



Well, guys, I've finally righted the ship and returned to an (almost) even keel...

Sorry for skipping the last two months' newsletters. The November newsletter was due on the same weekend as the AMPS All-American show up in Fayetteville, and I confess that by the time I got home that Sunday, I was just too pooped to get the letter out.

However, since so many of you attended and helped out with judging and other show duties (as well as entering models), by this time, all that needs to be said is, "Thanks!" Thanks again for all your hard work and the time you put in driving and working the show, as well as the costs for gas and hotels. I don't think it's ever really sunk in to our friends up there just how much your participation was essential to their success. But I know, and you know. You guys donated at least 21 man-hours of judging, and adding in another estimated 20 hours of other show support (set-up, registration, scoring, tear-down, etc), we all put in more than a respectable 40-hour work week over a day and change. You guys really did AMPS and our club proud!

In November we also had Dave Varettoni's excellent demonstration on using AK weathering products. I do believe that Dave has inspired a lot of members to give these a try and advanced the skill levels of all of us by showing us some new tricks and tips. So, a big "thanks" to Dave!

Not much that I can say about why I missed the December newsletter deadline. Things just crept up on me time-wise, and it seemed like the little hobby time I could carve out was spent at the work bench (and not much at that). Having said that, our Christmas party was a smashing success!

I think we had one of the best crowds ever at any meeting. Almost every active member of the club was there, and everyone who attended was very generous with their buffet contributions. We had a veritable feast! Also, the "white elephant" gift exchange was a real hoot, with some great presents swapped around and around and around. I think that T-55 must have been "stolen" eight or ten times not to mention the AFV Club M-10 and airbrush!

At any rate, I will try my best to steer the ol' newsletter between the icebergs this year and get it out on time. I suppose you could call that a New Year's resolution... (one that I hope is more successfully kept than most of my past resolutions!)

So, here's to another great AMPS year! Happy modeling one and all!

Last Meetings' Minutes:

For the record, our last three regular meetings were held on Wednesday, 10 October, 14 November, and 12 December, 2012. All three were held at the HTU on Two Notch Rd. starting at 6:00 pm.

During the October meeting: we voted to approve our show theme; voted to make a donation to AMPS All-American for trophies; discussed and approved the "Naked Models" special category for our show; we also held a round-table discussion on glues and gluing techniques (an excellent idea suggested by Keith).

At our November meeting: we discussed the contest and flyer details worked out in a "contest committee" meeting between Mike, Tim, and Tony; we approved the Christmas Party and gift exchange; and Dave Varettoni presented a demonstration on using AK Interactive weathering products.

Our December meeting business was restricted to a club review of the final draft of our contest flyer (comments made directly to Tony Abbott) and our Christmas Party. We had 17 members in attendance.

Next Meeting Agenda:

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 09 January, 2013.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month's business: Annual membership dues, \$12 for adult members; Treasurer's report; any new business; report on contest preparations.

6:10 pm (1810): Ralph Nardone will present part 1 (of 2 parts) of an airbrushing demonstration. Part 2 will be presented next month.

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

7:10 pm (1910): Reconvene: 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:

Jan 09, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Feb 13, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Feb 15-17, 2013: Atlanta AMPS Regional Show, Atlanta Marriott Century Center Hotel, Atlanta, GA.

Mar 13, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Apr 10, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

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).

May 08, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Jun 12, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

June 21-22, 2013: AMPS Central SC contest co-hosted with IPMS Sumter/Gamecocks at the Sumter County Convention Center, Sumter, SC. This will be the IPMS R-12 Convention with AMPS handling all of the armor categories IAW AMPS judging rules and procedures with separate AMPS awards.

Jul 10, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Aug 14, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Sep 11, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Oct 09, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Nov 09 (T), 2013: Plan date for the AMPS All-American / Lafayette Scale Modelers show in Fayetteville, NC.

Nov 13, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS meeting at HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

Dec 11, 2013, 6:00 pm (1800): AMPS Christmas Party anyone?

AMPS 2013 Show Theme

During the November, 2012 meeting, we discussed and voted to approve a contest theme for our 2013 show.

The theme selected is:

"Hand Grenades and Atom Bombs:" Cold War armor along the Iron Curtain from the Arctic Circle to Turkey, 1950 to 1985, Warsaw Pact and NATO.

Eligibility will be based on subject nationality and markings and not country of origin. That is, the subjects must belong to one of the member states of NATO or the WARSAW Pact. Neutrals, even if the subject vehicle was manufactured by a NATO or WARSAW Pact member, are not eligible for the theme award.

This is a very broad theme, though, with a huge number of potential subjects. Hopefully we'll get a lot of participation. Also, this theme should complement the show theme selected by our IPMS friends.

The "Naked Model" Special Category

We also approved a special category featuring ONLY built, but un-finished (i.e. not painted) models.

It is not our intent that models entered in this category should be constructed specifically for it, but rather that the category should offer an opportunity for modeler's to show-off their skills at basic and advanced construction during the course of a normal build. Therefore, in this special category, models may have areas filled or primed or have their interiors or other areas partially or completely finished at the modeler's discretion. However, any areas obscured by paint (either primed or finished, for example, as part of interior areas that will be inaccessible later in the build) WILL NOT BE JUDGED or SCORED. All visible, interior and/or exterior but up-painted, areas will be judged and scored.

Models should be presented to the judges in as complete a state as possible. However, separate parts or sub-assemblies may be displayed with the main part of the build on a single base. It is the modeler's responsibility to present the entire "naked model" package in a manner that can be moved by the runners from the registration area to the judging pits and then to the display tables. The runners WILL not relocate multiple separate parts or sub-assemblies which are not displayed on some sort of base with the main part of the build. The entirety of the "naked model" must fit on a single movement tray as provided at the registration area. Models that do not meet these criteria will be disqualified.

ALL "naked models" will be judged in the pits. NO "naked models" will be judged at the display tables (as for figures, vignettes, and dioramas).

We will modify the AMPS judging and scoring rules by taking all of the points in the Finishing and Weathering Scoring Group and moving them to the Construction Scoring Group. All of the other judging will be kept the same. The un-finished models will not be eligible for any of the other, regular "best of's" nor for the "Judge's Best in Show" awards.

However, we will present a special "naked model" award for the best model in this particular category, as well make regular G-S-B medal awards based on AMPS skill-levels and points break downs.

Our June 2013 AMPS Show Figures, Vignettes and Dioramas Eligibility

Another special rule which will be in-effect at our June show is in regards to figures, vignettes, and diorama eligibility.

In order to simplify the entire show's organization for ourselves and our IPMS friends, we will modify the normal AMPS rules for eligibility for military figures and figure vignettes and dioramas. As all of you are aware, AMPS rules restrict military figures to those dating from 1899 and later. The intent of this rule is to associate military figures with the history of military AFVs. Normally, this is both logical and reasonable given AMP's charter.

However, for our show in June, presented in conjunction with the IPMS R-12 convention, adhering strictly to this rule would have required that both clubs offer historical figure categories with all of the required duplication of registration, registration fees, table space, and awards. Also, duplicate categories would mean that some figure modelers might have to register figures into both the IPMS and AMPS shows based on the 1899 AMPS cut-off.

So, to avoid all of these issues and hopefully make the show more welcoming to our participants, AMPS will open our figure, vignette and diorama categories to ALL military figure subjects regardless of era or historical periods (to include futuristic or sc-fi military figures). These will be judged according to normal AMPS rules and awards presented accordingly (to include "best of's" as applicable).

All other figures, civil, fantasy, super hero, robots, Gundam, sci-fi, etc, will be entered into the applicable IPMS categories to be judge according to their rules and procedures.

“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!

Alright guys...

Hopefully this newsletter helps to catch us all up on what's been going on these last couple of months.

As always, I'm open to suggestions for improving things around here, and will always welcome any contributions for inclusion into the newsletters.

Finally, I would suggest to everyone that it's pretty easy to see that we don't have a whole lot of redundancy in our club operations. Potential single points of failure are never good in any lash-up, so some consideration might be called for to assess our organization and see if we can get our club a little more "robust" for the future. Anyone who would like to take a more active role in running things is welcome to get with me to see where we can delegate some tasks and share the load. Believe me, you will not hurt my feelings.

See ya Wednesday! Happy modeling!

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"