

December 2014

Tactical Notes

WAR!!!



**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, DECEMBER
18TH, 2014. 6:00 PM CLUB DINNER**

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“Tactical Notes” is the Newsletter of the Military Modelers Club of Louisville, Inc. We appreciate your taking the time to read this little newsletter. We'd appreciate it even more if you would write something. **Yes, I am talking to you!**

Editor's Note

Dear members,

For the past few years (more years than I'd actually like to count) I've been writing this column to let you members who didn't make it to the previous month's meeting what happened. I've tried to make the summary short and factual, rarely taking up a full column in each issue.

However, since this likely to be my final column for the foreseeable future I am going to take an editor's privilege and write a bit more than I normally do. First though, a bit of housekeeping.

If you missed last month's meeting, you missed a good one. You also missed a year's worth of potassium. I haven't seen that many bananas in one place since I got a look inside Jane Goodall's backpack. Despite the lobbying, things didn't break well for the primate party. The official election results were:

President: Stu Cox 12 Eugene “Koko” Montesario 2

Vice President: Terry Hill 12 Eugene “Koko” Montesario 2

Treasurer: Alex Restrepo 13 Eugene “Koko” Montesario 1

Secretary: Stewart Gordon 13 Eugene “Koko” Montesario 1

Member at Large: Randy Fuller 6 Rich Guetig 5 Eugene “Koko” Montesario 4

After the election and the post-election riots, the meeting came back to order. The show and tell was held, with numerous members bringing their work in progress. Doc O'Connor provided us with an excellent modeling presentation. As you all know Doc is a superior modeler and his talk was very educational. Hopefully, as Stu notes, more members will step forward in 2015 to do presentations. The raffle was huge and a number of members walked away with some great prizes. I urge you all to come to the meetings, if for no other

reason than to participate in these great raffles.

The December meeting is our Christmas dinner. This year it will be held at Rafferty's in Dupont. We have a room set aside. Please make every effort to attend. Please bring your family. These are always great.

Guys, it has been a real pleasure being the newsletter editor and club secretary the past years. I think, thanks to the club members, we've put out a good newsletter. We've been the Region IV newsletter of the year the past 3 years. We've had a number of our articles reprinted in the Journal. I can think of no higher compliments and it has all be thanks to you, the members.

This club is like family to me. My closest friends are here and I would rather hang out with the guys from the club than do almost anything else. I never realized truly how important you guys were to me until this year; until we lost one of our own. Mike Nofsinger's death hit me hard. I am not ashamed to admit that I cried on more than one occasion. It was as close to losing a brother as I have come. For all the sadness it represented, it did bring home to me in a very real way how much all of you mean to me. I want to take this opportunity to tell you that and to thank you for the opportunity to serve. 2015 will be the best yet. Step forward and offer to help your new officers in any way you can. A good way to do that would be to write an article or two for the new Editor. Stew will need all your help.



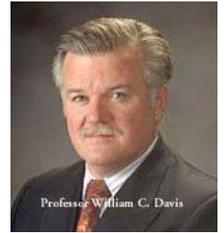
Book Review: The Battle of New Market

By William C. Davis

ISBN 0-8117-0576-5

249 Pgs

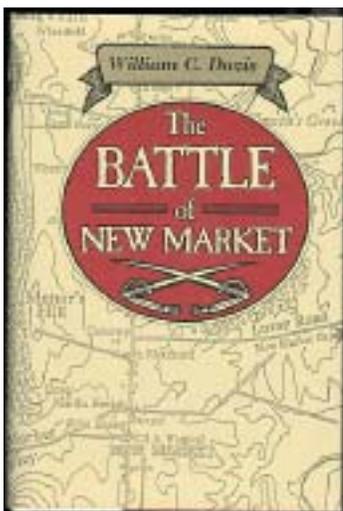
Review by D.M Knights



William C. Davis has forgotten more about the Civil War than most people will ever know. He is one of the preeminent authors of Civil War history with countless books to his credit. New Market is a small town in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, at the crossroads of the Valley Turnpike and the road thru the New Market gap in Massanutten Mountain. This book, first published in 1975 was the first serious work on the Battle of New Market. The battle itself would be a little remembered since the number of troops engaged was relatively small and the result had little long lasting effect, were it not for the presence and use of the cadets of the Virginia Military Institute during the battle.

Davis does an excellent job in all aspects of the book, from the description of the strategic situation in the Valley at the beginning of campaign season in 1864, to laying out the composition and nature of the opposing armies. The two generals who commanded the respective armies could not have been more different. For the Confederates, the handsome Kentuckian and former Vice President of the United States, John C. Breckinridge. For the Union, a recent immigrant and military adventurer in Europe with a limited command of the English language, Franz Sigel.

The battle took place in in the small hamlet of New Market. Due to Brecknridge's good planning and swift action, and due to Sigel's poor planning, the force that met at New Market were roughly equal in number, even though Sigel had more than twice the number of troops under his command than Breckinridge. Unlike most battles in the Civil War, New market took place in a driving thunderstorm.



Davis does a wonderful job of laying out the development of the battle and the many maps make clear the positions and movements of the troops at different times during the encounter. This makes following the story of the battle much easier for those readers who aren't already familiar with the battle.

Of course, the compelling part of the New Market battle is the charge of the VMI cadets and their capture of a cannon

from an enemy battery. Davis doesn't disappoint here with reference to numerous first hand sources to paint the picture of the VMI cadets charge in vivid detail.

Like most any book by this author, The Battle of New Market is well worth the read. I recommend it.

Book Review: Confederate Blockade Runner 1861-1865 By Angus Konstam

Osprey New Vanguard Series #92

ISBN 1 84176 636 4

48 pages

8 pages of color illustrations

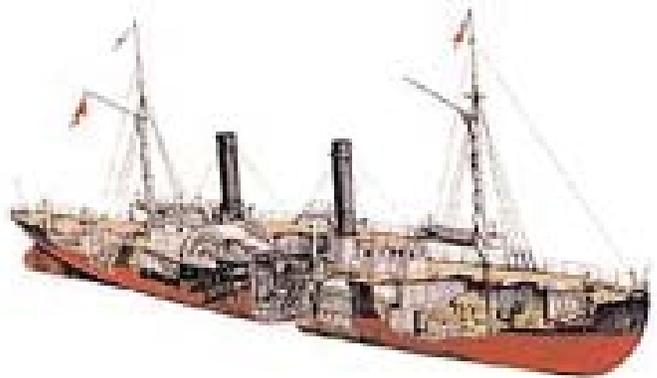
Price \$13.50 at Scale Reproductions Inc.

Review by D. M. Knights IPMS/USA 17656, IPMS/Canada C6091

New Vanguard

OSPREY
New Vanguard

Confederate Blockade Runner 1861-65



Angus Konstam - Illustrated by Tony Brian

To me, one of the fascinating parts of the civil war is the naval war. It was a time of great advances in naval technology. The first battle between armored ships took place and by the end of the civil war, the era of the wooden ship was firmly at an end. Additionally, the size and power of naval guns grew exponentially to keep up with new armored ships.

I've got a particular interest in the part of the naval war that revolved around blockade running. The idea of fast greyhound-like ships sneaking in and out of southern ports and trying to avoid the, by the end of the war, massive U.S. naval power guarding those ports. Sadly, there aren't a lot of books on the blockade running ships themselves. Thus, this book, published in 2004 fills a void.

The book is by no means comprehensive. It is only 48 pages, with 8 of those devoted to color illustrations of various blockade runners. Amazingly there are quite a number of period photos in this book of various blockade runners. The author has done a good job of gathering these and they serve to illustrate the wide variety of ships that were used as blockade runners.

The text is well written and is easy to read. It covers blockade running from

the early years, when almost any ship could be pressed into service as a blockade runner, to the end of the war, when, one by one, the southern ports were closed and the remaining ones were more closely guarded. The tightening of the blockade, and the money that could be made from even a single successful trip lead to purpose-built ships being manufactured to break the blockade. Most of these were made in Great Britain. Camouflage was also to see its first appearance in naval warfare as blockade runners were painted shades of black and gray in an attempt to make them less visible to the Union navy patrol ships.

This book is a welcome addition on a subject that has not been sufficiently documented. Sadly, for the modeler, there aren't any plastic or resin kits of a civil war blockade runner. I hope that Flagship models or one of the other "cottage industry" manufacturers will remedy this in the future. I recommend this book. My only criticism of the book is that by the end of its 48 pages, you find yourself wanting more.

Book Review: "Confederate Submarine and Torpedo Vessels 1861-65"...

by Dennis Sparks

This is the seventh title by author Angus Konstam and illustrator Tony Bryan on various aspects of naval warfare during the American Civil War. It was published in 2004 as

a part of Osprey Publishing's New Vanguard series.

During the American Civil War, the Confederate states were faced with a relative lack of industrial capacity compared to the Union and so were compelled to rely upon international trade to support their war effort. However, almost all of the American



Confederate Submarines and Torpedo Vessels 1861-65



Navy had remained loyal to the Union, which enabled the North to enforce an effective naval blockade of the entire Southern coastline.

In an attempt to counter the Union's naval superiority, the Confederates attempted the further development and use of some of the then-emerging technologies that were destined to end the era of the wooden warship. Among these were the ironclad, the torpedo boat and the submarine, and it is these latter two that are the focus of this book. Instead of cannon, both were armed with only a spar torpedo,

an explosive device that was attached to the end of a long lance affixed to the front of the vessel.

The intent was to ram the target ship, relying on a percussion cap in the torpedo to cause it to explode, a scheme that could be as lethal to the attacker as to the target. Alternatively, the attacking vessel could dislodge the torpedo from the spar and attempt to leave it floating underneath the intended victim. After backing off to a safe distance the torpedo could then be detonated by means of a rope lanyard.

On the night of 17 February 1864, the CSS H.L. Hunley successfully exploded its torpedo under the stern of the USS Houstatonic, becoming the first submarine to sink an enemy vessel. This success was not repeated until the First World War fifty years later. However, the Hunley did not return from this mission, and remained lost for over 130 years.

There's been an increased awareness and interest in Civil War submarine efforts following the recovery of the wreck of the Hunley in August 2000, and this book is claimed to be one of the first to combine contemporary accounts of the Hunley in combat with details of its recovery and the ongoing investigation and preservation efforts. I was surprised to learn that the final commander of the Hunley was from Kentucky, and was fascinated to read the account of the \$20 gold coin that his fiancé had given him as a good luck charm. The

coin had saved his life at Shiloh in 1862, and was recovered in May 2001 during the excavation of the Hunley's interior.

Konstam also gives accounts of the several attacks against Union warships carried out by the semi-submersible steam powered torpedo boat CSS David. And there are brief descriptions of some of the other twenty or so less well known (and sometimes oddly named!) submarines and torpedo boats that were produced by both sides during the conflict, including the Union's USS Alligator, USS Stromboli and USS Intelligent Whale and the Confederacy's CSS Pioneer, CSS Midge, and CSS Squib.

While approximate dimensional data is given for some of the various vessels, along with a very few period photos, most of the illustrations are reproductions of 1860s-vintage artwork, and as such are not terribly useful for anyone attempting to model these subjects. However, there is a small modern cutaway illustration of David and a larger two-page cutaway illustration of Hunley that was made using information gleaned from the ongoing preservation work. These two illustrations may be of some use in detailing the several resin models of these two ships that are currently available. Somewhat surprisingly, there are neither photos nor accounts of the recovery of the Hunley

This article originally appeared in the April 2005 issue of Tactical Notes.

15" Rodman Civil War Gun

By J.R. Dietrich (Everyone's Favorite Uncle)

As many of you know, I have a love for artillery and various guns of this nature so it's only natural that I tackle another Civil War piece, in this case, the 15-Inch Rodman gun from Verlinden, kit no: 2022. Some may remember that my last Civil War piece, the Armstrong gun from RJ Productions, came out pretty good and was a fun build.

The same thing with this piece as well. Verlinden does a great job in not only the gun itself but also the peripheral materials such as deck, barrels, tools, etc. It's fun to work on a big hunk or resin and end up with a nice piece for display.

A History Lesson:

In 1844, a young Ordnance officer named Thomas Rodman conducted a series of tests to see if there was a way to produce larger artillery pieces than what was available. The problem was with the casting methods at the time. A cannon was cast around solid cores that cooled from the outside. This cooling process caused the metal to contract toward the outer surfaces of the gun, which resulted in structural irregularities in the metal. Large guns often ended up with cavities or pockets within the casting, which weakened the gun, causing it to burst when fired. Rodman used a different process of casting by casting around a hollow core, which would be cooled by water from the inside. The process caused the metal to contract from the inside, which strengthened the gun, and greatly enhanced its performance. His process required large quantities of water to handle the cooling process. Rodman claimed that he could make a gun of any size using his manufacturing methods. The 15-inch gun was the largest gun that was made that was in general use but he also made a 20-inch gun which went through a battery of tests in New York harbor



over a period of a couple of years at war's end. The gun was more of a novelty, as it required too much effort to house and move it although it did have good ballistic results for the time. The biggest limitation to the 15-inch and larger guns was the cannons weight, which relegated it largely to costal fortifications. I'm not quite sure how many of his designed guns saw actual service in the Civil War as most of his experimentation and production was after 1861. I do believe that the Union navy used one of the 15-inch guns in their effort to retake Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

The Kit:

The kit consists of 32 resin parts, two resin buckets, two resin barrels, and some plastic rod, which is to be cut into sections. I can't recall if it came with some string or scale rope as depicted in the box art as I didn't find any but that was after moving the kit around numerous times so I may have lost it if it was included. It also contains eight resin cannon balls molded to their stands. All of this I might add is very nicely done. The instruction sheet is one page with line drawings on where and what to assemble. It is pretty straightforward and you could probably assemble the kit just from the box art if needed.

There really isn't much in the way of cleanup although you will have to sand away any resin carrier. The resin castings are really nice, especially the timber, which has the graining etched in, which really helps out when painting. The only substitutions that I made were to replace the resin metal straps that hold the gun to the carriage. I removed the two fittings in each piece and then used lead foil cut to dimension.

You will first want to put together the wooden base, then assemble and paint the carriage, next the gun, and finally the peripherals.

Painting and Presentation:

After sanding all the pieces, I washed them all in a mild soap solution In order to remove any molding solvents, dust, oils, etc. I primed every piece with my favorite primer, Floquil's Railroad Primer Grey. It has a nice "bite" to it and provides a nice base for the rest of your paints.

I had a choice here as to the wood base. A grayish cast wood would probably have been more natural, however, I like to use a base coat of airbrushed Vajello's light wood colour. After this cured, I then brushed on some Burnt Umber oils and wiped it away with a clean cloth, which leaves a nice colour to the wood and enhances the wood grain. I used this same process on the wood

stands for the cannon balls.

The cannon balls themselves were primed as noted above then sprayed with a coat of Alclad gloss black. After this dried, I then sprayed Tester's Dark Anodonic Grey metalizer. Be careful to mask off the wooden stands so you will want to make sure that the oil paints are dry, which could take a couple of days. Once dry, try to avoid touching the balls themselves otherwise you will leave fingerprints.

The gun carriage and rails, etc. were painted in Tamiya flat black and dry brushed and weathered. I didn't overdo the weathering but if you wanted to and are into that kind of thing, this is the perfect piece. I believe you get some copper wire with the kit to make two eyelets that

get attached to the front of the gun mount. I opted for some eyelets that came from the train section of the hobby shop. All I had to do was drill the two holes; measure out the eyelets length, cut, paint, and super glue in place. The gun itself was painted in combination of enamel flat black and a touch of blue to give it that "cast" look.

The kit comes with two lengths of plastic rods, which, I cut in thirds, primed, and painted in burnt iron. I used flat black on barrel bands.

I found some "rope" which I stained with some tea to get rid of the glossy bright white looks and attached it to the back of the stand similar to the box art.



The bucket's "water" effect was a two-part resin that I picked up at Scale Reproductions. It is pricey but settles out pretty good. You get enough in the two bottles to last you a long, long time.

After completion, I mounted the whole thing in one of my drawer front bases, which I stained and sealed. I topped it off with a nice nameplate from our trophy supplier.

Conclusion:

This turned out to be a very relaxing kit to make. No funky joints, misalignments, etc. that you have with aircraft or armour kits. It is very straight forward and fun to do something other than the standard bill of fare, which we usually do at the shop.

I would suggest this kit to anyone, especially beginners, as there really isn't much that can go wrong. In addition, you get to do some research and find out things about our own Civil War that even I was unaware of. I am already working on another piece and plan to do several more in the near future. I hope to see some others in the club embrace this period of our history with their works of art as well.

As always, Happy Modeling!

The New Market Battlefield National Park

By D. M. Knights, Editor Emeritus

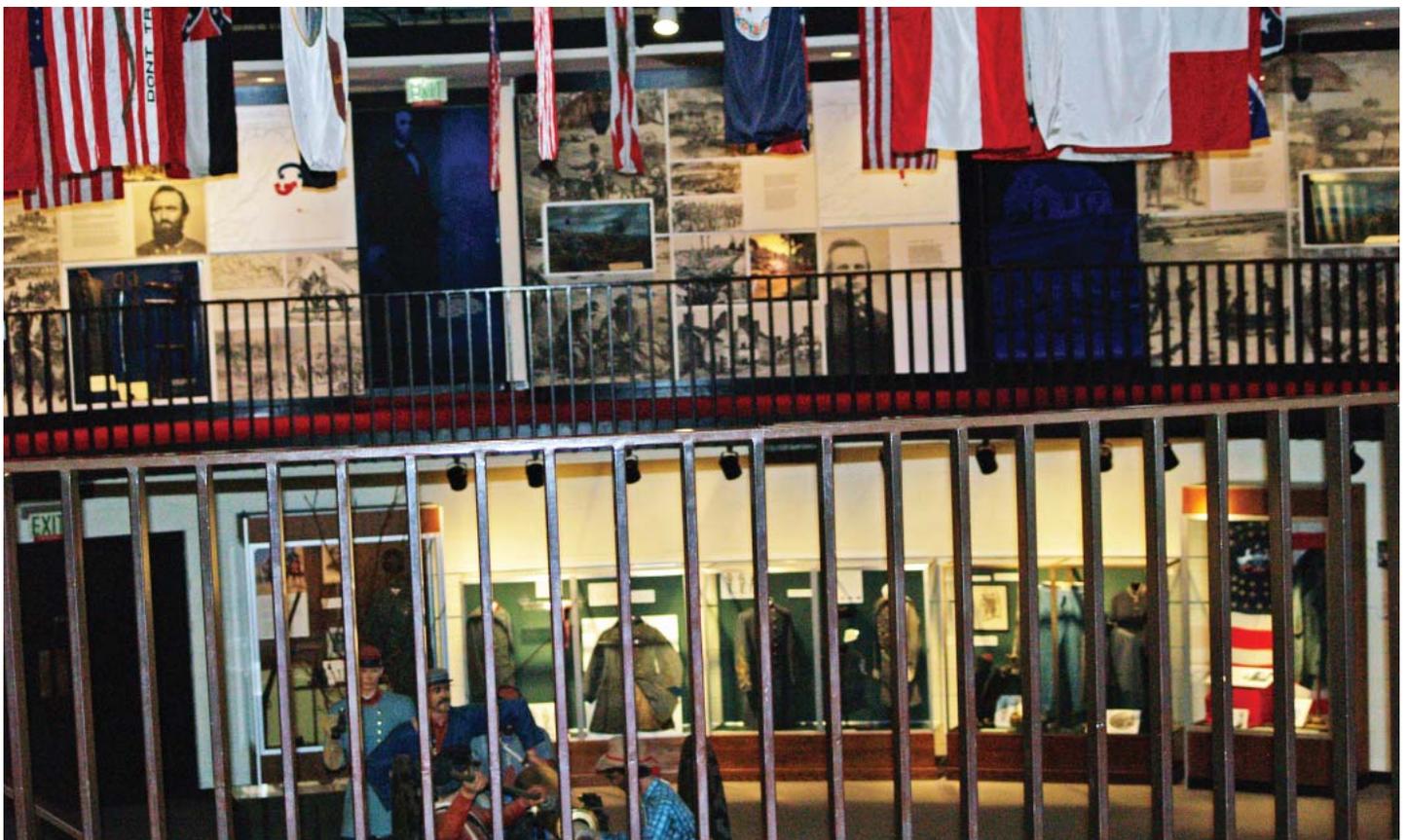
As modelers, many times we never get a chance to see the places where the items we model were used. For WWII modelers, only the luckiest of us will see the battlefields of Europe or the Pacific. Pearl Harbor is about the only place most of us might have a chance to see. (It is still on my bucket list.)

However, for the Civil War modeler, most of the battlefields are within easy driving distance of anyone living east of the Mississippi. I've managed to go to quite a number of them, including a memorable trip to the battlefield at Antietam with several members of MMCL while on the way to an AMPS National in Harve De Grasse, MD.

My favorite battlefield so far is the the battlefiled at New Market, VA. It is located in one of the most beautiful spots on earth, the Shenandoah Valley in central Virginia. The battlefiled itself is fairly small and can be thoroughly enjoyed in just a few hours. The museum and historical center is very nice. If you get a chance, I highly recommend a visit to the battlefield at New Market. What follows are some photos that I've taken during my last two visits to the park.



THE VIEW FROM THE PARKING LOT LOOKING BACK AT THE MUSEUM.



THE INSIDE OF THE MUSEUM SHOWING A FEW OF THE EXHIBITS.



THE APPLE ORCHARD THAT THE VMI CADETS HAD TO PASS THRU.



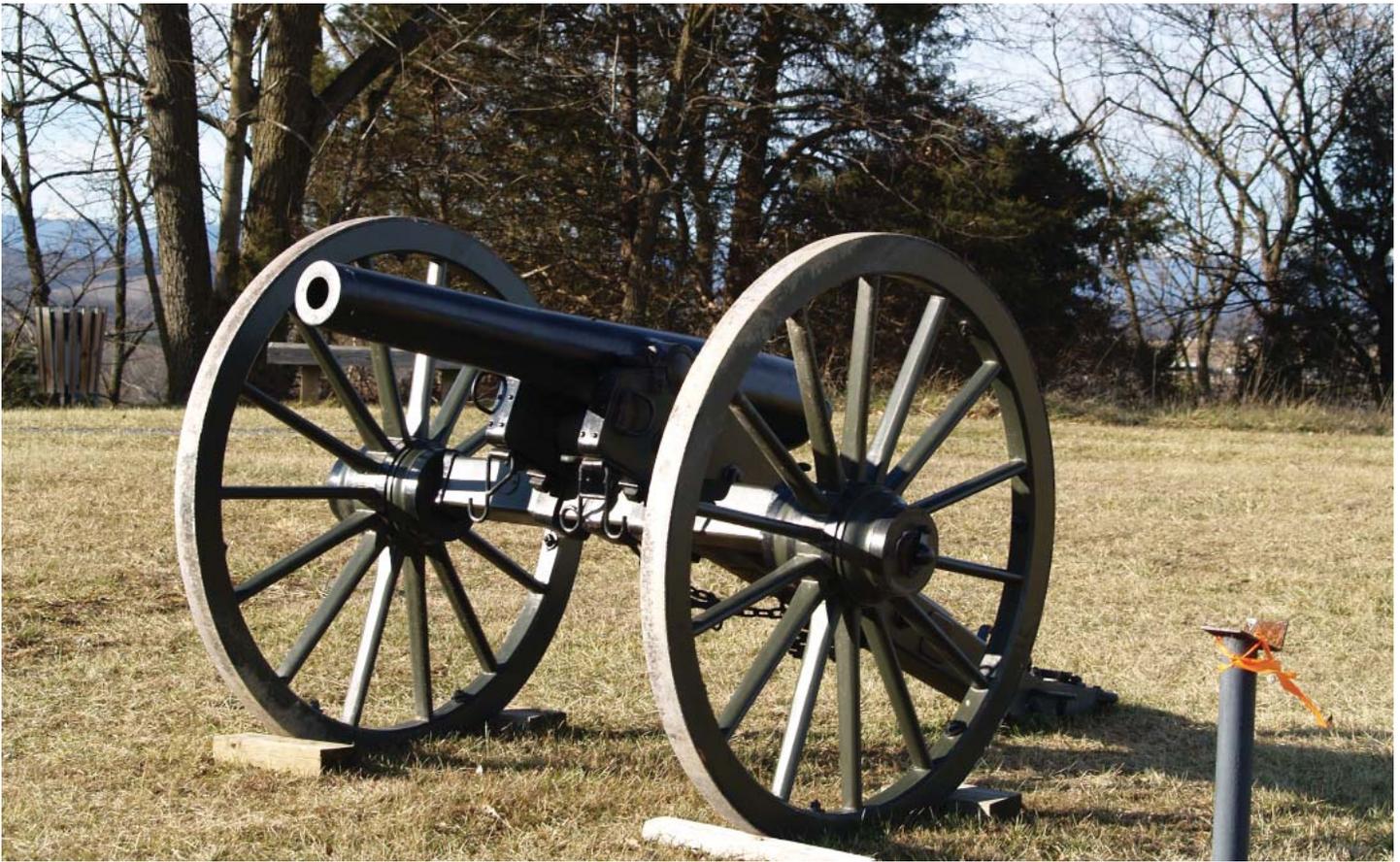
THE VIEW ACROSS THE “FIELD OF LOST SHOES”.



THE VIEW LOOKING BACK AT THE APPLE ORCHARD FROM THE FIELD.



LOOKING NORTH TOWARD THE DIRECTION THAT THE **F**EDERALS RETREATED



ONE OF THE MANY CANNON ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Financial Report

By ALEX RESTREPO

Nov 2014

PNC BANK

STARTING CASH BALANCE: \$3,971.25

CASH RECEIPTS	DATE	
WORKSHOP FEE	11/3/2014	\$70.00
WORKSHOP FEE	11/22/2014	\$35.00
WORKSHOP FEE	11/29/2014	\$45.00
RAFFLE	11/21/2014	\$38.00
WORKSHOP FEE	11/15/2014	\$35.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$223.00

CASH OR DEBIT EXPENSES:	DATE	
CHECK # 7044 (E) KYANNA RENT	11/11/2014	(250.00)
DC IPMS RENEWAL	11/6/2014	(30.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES		(\$280.00)
NET MONTHLY INCREASE(DECREASE):		(\$57.00)
ENDING CASH BALANCE:	Nov 2014	\$3,914.25

President's Page

By STU COX

MMCL Members,

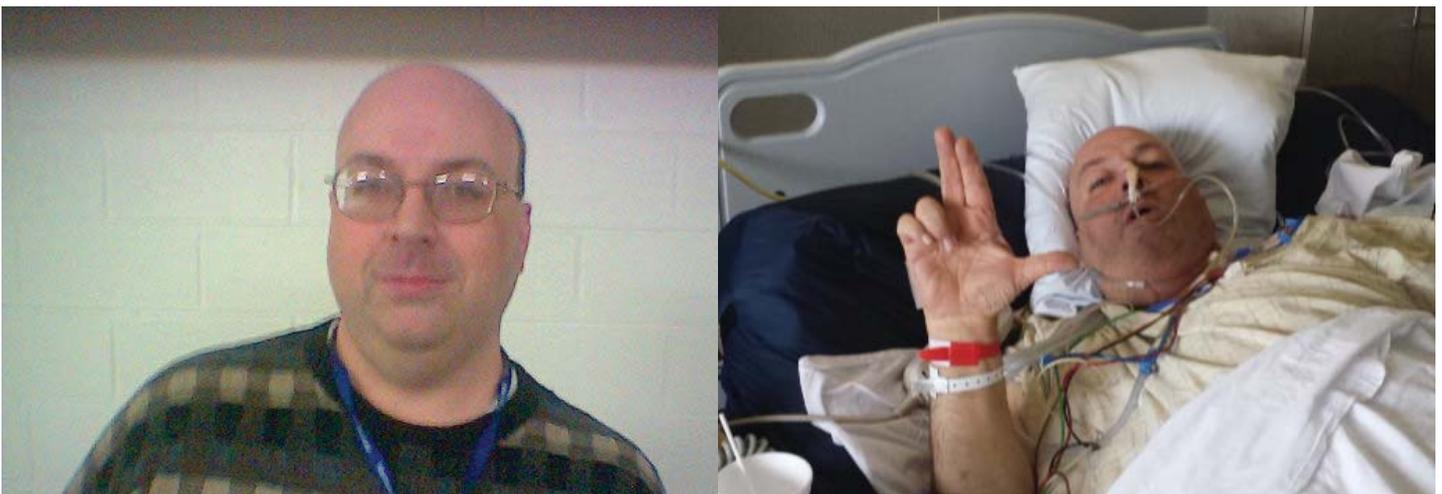
It's that time of year for a brief modeling break to take in dinner together and have a fun evening with fellow MMCL modelers. This Thursday, December 18th, we will have our holiday dinner at Rafferty's on Breckenridge Lane in ST. Mathews. Many folks come over at 6:00PM to converse over beverages, followed by dinner. We have a room reserved, and you are certainly welcome to bring a guest if you would like. Members are responsible for the cost of their own meal.

We'll have a number of auxiliary modeling sessions this holiday season again. We'll start off with a workshop session on Christmas Eve morning at KYANA. In addition to Saturday mornings, there are likely some possible Sunday sessions on the horizon as well. More to come as we work out our holiday schedule.

Starting with our January 2015 Meeting, we'll be asking our members to sponsor a program or presentation for each monthly club meeting. If you have interest in sharing experience on a modeling skill or process, or know of a good speaker or guest, please let me know and we will assign a date. We may start video recording these presentations for posting on our MMCL website.

Finally, let's each take a few minutes to reflect on members we lost this year. Each of us have fond memories of our friends departed, and often recollections are shared during our meetings and workshop sessions. We all share a common love for the scale modeling hobby. It's especially enjoyable when we are able to enjoy time spent on our hobby in fellowship with others who share the passion.

Here's to a fun, productive and happy modeling new year!



The Civil War Figures of C. Noel Walker

MMCL member C. Noel Walker has done numerous Civil War figures and busts. Below are a few of his recent builds.





Military Modelers of Louisville Membership Form 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Birth Date: _____ Year Joined Club: _____

IPMS # _____

Scale Modeling Interest/Subject: _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter by e-mail? The e-mail version of Tactical Notes is in full color and is sent using the PDF format: Yes ____ No ____

What are the advantages of membership to the Military Modelers Club of Louisville?

- Monthly meetings held on the third Thursday of the month at the club workshop located at 3821 Hunsinger Lane in Louisville KY. Quarterly Friday Night "Build Sessions" are held here also.
- A monthly subscription to the official newsletter of the Military Modelers Club of Louisville, Tactical Notes. Tactical Notes contains kit reviews, editorials and modeling techniques.
- The Club Workshop. MMCL has its own club workshop. This is a great place for modelers to build kits and have a good time. The club provides tables, work lights, an air booth and various tools. We also have quarterly evening model building sessions at this location.
- Quarterly in house model contests and "smackdown's" with prizes.
- Monthly model kit raffle.
- Annual club cookout.
- Annual IPMS Invitational Show & Contest!

All of this and more is included in your yearly \$10.00 membership (junior \$5.00) dues.

Please complete all information above and forward your check made out to MMCL for \$10.00 to:

Stuart Cox, President
Terry Hill, Vice-President
MMCL - 225 Executive Park
LOUISVILLE, KY 40207

scox2010@gmail.com

thill35434@aol.com

Please visit us on the web at: www.mmcl.org