



Well guys, once again you have all done an outstanding job putting on our show and contest!

I have received 100% positive feedback from everybody who attended along with the vendors, and other visitors. Everyone in the club pitched in and worked very hard together, and what's more, I didn't hear a single negative comment from anyone in the club about anything or anyone (inside or outside the club!). That, in its self, says a lot about all of you and the team work that you all brought to the table. Your positive attitude and hard work makes doing something as complex and involved as our show much more pleasant for everybody.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and willingness to devote the long hours necessary to put on a high caliber show. It literally does take each and everyone of you, and without all of you, we just couldn't have done it!

Plans are already afoot by our SCMA friends for next year, so, if we're willing, the opportunity to excel again will be ours in 2013. Keep it in mind...

In this newsletter edition, you will find the full statistics for our 2012 show and contest, along with reports on our participation in the IPMS / USA "Support the Troops" initiative and our club display and recruiting tables at the 2012 South Eastern Toy Soldier Show.

Last Meeting Minutes:

At our last regular meeting on Wednesday, 11 July, 2012, we had 14 members in attendance and 10 models brought in for Show & Tell.

Agenda items covered were: Final organization for the contest and review of the latest membership roster which was approved by unanimous vote to distribute to all members by email.

A reminder to all members: The membership roster contains private information (names, addresses, telephone numbers and email address) and that information should never be shared with anyone without first getting the other member's explicit permission. Please treat this information confidentially.

Next Meeting Agenda:

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 11 July, 2011.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month's business: Final treasurer's report for the 2012 show and contest; Tim Darrah presents a proposal for a joint IPMS-AMPS Region-12

convention in Sumter, June 2013; Final donations to the Support the Troops initiative; Report on our display at the 2012 SE Toy Soldier Show at the SC State Museum.

6:10 pm (1810): Show & Tell: Builds 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 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:

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 and AMPS All-American combined show and contest, Honneycutt Kiwanis Rec. Center, 352 Devers Street, Fayetteville, NC. **Note the armor judging will be conducted IAW the AMPS judging 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!

Feb, 2013 (exact dates still TBA): Atlanta AMPS Regional Show, Atlanta Marriott Century Center Hotel, Atlanta, GA.

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).

Our 2012 Show and Contest Report and Statistics

On Friday and Saturday, 13-14 July, 2012, we held our second annual model show and contest. Although the complete show statistics are provided below, here are some of the highlights:

We grew our show attendance by almost 20% and had over 10% more models entered for judging this year. Despite these increases, our judging went smoother and faster this year, and we still complete the contest and awards ceremony on time!

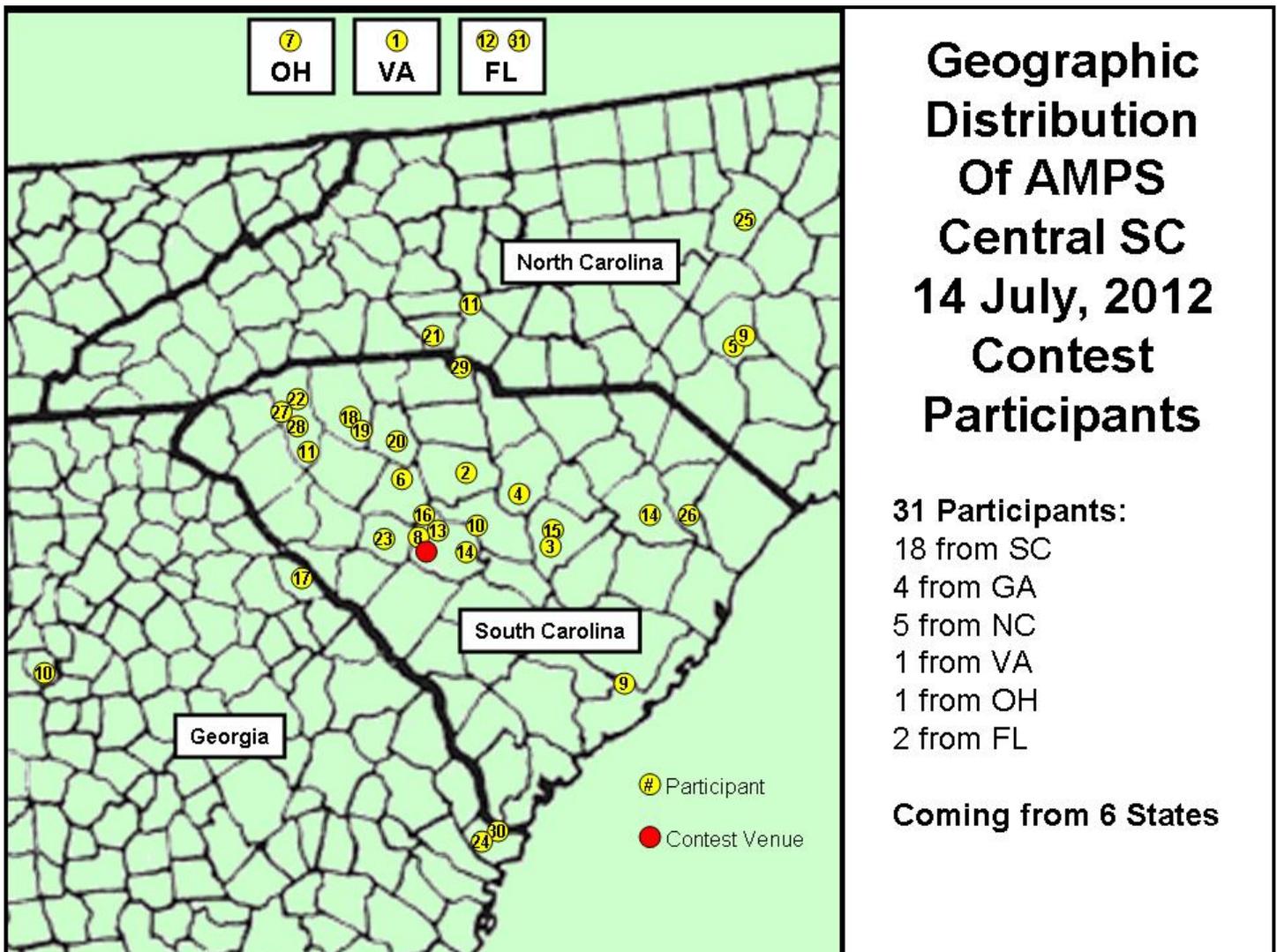
This year, we were able to put an experienced, AMPS certified judge on every single judging team as the Table Captain. This is no small feat for a club as small as ours, and this fact, along with increased judging experience gained over the last year, was the main reason why our judging processes were so much improved over last year's initial effort.

The lesson here for all of us is that the AMPS judges' training and experience judging at other AMPS shows pays off when it comes time to put on our own show. Getting to other AMPS shows, like the Atlanta regional, really does provide valuable experience and makes you a more effective judge. Also, getting out and supporting other AMPS clubs with their shows means "that what comes around, goes around" when we need help, and we had a lot of help judging from folks outside of our chapter. In the next year, we'll all have at least three opportunities to get to other AMPS events in our region and help judge – the AMPS All-American show in November, the AMPS Atlanta Regional show in February, and the AMPS International Convention in April. (See the events listing in this issue.)

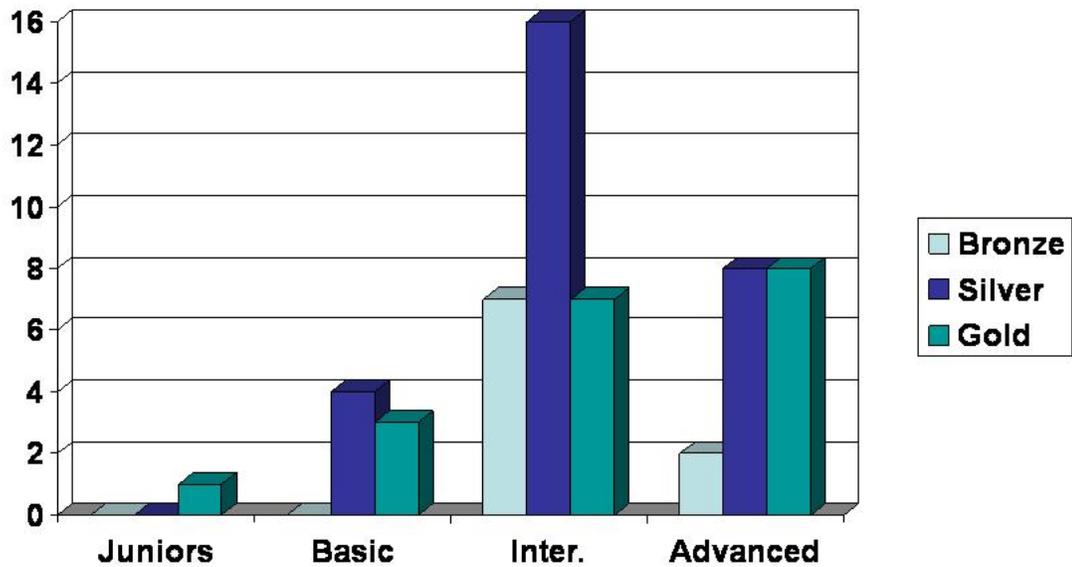
We also grew our vendor table count by a couple of tables over last year, so one of our lessons learned for next year is that we need to add some more display tables (at least two) and as many additional vendor tables as we can squeeze in.

Finally, this year we were able to commission and present our own unique AMPS gold, silver, and bronze medals. These new medals are quite distinctive when compared to other AMPS medals and will set our club and show apart from all the others.

All of the winners along with show photos and lists of our trophy and raffle donors can be found on our club's website "Contest Page" – <http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/Contest.php>

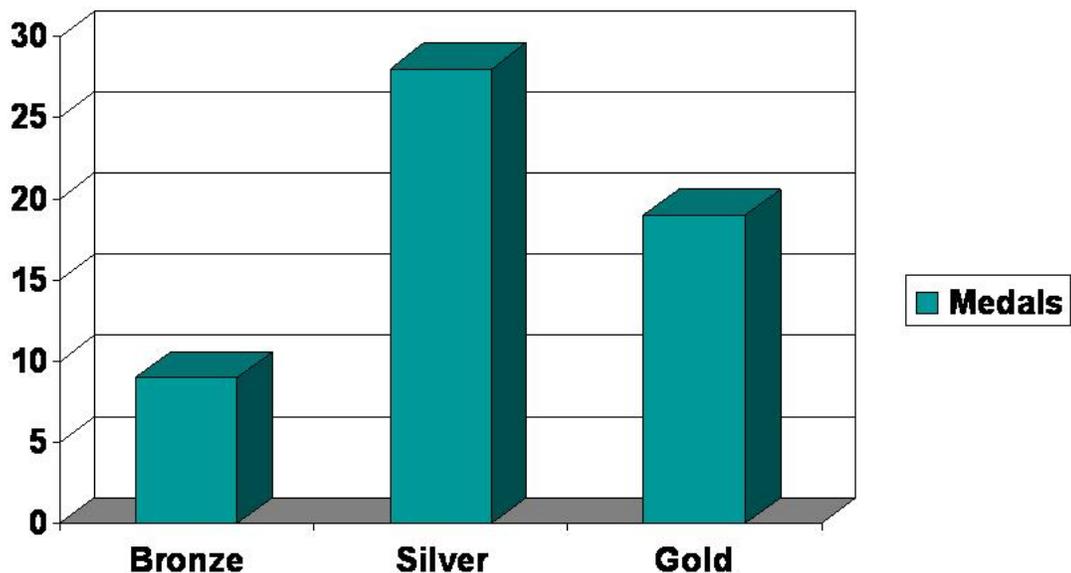


Medals Awarded by Skill-Level and Type



AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

Total Medals Awarded by Type



AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

Medals Awarded by Skill-Level and Type

56 total medals awarded.

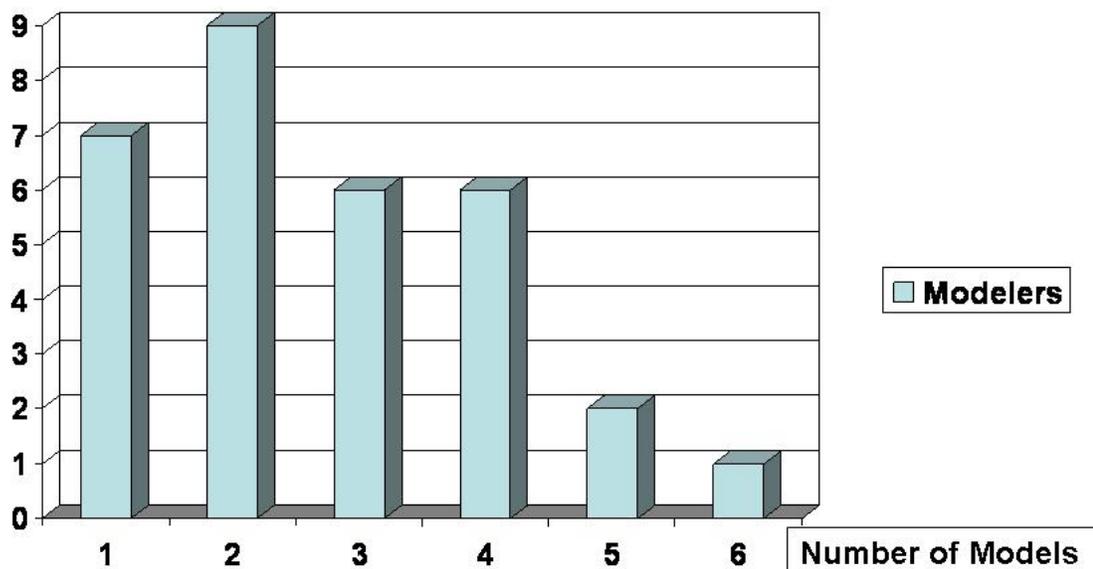
1.8 medals earned per entrant.

- 19 Gold in all Skill-Levels = 34%
- 28 Silver in all Skill-Level = 50%
- 9 Bronze in all Skill-Levels = 16%

- Advanced: Gold-8; Silver-8; Bronze-2 = 32% received
- Intermediate: Gold-7; Silver-16; Bronze-7 = 53.5% received
- Basic: Gold-3; Silver-4; Bronze-0 = 12.5% received
- Juniors: Gold-1; Silver-0; Bronze-0 = 2% received

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

Number of Models Entered by Participants



AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

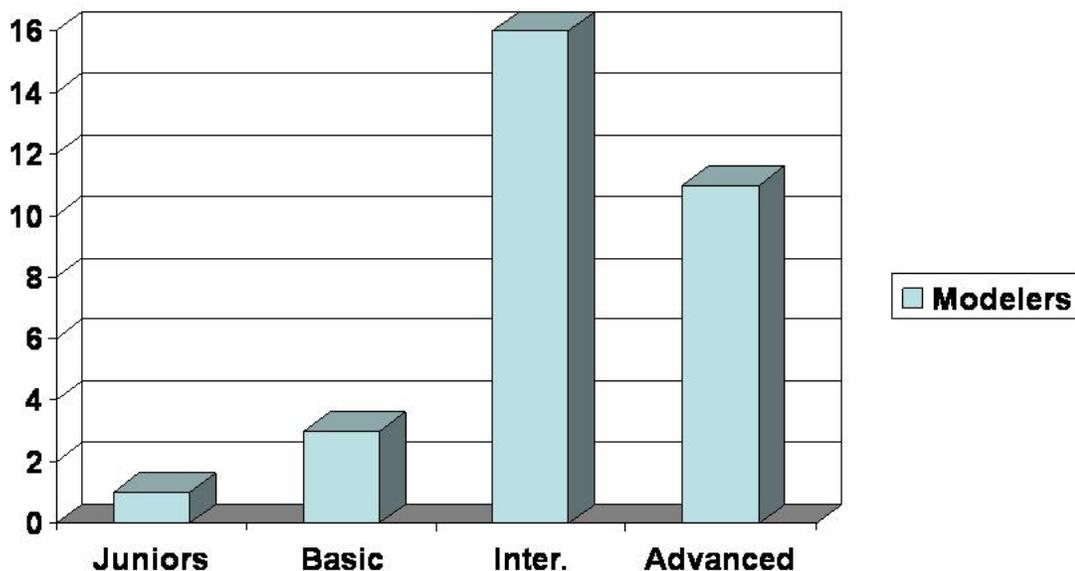
Number of Models Entered by Participants

83 total models entered for judging by 31 participants.

- 7 Modelers entered 1 Model = 22.6%
 - 9 Modelers entered 2 Models = 29%
 - 6 Modelers entered 3 Models = 15.4%
 - 6 Modelers entered 4 Models = 19.4%
 - 2 Modeler entered 5 Models = 19.4%
 - 1 Modeler entered 6 Models = 3.2%
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- Average number of models entered by each = 2.7

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

Modelers by Skill-Level



AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

Modelers by Skill-Level

31 Participants entered in the show for judging

- 11 Advanced Modelers = 35.5% of total participants were awarded 34% of medals
- 16 Intermediate Modelers = 52.5% of total participants were awarded 50% of medals
- 3 Basic Modelers = 9.5% of total participants were awarded 12.5% of medals
- 1 Junior Modeler = 3.2% of total participants were awarded 1.8% of medals

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

Judging Shifts and Teams

- Judging was performed from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm, approximately six and one-half hours.
- We employed standard 4-man teams in no more than 2-hour shifts.
- Shift 1, 9:00 am to 11:00 am had 3 full teams.
- Shift 2, 11:00 am to 1:00pm had 3 full teams.
- Shift 3, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm had 1 full team.
- Diorama Shift 1, 12:00 am to 1:00 pm had 1 full team.
- Diorama Shift 2, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm had 1 full team.
- "Best Of's" Judging, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm had 1 full team.
- Not counting "Best Of's," we used a total of 9 team-shifts, each either 2 or 1 hours long for a total of 15 judging team hours.
- Every judging team had an AMPS Certified and *experienced* Table Captain!

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

Judging Shifts and Teams (cont.)

- We had 83 models entered for judging.
- Not counting the “Best Of’s” judging, teams judged approximately 5.5 models per hour ($83 / 15 = 5.5$).
- This rate was significantly high than last year’s (2011) rate of 4.7 models per hour per team.
- Judging of all “regular” entries (ex: dio, vignettes, and figures) was completed by 2:00 pm.
- All judging was completed by 3:30 pm and the awards ceremony was completed by 4:30 pm!
- Significant Improvements in Judging this year:
 - Certified and Experienced Table Captain on EACH TEAM!
 - Judging rate increased from 4.7 to 5.5 – Very close to the standard min. rate of 6!
 - Shift changes were faster and smoother.
 - All teams had the standard 4 judges per.

AMPS Central SC “Wildcats”
14 July, 2012 Show

AMPS Central SC 2011 Show Stats For Comparison

- 26 participants
- 75 models entered for judging
- 61 medals were awarded: 14 bronze; 35 silver; 12 gold
- Bronze = 23 %
- Silver = 57.4 %
- Gold = 19.4 %

AMPS Central SC “Wildcats”
14 July, 2012 Show

AMPS Central SC 2011 Show Stats For Comparison (cont.)

- Each participant entered approximately 2.9 models
- Each participant earned approximately 2.34 medals.

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

2012 and 2011 Show Comparisons

- Attendance up from 26 to 31 = +19.25% 
- Model entries up from 75 to 83 = +10.7% 
- Models entered per entrant was down from 2.7 to 2.9 
- Judging rate of models per team per hour was up from 4.7 to 5.5 
- Number of medals awarded (all types) per entrant was down from 2.34 to 1.8 (AMPS Atlanta 2011 average was 1.5) 

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

AMPS Central SC 2013 Show Planning Assumptions

- Expect trends in entrants and total models entered to increase slightly to ~35 entrants and 85-90 total models.
- Expect slight improvement in judging rates to about 6 models per team per hour.
- Awards earned levels will remain about the same.
- Will need to increase the amount of display table space by at least 3, 8-foot tables. Six-foot tables used for judging area are a good fit.
- Consider adjusting the entry fees from a basic fee w/ 3 models to a basic fee w/ 2 models to discourage "flooding". Keep cost of basic fee and extra per model the same.
- Add resources for a fourth judging team in the "pits" and supplies for a fifth team judging "on the tables." Have extra 6-foot table available to set-up for judging.
- Continue to push judges' training and certification to develop local / regional judging cadre size. Atlanta AMPS International show = more experienced Table Captains.
- We saw several SCMA members from different chapters enter models this year. If this trend continues to grow, we could see significant and unmanageable increase in our judging requirements. Registration / Ram Rods must ensure that only AMPS qualifying entries are accepted.

AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"
14 July, 2012 Show

Support the Troops Initiative

Over the last few months, our chapter has been collecting donations of model supplies, books and magazines, tools and supplies, and money to send to forward deployed troops and others, such as military hospitals and USO comfort stations in airports. This local effort was started by our friends in the Sumter / Shaw AFB "Gamecocks" chapter of IPMS / USA and is part of the overall IPMS "Support the Troops" national program.



One of the Sumter IPMS members deployed to Kandahar Air Field (KAF) in Afghanistan in late spring and sent word back to his fellows that models and model building supplies were needed by the KAF model club. Our IPMS friends invited us to participate, and the members of AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" stepped up to the plate in their usual high-energy, all-the-way-and-then-some fashion. We collected several hundred dollars worth of kits and supplies and solicited donations from our local HobbyTown USA store.

The store generously donated a large box of special ordered supplies (including plastic model cement that can be sent by the US postal service), and our AMPS chapter then matched the value, dollar for dollar from our treasury. In addition to this money, we also donated 25% of our raffle proceeds from our July 2012 contest. This money was used to pay the shipping costs of the donated kits, supplies, books, and magazines.

We will be sending our last donation packages in a couple of weeks, so members should bring any final kit or supply donations to our next meeting on Wednesday, 15 August. As a reminder, please ensure that ***any kit donations are complete, not started, and inventoried.*** (Imagine your own frustration with trying to build a model only to find out that some of the parts are missing from the box!) Kit's may be opened, to include the poly bags, but must include all of their parts and decals. You can add extra after-market stuff to them if you want, but, again, they must have all of the kit contents.

By the way, if you have a choice in your donations, Snap-Tite type kits are some of the most urgently needed kinds of models. These simple kits allow a service member to sit down and finish a small project in only an hour or so, and they perfect for USO operations (supporting troops while traveling) and hospital "wounded warrior" projects since they don't require additional glues, tools or other supplies. Another great need is for reading materials, such as modeling magazines, that can enable a service member to pass the many boring hours in austere bases and in hospital.

Thanks goes to our member, Tim Darrah, for all of his hard work on this project. Tim's been the "go to" guy for this not only in our AMPS chapter but also in the IPMS chapter. Also, we need to send a special "thank you" to Wes Macon of the Sumter IPMS chapter. Wes was the member who deployed forward, saw the need, and then took the initiative to contact the IPMS folks back home to get the whole ball rolling. Wes Macon also honcho'ed the whole project while at KAF (like he didn't have enough to do already!), and finally, he ensured that the program had continuity by getting another point of contact to take over after he re-deployed home.

Of course, our biggest thanks are reserved for our brave men and women in the armed services. They are who are the ones making the sacrifices, enduring the hardships, and risking the dangers and are the real heroes here. Our small donations are the least we can do to show our appreciation for all that they have done and are doing for us all.

You can see more photos from the KAF model building club on our website's "Club Activities" page at: http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/Club_Activities.php

The 2012 South Eastern Toy Soldier Show AMPS Club Display

On Saturday, 11 August, 2012, the AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" chapter manned a club display and recruiting table at the South Eastern Toy Soldier Show at the SC State Museum. This is an annual event in its 21st year and is hosted by the SC Military Miniature Society (SCMMS) and the museum. This was our second year at the SE Toy Soldier Show, and this year our SCMMS friends arranged to get us table space in the main atrium area where we had the maximum public exposure!

It features diorama and figure displays by the SCMMS chapter and uniform and living history displays by several other local groups, to include the Columbia, SC MVPA chapter.

During the day, our chapter had an opportunity to show off models and figures built and finished by several members and to promote AMPS while encouraging the visiting public to come and join us at our regular meetings. We handed out several dozen of our meeting flyers and got about a half-dozen interested folks to leave us their contact data so that we could send links to our website and reminders of our meetings.



Despite the rainy weather, which drove most of the living-history displays indoors, the day was a success and very well attended by the public, even garnering some publicity from the local newspaper and TV stations.

A big "atta boy" goes out to Tom Wingate and Bob Spagnola who showed up early to help set-up and who also manned our table all day. Dave Cicimurri and John Sherrer also joined us for part of the day and helped to create some "action" around our tables which drew in more viewers and interest.

Thanks also go to our hosts, the SCMMS and the SC State Museum, for inviting us and giving us the opportunity. The SE Toy Soldier Show is an excellent venue to get AMPS and our chapter out into public view, and hopefully we can wrangle another invitation for next year.

We have a few more photos of the event on our club website's "Club Activities" page at: http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/Club_Activities.php

“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!

Well, guys, this has been one busy month for us all in regards to armor model building and showing events! In addition to our own show and the SE Toy Soldier Show, several of our members have also traveled down to Orlando, FL for the IPMS / USA National Convention for the best part of a week.

I don't know about all of you, but I'm about ready for a break to get back to the ol' work bench. I know that I have several projects that are way behind where I expected to be by now,. However, all the hard work has been worth it if we've been able to help develop the local model-building scene some and, in the process, maybe attract a few new members.

We all know just how much model building can be a solitary endeavor, but I think that we all enjoy and depend on our local clubs to provide us that "human connection" with others who share our interests in history and modeling. So, these events, contests, shows, and displays, are really important for all of us to keep that "social" aspect to our hobby from dying on the vine.

That's all for this month, hope to see everyone "hale and hardy" at the next meeting on Wednesday.

'Til then, happy modeling!

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"