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

Alright... I've done it again. I missed the deadline for last month's newsletter which should have been V5-N11, December, 2014. All I can say is, sorry, gang. I'll spare you the long, whiney sob-story. A combination of 1:1 scale world issues all just came together over the holidays, and something had to give. What you have here this month will be a combined "December, 2014 – January, 2015" issue, that for convenience, we'll call "V6-N1, Winter, 2014-2015." Hopefully, I'll get back on schedule next month. So....

Moving on, welcome to 2015! Happy New Modeling Year!

2015 is looking like it will be another banner year for new armor model releases. A couple of announcements that have already caught my eye: Meng has announced a new German WWI, A7V and Bronco says they will be releasing both the British Horsa AS 51 and the German DFS-230 gliders in 1/35th scale. There are plenty of others covering all eras, nationalities and subjects.

On the club front, we are on track to host our local show in Columbia on 19-20 June, 2015, and our bid for the 2016 AMPS International Convention is in. Read more about both of these events below.

Our Christmas party, held on 10 December, 2014, was a resounding success! We had a literal, standing room only crowd. It was really great to see just about everyone in the club in one place, at one time. We've certainly grown from our humble beginnings when the go, no-go decision to hold our very first meeting hinged on whether we could get just eight interested folks together. Our membership roll now stands at over 20 active members and growing.

On a much sadder note, we lost one of our founding members in 2014 – Scott Amey. Scott passed away suddenly last August, and his absence is felt at every meeting. Club members decided that to honor and keep Scott's memory alive, we will present a special "Scott Amey Best Intermediate Model" award at all of our future contests.

Ralph Nardone stepped up to fill Scott's shoes as our new treasurer. These were big shoes to fill, too, but Ralph has taken the job on in his usual superlative manner. On the organizational side of things, in 2014, we were officially incorporated in the state of South Carolina as a non-profit entity, and we have moved our treasury from the "cash box" to the bank. The majority of our treasury is now held in a First Citizens account with Ralph and Mike Roof as the two signatories. All of these organizational steps have moved the business side of the club from an ad hoc basis to a clearly established chain of officers. The names of the responsible officers of our non-profit corporation and

bank account, as well as our legal address, can be easily and legally changed at any time based on the votes of the membership for any new officers.

So, while 2014 was a bitter-sweet year for us, we come into the start of 2015 a more organizationally sound group with a growing membership. 2015 looks very bright indeed!

12 November, 2014 Meeting's Minutes:

Our November meeting was held at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 12 November, 2014 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia. We had 16 members in attendance, and 14 models were brought in for discussion. Scott Amey's family donated two Hobby Town USA gift cards and these were given away to club members in a no-cost lottery. Unfortunately, none of the pictures of the models turned out, and no one remembered to write down a list of them.

Agenda items covered: 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. The consensus of members in attendance was that this was a fair and equitable manner for handling the donations. 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. Once again, the consensus of the membership was that this on-line auction was done fair and equitably. All bidders have settled with the treasurer and received their items. 5) The remaining Scott Amey "modeling estate" items that were donated to the club are now in the custody of our treasurer. The treasurer has an inventory of these items, and any member in good-standing can purchase any of them through the treasurer. All proceeds from these sales will go into the club's general fund. These items are also available for use as monthly and future contest raffle prizes. 6) New business: A motion was made to hold a club "memorial build" in memory of Scott. The month of August, 2015 was suggested as a tentative target date. The motion was tabled for future discussion and action.

AMPS Central SC Intra-club Contest: Light Tanks, 20 Tons & Under

For our third quarterly Intra-Club Contest, the subject was "Light Tanks, 20 Tons & Under", consisting of any armored combat vehicle that weighed 20 tons or less. We had four 4 Intermediate Skill Level entries, judged by Club members using the standard AMPS Rules. The winners received Hobby Town USA gift cards: 1st place - \$25; 2nd place - \$20; 3rd place - \$15.

Here's the entries and results:

<u>Entry #</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Skill-Level</u>	<u>Score</u>
1	Panzerjager IB mit 7.5cm StuK 40 L48 (1/35 Cyber Hobby)	Tim Darrah	Intermediate	22.5
2	Pz.Kpfw. Ib Ladungsleger I Demolition Tank (1/35 DML)	Rebecca Hettmansperger	Intermediate	27
3	T-70C (1/35 Mini-Art)	John Melton	Intermediate	23
4	BRDM-2 Early (1/35 Trumpeter)	Dave Varettoni	Intermediate	27

Winners:

1st – Rebecca Hettmansperger (Intermediate, 27 points) [GOLD]

2nd – Dave Varettoni (Intermediate, 27 points) [GOLD]

3rd – John Melton (Intermediate, 23 points) [SILVER]

Photo Album: <http://media5ik1.onlineview.it/FullScreenSlideShow.aspx?gallery=4601943&mt=Photo>

Last but not least, we welcomed one new member, Tyson Neil, to the club. Tyson has visited our club display at several of the past annual “Toy Soldier Shows” at the SC State Museum, and he was finally able to get to one of our meetings. Welcome aboard, Ty!

10 December, 2014 Meeting Minutes:

Our December meeting was held at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 10 December, 2014 at the Hobby Town USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia. This was our annual Christmas Party. We had 21 regular and 2 new members in attendance. The highlights of the party were the generous buffet and the “White Elephant” gift exchange.

Agenda items covered: 1) Briefly discussed and reviewed the bid for the AMPS 2016 International Convention. The Convention Planning Committee has done an outstanding job with our bid, and members at the meeting were able to look at a printed, draft copy. 2) The gift exchange was yet another spirited event with a number of the more desirable gifts changing hands many times. Members brought twelve models to the meeting for Show and Tell. There wasn't a raffle prize since we held the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

1. Peterbuilt 359 Conventional (Revell USA), 1/25 – Trevor Edwards
2. Soviet SS-23 Spider Tactical Ballistic Missile (Hobby Boss), 1/35 – Rebecca Hettmansperger
3. M60 Patton (Italeri M60A1 + AEF Designs resin Early M60 Turret), 1/35 – Carl Wethington
4. Pzkw. VI Ausf. E Sd.Kfz. 181 Tiger I Late Prod. (DML + Verlinden resin Building), 1/35 – Adam Lasek
5. Gundam Heavy Arms (Bandai), 1/100 – Adam Lasek
6. Panzer Kampfwagen II Ausf. F/G “DAK” (Tamiya), 1/35 – Adam Lasek
7. Dead German Eastern Front (Verlinden resin), 1/35 – Josh Orenstein
8. Panzerschreck Set (DML), 1/6 – Josh Orenstein
9. Sd.Kfz. 171 Panther G Late Production (DML), 1/35 – Ben Brandes
10. P-40B Warhawk (Academy), 1/72 – Noah Brandes (age 6)
11. German 3 ton Halftrack Sd.Kfz. 11 (ESCI), 1/72 – Kevin Cook
12. German 8 ton Halftrack Sd.Kfz. 7/2 37mm AA Gun (Hasegawa), 1/72 – Kevin Cook
13. RAFFLE: [none, we had the White Elephant Gift Exchange]

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

We welcomed two new members, Ben Brandes and his son, Noah. Ben and Noah are fairly new to our area, and Ben attends Columbia International University. Noah brought in a very nice small scale P-40 for Show & Tell. Welcome to our little band of armor modelers, Ben and Noah!

Next Meeting's Agenda:

Our next regular meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 14 January, 2015 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – 1) Treasurer's cash on-hand report by Ralph Nardone. (Bank balance ending 31 Dec 14 - \$3383.00 after expenses for our up-coming show in June) 2) Brief update on the status of our 2016 AMPS convention bid. The bid was officially submitted on 18 Dec 14. We have been informed that the Venue Selection Committee will make a decision NLT 30 Jan 15. There are two bids in for the 2016 convention, ours and a bid by the Northeast Military Modelers Association (NMMA). 4) Update on the preparations for our club's local show, 19-20 June, 2015. We have completed the lease agreement and paid the Richland County Recreation Commission (RCRC) for the venue and placed a deposit with Party Reflections for the tables. Pending expenses are an order for G-S-B medals and purchasing the special awards. We need to discuss and select a contest theme at this meeting. 5) Floor will be open for new business.

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:

Jan 14, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Feb 11, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Feb 13-15, 2015, Atlanta AMPS Show, Marriott Century Center Hotel, 2000 Century Center Blvd, Atlanta. The AMPS show is held jointly with the Atlanta Model Figure Society show. AMPS Show theme: "Retreads" Subjects that saw service in WWII with one country and which then saw service after WWII with another country. <http://www.ampsatlanta.org/amps-atlanta-annual-show.html>

Mar 11, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Apr 8, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Apr 30 – Mar 02: AMPS International Convention 2015. WWII Victory Museum, Auburn, IN. Convention theme: "First in Line" Subjects that were the first "Mark" in their production series. See the AMPS website for a full explanation of theme eligibility and other convention details. <http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/conventions/showInfo.aspx?Page=Annouce&ShowID=59>

May 13, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Jun 10, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Jun 19-20, 2015: AMPS Central SC Show. Crane Creek Gym, 7405-B Fairfield Road, Columbia, SC. Friday (set up, judges training, and local registration) – 4 to 9 pm. Saturday – 7 am to 8 pm.

Jul 08, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Aug 12, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Sep 09, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Oct 14, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Nov 11, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

Dec 09, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS Christmas Party at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road

AMPS Central SC Annual Show, 19-20 June, 2015

Al-righty, then, boys and girls! AMPS Central SC is back on the armor-modeling show circuit for 2015.

As most of you know, we voted to skip 2014 and not hold a local show in order for our hard-working convention planning committee members to put all their time and energy into our bid for the AMPS 2016 International Convention. However, we're back for 2015 with a show scheduled for Friday and Saturday, 19-20 June, 2015.

This year we'll use an all new venue, the Crane Creek Gymnasium located just north of I-20 and Exit 70 on US 321 (7405-B Fairfield Road). The gym is a nearly brand new facility built about 3 years ago. It sits off the west side of the highway behind the former Crane Creek Elementary School and Fire Department. The school is now used as a satellite facility by the Richland County Sheriff's Department. It also houses a day care in one wing.

At this time, we have completed the lease agreement with the Richland County Recreation Commission (RCRC) and paid \$605.00 for the gym. Because of our status as an incorporated SC non-profit, we received a 50% discount on the cost of the venue. We will get 10 tables and 35 chairs included with the venue. (Thanks to Trevor Edwards for once again being our "token" Richland County resident and putting the contract in his name. This save us a 20% non-resident surcharge.)

We have also contracted with Party Reflections to rent 45, 8-foot tables. These will be delivered and picked up by the vendor. We had to pay a 50% deposit on these of \$254.69, and the balance is due one week before our show. If necessary, we can add more tables to this.

Aside from the rest of the rental table costs, pending major expenses will be an order for additional G-S-B medals and purchasing special awards. This order for more medals should stand us for two shows, the one planned for June and one more at a future date.

At our meeting this month, 14 Jan, we need to select a show theme, so, put on your “thinking caps” and come up with a theme idea. We’ll take ideas from the members at the meeting, discuss them, and then vote to select one.

Finally, now that we have a date and a location, it’s time to put the word out to all of your AMPS and other modeling friends. We need to solicit for award and category sponsorships, as well as raffle donations. As you can see above, it costs quite a lot to put on one of these shows, so we need all of the help we can get! Don’t be shy.

Remember that we provide written receipts for all sponsorships and donations, and we also list and promote our sponsors and donors on our website and at the show. Businesses can document and itemize their sponsorships as legitimate advertising and promotion expenses.

Bid Status for the AMPS 2016 International Convention

On December 18, 2014, our Convention Planning Committee officially submitted our bid and proposal to host the AMPS 2016 International Convention at the Sumter County Civic Center.

Our committee members did an outstanding job on our bid which ran almost 70 pages. However, when submitted, it represented a “turnkey” event. ***All of the coordination for every detail has been conducted, and written invoices for all major expenses were included with it.*** Our crew did indeed set the bar very high, and although we have no guarantees that we will be awarded the convention, if we don’t get it, it will not be because anyone on our committee failed.

So, here’s a big “thanks” and a “job well done” to: **Tim Darrah**, Committee Chairman; **Jeff Nelson**, Tours Coordinator and Venue Layout and Graphics; **Rebecca Hettmansperger**, Raffle Coordinator; **Tony Abbott**, Registration and Ram-Rod Coordinator; **Dave Varettoni**, Seminars Coordinator; and **Ralph Nardone**, Member at Large. The next time you see any of these guys and gal, be sure to give them a pat on the back and say “thanks.” You can be proud of the work they’ve done on your behalf.

By the way, this is the first year that AMPS has had multiple bids submitted for one of the conventions, so our national E-board is breaking new ground with its deliberations. In addition to our bid, our AMPS friends in the Northeast Military Modelers Association (NMMA) in Connecticut (the hosts of the annual ARMORCON) also submitted a proposal. At last word, we have been told by the E-board that they expect to vote not later than January 30 to select one of the bids.

WANTED:

Tim Darrah: DML #3535 M1A1 AIM for a good price. Please contact Tim if you can make him an offer.

“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..."

Whoa... how time flies. Before you know it, June will be here.

Do please mark the dates and times for our upcoming June show on your calendar and do try to plan your summer schedule so that you'll be able to help out with it.

Also, please start soliciting sponsorships and donations for the show. Don't forget to refer potential sponsors to our website to get a look at our previous sponsor lists and business links. We really do our best to spread the word about those generous individuals and businesses that sponsor our shows. Remember, every little bit helps and the costs for sponsorships is really quite modest. Also, do tell your potential sponsors that we will provide receipts for itemizing the expense on their taxes.

So long for now...

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

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"