



Check out our website for more information & photos: <http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/>

Wow... just wow...

You ever have one of “those days”? Well, I think I’ve just had one of “those months”!

Seems like every time I thought I’d get a little time at the ol’ workbench, something would come up. I just haven’t been able to get into any kind of model building routine.

Now, in the grand scheme of things, not getting time to build models is... well, pretty darned minor. After all, I am talking about not having time to play with my toys. To be sure, a lot of people have it so much rougher that there’s no real comparison between my minor little inconveniences over the last few weeks and truly hard times. Honestly, I have no real justification to complain...

Still, it’s been so long since I worked on my current project that I’m guessing that I’ll have to just sit and stare at the pieces and parts for a day or so just to remember what I was doing!

Here’s hoping that you’ve had more (or at least SOME) time over the last month to stick some plastic together.

Last Meeting’s Minutes:

Our last meeting was held at 6:00 pm, 08 October. We had 15 members in attendance and 14 models – WIPs and competed builds – brought in for Show & Tell. There was no raffle to allow Ralph time to organize his duties as treasurer.

1. Russian KV-1 Mod 1939 (Trumpeter), 1/35 – David Varettoni
2. Churchill Mk. III - Africa (AFV Club), 1/35 – Mike Roof
3. M20 Greyhound (Tamiya), 1/48 – Ralph Nardone
4. Char B1 (Tamiya + Lionroar PE), 1/35 – Mike Roof
5. M35 WWII US Army Prime Mover & Long Tom M59 155mm Cannon (AFV Club), 1/35 – Michael Child
6. M-46 Patton Tank with G.I. Pusan Perimeter Crew, 1950 (DML), 1/35 – Trevor Edwards
7. British Heavy Assault Tank A39 Tortoise (Meng), 1/35 – Mike Bishop

8. M5A1 Early (Tamiya + parts from AFV Club kit, Resin & Scratchbuilt parts), 1/35 – Carl Wethington
9. Pavlov Grenadier (Resonate), 1/20 – Tom McCoy
10. Confederate Artillery Officer (Soldat), 1/9 – Tom McCoy
11. Swiss Grenadier Officer (Verlinden), 200mm – Tom McCoy
12. Medieval Hand Gunner (Ft. Dukane), 70mm – Tom McCoy
13. 23rd SC Infantryman (Michael Roberts), 1/20 – Tom McCoy

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

The agenda items covered: 1) Treasurer's report by Ralph Nardone: Bank balance is \$3,275 plus \$366 cash on-hand for a total of \$3,641. 2) Discussed the final coordination for the club members' estate sale at the North Springs Rec Center. The consensus was to forego any refreshments and go as a group to eat either before or after the movie. 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? The vote was to drop the club forum and use the website space for other uses. Keith briefed us on the option of using ProBoards if we decide to start another club forum. 5) Discuss and coordinate, if desired, to meet as a group to watch the movie "Fury." The consensus was to go on Saturday the 25th after our estate sale. 6) There was no new business.

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

Next Meeting's Agenda:

Our next regular meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 12 November, 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) Brief discussion on the execution of the club members' estate sale at the North Springs Rec Center. We had 16 members with two absentee buyers participating. 3) Brief update on the status of our 2016 AMPS convention bid. Jeff and Tim have almost finished the tentative floor plan. 4) Discussion on the execution of the estate auction conducted 2-10 November. Bidders are reminded to settle up with the treasurer and receive their items at this meeting. 5) Floor will be open for new business.

This month's activity: Intra-club contest – "Light Tanks." Entries judged IAW AMPS Rules.

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>

Tank Movie Reviews

By Tim Darrah, #2545



A couple weeks ago, I was at the Wal-Mart here in Sumter and saw these three World War 2 DVDs so I thought that I'd pick them up; they cost around \$12.95 each (I think). After watching them, I thought that you might like to know about them before you bought them.

The first one I want to talk about is a Russian-made movie called "White Tiger". When I say "Russian-made" it really is a Russian movie that you can watch in Russian with English sub-titles or dubbed into English. I was lazy, so I watched the dubbed version. According to the DVD jacket, it was released over there in 2012 but has a 2014 US copyright date on it. The movie is 109 minutes long and has, of course, Russian actors, so I'm sure that they will not be recognized by anyone over here.

It takes place on the Eastern Front from 1943 to 1945 and is about a tank diver that is offered a job to hunt "The White Tiger" in a special T-34/85. The premise of the movie is that the Germans have a special Tiger that appears & disappears all over the front & takes out entire units at once. You get to watch lots of running T-34/85s which is very cool and "the White Tiger" looks OK, the way they built it, you can't see the running gear very well, so I can't tell you what the vehicle was based on – but the turret looks like a very good replica if a Tiger. In addition to these running vehicles, you get to see several T-34/76s, including a 1941 version with the single turret hatch, a Matilda, Panzer IV Ausf. F1 and what looks to me like a T26B. All of those look fairly accurate, in one scene you see a M3 Lee/Grant in the background, but the main gun in the sponson doesn't look right to me.

The acting is typical Russian, very stiffly delivered and the figures weren't really likeable. The best part of the film is seeing lots of T-34/85s running around and the uniforms. One thing, on the DVD cover, it shows a T-55, but it is not anywhere in the film.

The second movie I picked up is "Saints and Soldiers – The Void" and is an American movie that was filmed in Utah and has a copyright date on 2014. This movie takes place in early May 1945 and is about two M18 Hellcats that are tasked to "convince" a town to surrender, but they run into trouble along the way.

What is very cool is that we have two restored M18s running around and doing their thing, but they are supposed to be veterans of combat, they are way too clean. It's almost like the owners said "you can use them but don't get them dirty". The best part of the DVD are the three Panzer III Ausf J replicas. Whoever built those did a very good job with them. I didn't see too much wrong with them. Even the engine covers and exhaust systems were fairly accurate!! I don't know what they are based on, but the road wheels and tracks definitely are not Panzer III. You also get a World of Tanks \$20 free in-game content.

The final movie is another US-made movie from 2014 titled "Ardennes Fury" and takes place during the Battle of the Bulge. According to the DVD jacket it says that it based on true events and is about an American tank unit gets trapped behind enemy lines while they rescue an orphanage. It sounds cool, but the movie blows in my mind.

We have a running M36 Jackson, but in several scenes, they use a poor CGI version of it. The main German tank chasing part of the tank crew is a T-34/85 that is still in Russian markings!! While that is going on, the rest of the M36 crew fights off several Tigers killing each one with a single shot. The Tigers are CGI and the tracks on the bow plate are so large, it looks like a picket fence!!

In one scene, part of the tank crew are being chased by the T-34/85, the “Sarge” is in the back of the truck firing a nice MG-42, but there is no ammo belt anywhere in sight while he’s ‘rockin & rollin’. Another scene, the T-34/85 gets hit on the glacis plate by a 500 pound bomb dropped by a CGI P-47, while the SS Major is in the open turret hatch; he hops out without a scratch!! In another scene, there was a fire-fight between American and German troops with cows in the background that didn’t even move during the fight!! Another thing that was funny, I didn’t realize that during the Battle of the Bulge, they had lots of clear hot sunshine, not a snow flake in sight – everyone was in summer uniforms.

The acting is so sub-par, this movie reminds me of those old B horror movies, and heck those were better than this flick!!

So there you have it, three new World War 2 movies, to me at least, and are a waste of money. Should I be a bad-boy and gift wrap them up for our Christmas Party? ;-)

The Members Only Estate Sale – 25 October, 2014

On Saturday, 25 October, 2014 from 11 am until 2:30 pm, we held our “Club Members Only Estate Sale” of those items donated to us by Scott Amey’s family. In addition to the estate items, Carl Wethington and Josh Orenstein brought in a lot of items from their own stashes to sell and trade.

I’d like to thank all of the club members who came out and spent some money and to Ralph Nardone for MC’ing the event. Also, a big thanks to Trevor Edwards for putting the rec center reservation in his name and saving us some money there. We had 16 members and one guest (Jeff’s wife, Kim) present at the sale with two other absentee members buying items through their designated proxies.

Ralph has reported that we grossed \$592 for our treasury leaving us a net (after the cost of renting the activity room) of \$472.

As a reminder, any of the items not sold are still available to any club member in good standing at the original prices assigned. Get with our treasurer, Ralph, to confirm if the item you’re interested in is still available and to coordinate your purchase. Remember that all proceeds go directly into our treasury. Items not sold will be used as raffle prizes at meetings and future local contests.

Club Invades the “Regal Sandhill Stadium 16 Cinema”!

After our very successful “Club Members Only Estate Sale,” a group of nine members from our club moved up the road to the “Village at Sandhill Mall” to go see the new movie, “Fury.”

After chowing down at either “Five Guys Burgers” or “Moe’s,” the gang occupied by-force the high ground inside theater number 9 at the “Regal Sandhill 16 Cinema” for the movie.

Everyone enjoyed the movie and the company – definitely a good time!

Scott Amey Estate Sale Part 2

On 27 October, Scott Amey's parents contacted me to ask if our club would be interested in some other items from Scott's estate that they wanted to donate. Sheila and I went over to Scott's house on that Thursday and received on behalf of the club another very generous donation of modeling items.

After sorting and inventorying, a list of these items was sent out to all club members soliciting ideas as to the way the club would like to handle them. The best idea was to hold an auction, and over the week of 2-10 November, this is what we did. The bidding was handled by the club's treasurer and chapter contact, Ralph Nardone and Mike Roof, who did not bid on any of the items. Bids were received by email and phone, with all bids being secret. The highest bid for any item was the winner and any tie bids were awarded to the first bidder.

As of this writing, the auction has not closed, but the results look very promising for the club. All winners will be notified before the meeting on Wednesday, 12 November.

Thanks, once again, to the Amey family for their generous donations!

"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..."

O-key-doa-kie, boys and girls...

It's been a crazy month – good times and busy times, but I have to say that I'm ready for some modeling time!

Hope to see ya all Wednesday and 'til then, Happy Modeling!

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"