



Welcome everyone to the last issue of *The Wildcat* for volume 2. We've had a busy and productive 2011, and everyone in the club should be proud of what we've accomplished this year! I hope that the club is moving in a direction that you're happy with and that you're having fun with your membership. And, certainly, if this is not the case, speak up and let everyone know what you'd like to do different. Our club is a group effort and will only be successful for as long as it meets the needs of all of its members. So, don't sit in silence if you're not happy or if you have some ideas that you'd like to see adopted or implemented.

We started 2011 off by assisting in the judging and show administration for AMPS contests in Atlanta (their two-day regional) and the international show in Fredericksburg, VA. In total, I believe that we put in some 22 man-hours of judging and ACJ duties at these two shows – not bad for our first year as a group contributing to them!

We also started up our club website which now has almost 42,600 hits (as of writing this).

Of course, the "Big Event" this year was hosting our first AMPS contest. As all of you know, that endeavor was a huge success! In addition to running the show, almost every member of the club got certified as official AMPS judges – no small feat that!

In August, we put on a recruiting display as part of the South Eastern Toy Soldier Show at the SC State Museum. Again, another very successful showing for our club, and one that has a lot of potential for paying off in the future with other public display opportunities.

This year, we completed our first group-build, the StuG IV Project started last year, and we also started our second group-build, the AM-Works sponsored PE-Panther Project. Both of these builds are now featured predominantly on our website.

And, just two weeks ago, we put on our second public recruiting display / exhibit as part of the Columbia Army Air Base's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event hosted by the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation. (See the feature article in this newsletter).

Our next meeting will be our second annual Christmas party-social, and in between all of these activities, we've held our regular meetings and welcomed several new members into our group. Our membership roll now stands at 16 active members. Our treasury has grown large enough for us to start making some small contributions to the larger AMPS, model-building, and historic preservation communities.

So, 2011, what a great year! And next year promises to be just as good, if not better!

### **Last Meeting Minutes:**

At our last regular meeting on 9 November, we followed our usual agenda. There were 9 members in attendance, and welcomed two new members, Tom Billett and Dave Cicimurri, for a total of 11 attendees.

Club business conducted: 1) We discussed and voted approval to sponsor the "Best Armor" award at the IPMS R12 convention to be held 28 April, 2012 in Columbia. The amount authorized was \$30 which was then paid out of the treasury. (Mike Roof presented the Mid-Carolina IPMS with a \$30 check for the trophy package on 17 November, 2011 at their meeting.) 2) We discussed and got consensus on holding a "Gift Exchange" at our 8 December meeting. The HobbyTown USA store has offered to provide light refreshments at that meeting. 3) The treasury also reimbursed \$16.24 for the club tee-shirt sent to Brian Domanski, AM-Works, as token of thanks for their sponsorship and the donation of numerous review products. 4) Scott Amey provided a treasurer's finance report.

The rest of the meeting followed our usual agenda for "Show & Tell" and open discussion of model building topics.

### **Next Meeting Agenda:**

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

6:00 pm (1800): Meeting starts / Admin Business – This month's business: 1) Discuss and vote to send donation to the SC Historical Aviation Foundation 2) Discuss and vote on trophy sponsorship for the AMPS Atlanta regional and AMPS International shows 3) Raffle

6:10 pm (1810): Christmas Gift Exchange – "Round-Robin" style. Rules are posted below.

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 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 of Interest:**

**December 14, 2011, 6:00 pm (1800):** Our next meeting at the HobbyTown USA store on Two Notch Road. **(Christmas party!)**

**February 17-19, 2012,** AMPS Atlanta Regional Contest, Atlanta Marriott Century Center, 2000 Century Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30345.

**April 28, 2012,** IPMS R-12 Convention hosted by IPMS Mid-Carolina "Swamp Fox." National Guard Armory, 1225 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC. **(AMPS Volunteers needed for club display table.)**

**April 26-28, 2012,** AMPS International Show, WW2 Victory Museum, Auburn, IN.

**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

**Aug 8-11, 2012, IPMS / USA National Convention, Orlando, FL**

**Aug 18 (Tentative), 2012, SE Toy Soldier Show hosted by SCMMS, SC State Museum, 301 Gervais St. Columbia, SC. (AMPS Volunteers needed for club display table.)**

### **Christmas Gift Swap Rules**

The following are the rules for the Christmas gift exchange on 8 December. No one has to participate, but "you can't win if you don't play!" So, if you want to participate, bring a wrapped, model-building related gift to the meeting. (Otherwise, you can sit on the sidelines and watch the fireworks!)

- 1: The # of rounds of the Christmas swap is determined by the # of people participating plus one bonus round.
- 2: Gifts are wrapped so the items are unknown before opening.
- 3: Gift can only move once during a round.
- 4: Participant has a choice at the beginning of a round of any remaining wrapped gifts or a known (unwrapped) gift in the possession of another member that has not moved once during the round.
- 5: The 1<sup>st</sup> round person gets one more selection in what is called the bonus round. He may select a gift in the possession of another participant. His rejected gift goes back to un-claimed or picked by an empty handed participant. Gifts move only once this round until the swapping is concluded.
- 6: After the gift swap, members are encouraged to trade or barter for items more to their preference.

Thanks to Tony Abbott for these rules! (Hopefully Tony Abbott will also take charge of honcho'ing this rodeo, since I've never done one of these!)

### **Newsletter Feature Article:**

#### **AMPS Club Exhibition at CAAB 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**



On December 3, 2011, the AMPS Central SC "Wildcats" chapter participated in the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for the Columbia Army Air Base. The event was hosted by the SC Historic Aviation Foundation in honor of the veterans, civilian workers and their families who trained, worked and were stationed at the airbase. During WWII, CAAB was a major training site for the pilots and crews of the B-25 bomber, and during the war, more than 200 airmen from CAAB were killed in various training accidents.

The SCHAF is dedicated to preserving the contributions that the citizens of SC have made to the history of flight and has set itself the task of creating a SC aviation museum and memorial. This future facility will have as its

centerpiece one of the two B-25 Mitchell bombers from CAAB that crashed into area lakes and which have been recovered.

The Central SC AMPS chapter was invited along with the Mid-Carolina "Swamp Fox" and Sumter / Shaw AFB IPMS chapters to display member models, and we organized our display around an all WWII armored vehicle subjects exhibit. Members displayed examples of Axis armor covering the Panzer I through the Panzer VI Tiger II and several Japanese tanks. However, the emphasis of our display was on Allied armor in honor of the veterans, active duty, and family members in attendance to the CAAB event.



AMPS club members exhibited Allied armored vehicles from France, Canada, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States. Each model had its own display card that indicated its nationality (using colored flags), the vehicle's nomenclature, the theater or major operation that it was involved in, and the year. All told, the AMPS display included more than 35 of the best armored scale models built by our members!

In addition to the models displayed, we also provided information about AMPS, the organization. We had display copies of the *Boresight* and the *Wildcat Newsletter*. We

also provided flyers and meeting information for our chapter and the newest AMPS chapter, the *Piedmont Panzergruppen*, which meets in Greenville, SC.



The "model row" displays put on by all three clubs were very well received and patronized by event attendees, and the highlights of the entire day were those veterans who stopped by when their eyes were caught by some aircraft of vehicle that they remembered from their time in service. Often these gentlemen would then begin to reminisce and relate their first hand experiences and memories about the subject.

These types of public displays are a great tool for model clubs to get their members' works into view and help inform and educate the viewers about AMPS, the local chapter, and the history of armored fighting vehicles

and the men and women who have fought alongside of them. Participation in the CAAB 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event and the opportunity to show our support for the veterans, active duty, DoD civilian workers and their families was a great honor and great fun!

## “The Day Room”

Well, my friends, another year comes to a close and in front of us is yet another one that promises to be even better!

Some things we all have to look forward to and to begin to think and plan for in 2012:

The Atlanta AMPS regional contest February 17-19 – I know that I'm planning to attend and will be assisting with judging and whatever else I can help with. I encourage everyone to remember just how much help we received from other AMPS members (especially from Atlanta) during our first contest and to keep in mind that we'll certainly want their help again this summer! What goes around - comes around! So, if you can, make plans to attend the Atlanta show and be sure to volunteer to judge!

The IPMS R-12 Regional Contest April 28 – Most of us have "dual citizenship" in both AMPS and IPMS, and this show is one that as many of us as possible should participate in. Also, it would be nice to man an AMPS recruiting and info table at the R-12 show, so volunteers will be needed there. And, once again, everyone who attends should offer to assist with judging, if possible. (After all, almost 100% of you are trained and "certified" AMPS judges!)

(Unfortunately, the IPMS R-12 Regional Contest does conflict with the AMPS International Show April 26-28 in Auburn, IN. I know I wish I could attend both, but I know I'm putting my priority here on supporting the local IPMS chapter's hosting of the R-12 event. There are some behind-the-scenes and long-term goals with this show which, if they come to fruition, will be of great benefit of the entire scale model-building community in our area. A successful R-12 show is really important for all of us!)

And by the by, did everyone see the latest *Boresight*, V19 N4? Mike Petty, the AMPS National Head Judge, provides a by-name list of all the newly certified AMPS judges for 2011. Did anyone happen to notice that 9 out of the 49 new AMPS judges were from AMPS Central SC? That's 20% of all the newly minted AMPS judges for last year – 20% from just our chapter! You guys can all be proud of how you stepped up to the plate, there! (If you didn't see that issue of the *Boresight*, then you need to join AMPS this year so you can start getting it!)

Our second contest will be next July 14 (T) – Our friends in the SCMA have already reserved the venue and made sure that we're going to jointly host again. Please mark this one down on your calendars. Just like last year, this will be an "all hands" effort!

And, don't forget, next August 8-11 – The IPMS Nationals in Orlando, FL! I know that I'm already making my plans (schemes?!) for attending, and I know that some of you must be doing the same. Let us all know your plans, and maybe we can all coordinate our itineraries.

In the near term, we need to come up with a theme (assuming we want one) for our July 2012 contest. Put on your thinking caps. I plan to start promoting our show after the start of the new year, so we need to select a show theme fairly soon.

Finally, we should consider sponsoring trophy packages for both the AMPS Atlanta and the AMPS International shows.

Happy modeling!

Mike

Mike Roof

Chapter Contact