time too! I know I am looking forward to this year's show. I really felt cheated last year when I couldn't make it to Auburn, but my wait's almost over. There're just a few more days to go, and I hope all the rest of you are as pumped for the big show as I am.

This year's AMPS show is practically right next door in Atlanta – the closest it's ever been to us. The venue is a familiar one to many of us who've been going to the Atlanta AMPS Regional Shows, but this show is ALL AMPS - All armor vendors, all armor model displays, and all armor seminars and tours! I do believe that at last count there were about 150 vendor tables sold, making this the largest all-armor hobby shop in the world (for a few days at least)! There are also 9 hours of free seminars scheduled covering subjects from bases and groundwork, to weathering, to research and resin casting. And finally, oh yea, the models...

The AMPS International Show features the best armor models by many of the best builders in North America. Last year's show broke all records with over 600 AFV and related models, and this year is promising to be just as large. If you want to see some fantastic armor models, this is the place to do it. Bottom line – This is not a show you're gonna want to miss. Even if it's just a drive over to Hot'lanta for a day, it'll be well worth it.

Last Meeting's Minutes:

Our last meeting was held at 6:00 pm, Mar 13, 2013. We had 11 members in attendance, and members brought in 11 models to show and tell.

During the meeting: A reminder that this year's dues are due; We received an up-date on our June Contest from Tony Abbott (at last count, we had 46 vendor tables sold); Carl Wethington gave us an up-date on the pending IPMS show in Hickory, NC; We discussed the need to conduct a special meeting to construct the signage and posters for the AMPS International Show (see news and pictures below); Finally, we discussed the need for volunteers to help out at the AMPS International Show in Atlanta (judges and registration help are critical needs).

Next Meeting's Agenda:

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 10 April, 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 and Tim Darrah); Treasury Report (Scott Amey) with a reminder that club members need to solicit awards sponsors; Open period for discussion and coordination for members going to the AMPS International Show.

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:

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 Catawba Valley Scale Modelers' Show

Just a quick report: On Saturday, 16 March, 2013, IPMS Catawba Valley Scale Modelers held their annual show at the airport in Hickory, NC. Our member, Carl Wethington, is also a member of that club and, in addition to other duties, was one of the armor judges.

I'm proud to report that both Bob Spagnola and Tom Wingate won several awards in various categories, including a first place for Bob in the Closed-Top AFV, 1:35 and larger (M51 Isherman) and a first place for Tom in Open-Top AFV, All Scales (Moebelwagen).

This was a very nice show, and the trip up and back made for a good day of model-builder camaraderie.

In-Box Review:

1/35th scale Amusing Hobby VK16.02 "Leopard" #35A004

Tim Darrah #2545



I was reading the FAQ2 book from AK Interactive recently, and one of their "test kits" was the Hobby Boss VK.1602 "Leopard" heavy German reconnaissance tank (it was a "paper" project). It looks like a baby Panther, with 5 sets of road wheels instead of the Panther's 8 sets. I liked the look of the kit, so I sought it out. I found both the Hobby Boss and Amusing Hobby kits on Lucky Models, but when I decided to place the order, the Hobby Boss kit was out of stock, so I ordered the Amusing Hobby kit, and it looks like I made a great choice.

The kit arrived on March 29th and is still wet from my "drool". I'm still working on 3 kits right now and then need to get going on my final "Berlin Wall" theme kit for our contest in June. Once I get caught up, then this thing will be started.

I'm not going to give you a big-time history lesson on this, but here's some background info, in case you like that kind of stuff (if not then skip this paragraph ;-). According to Wikipedia, the Leopard was designed in March 1942 and was to have gone into production in April 1943 but the project was cancelled in January 1943 before any were built. It was to have had a 75mm KwK 41 main gun but the 50mm KwK 39/1 L/60 was chosen instead as this was to have been a reconnaissance tank not a light tank; and it had a crew of 4. The chassis was also going to be the base for mobile Flakwagens with either a 20mm Flakvierling or single 37mm anti-aircraft guns; that might be an interesting conversion, huh?

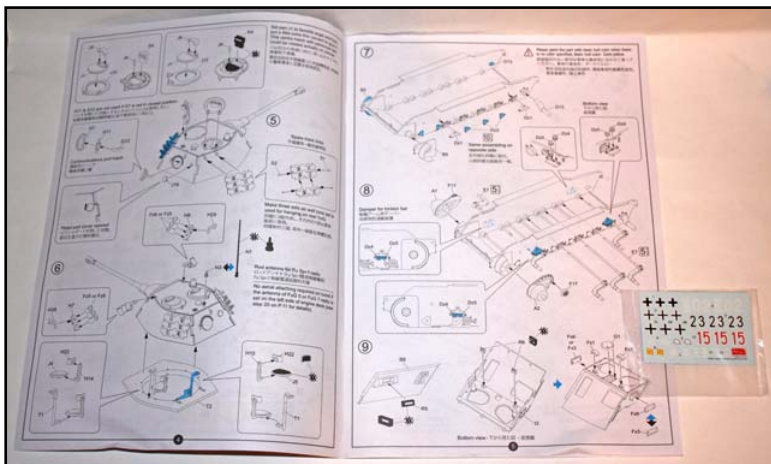
OK, so what do you get in the box? A whole bunch of plastic, etched brass and aluminum; I'm not going to count the pieces, but there are a lot trust me. The kit is molded in a medium grey, "Modelkasten" brown, and clear – the details look a bit soft, but not too bad. I would say if current DML was rated at 100% sharp, then this kit would be about an 85-90%. Also included is 2 frets of etched brass, 2 bags of aluminum "side skirts", and two sprues of clear plastic (one has the turret bottom on it!!) and of course a decal sheet with 4 factious schemes.

The instruction booklet is 16 pages long with what looks to be very good and clear instructions with detail painting colors called out when necessary, and showing what options you have. 99.9% of armor kits, you start with the lower hull/road wheels/suspension, not this one, you start with the main gun and turret!! Throughout the build, they give many you different options such as open or closed hatches, different stowage boxes, different rear convoy lights, etc. If you are careful, you might be

able to leave the main gun moveable. They give you separate torsion bars, so the suspension might be moveable as well which is cool. Under the engine cover you get the cooling fans, but no radiators to go under the grills, which is sad. You also need to figure out which of the three different exhaust configurations that is included in the kit – standard type (two pipes), cylindrical (same two pipes with a top cylinder connecting both pipes) or compound triple pipes (one is a single pipe & the other is a triple pipe as found on Panther A with cooling pipes). Another option is to build this as a normal Leopard or a commander's version with extra radios and with or without extra front mud flaps. The tracks looks like Modelkasten to me as they are molded in that same brown that MK uses and they have the separate “pins”. I’ve never done MK tracks, so I can see that I’ll have “some fun” (best leave the Jaegermeister alone during this build. :) The kit etched brass has what you need in it with the fan screens, latches and other stuff.



Interior – you get the main gun and some seats on the turret ring but that’s about it, but you could modify any Panther interior set to add to the detail; or do a Mike and scratch-build a full interior like he did with his Stug!! Remember, this had a “Puma” turret and gun so the interior will be different from a Panther.



As noted above, they give you factious markings for four vehicles from the 116th Pz Div (has the greyhound dog as a unit marking), Pz.Gren.Div Gross Deutschland, 2nd SS Pz-Div “Das Reich” or 12th SS Pz-Div “Hitlerjugend”. You decided on how you want to paint it like the late-War three color, or anything else you want to do.

I also bought a Jordi Rubio 50mm KwK 39/1 L60 aluminum gun barrel for added detail, but the kit part is a single tube with separate muzzle break and should be OK. Voyager

Model has a set out for the “Leopard”, #PE35406; it’s for the Hobby Boss kit but should work on this kit. What I like about this e/b set is that it gives you e/b fenders and brass smoke candle launchers with the candles themselves.

The Amusing Hobby website is all in Japanese without any photos or translation that I could find. According to the Hobby Link – Japan web site, they have 3 other kits from Amusing Hobby:

35A002 PzKfw. VK3002 (DB) \$53.17

35A003 Neubaufahrzeug (Krupp – Norwegian Campaign 1940) \$53.17

35A005 “Lowe” PzKfw. VII \$43.50

All three look to be interesting vehicles and might have to be sought out. I think kit #35A001 was another version of their third kit, but I'm not sure. You can find most of these kits on e-Bay (I looked on 03April) for various prices.

All in all, this looks like it'll be a fun build and I can't wait to start it as I have a cool camo scheme in mind for this. Just have to see what kind of figures I have for it. I'll bring it to the next meeting that I can make so you can judge for yourself what the kit looks like.

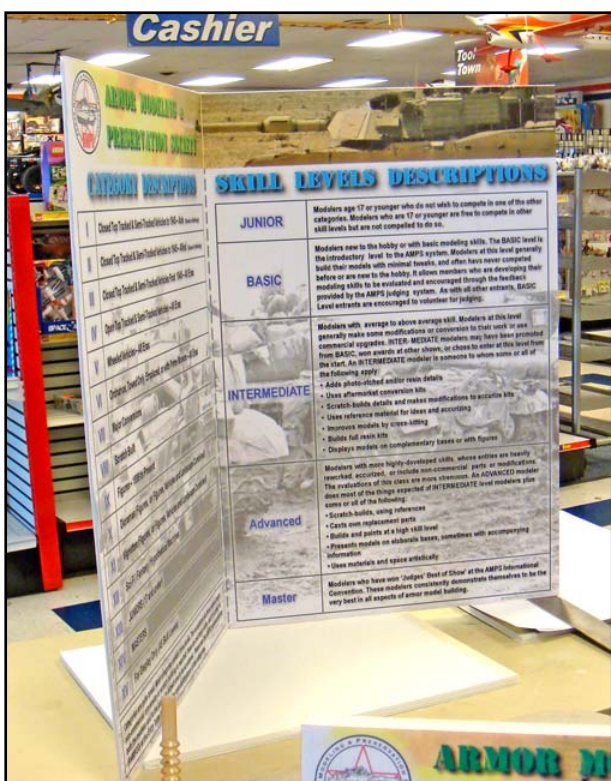
"Poster Party"

A Sneak Peek at the AMPS International Show Posters and Signage

On Thursday, 04 April, 2013, we convened an "off-schedule" club meeting to do the assembly of the various signs and posters that our club is making for the 2013 AMPS International Show and Convention.



As most of you know, our club was asked by the AMPS National Chief Judge (and our South Regional VP), Mike Petty, if we would produce some posters and signage for the international show. Mike has been very impressed with the polished, professional look our club has presented at our own local shows aided, in no small part, by the great posters and signage that Jeff Nelson has designed and printed for us. During the last AMPS Atlanta Regional Show, Mike Petty and Mike Reaves (the Atlanta club's president) discussed the matter with Jeff, and I and between us all, we worked out the specific requirements. Ever since



then, Jeff has been hard (HARD!) at work designing and printing the requested materials. He finished up the printing on Monday, 1 April, and we organized a "poster party" for Thursday.

Before the organized party, we spent some "informal" days working on these as well, but on Thursday, several club members came together to put in a max effort. To

give you some idea of the amount of work involved, we have constructed the following:

Posters and Signage for the 2013 AMPS International Show -

45 x Directional Signs (Double-sided Arrows)
1 x Tri-fold (Full Size)
7 x Bi-fold (Full Size)
7 x Single (Full Size)
5 x Bi-Fold (Table Top Size)
2 x Misc (Half Size)

3 x 8' Posts with removable feet for directional signs

These signs required the printing of 45 (forty-



five!!!), full-color, full-sized, 20"x30" posters and then mounting all those posters on 36 sheets of foam core (18 posters were mounted back-to-back to make the double-sided directional signs). Many of these posters also required laminating for durability and reuse. This effort does not include the woodworking and finish involved in making the three sign posts.

I'd like to give a special "thanks" to all the guys who showed up and assisted with the "arts and crafts" part of this project, and of course, Jeff Nelson deserves a major pat on the back for going, once again, above and



beyond for the club and AMPS.



on. This is also the "world debut" of the new AMPS show signage for the international convention.



Just how many model-builders does it take to screw in a light bulb!

“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!

Alright guys, that about does it for this issue of the newsletter. Again, I want to thank all the club members who've helped out with the AMPS International Show posters and signage. The graphics look fantastic, and we can all be proud of our contribution. Hopefully you can all get a chance to attend the show next week in Atlanta, and when you go, you'll know that you had a part in making the show a real stand-out!

See ya Wednesday! Happy modeling!

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"