



Welcome to the September-October 2011 edition of the newsletter. This month, we have a lot of news to report because this has been an event-filled past few weeks.

Since our last meeting on 10 August, we've participated in the South Eastern Toy Soldier Show at the SC State Museum. Tom Wingate, Bob Spagnola, and Mike and Sheila Roof manned our recruiting table at the show. We had a table full of completed models to show off along with banners (thanks Jeff Nelson!) and flyers promoting our club and AMPS national. Interested folks stopped by our table all day long to look at members' work and discuss their own armor-modeling interests. We passed out quite a few flyers for AMPS and IPMS and took down a some names for later contact. Hopefully we'll see some new faces at our September and future meetings as a result. The event was a great opportunity to get some publicity, and I definitely think we should participate again next year!

This month has also seen the start of our next group-build, the DML Panther G-series with the Alliance Model-Works photo-etched up-date sets. Our benefactors at AM-Works have graciously donated the PE sets (along with a ton of other new products! – see Scott Amey's review of their WWII US uniform decals in this issue) and work is progressing on the builds. There are several new research and building notes and tips articles up-loaded to our website, so check those out when you get a chance!

While on the subject of our website: Last month we voted and approved an expansion of the site, and it now contains several new or reorganized pages. We now have a page specifically devoted to member models and projects. On this page, each member has his own photo album showing his models, and several members also have links to armor model projects that they've published on-line. These albums will be up-dated as members bring in models, either WIP's or completed projects, to the meetings. We'll continue to post the latest meeting photo album on its page, too. We also now have a page dedicated to archiving our group-build notes and model photos along with any demonstration notes that are passed out at our meetings.

Also, this month our website hit a major milestone by going over 9000 visitors! For those of you keeping score – that's over a 1000 hits a month! Not too shabby fellows... .

Last month, we also voted and approved donations to the two civic organizations that loaned us the tables for our contest back in July. Mike Roof presented both the Lutheran Church of the Ascension and the Shriners Dutch Fork Lodge with \$100 donation checks. Both organizations were very happy to be the recipients of the club's generosity, and both will apply the funds to their future good works! AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" and its members can be proud that we've made this small contribution back to our community!

The club also voted and approved to accept the invitation of our SCMA friends and co-host a contest next summer on Saturday, 14 July (T). Hopefully, the organizations that loaned us tables this year will remember us and will be wiling do the same next year.

Finally, this last month, Scott Amey assumed the duties of treasurer and "monthly raffle guy." This will be a great help to yours truly, and it's also a good thing for the club overall. It's especially healthy for our club to have some built-in oversight on matters of finance, and now we have at least two people involved in keeping track of our funds. In a more general sense, the viability of any group is enhanced when more of its members are involved in its operation and maintenance, so I would encourage any and all of the club's members to stay engaged and involved. The club belongs to everyone in it, and in order for it to continue to give each of us what we want from our membership, we each must have some influence on its direction and operation.

As mentioned above, Scott Amey has also pony'ed-up and provided us with a review article for this issue. Remember, all of you who received sample AM-Works products need to follow Scott's example and give us a small write up on your experiences when you use them. For this month's article, Scott built the models, used the products, and did the write up. He then brought his vignette over to my house, and we photographed the models for the pictures included in the review. We can do the same for anyone else who's contemplating an article or review for the newsletter – Heck, I'll even type it up for you if you can give me a hand-written document!

Last Meeting Minutes:

At our last regular meeting on 10 August, we followed the planned agenda. There were 10 members in attendance.

The following items were discussed and voted on: 2012 contest question – approved; Expansion of the club's website – approved; Donations to the organizations that loaned us tables for our 2011 contest - \$100 donation to each approved; New club tee-shirt order – Tan shirts are the "official" color and a new order was approved, Tim Darrah will take action.

Additional club business discussed was: Manning a recruiting table at the SC State Museum during the SE Toy Soldier Show – volunteers identified; A club finance report with a request for a volunteer to be the new treasurer – Scott Amey volunteered; Establishment of full-up club executive board – issue tabled for further discussion; and Participation with the Sumter IPMS Chapter to co-host the 2013 IPMS Regionals – issue tabled for further discussion.

Those members participating in the new group-build received their kits (bulk internet order) and donated photo-etched AM-Works up-date sets. Members not participating in the build were given an opportunity to look over other AM-Works sample products and were given first choice on those products to use and review. See the club website for detailed information on the group-build.

During our last meeting, we also had a demonstration by Mike Roof on using photo-etch detail sets and soldering. Unfortunately, we had to cut this demo a bit short before we were able to cover all the information. (The hobby shop was short-handed and needed to close up right on time.) See the club website for a copy of the handout and notes from this demo.

We held a raffle which Ralph Nardone won and added \$14 to our funds.

Next Meeting Agenda:

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 14 September, 2011.

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month's business (1) Finalize tee-shirt order (members are reminded that they will need to give Tim at least half of their costs) (2) we have several

new AM-Works sample products for members to select from (3) Up-date from Mike on the new additions to the website and (4) Finance report from Scott
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 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:

September 14, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800): Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road.

September 17, 2011: Spartanburg IPMS "Piedmont Scale Modelers" Fall "Modelfest" Contest, Byrnes High School, 150 East Main Street.

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 13th Annual Fall Model Contest and Show, Cokesbury United Methodist Church Gym, 4990 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC.

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

LW35065 WWII U.S. Army Insignia Set

Scale: 1:35

Type: Water Slide Decals

Retail Price: US\$12

Link to item: <http://www.am-works.com/store/lw35065-wwii-army-insignia-p-171.html>



I'm one of those armor builders who loves to include figures with my tanks, and since I'm not the greatest figure painter in the world, I need all the help I can get. I've used decals before for my figures (ranks, divisional insignias, etc.) but none with the detail of the Alliance Model-Works.

Not only are these decals true to scale, but the set is also very extensive. The set includes 2

sheets of decals for both US Army and US Marine Corps infantry, armor crews, airborne troops, Rangers, specialists, officers and surgeons.

I recently tried out the decals on two tank crew figures only using rank stripes and the Armor Division patches. The decals came off the paper backing in less than 10 seconds



in water which was a great start to the project. The decals didn't immediately "set down" on the figures but this could have been because the

upper arms of my figures had some good size folds to the clothing where I was placing the decals. Anyway, after a minute or two they began to set down nicely, and they set down completely with a few applications of my favorite decal setting solution, Micro Sol. After the solution dried I applied just a small amount of flat finish over the decals to remove that tiny bit of shine that comes from every decal.



The final result was awesome! The colors of the armor patch really stand out well, and the rank stripes blended well to the uniform colors of my figures. In conclusion, the WWII U.S. Army Uniform Insignia set gets a big "thumbs up" from me. Not only are the detail and clarity of these decals top notch, you also get a lot of decals with the set to cover a wide range of U.S. WWII subjects. These decals help add that extra touch to your figures and do so with ease.



Thanks to Alliance Model-Works for the sample set, they're great!

Scott Amey
AMPS #2535
IPMS # 46189

Editor's note: Another AMPS review of these decals can be found at –
<http://www.amps-armor.org/ampssite/reviews/showReview.aspx?ID=1814&Type=FB>

“The Day Room”

Well, guys, this month has seen a pretty big expansion of our club's impact and influence in the model-building community. Since hosting our contest back in July, we've garnered quite a bit of exposure, and, because of that exposure, we've received some nice opportunities.

The first of these has been our growing relationship with Alliance Model-Works. Those folks have graciously provided us with samples of many of their armor-model related after-market products, and, hopefully, everyone in the club who has wanted to try some of these products has gotten a chance.

One of the nicest aspects of AM-Works' generosity has been to learn some new skills and techniques using the PE parts and up-date sets. These kinds of after-market accessories can really "up" your model building game, but I can appreciate that some guys are a bit intimidated by them. They are, by their very nature, complicated and difficult to work with. However, AM-Works has now given many of us a chance to use some of these kinds of products in a low-risk situation and without the usual cost that comes with a modeler's first experience with PE, and this, I hope, has encouraged some of you to try new things and expand your skill-sets!

In doing this, I think that some of you are discovering that PE is not quite as hard to use as you might have once thought, and that soldering is not some "magical alchemy" that adds golden bits to a dress model but is really just another skill that can be learned and mastered. Once you remove the mystery from it, it can open up many new model-building avenues to you and things that once seemed impossible are now possible.

Our website has also provided us with a lot of new exposure to folks in the world-wide modeling community, and this has hopefully shown some of our fellow armor model builders just how vibrant the armor-modeling community is in our little corner of the woods! As I type this, I see that our hit counter has passed 9,100 visits to our site.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we've engaged in events with our fellow local model builders, both with our SCMA friends and most recently with the SC Military Miniatures Society. This engagement has allowed us to give back a little to our community in the way of donations to two worthy civic organizations and made us many new friends. Hopefully we'll see some new faces at future meetings, and our new-found community contacts will open some more doors for us in the future!

I'm pretty enthused about hosting another contest next year with the SCMA and the possibility of working with the Sumter IPMS chapter on a regional contest in a couple of years. All in all, you guys and our chapter are "hitting way above our weight class" and the future is looking pretty bright!

Happy modeling, Mike