



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

Well, we did it once again. Another successful regional AMPS show!

I'd like to repeat my thanks and appreciation to everyone in the club who participated and put in the long hours and effort that made the show the success that it was. For those of you who couldn't make it, you missed out on a very nice couple of days.

The complete show results along with photos and other info will be uploaded to our club's website soon, so even if you did miss the show, hopefully you'll be able to see some of the highlights. Be sure to check it out!

The show's participation and judging statistics are published later in this newsletter along with our treasurer's P&L report, so I won't repeat all that here except to say that we did quite a bit better financially than I expected and that most of the show participation stats were right down the middle of the averages for our previous shows. No, it wasn't the biggest show we've hosted, but it also wasn't our smallest. Given that we didn't host a show last year (so that we could concentrate on putting together our 2016 AMPS International Convention bid), I think that we had a very respectable turn out. Obviously, there were a number of folks who were looking forward to our next show, whenever!

The venue this year was totally new for us, and I heard nothing but nice things about the facility from our guests and show patrons. Also, new for this year were the outside food concessions, and once again, I heard a lot of positive feedback about those.

We did experience a couple of issues with table delivery on Friday and getting the venue opened on time on Saturday morning. Neither of these were "show stoppers" and everyone in the club worked well together to overcome these minor problems, and neither issue had any significant impact on the overall show. I believe that both of these issues arose mostly because the table vendor and venue were new to us, and I "didn't push some buttons" that I probably should have. Next time, though, we'll know what needs to be done, procedure-wise, to avoid these problems.

I'm sure we'll all have a lot to talk about at the next meeting, but, from my perspective, I believe that the show was a complete success. It was also a very good run-up for the "big show" next year. It got us all back in the "AMPS show mode," and for some of you, it was your first AMPS show. It also gave us a chance to certify several club members as AMPS Field Judges, and the more the judges, the better! All of this recent experience will be a big help as we organize and work together to host the 2016 AMPS ICon in Sumter.

Now, take a deep breath, relax, and pat yourselves on the back. You all have a couple of weeks to bask in the glow. We'll all be back at it soon enough for 2016!

### **Last Meeting's Minutes:**

Our **June** meeting was held 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 10 June, 2015 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia. We had 20 members in attendance who brought 13 models for Show & Tell. The raffle prize was DML's 1/35 scale "M4A3 HVSS POA-CWS-H5 Flamethrower + US Marines, Korea 1950/51 Chosen Reservoir" which was won by Trevor Edwards.

1. British Armored Car Saladin Mk.2 (DML Black Label + Scratch-built & Spare Parts), 1/35 ~ Keith Frape
2. German GTK Boxer (GTFz) (Revell), 1/35 – Dave Varettoni
3. Abrams M1A1 Tank (Revell), 1/35 – Nick Varettoni
4. 3.7cm PaK 36 auf Renault UE(f) (S-Model), 1/72 – Rebecca Hettmansperger
5. Styer RSO with PAK-40 German S.P. Anti-Tank Gun (Italeri), 1/35 – John "Turkey" Melton
6. WWII British Rolls Royce Armored Car Pattern 1920 Mk I (Roden), 1/35 – Kevin Cook
7. Sd.Kfz. 234 Armored Car (Airfix), 1/76 – Kevin Cook
8. US M20 Armored Utility Car (Tamiya + Verlinden M20 Interior & Exterior Update Sets), 1/35 – Michael Child
9. Krupp Protze 1 ton (6x4) Kfz.69 Towing Truck with 3.7cm Pak (Tamiya), 1/35 – Michael Child
10. French Battle Tank Char B1 bis (Tamiya + Eduard PE, RB Model Barrel), 1/35 – Mike Bishop
11. 3rd Infantry Division Soldier with Thompson (Dragon + Scratch-Built Items, Custom Decals, Hand-painted Helmet), 1/6 – Josh Orenstein
12. M60 Patton (Italeri M60A1 + AEF Designs resin Early M60 Turret), 1/35 – Carl Wethington
13. Perfect Grade Wing Zero Custom (Bandai), 1/60 – Adam Lasek

Photo Album on our webpage: [http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/Meeting\\_Photos.php](http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/Meeting_Photos.php)

During the meeting: **1)** Treasurer reported our current combine cash on-hand and bank balance as \$3757.31. After expenses, we're still in the red about \$533 for our upcoming show, but hopefully we'll make up the difference in registration fees and raffle ticket sales. During the meeting, Tom Wingate and HobbyTown each sponsored \$50 (+\$100 total) towards our show awards. **2)** Our Facebook page has been organized and is now promoting our local club. **3)** Preparations for our June show were on-track. We discussed the detailed schedule for Friday and Saturday, 19-20 June. **4)** Our 2016 Convention Committee held a meeting on 4 June at Buffalo Wild Wings. A brief report on the minutes of that meeting was presented. The highlight was the selection of the theme logo for 2016 followed by a discussion of the various options for our 2016 Convention "Club Shirts." The 2016 show theme logo and designs for the "show" and "crew" tee shirts have been reviewed and approved by the AMPS 2VP, Chuck Aleshire. As of our meeting date, 43 of the 50 available rooms blocked out for us at the Quality Inn in Sumter have been booked. There are two more hotels that have also blocked rooms for the 2016 convention. Check out our club website's 2016 Convention page for the latest info. **5)** There was no new business.

## Next Meeting's Agenda:

Our next regular meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 8 July, 2015 at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road, Columbia.

**NOTE:** This month we will hold the intra-club contest. The theme is "Germany 1945." The intra-club contest will follow the regular business part of the meeting.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – **1)** Bank balance on July 8, 2015 = \$3310.44. Detailed P&L statement for our show is included in this newsletter. Treasurer's report to be presented. **2)** Discuss Lessons Learned from our 2015 show. **3)** Discuss desirability of continuing our intra-club contests. Vote to continue/discontinue to follow discussion. **4)** 2016 Convention Committee news: Mike Reaves, Atlanta AMPS, will be the vendor coordinator for 2016. Brett Avants will continue as AMPS Marketing Director. **5)** Discuss question: Do we want to participate with a display table at this year's Southeast Toy Soldier Show at the SC State Museum? Show will be next month, August. **6)** 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 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:

**Jul 08, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800):** AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.  
**Interclub contest:** "Germany 1945."

**Aug 12, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800):** AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.  
**Interclub display:** "Build Something from Scott's Stash!"

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

**Sep 25, 2015:** IPMS/AMPS Northeast Military Modelers Association (NMMA), ARMORCON, Crown Plaza Danbury, 18 Old Ridgebury Rd., Danbury, CT.

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

**Oct 17, 2015:** IPMS Arm/Air Contest, First Ministry Center, 220 North Front St., Salisbury, NC.

**Nov 11, 2015, 6:00 pm (1800):** AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.  
**Interclub contest:** "Militarized Civilian Vehicles."

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

**April 06-09, 2016: AMPS International Convention**, Sumter County Civic Center, Sumter, SC hosted by the AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"

### **Detailed Statistics for Our Local AMPS Show, 19-20 June, 2015**

Below are the detailed Participation and Judging Statistics for our recent show. Please take a few minutes to look these over and see how we did overall as an event.

I think these stats show that our entry levels this year were actually about average. We had been on a three-year growth curve, and, with this show, that growth did flatten out. However, if we host another local show in 2017, on the heels of the AMPS International Convention next year, we should expect a return to our previous growth levels. That is, we should expect a much larger show in 2017 than this year.

The stats also show a couple areas where we can improve, especially in encouraging first-time AMPS entrants to join us in the judging pits to give us a hand and really learn what AMPS is all about. We should also encourage those AMPS first-timers to do some "self-selection" during registration and only enter their best works for actual judging while, perhaps, putting the remainder of their entries on the "Display Only" tables. Finally, we need to improve our Judging Rate and get it back up closer to the desired and specified rate of 6-8 models per hour per team.

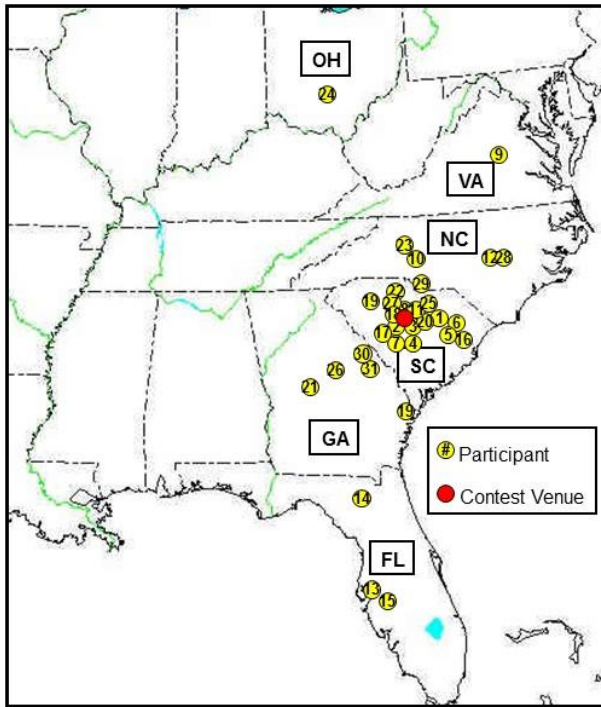
Our judging scores are remaining pretty consistent, and the rates that we're awarding medals are also holding. Both of these stats are important to the integrity of the AMPS judging process and to maintain the value and significance of our feedback.



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Geographic Distribution Contest Participants



**31 Participants  
Coming from 6 States:**

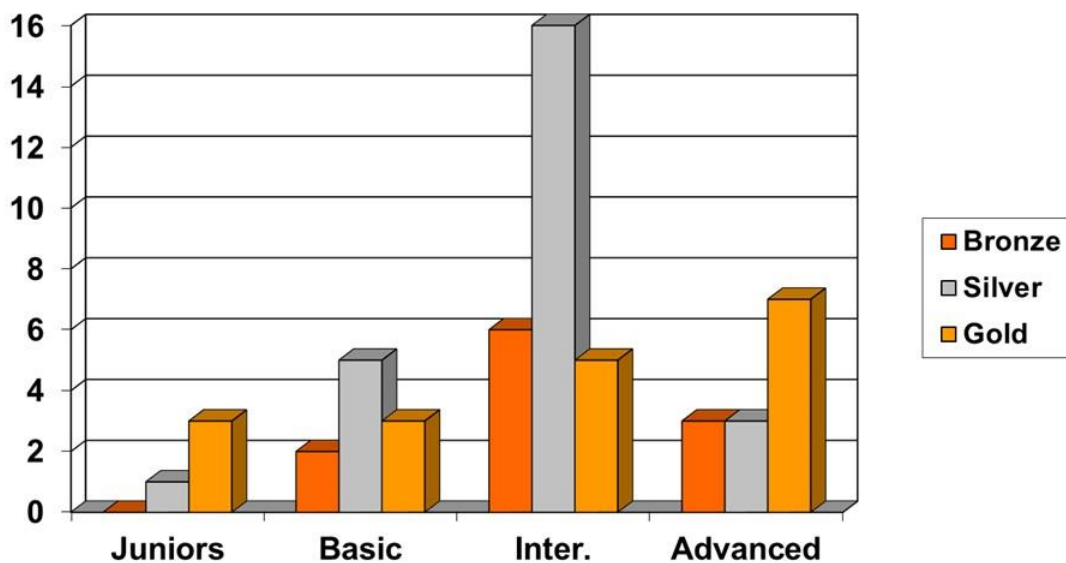
- 17 from SC
- 5 from GA
- 4 from NC
- 1 from VA
- 3 from FL
- 1 from OH



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Medals Awarded by Skill-Level and Type



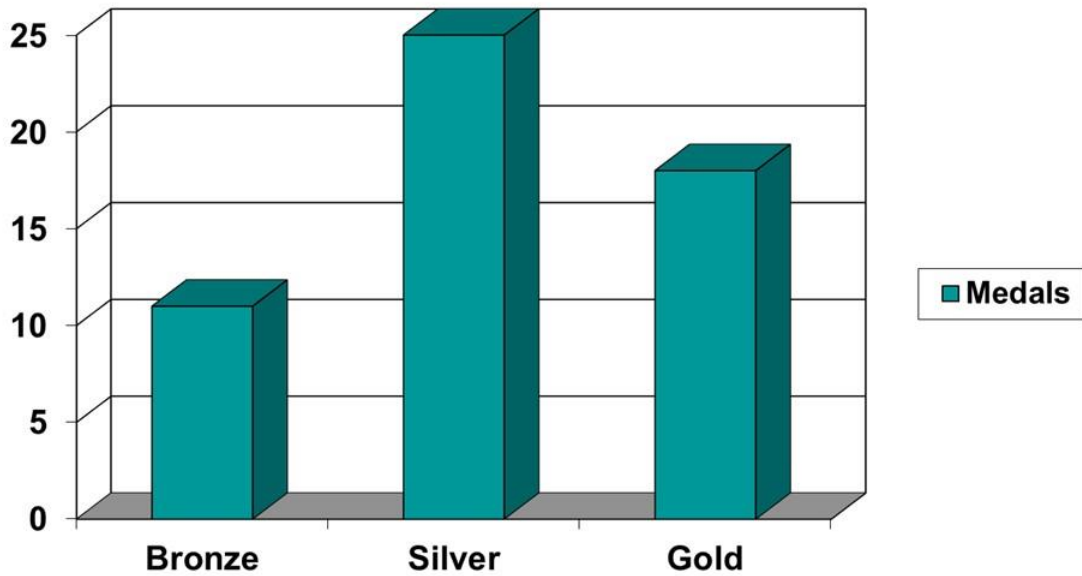




## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Total Medals Awarded by Type



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Medals Awarded by Skill-Level and Type during this Show

54 total medals awarded.

1.74 medals earned per entrant.

- 18 Gold in all Skill-Levels = 33% of total
  - 25 Silver in all Skill-Level = 46% of total
  - 11 Bronze in all Skill-Levels = 20% of total
- 
- Adv: Gold-7; Silver-3; Bronze-3 = 24% rec'ved
  - Int: Gold-5; Silver-16; Bronze-6 = 50% rec'ved
  - Basic: Gold-3; Silver-5; Bronze-2 = 18.5% rec'ved
  - Juniors: Gold-3; Silver-1; Bronze-0 = 7% rec'ved



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Scoring Averages by Skill-Level

#### 2013

- Advanced = 24.9 pts
- Intermediate = 24.5
- Basic = 23.5
- Junior = 25.8

#### 2012

- Advanced = 26.1
- Intermediate = 23.4
- Basic = 23.4
- Junior = 24.3

#### 2011

- Advanced = 26.8
- Intermediate = 24.1
- Basic = 24.6
- Junior = 24.8

#### 2015

- Advanced = 26.1
- Intermediate = 23.8
- Basic = 24.1
- Junior = 27.6



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Scoring Averages by Skill-Level

#### 4-Year Scoring Averages:

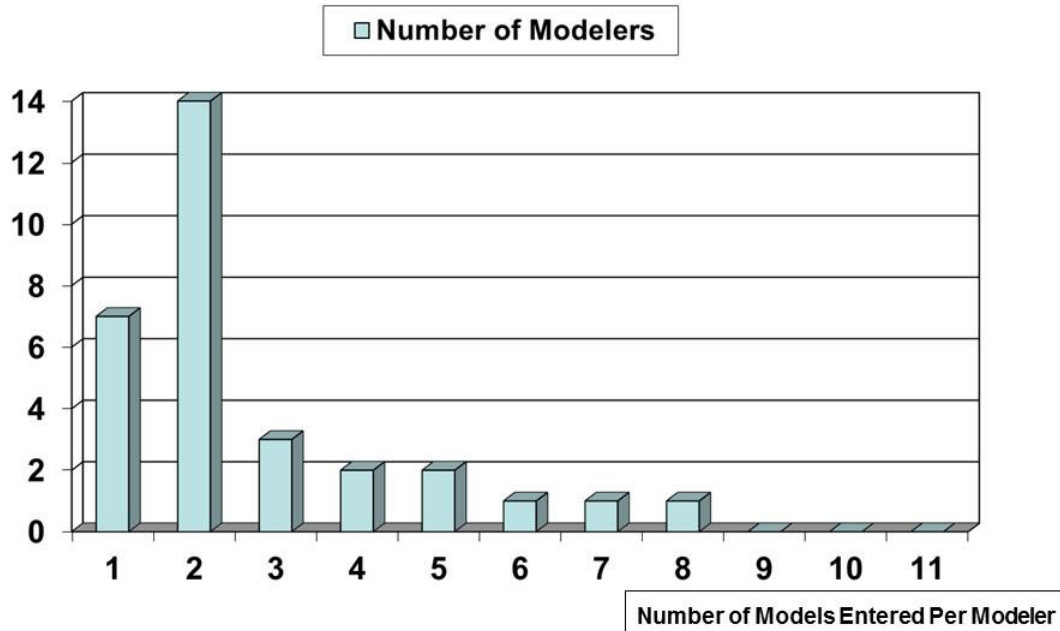
- Advanced = 26
- Intermediate = 24
- Basic = 24
- Junior = 25.6



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Number of Models Entered by Participants



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Number of Models Entered by Participants

82 total models entered for judging by 31 entrants.

- 7 Modelers entered 1 Model = 22.5% of entrants
  - 14 Modelers entered 2 Models = 45% “ “
  - 3 Modelers entered 3 Models = 9.6% “ “
  - 2 Modelers entered 4 Models = 6.5% “ “
  - 2 Modeler entered 5 Models = 6.5% “ “
  - 1 Modeler entered 6 Models = 3% “ “
  - 1 Modelers entered 7 Models = 3% “ “
  - 1 Modeler entered 8 Models = 3% “ “
- Avg. number of models entered by each = 2.6 models.



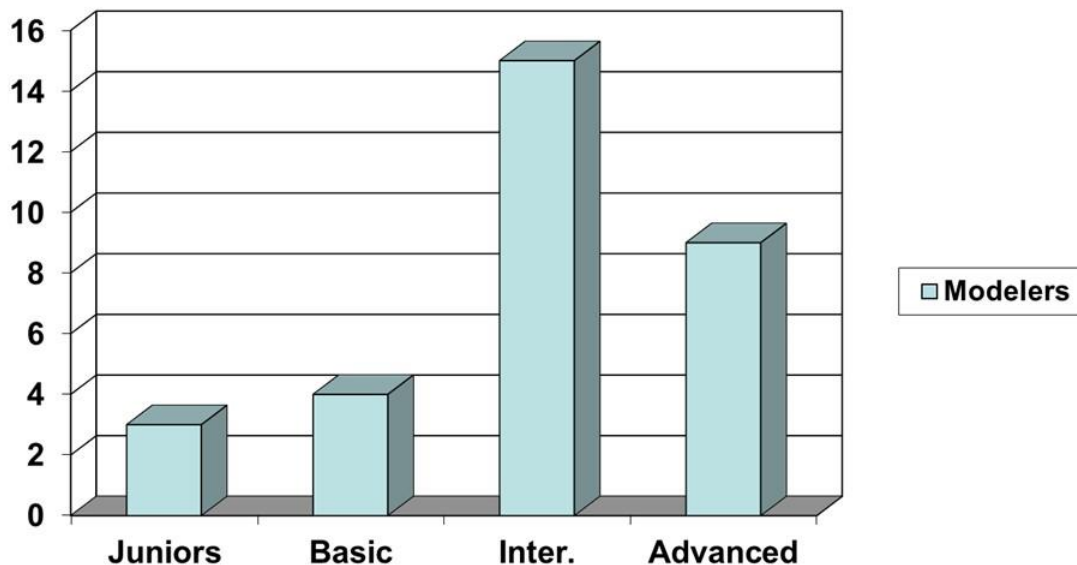


## Entry Flooding Skews the Numbers

- 3 entrants entered 21 of the 82 models.
- That is, 10% of the entrants entered almost 26% of the total models.
- This trend is holding steady. About 1/10 of the entrants enter about 1/4 of the models at each show.
- Records show that the vast majority of these "flooders" are 1<sup>st</sup> time AMPS show entrants.
- Records also show that almost none of these entrants ever help with judging.
- These are two areas where we need to improve – Discourage flooding while encouraging first timers to judge.



## Modelers by Skill-Level





## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Modelers by Skill-Level

**31 Participants entered in the show for judging:**

- **9 Advanced Modelers = 29% of total participants were awarded 24% of medals.**
- **15 Intermediate Modelers = 48% of total participants were awarded 50% of medals.**
- **4 Basic Modelers = 13% of total participants were awarded 18.5% of medals.**
- **3 Junior Modeler = 9.6% of total participants were awarded 7% of medals.**



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Judging Shifts and Teams

- **Judging was performed:**
  - Saturday, from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm, approximately 8 hours.
- **Regular judging employed standard 4-man teams in 2-hour shifts with a total of nine Judging Team Shifts on Saturday:**
  - Shift 1, Saturday, 8:00 to 10:00 am with 3 teams.
  - Shift 2, Saturday, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm with 3 teams.
  - Shift 3, Saturday, 12:00 to 2:00 pm with 3 teams.
- **Diorama / Vignette Shift: Saturday, 2:00 to 3:00 pm had 1 team (3-Judges).**
- **Figure Shift: Saturday, 2:00 to 3:00 pm had 1 team (3-Judges).**
- **Junior Shift: Saturday, 2:00 to 3:00 pm had 1 team (4-Judges).**
- **"Best Of's" Judging: Saturday, 3:00 to 4:00 pm had 1 team (4-Judges).**

**Not counting "Best Of's," we used a total of 12 team-shifts, each either 2 or 1 hours long for a total of 21 judging team hours consuming a total of 78 man-hours.**



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### Judging Shifts and Teams (cont.)

- We had 82 models entered for judging.
- Not counting the "Best Of's" judging, teams judged approximately 3.9 models per hour ( $82 / 21 = 3.9$ ).
- This rate was considerable lower than 2013's rate of 5.2 models per hour per team. However, we had a large number of new FJs and FJs that had not judged in over two years.
- Judging of all "regular" entries (excluding: dio, vignettes, and figures) was completed by 2:00 pm.
- All judging was completed by 4:00 pm and the awards ceremony was completed by 5:30 pm, about 1 hour ahead of schedule.
- Significant Observations about the Judging this year:
  - Judging rate was MUCH lower than the standard of 6 models per hour.
  - Almost none of the non-AMPS participants judged.
  - We received considerable assistance from AMPS "out-of-towners."
  - We now have a large in-club cadre of certified Field Judges, TCs and ACJs. This experience significantly enables our judging effort.



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### AMPS Central SC 4-Year Averages (Years 2011, '12, '13 & '15)

- 31.5 average participants.
- Average of 89 models entered for judging.
- Average of 64 medals awarded:
  - 15.5 bronze
  - 32 silver
  - 16.5 gold
- Bronze = 22 % of total awarded.
- Silver = 49 % of total awarded.
- Gold = 29 % of total awarded.



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### AMPS Central SC 4-Year Averages (cont.)






- Each participant entered approximately 2.8 models.
- Each participant earned approximately 2 medals.
- Model Judging Rate per Team per Hour has been 4.8 models.



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### 2015 Show Comparisons with 4-Year Averages

-  • Attendance steady at ~32 average
-  • Models entered 82 under 91 average
-  • Models entered per entrant, 2.6, is slightly under average of 2.8
-  • Judging rate of models per team per hour was down from 4.8 to 3.9
-  • Number of medals awarded (all types) per entrant was 1.74 down from average of 2





## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### AMPS Central SC 2017 Show Planning

- Expect trend in entrants and total models entered to increase to ~35 entrants and ~95 total models.
- Need to push harder during registration for volunteer judges. We need to increase the overall judging rate by adding additional judges AND keeping up the rate by the teams in the "pits."
- Awards earned will remain about the same at 2 medals per entrant. Anticipate a total of ~77 total medals awarded at ~39 silver, 20 bronze and 19 gold.
- Chapter medals on-hand = Bronze/58; Silver/93; Gold/64. Sufficient for at least two more shows.
- Increase display space to 12-14, eight-foot tables.
- Consider adjusting the entry fees. Keep basic fee at \$15 with first 3 entries, but INCREASE additional model entry fee from \$4 to \$5 each. Goal is to DECREASE models entered per. Allow up to 5 free "Display Only" models with basic entry fee or combination of 1 for judging and 7 display. (That is, entrant can actually put 8 models on the tables for basic price, but only 3 will be judged.)



## AMPS CENTRAL SC "WILDCATS" 19-20 JUNE 2015 SHOW



### AMPS Central SC 2017 Show Planning (Cont.)

- 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.
- We need to add more judging teams to complete judging in a timely manner. Judging rate per team per hour will probably remain stable, so any increase has to come from adding more teams.
- Continue to push judges' training and certification to develop size of local / regional judging cadre. Push decentralized FJ training seminar to other AMPS chapters in area.
- Non-AMPS members need to be educated / informed during the awards ceremony that medals are earned by and presented to the modeler and not to a particular piece of work.
- Add signage to awards display area with scoring / awards breakdowns by skill-level and explanation of the "one medal per category per modeler" rule.



**AMPS Central South Carolina 2015 “Go Trackless” Show Financial Statement**  
**23 June 2015**

**Income**

Sponsorships	\$950	
Vendor Tables	\$360	
Entry Fees	\$393	
Raffle Tickets	\$371	
Food and Drinks	\$50	(Donated then expensed)
Road Sign Materials	\$100	(Donated then expensed)

**Total Income**                      **\$2,224.00**

**Expenses**

Venue	\$605	
Table Rental	\$510	
Raffle Items	\$200	(Raffle items purchased.)
Supplies	\$77	
Medals	\$183	(Actual cost of G-S-B medals awarded at this show)
Specials Awards	\$260	(TS-Productions laser engraved acrylic awards)
Food and Drinks	\$50	(Hotdogs, Buns, Water, Sodas, Chips, Cookies – Fri & Sat)
Road Signs	\$100	(Materials purchased)

**Total Expenses**                      **\$1,985**

**Net Profit:**                              **\$239**                      **(Goes towards our annual operating costs)**

**List of Sponsors:**

Tim Darrah  
Ralph Nardone  
Keith Frape  
Adam Lasek  
Cayce Company  
Dargans Plumbing  
Mike and Sheila Roof  
IPMS/Sumter Gamecocks  
Corporate Interiors (Mike and Cameron Hartley)  
AMPS/All American  
New Brookland Hobby  
Wateree Door and Gate  
IPMS/Mid-Carolina Swamp Fox Modelers  
HobbyTown USA – Columbia  
Tom Wingate

**List of Vendors:**

Josh Orenstein

Ray's Hobbies  
Jose Rodriguez  
Tim Kirkland  
John Sturak  
Horner's Hobbies

**Additional Comments:**

We also gained two new members, pro-rated dues paid at \$6/member. (These dues are not included in the Registration gross, above.)

We sold \$116 worth of "Big AMPS" merchandise. This money belongs to "Big AMPS"--we will also be selling the same type of merchandise at the 2016 AMPS International Convention, and all proceeds go to AMPS National. We keep none of it. (This income is not included in our show P&L, above.)

In comparison to years past, here's how we stacked up:

Year:	2015	2013	2012	2011
Sponsors:	\$950	\$1,040	\$1,555	\$1,020
Entry fees:	\$393	\$467	\$385	\$336
Raffle sales:	\$371	\$720	\$260	\$298
Vendor sales:	\$360			
Total Income	\$2074	\$1,946	\$2,330	\$1,852
Expenses:	\$1835	\$813	\$1,377	\$737

The big jump in expenses for 2012 was medals—we apparently expensed enough medals for several shows against the 2012 show. We have pro-rated them this time, and probably should keep that in mind next show—expense only those medals awarded at any given show to that show.

Also, we did not use at least a half-dozen tables that we paid for due to slow vendor sales. I believe that Mike has touched on this previously—we didn't have a lot of calendar time between inception and execution of this show, and while we got word out as soon as we decided to host a show, table sales were slow.

As far as Profit/Loss goes, here are the historic figures:

2015	\$239.00	Profit
2013	\$1,160.62	Profit
2012	\$952.72	Profit
2011	\$1,114.75	Profit

Keep in mind that the venue in 2011 and 2012 was \$50 each year. We split income and expenses with IPMS/Sumter in 2013. While not a huge win, it was not a bad showing for our first show as the sole host.

Please, if I missed a sponsor or a vendor, please notify me and I will amend this report.

Submitted 23 June 2015, Ralph Nardone, Treasurer, AMPS Central South Carolina "Wildcats"

## **“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...”*

Mark Twain once wrote, "Figures often beguile me, particularly when I have the arranging of them myself; in which case the remark attributed to Disraeli would often apply with justice and force: 'There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.!'"

I'm reminded of this every year that I do our show stats... Since “I have the arranging of” the “figures,” it sometimes seems to me like I’m chasing for answers that appear as ephemeral as pictures in clouds. Do any of these “figures” actually mean anything? How are we really doing with our shows? Are our AMPS shows like trees falling in the woods without anyone to hear?

I think, though, now that we’ve hosted our fourth show, we can see some trends that do have true meaning. The bottom line, in my opinion, is that not only have our shows made an impact, we also have the potential and capacity to expand the size and scope of our “little local” shows into events that can and will bring the “AMPS way” to more of our region and fellow model builders.

Despite that fact that it’s been in existence for more than 20 years, AMPS is still a relatively new concept and idea in our part of the South. With every AMPS show we’ve hosted, we’ve attracted a good number of first-time entrants and participants, guys who are coming to their first AMPS shows to see what all the fuss is about. We’re also getting a fair number of other modelers who are coming back for their second or third AMPS show because they got something from that first experience with us.

This is something that you can all be proud to be involved with. You’re definitely making a major impression in our area and region by bringing the “AMPS way” to your fellow model builders, and your fellow modelers are attending our shows to hear that message and see it in action.

The “figures” don’t lie!

Happy modeling,

***Mike Roof***

Chapter Contact  
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"