



Here we are again, my friends – It's the "witching season," so I guess "happy Halloween" is in order or something like that. This month we have a pretty light issue for the newsletter. Most everyone is decisively engaged with projects, either their group-build Panthers or other works. Of course, autumn and winter are not only football season, but also "model-contest season." This season's already kicked off with the show up in Spartanburg. I missed the show, but Tim Darrah attended and from all accounts, he did rather well in the competition. Great job, Tim!

The next contest events that I know of are the shows down in Charleston, SC (15 October) and the up in Fayetteville, NC (05 November). The show in Charleston is a pretty nice event, and I enjoyed myself there last year. The guys up in Fayetteville have a well established contest which should be worth the drive, and don't forget that several of them came down to support us at our show in July, so we owe it to them to return the favor if we can!

Finally, now is the time to start making plans for the AMPS Regional show in Atlanta, GA (17-19 February, 2012). The Atlanta AMPS crew came and gave us some real judging support at our show, and I know that they would really appreciate a reciprocal effort on our part. It's not too early to start coordinating with each other for rides and shared hotel rooms.

We've had some new expansion and traffic on our website this last month, due in part to the group-build info that we've been posting. It seems that there are a lot of model-builders out there that are hungry for information on how-to use photo-etch, so you guys are leading the charge!

In regards to our website, as of today, we've gone over 32,000 hits! It's kind of freaky and somehow a little scary to see the hit counter adding several thousand hits a day (remember, we only had a few hundred hits before our show back in July). However, you guys are now an international item in the model building world, so keep up the good work and enjoy your newfound fame. Our site might not be going "viral," but we sure have made a splash!

### **Last Meeting Minutes:**

At our last regular meeting on 14 September, we followed the published agenda. We had 9 members in attendance and one new member joining – Dave Neumann from Sumter. Welcome Dave!

The following items were discussed and acted on: A new tee-shirt order was organized; Passed out new AM-Works sample items for review and test; Received a finance report from Scott; Received a report from Mike on the new items added to our web-site.

We had the planned Show & Tell highlighting the WIP's in the group-build (4 models) and completed builds (8 models).

We held a raffle and added funds to our treasury. I neglected to record the winner and the amount of tickets sold, but that information is available from our treasurer, Scott.

### **Next Meeting Agenda:**

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 12 October, 2011.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month's business (1) Distribute the tee-shirt order. All members who ordered and paid for shirts will be able to get them from Tim (2) Discuss and vote on membership dues for potential "junior" members (3) Finance report from Scott (4) Raffle

6:10 pm (1810): Group-Build Discussion and WIP's

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

7:10 pm (1910): Reconvene / Continue: 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:**

**October 12, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800):** Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**October 15, 2011:** SCMA Charleston and IPMS Coastal Carolina 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Model Contest and Show, Cokesbury United Methodist Church Gym, 4990 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC.

**October 19, 2011:** Road Trip to Augusta HobbyTown USA. Departure time from Bob's house -TBD.

**November 5, 2011:** Lafayette Scale Modelers (Fayetteville, NC IPMS) 2011 Show and Contest, Honeycutt Kiwanis Recreation Center, 352 Devers Street.

**November 9, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800):** Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

**December 14, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800):** Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. **(Christmas party anyone?!)**

**February 17-19, 2012:** AMPS Atlanta Regional, Atlanta Marriott Century Center, Atlanta, GA.

**April 26-28, 2012,** AMPS International Show, WW2 Victory Museum, Auburn, IN.

**April 28, 2012:** IPMS Mid-Carolina "Swamp Foxes" IPMS Region 12 Regional, National Guard Armory, 1225 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC.

**July 14, 2012 (Tentative),** AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" Model Show and Contest co-hosted with the Mid-Carolina Chapter SCMA, Gymnasium, Ball Park Road, Lexington, SC

### **Newsletter Feature Article:**

(See next page.)

## Builder's Review

Alliance Model-Works

1:35 Scale WWII German Figure Water-Slide Decals and PE Details

LW35035 1/35th Wehrmacht Uniform Insignia and Devices Set (\$13.00)

<http://www.am-works.com/store/lw35035-german-wwii-wehrmacht-uniform-insignia-devices-p-55.html>

LW35064 German WW2 Figure Detailing Set (\$7.00)

<http://www.am-works.com/store/lw35064-german-wwii-figure-detailing-p-175.html>

By Tim Darrah

AMPS#2545

[Editor's Note: Both of these products were provided to us as pre-production review samples with initial draft instructions. Both products are now available from AM-Works with their finalized and complete instructions.]

The *Wehrmacht* Uniform Insignia and Devices set is outstanding. For comparison, I have several of the Archer Dry Transfers and Verlinden decals for *Wehrmacht* uniforms, and this is the only set that includes general officer insignias. I am especially happy with this as I can now start my *Sd.Kfz. 251/6 Ausf. C* "Command Vehicle" with a general inside the track.

OK what do you get with this set? You get enough collar tabs/shoulder boards to do around 110 figures of all ranks from enlisted to NCO to Officer and then General Staff!! Plus you get Cuff Titles, helmet decals, Iron Cross ribbons, tank and aircraft destruction badges. All on a 3.5x6 inch decal sheet. What is very killer about this set; is they give you shoulder boards for the Gross Deutschland Panzer Grenadier Division; they had "GD" in script on the boards. This is also the only set that I know of that has this.



You can make figures from the general officer corps as mentioned above, along with Recon Cavalry (with the yellow *Waffenfarbe*); Light Infantry & Mountain (pale green *Waffenfarbe*); Flak/Artillery (red *Waffenfarbe*); and Motorized Infantry/Panzer Grenadier (light green *Waffenfarbe*). If you're not familiar with the term, a *Waffenfarbe* is the colored piping



on the shoulder and collar tabs. As you can see, if you are doing a Panzer crewman or an infantry figure, you'll have to get the collar tabs and shoulder boards somewhere else. But don't let put you off on this set.



You also get a small etched sheet of Badges & Awards and Shoulder Straps (shoulder boards as I call them), but please note that these were not included in my package. (Editor's note: These PE badges and insignia were not included in our pre-production sample. The PE insignia are included in the regular production products.) From the looks of the image on their web site, you get various types and styles of the various awards seen on German uniforms, something that you'd have to paint before. A well thought of addition.

So how well do they work? Very well indeed. They seemed a bit thick when first applied to the figure and didn't want to lay down, just like Scott said in last month's newsletter, but with a bit of gentle movement and some Solv-a-Set, they sucked down great.

Now the Figure Detailing set. This is a pre-production sheet that is 2.5x1.5 inch thin etched sheet, but no instructions were included (hopefully they will be listed on their web site soon). This small sheet is packed full of items from dog tags, to eye glasses and wristwatches, but the heart of the sheet is the awards and decorations, such as the various versions of the Iron Cross, Wound Badges, various Assault badges, etc. What is cool is that you get the sleeve awards for Courland and the others, very nice.

This sheet is the thinnest "EB" that I've ever seen and works well; you just have to be careful on removing the devices from the sheet. You might want to put some Tamiya tape on the reverse side so the part that you're using doesn't fly off into the Twilight Zone.

After reading Scott's article on the US uniform decal sheet, I might have to get that one was well. If you're into German *Wehrmacht* figures, get this set!!

Author's Note: I used Archer collar tabs and shoulder boards for my tanker, since they were not included in the pre-production AMW set that I used.

### **"The Day Room"**

That's all for this month guys. I hope everyone is enjoying the newsletter and website. If you want to see your models on the website, bring in something to the meeting to share and get photographed. And finally, I'd like to give a reminder for those *very few* who have not paid up their dues to please do so. If you're not sure of your status, check with Scott and he'll tell you how you stand. The local hobby shops won't honor your discount if you're not a member in good standing and our dues contribute to make our website and up-coming contest next July possible.

Happy modeling, Mike