



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

Welcome Wildcats to the latest, way past overdue edition of our newsletter. It's been a while since we've published a newsletter, but we're back on track since Mike Roof has officially handed the publisher duty off to Phil Cavender.

Last Meeting's Minutes

The last regular meeting was held 6-8 pm, 10 Feb, 2016 at the HobbyTown USA store in the Publix Shopping Center on Two Notch Rd, Columbia (NE). We had 24 members in attendance who brought a total of 19 models in for Show & Tell. The raffle prize was Trumpler's 1/35 scale "M1 Panther II Mineclearing Tank", which was won by Phil Cavender.

1. 88mm Flak 36, Norway, 1944 (DML + ROP Decals), 1/35 – Tim Darrah
2. T-34/76 Model 1941, Manchuria, 1945 (DML +ROP Decals, scratch-built extra Fuel Tanks & Stowage Box), 1/35 – Tim Darrah
3. Flammpanzer III Ausf. M (F1), Hungary, 1945 (DML + Bison Decals, added Skirts & Stowage Box), 1/35 – Tim Darrah
4. ADF M1A1 AIM SA, Australian, 2013 (DML + Arm Corp Models conversion, Echelon Decals, Black Dog Stowage), 1/35 – Tim Darrah
5. US Army Soldiers (Tamiya + self-molded Walkway & Broken Bricks), 1/35 – Kevin cook
6. M60A1 Patton Main Battle Tank (AFV Club), 1/35 – Carl Wethington
7. M60 Patton (Italeri M60A1 + AEF Designs resin Early M60 Turret, "Frankenstein" figure from spares box), 1/35 – Carl Wethington
8. Tiger I Mid Production (Academy with full interior), 1/35 – Michael Child
9. Panzerkampfwagen VI Tiger I Sd.Kfz. 181 Ausf. E (finishing uncle's 1970s build; Tamiya + self-cast Roadwheels), 1/35 – Dave Cicimurri
10. Mk I "Male" British Tank, Special Modification for the Gaza Strip (Master Box), 1/72 – Rebecca Hettmansperger
11. M4A3 Sherman, Iwo Jima, 1945 (Italeri 6389 + Division Barrel, Aber 0.30 cal Barrel & Antennas, Accurate Armor Carbon Fiber Antenna, Value Gear Sandbags), 1/35 – Phil Cavender
12. HMMWV M966 (Tamiya M1046 Humvee + ET Model PE, Panzer Art resin Tires), 1/35 – Ben Brandes

13. Sd.Kfz.186 Jagdtiger Henschel Production Type (DML), 1/35 – Ben Brandes
14. Schneider CA - Early Model (Hobby Boss). 1/35 – Ben Brandes
15. Sturmgeschutz Sd.Kfz 167 German Assault Gun Tank 7.5cm Stuk 40L/48 Gun (Academy), 1/35 – Noah Brandes
16. T-54 Model 1949 (Tamiya + Legends Conversion), 1/35 – Dave Varettoni
17. Loyd Carrier No. 2 Mk. II & British Ordnance QF Mk. IV A-T Gun 6 Pdr (Bronco & Riich), 1/35 – Mike Roof
18. Wright J5A “Whirlwind” Radial 9 Cylinder Engine (Williams Bros. scratch-built SP Wires & Harness), 1/8 – Mike Roof
19. JGSDF Type 60 APC (Finemolds + Finemolds PE, Academy ROK Armor Crewmen, numerous scratch-built details), 1/35 – Jeff Nelson

Photo Album on our webpage: http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org/Meeting_Photos.php

Items of business covered during the meeting were –

- a. The latest club tee shirt order has been delivered. Tee shirts, for those who ordered them can be picked up after paying the treasurer. The club covered the cost upfront (\$496.14) for everyone who ordered a shirt, so please pay the club back and pick up your shirts.
- b. Annual dues are due. \$12 for adult members. See Ralph if you have not paid. Remember that if your dues are delinquent, your name does not appear on the membership roster used by the hobby shop for discounts.
- c. The Special 2016 AMPS I-Con “Host Shirts” will be ordered before the next meeting. Mike Roof brought in an example of last year’s Auburn show shirt. The 2016 shirts will be the same polos but in yellow and black with the three 2016 show logos embroidered on it. Cost per shirt is estimated at \$45 each. Contact Tim Darrah to get your name on the order if you want one. Again, the club will pay for the shirts upfront, to be reimbursed by the buyers.
- d. Question: Do we want to get a club display table at the IPMS R-12 Convention in Charleston, Saturday, 19 March, 2016? Cost will be \$30 and the tables will be in the vendor area. After discussion, the vote was “YES.” Mike Roof will coordinate with the R-12 hosts.
- e. The 2016 AMPS I-Con admin support volunteer signup sheets were passed around. Ralph Nardone volunteered to be the full-time Convention Logistics Officer. Phil Cavender was the only member to sign up for any other duties. The signup sheets will be available at the March meeting.
- f. We had a “folding party” for the AMPS I-Con flyers that will be taken to the Atlanta AMPS show. (Note that these were taken by Mike Roof to Atlanta and all 100 were either passed out or sent with Mike Petty to the IPMS “Old Dominion” show.)
- g. The club raffle purchase donation of \$350 is being worked by Keith.
- h. Treasurer’s report - \$4409.15 bank balance. Major expenses paid in the last month were \$40 for the Scott Amey Award and \$90.85 to renew our website domain for 5 years. Major deposits in the last month totaled \$696 - the reimbursement for AMPS show pins and an excess cash on-hand deposit.

New Business – We need more chairs for the meeting. Our membership has outgrown our current available number of chairs. Mike will get and bring 5 more chairs to the next meeting.

Next Meeting's Agenda

Our next regular meeting will be held 6-8 pm, Wednesday, 9 March, 2016 at the HobbyTown USA store in the Publix Shopping Center on Two Notch Rd, Columbia (NE).

Items of business on the agenda:

- a. Pick up your club tee shirts. Ralph has the order list with the names and costs. If you need to, check with him so that you bring enough money with you. Remember that the club paid for your shirt upfront, so your payment is a direct reimbursement of that cost.
- b. 2016 dues are due. If you haven't paid your dues, or if you're unsure whether or not you have paid, please see Ralph. He has the list of who's current and who's delinquent. Note that an updated roster listing current members in good standing (i.e. dues paid) will be published before the April meeting and a copy will go to the hobby shop.
- c. Atlanta AMPS Regional Show Report. Those members who attended the Atlanta show will give a short report. Tony Abbott, Rebecca Hettmannsperger, Phil Cavender and Carl Wethington all entered models in the show and each earned at least one Gold medal.
- d. The special "Hosting Chapter" 2016 I-Con shirts have been ordered. Tim Darrah will have the shirts before the April meeting. If you have ordered one of these shirts, please see Ralph to pay for it. The shirts will be \$45 each regardless of size or cut (men's or ladies).
- e. 2016 AMPS I-Con planning update. Tim Darrah, Show Chair, and various other committee members report on their areas of responsibility.
- f. Treasurer's Report. Major expenses this month - \$895.90 to Thread Logic for the special show shirts (20 shirts x ~\$45 each), \$298.94 to renew our club website for 2 years, and \$80 for the R-12 tables and award sponsorship. Estimated bank balance after expenses - \$3134.31. Note that the shirt expense should be reimbursed as well as the club tee shirt expense from January (\$496.14 club tee shirts + \$895.90 for special shirts = \$1392.04 back in treasury if everyone pays the club back).
- g. Discuss and coordinate for the club display tables at the IPMS R-12 convention on Saturday, 19 March, 2016. The club has paid for our tables (x2 tables) and sponsored the "Best Armor" award, total \$80. Mike Roof will transport the club banner and other promo materials to the venue. Setup will be between 7-9 am. Registration opens at 9 am and closes at Noon. Location - R.B. Stall High School, 3625 Ashley Phosphate Road, North Charleston, SC 29418. Purposes for the display will be club recruiting and promotion, promotion of AMPS, promotion of the 2016 AMPS I-Con, display of member work in a non-competitive manner.
- h. AMPS 2016 I-Con Admin Volunteer signup sheets will be available at the meeting for those who are able to start planning their time at the convention. We will have convention flyers with the general show schedule on hand at the meeting.
- i. **Short How-To Demo.** Mike Roof will give a short demo on using some of the newer punch sets by The Small Shop and UMM.
- j. Show & Tell. Member models, completed and WIP along with new stuff to share.

Mike Roof

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

March 19: Region 12 Regional Convention and Contest, R.B. Stall High School, 3625 Ashley Phosphate Road, North Charleston, SC 29418. Theme: "Beans, Bullets and Bombs: The Logistics of War". Hosted by Coastal Carolina Modelers Association. *Note* AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" will have a table so please plan to attend and show your support.

<http://www.coastal-carolina-modelers.com/contest>



The poster features a dark, textured background with a silhouette of a tank on the left and a soldier on the right. At the top left is a logo for '2016 AMPS The Great War' featuring a tank. The main title '2016 AMPS International Convention' is in large green letters. Below it, text describes the 'Scale Model Exposition' and lists activities like 'Exhibits, Seminars, Demonstrations, Large Vendor Area and MUCH more!'. The theme 'The Great War' is written in a stylized font. The dates 'April 7-9, 2016' and location 'Sumter County Civic Center, 700 West Liberty Street, Sumter, SC 29150' are provided. Logos for 'AMPS' and 'AMPS Central South Carolina WILDCATS' are also present. Contact information for Tim Darrah and Mike Reaves is at the bottom, along with a QR code.

2016 AMPS International Convention

Scale Model Exposition: Exhibits, Seminars, Demonstrations, Large Vendor Area and MUCH more!

Show Theme: **The Great War**

April 7-9, 2016
Sumter County Civic Center
700 West Liberty Street
Sumter, SC 29150

Hosted by:
AMPS Central South Carolina WILDCATS

For more information, contact Tim Darrah (Show Chair), tttimmy@earthlink.net
Mike Reaves (Vendor Coordinator), semperfi03732@msn.com
or visit us online at www.amps-armor.org

April 06-09, 2016: AMPS International Convention, Sumter County Civic Center, Sumter, SC hosted by the AMPS Central SC "Wildcats". Make your plans to work 24/7 during these 4 days to make this venue the best AMPS has ever seen. There's a lot riding on the members who were instrumental in getting the Nationals in SC, so let's show our support.

If anyone ordered a polo shirt the cost will be \$45 and they should be shipped around the 10th. The guys will need to pay Mike directly for the shirts.



(Sample Design, please be aware the shirts will not make you look like the model in the image!)

We will also need numerous volunteers during the show starting at 8AM on the Thursday. So they will need to plan accordingly.

Of course, if anyone wants to donate to the raffle, that will be welcome, we only ask that the item is not an "oldie-moldy" item. Such as dog-eared book, dust covered/sun-baked kit, etc., and also not a "Hobby Lobby special", they sell the ancient Tamiya kits cheaply, these are the very old (1970s) Hanomag halftrack, the original Panther, stuff like that.

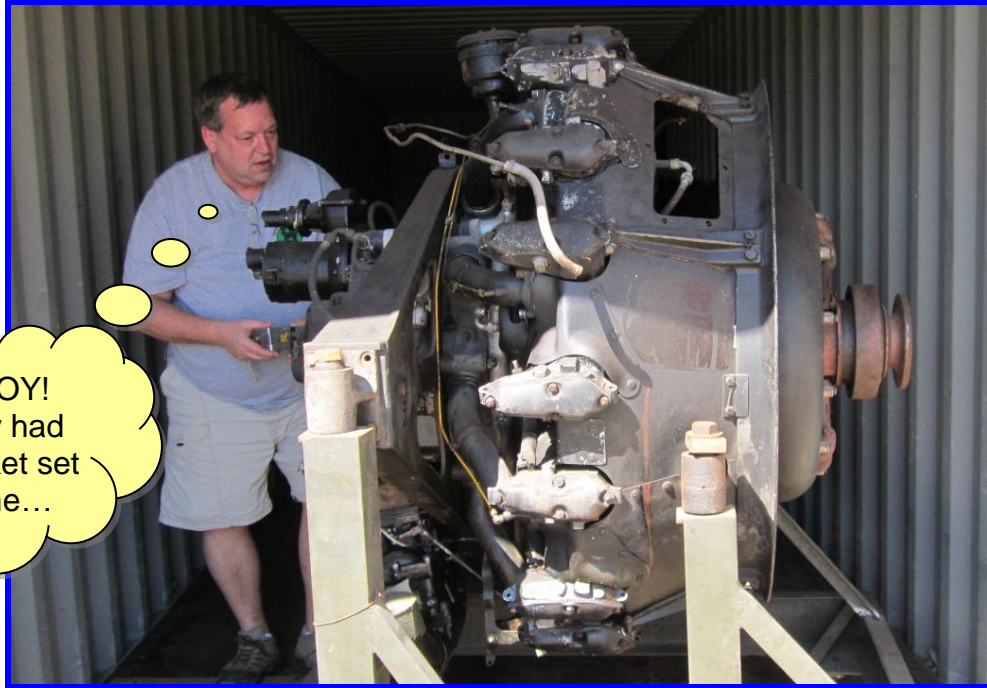
Tim Darrach

Atlanta AMPS Regional Show

The Atlanta AMPS Regional Show in conjunction with the Atlanta Military Figure Society was held 19-21 February at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center. Several members from our club attended and had a great time especially the opportunity to visit the National Armory and Cavalry Museum on Ft. Benning, GA, along with the Restoration Facilities. We were given unlimited access to all the vehicles in the collection including German and Soviet tanks, anti-tank guns and artillery equipment. "Unlimited access" meaning climbing in and around the pieces in the collection. Besides visiting Ft. Benning we were all able to purchase those wants and needs from the vendors at the Show. I'm sure everyone came away with everything they needed or didn't need but, just had to have. Pictures of the show along with pictures of Ft. Benning restoration center will be added soon to our website.

For a great article by Len Dyer, the director of the facility. See the following link:
http://www.army.mil/article/63301/Final_Armor_School_museum_vehicles_arrive

One person in our group was particularly happy when he found out a Sherman Radial Engine was in one of the Conex boxes on the grounds.



Oh, BOY!
If I only had
my socket set
with me...

Results for "Wildcat" Entries in the Atlanta AMPS Regional Show

| <u>Subject</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Award</u> |
|--|------------------------|---------------|
| Intermediate | | |
| Mk. I "Female" British Tank, Somme Battle Period, 1916 (1/72, Masterbox) | Tony Abbott | GOLD |
| Grant Mk. I - El Alamein (1/72, Mirage) | Tony Abbott | SILVER |
| Merkava (Mk. I) (1/72, Italeri / ESCI) | Tony Abbott | SILVER |
| FT-17 Renault (1/35, Meng) | Phil Cavender | GOLD |
| M3 Lee "Kentucky" (1/35, Academy) | Phil Cavender | SILVER |
| Advanced | | |
| Dingo Mk 1 (1/72, S-Models) | Rebecca Hettmansperger | GOLD |
| Mk I "Male" British Tank, Gaza Strip (1/72, Master Box) | Rebecca Hettmansperger | SILVER |
| Crusader MkI/II Cruiser Tank Mk.VI (1/72, S-Models) | Rebecca Hettmansperger | SILVER |
| M60 Patton (1/35, Italeri M60A1 + AEF Designs resin Early M60 Turret) | Carl Wethington | GOLD |

A few sample pictures taken at Ft. Benning, GA Museum Restoration Facility



Inside the Main Facility



Outside Storage of various Tanks



Outside Storage of various Tanks



Inside the Sherman Tank Display Building



Inside the Sherman Tank Display Building



Radio Sets in the Collection



Sample Picture showing the Detail of a Road Wheel in the Collection

Dangers of Modeling

Do you know the dangers of modeling? Not only the passing grimace from our wives wondering when we're going to cut the grass but, there are considerable health hazards present. Modeling has inherent dangers because of all the tools and chemicals we use. Who doesn't keep a Band-Aid® handy for those pesky slips of the X-ACTO® knife?



The risks can be divided into two categories:

Short Term

- Hand and eye injuries- sharp X-ACTO® knives and flying sprues.
- Eye injuries caused by chemicals-contaminations by fumes from superglues, thinner etc.
- Fire-Flammable thinners, some glues and of course cigarettes.

Long Term

- Allergic reactions by long term use of chemicals.
- OPS (Organophosphate poisoning syndrome) causing brain damage by the long term use of solvents.
- Respiratory Problems

For an in-depth summary of the dangers visit the following 2 websites:

<http://www.v2rocket.com/start/scale/fr/health.html>

<http://www.missing-lynx.com/articles/other/health.htm>

I can attest to a health issue I've developed during my short stint at modeling. Even though I use Acrylics I still get redness in my eyes presumably caused by the fumes associated with some alcohol based acrylic paints or with the fumes from the use of cyanoacrylate glue. I, therefore, keep a bottle of artificial tears handy.

New Releases 2015 – Academy

Released October 2015

- Pz bef.wg.35(t) "German Command Tank", 1/35th scale, Kit # 13313
- Tiger-I "Gruppe Fehrmann, Essel 1945", 1/35th scale, Kit # 13299
- MAGACH 7.c "Gimel", 1/35th scale, Kit #13297

Released July 2015

- M4A3 Sherman w/T34 "Calliope", 1/35th scale, Kit # 13294

Released June 2015

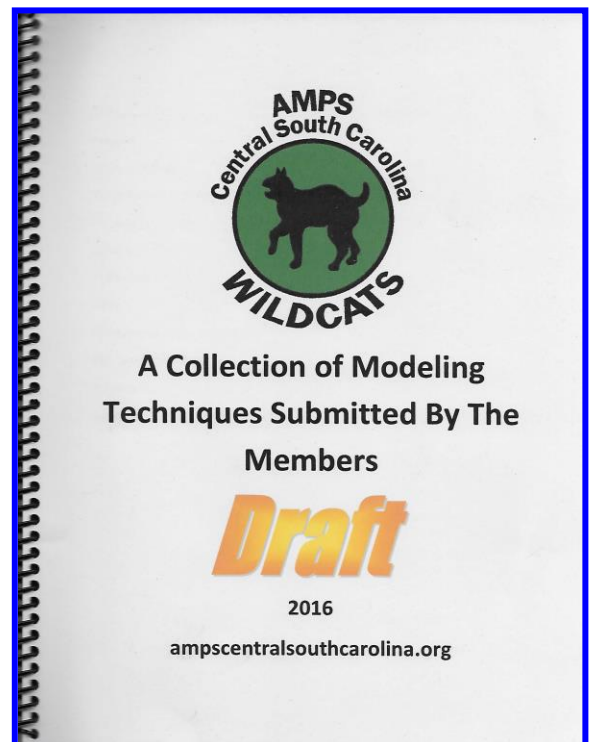
- U.S. Army M60A2 "Patton", 1/35th scale, Kit # 13296
- T-34/85 No. 183 Factory "Berlin 1945", 1/35th scale, Kit # 13295

Your Favorite Technique

All of us have our favorite techniques for building scale models even new beginners. Techniques that you have learned through the years which have enhanced your building skills. Even the simplest which you may find to be helpful to all our members. This section will be dedicated to techniques submitted by the members.

I'll include 1 or 2 submissions in the monthly newsletter. If we can get several within the next year I think we can compile them and offer for sale. Does anyone remember those cook books the churches use to have? They would ask the congregation to write down their favorite recipes. These were compiled and placed into a book. We could have them bound by one of the office supply houses. Just a thought on the booklet.

These consist of techniques given to me by some of the club members. The following picture is an example I have been compiling from some members just in the short time I've been involved.



What's With All The Military Dozer Models Arriving on the Market?

"A Special Thanks to Tony Abbot for the inspiration in writing this article."

It seems every time you open an email or turn a page in a magazine, companies are releasing their versions of bulldozers. Was it that up till now there weren't many kits on the market except expensive resin kits? Was it that bulldozers are the new genre in military modeling? Why were so many released in 2015 and some future releases in 2016? What caused this interest with so many in a short period of time? I can understand that the new technique of slide molding may have had something to do with it but, did the demand for bulldozers justify the cost of new molds and expected profits? Or was it that CAT (Caterpillar) had so much of an influence on producing equipment for the military? These are some questions I've asked myself but, I found no real answers. Maybe our club members can help. If you have an idea, let me know and I'll include the answers in the next newsletter. Send your thoughts and answers to my email address. The following is a list of what I found in model kits for bulldozers which may not be all inclusive.

Plastic Kits

MiniArt

- US Armored Bulldozer, Kit No 35188, 1/35th. Released 2015
- US Army Bulldozer, Kit No 35195, 1/35th. Re-box 2015
- US Tractor D7 w/ D7N Towing Winch, Kit No 35174, 1/35th. Released 2015
- US Army Tractor w/ Angled Dozer Blade, Kit No 35184, 1/35th. Re-box 2015

Mirror Models

- U.S. Armored Bulldozer CAT D7, Kit No. 35852, 1/35th. Re-box 2015
- U.S. Army Recovery Tractor CAT D7, Kit No. 35853, 1/35th. Re-box 2015
- U.S. Military Bulldozer CAT D7, Kit No.35851, 1/35th. Re-box 2015
- U.S. Tracked Tractor (Military Crawler) CAT D7, Kit No. 35850, 1/35th. Released 2015
- U.S. Military Bulldozer Caterpillar D7, Kit No 35851, 1/35th. Re-box 2015

Meng

- D9R Armored Bulldozer, Kit No. SS002, 1/35th. Released 2013
- D9R DOOBI Armored Bulldozer, Kit No. SS-010, 1/35th. Future Re-box 2016

Tamiya

- Komatsu G40 Bulldozer, Kit No. 32565, 1/48th. Released 2010

Resin Kits

Plusmodels

- STALINETS S-60 Soviet Caterpillar Tractor, Kit No. 063, 1/35th. Release Date TBA

Wespe Models

- Caterpillar RD-4 Bulldozer, in 1/48th, 1/50th, 1/72th, and 1/87th. Release Date TBA

Resicast

- U.S. Dozer 'Le Tourneau', Kit No.351144, 1/35th. Released 1997

Stok Verlinden

- U.S. Dozer 'Le Tourneau', Kit No. Sto-011k, 1/48th. Released 1994

VT-Models

- DK6 Bulldozer, Kit No. 111aF3050, 1/35th. Released Date TBA

Members Build Blogs

Build Blogs give an in-depth review of the construction process and allow the builders to share their knowledge. We are fortunate to have some of the members in our club with build blogs on modeling web sites.

Mike Roof has 2 on Track-Link.com:



MiniArt T-44 Soviet Medium Tank, Kit # 35193
http://www.track-link.com/forums/site_blogs/27686



Bronco Loyd Carrier No. 2, Mk II (Tracked Tractor), # CB35188,
towing a Riich British Ordnance QF Mk. IV A-T Gun 6 Pdr, # 35042
http://www.track-link.com/forums/site_blogs/22053

Jeff Nelson has 1 on Armorama.com:



Fine Molds Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Type 60 APC, FM40
http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=Squad&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=213731&page=1#2056793

Additionally, Jeff did an In-Box-Review of this kit.
<http://armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=Reviews&file=index&req=showcontent&id=9272>

Keith Frape also has 1 on Armorama.com:



Chieftain Mk. 7 ARR (Tamiya + Accurate Armor Conversion)
http://www.armorama.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=Squad&file=index&req=viewtopic&topic_id=241027

Demonstration: Making Your Own Tow Cables

Frank Blanton

Frank became frustrated with kit tow cables and their seam lines and how they would break at inopportune moments. Even recently offered kit cables made of twine are often fuzzy in appearance even after applying Tamiya Super Thin liquid cement.

Finding the right replacement was tough because it had to be small in diameter, relatively soft and without surface fuzzies. Model ship rigging is close but often looks more like real rope than steel cable. Picture-hanging wire looks right, but is made from stiff steel or stainless steel and is too stiff to bend over contours on a fragile styrene model.

Frank finally found a material that was malleable and had no seams. Ultrawire can be found in angler's tackle shops and is made from fine-diameter copper wire, approximately .007"-.008" diameter. Locally, Green Top Sporting Goods stocks this product.

Another product that anglers use is lead fly tying wire. It comes in various sizes but you'll need the smallest size available for tow cables. The other sizes are good for other uses though.

Alternatively, you can scrounge off broken electronic devices and find small transformers in side that are wrapped with tiny wire.

Real tow cables start as single strands that are combined with others and twisted together. In turn, these are again bundled with other twists and twisted again. The final product is very strong and able to take much abuse.

Making scale tow cables is as simple as cutting a few strands and twisting them together. You can do as the real ones and twist the twisted wires together for a final cable, but getting the twists evenly applied is a little difficult. Frank likes to anchor one end of the wire in a vise while he spins the other end.

The cable ends have an eyelet for attaching to the vehicle towing hooks. These patterns differ across armies and eras, so check your references. You can use pieces of tape or lead foil to help you form the cable ends to match what you need. It's interesting to note that the real tow cables are often coated in a grease preservative to repel moisture and prevent rust, but this means it attracts dust. Be aware of this when painting your home-grown cables. At all times avoid bright silver! A chemical called "Blacken-It" is useful to stain the wire cables before painting. This helps to prevent the paint from chipping off, but it's not foolproof. Art and craft stores also carry a liquid stain intended for stained glass work that works similarly to Blacken-It.



Below: Frank's materials for making his tow cables. From the left, ship rigging, lead wire, two varieties of Ultrawire, Mission Models Multi-tool.

AMPS National Election

"The annual election for the following officers is right around the corner: 1VP, 2VP Canada, 2VP South, 2VP Northwest, 2VP West and Secretary. Currently, the two west coast regions are combined as we've had no one step up to take over the Northwest region. All the current incumbents are running for re-election. The voting runs from 1-15 March 2016 and will be conducted through the AMPS web-site. Please encourage all Chapter members who are active members of AMPS to vote in this election".

*Mike Petty
AMPS Chief Judge,
2nd VP, US South Region*

Support Our Local Vendors

Hobby Town USA
10120 Two Notch Rd # 5, Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 736-0959

New Brookland Railroad & Hobby
405 State St, West Columbia, SC 29169
(803) 791-3958

Ray's Hobbies & More
5633 Broad St, Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 983-5084

"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..."

Well, folks, that's all for this month.

As your new editor of "The Wildcat" I would like to thank the members for allowing me to be a part of this club. In the coming months I will need everyone's help in ensuring this newsletter meets all your expectations for the content of the newsletter. If everyone can comment on this issue and give me your input I would certainly appreciate it. And a special thanks goes to Mike Roof and Jeff Nelson for their hard work in putting together a newsletter during the past years. Send your suggestions to my email address.

Happy modeling,

Phil Cavender

Editor, The Wildcat
AMPS Central SC "Wildcats"