



Greetings, everyone. Here's hoping that April showers have brought you all the May flowers that you want... (I know that I have more dandy lions in my yard than ever!)

Between cutting grass and spring cleaning, I'd like to thank everyone who helped out with the IPMS / USA Region-12 Convention display. I think we had a very nice showing there. Our new banner (thanks, again Tim!) was top-notch, and our table was very well organized and run (thanks, Dave Varettoni!). I believe that we generated a lot of interest from the convention attendees. I know that several of the AMPS guys from up in Greenville approached me this past Saturday as I visited them to tell me how much they liked our display. So, here's a hearty "job well done" to everyone involved!

This last month our newly commissioned contest medals arrived. I couldn't help myself and had to show them off to the guys who were at the IPMS show instead of waiting for everyone at our next meeting. They do look great, though, and I hope that everyone will be as happy with them as I was. If you want to get a sneak-peek at the medals, check out the pictures on our website. I'll bring in a sample to the next meeting on Wednesday, too.

Everyone has been working hard at fund-raising for our show in July. In particular, Jeff Nelson and Scott Amey have really been going above and beyond. I think that Scott has some really good news on this front to announce and report at our next meeting, but I don't want to "steal his thunder!" I do believe that everyone will be excited by what Scott has to tell us.

On the national / international front, AMPS has just held one of its largest conventions ever! Mike Petty, AMPS CJ and our region's 2VP, has announced that this year they had a record-breaking 648 models entered! That's phenomenal! There have been several sets of show photos posted on various forums, and, from what I've seen, it was a show that I'm really sorry to have missed...

But wait! There's good news for all of us here in SC... Next year's April 2013 AMPS International Show will be held in Atlanta, GA! Yep, that's right – Atlanta – just next door. This is in addition to Atlanta's regular February AMPS Regional show! 2013 is shaping up to be a big AMPS kinda year for those of us in the South East. (Boy... oh boy... I better start right now saving up my allowance!)

Correction:

Last month I wrote that our newest member, Carl Wethington, was from Statesville, NC. Carl actually drives all the way down from Hickory, NC to join us at our meetings! Sorry Carl.

Last Meeting Minutes:

At our last regular meeting held on 11 April, we had 12 members in attendance. We had eight builds and WIPs brought in for Show & Tell and did not hold a raffle.

Business conducted: Debut of our new club banner; Report that all contest promotion posters have been mailed / distributed to hobby shops throughout SC, NC, and GA; Report on new contest medal order (\$325 deposit made); Coordinated for volunteers to set-up and man our display table at the IPMS R-12 Convention and show; Announced an invitation from AMPS Panzergruppen (Greenville) to attend their Saturday, 5 May, Club Build-day. Mike Roof presented part one (of three parts) demonstration on figure painting.

Next Meeting Agenda:

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 09 May, 2012.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month's business: (1) Report from Treasurer, Scott Amey. We have EXCEEDED our fund-raising goals for the second year in a row! (2) First "official" look at the club's newly commissioned B-S-G contest medals. Final payment has been made (\$324). Order has been paid in full. (3) Discuss tentative display at SE Model Soldier Show at the SC State Museum (5) Get reports from R-12 show and Shaw-fest displays.

6:20 pm (1810): Demo: Figure Painting (Part 2)

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

7:10 pm (1910): Reconvene: Show & Tell - Builds and WIP's

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:

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

May 19, 2012: SCMA Upstate Chapter Model Contest, Simpsonville Activity Center, 310 West Curtis St., Simpsonville, SC. **Note: Only one armor category / class available.**

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

Aug 11, 2012: South Eastern Model Soldier Show, SC Military Miniatures Club, SC State Museum. **Note: Tentatively, we will put on a model display and recruiting table.**

Aug 15, 2012, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. **Note: Regular date conflicts with IPMS / USA Nat'l Convention and has been moved.**

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

Sep 15, 2012, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm: Piedmont Scale Modelers 3rd Annual "Fall Modelfest," Byrnes High School, 150 East Main St., Duncan, SC.

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

Nov 10, 2012: IPMS Lafayette Scale Modelers / AMPS All-American scale model contest, Honeycutt-Kiwanis Rec. Center, 352 Devers St., Fayetteville, NC **Note: Armor judging tentatively planned IAW AMPS rule and system.**

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 !

“The Day Room”

Things are ticking along nicely on our plans and preparations for our July show. There are a couple of things that I would like to emphasize early on, though.

The first is to remind everyone about how important it is that all of us remain available to help during the show. We will need all-hands, especially to help on the judging team. Those of you who judged last year know how time-consuming it is, but our contest literally cannot work without good judging. The first year that we drop the ball judging will probably be our last year.

This issue is really at the forefront of my mind right now. I've been corresponding with several national-level AMPS officers about ideas to improve the judging system and processes, and I can tell you that the success up in Auburn this year was a double-edged sword! Success breeds success, and AMPS shows grow in size and attendance year after year. As more and more model-builders begin to appreciate the value and benefit of AMPS-style judging and its 100% specific, constructive feedback, more and more model-builders want to enter their models in AMPS shows. This is no surprise to me. In my book, the "AMPS-way" is the best way to run any model contest!

However, with that growth comes the additional burden of more and more judging, and more and more judging means that more and more volunteer judges (like you and me) have to be willing to spend more time in the "judging pits." It can't be helped. This year, I expect our show to be larger than it was last year, and all of you who were involved last year know that we were maxed out on our judging capacity then. This year will be no different. It will require a 100% effort from all of us.

The second thing that I would like to stress is on a more personal note. This year I'm asking for some more help with picking up and returning the tables that we use. Last year, I had to rely on my wife, my nearly 80-year old dad, and our handicapped pastor to carry and load/un-load all of the 8-foot tables. Also, I had to scrounge around and borrow another truck and trailer to haul them along with finding another volunteer driver for it. Hopefully, this year I can get some of you to give me a hand. (My wife would really appreciate it, and so would I!)

See ya at the meeting!

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact