

The Plastic Whittler



Our Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, March 15th at 7:00 pm**, at HobbyTown USA near Hamilton Place Mall.

Well it's the fourth quarter and the Tabler Challenge is down to the final weeks. Thanks as always is due to Mike Moore for his article on the Atlanta Figure show and the AMPS show from February. His article really makes this newsletter worth reading. Even if you don't build or paint figures the show is incredible just to walk around and look. Mike's words I believe will convince you to put this on your calendar for 2011. Photos from last month's meeting also round out this issue. Meanwhile I've got to go paint my model airplane!



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Philip Chandler's FW190



UPCOMING EVENTS	DATE
Cookeville 26th Annual MTMA Model Show and Swap Meet	Mar 13, 2010
IPMS/Knoxville - Smokey Mountain Mini-Con 28	Mar 27, 2010
April 3, 2010 - Phantom Phlashers Annual Phurball	April 3, 2010
IPMS/Memphis - Kingcon 2010	May 29, 2010
Atlanta Model Expo 2010 - Region 3 Convention	June 25-26, 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS	DATE
IPMS National Convention Phoenix, AZ	8/4-7/2010
IPMS/Huntsville	Oct ???, 2010
IPMS Murfreesboro Show	Nov 6, 2010



The 2010 Atlanta Figure Show and AMPS Atlanta

By Mike Moore

WOW.

After hearing about this show from Lynn, Tom, and Jason for a couple years, and trying to get to it myself for a couple of years, I finally made it down to Atlanta last month for a couple days and went to the show. Let me say it again. WOW. It was really a great day and a half. There was a lot of really good work on display, and the format was very conducive to meeting folks and talking and learning about the work that you took a fancy to.

First off, I think it was actually the first show I've been to that uses PVC pipe extensions on the table legs to raise the display tables up to a really comfortable height. You could take a good close look at everything without getting a sore back from hunching over. Second, everyone's name was on their entries. Some (or maybe many) like yours truly, just had their names on the entry forms. But all the old hands there had very nice name tags or plaques placed with their entries. Third, pretty much everyone who had work entered was wearing name tags. So, if you saw something you really liked and wanted to learn more about, you just had to match up the names and ask the questions. It happened to me. Late in the day on Saturday, a guy came up to me and asked me how I did the turnbuckles on the biplanes I had entered, and I wasn't anywhere near my models.

Fourth, if you think you've seen good figures at an IPMS show...well, you may have. But you'll see a lot more REALLY good figures at the Atlanta show. Another feature that was unique to and much appreciated by me was the fact that not only was everyone's work identified, but everyone had pretty much all their work presented together as collections. It was pretty cool to see everything a person did all in one place rather than spread all over the contest room like at an IPMS show.

In addition, last year, the Atlanta AMPS Chapter started a show in conjunction with the figure show. While the two groups seem to be pretty different, they definitely share some really cool synergies and the two events fit together well. Again, there was some really nice work on display on the AMPS side of the hotel, just not as much as on the Figure side. Hopefully they pick up some steam, because it's hard to see them being able to survive on their own if it was just the AMPS show as I don't think the entries would justify a venue.

Of course there were vendors and I somehow managed to again find stuff I just couldn't live without, like both styles of Sherman wading trunks from Tank Workshop. Now what do you think the odds are that at the rate I build armor, I'm going to build two Shermans with wading trunks? Get your hand down Petty!

As a final bonus, there were two seminars

The first was on the "Wedgie" and was oriented much more towards the figure guys. And no, that doesn't mean the figure guys all wander around with their jockey shorts pulled up to their armpits. In their parlance, a Wedgie is a small vignette with a figure or figures, and only part of a vehicle. It lets them place their figure in its historical context without building a huge display and also keeps the focus on the figure. The other seminar was on armor weathering by one of the Atlanta AMPS guys. Both were pretty interesting and well worth the ½ hour they took.

Tom Gaston and I entered the show, on both sides. We were both well rewarded for our efforts. The Figure Show and the AMPS show are Gold/Silver/Bronze shows rather than 1-2-3 shows like IPMS. I think we both got Silver awards for our AMPS entries, and somehow I was shockingly awarded the best Allied piece for my Italeri Sherman (ok, maybe the AMPS judges need better glasses). Over on the figure side of the fence, which also includes a few categories for models, we also did pretty well. I took a Gold and a Bronze, and Tom took multiple Gold's if I recall correctly.

All in all, the Atlanta Figure/AMPS Show is a really nice show, with LOTS of great work on display, and some really nice features that IPMS shows don't have. I really think IPMS could learn some things from shows like this. If you can make it next year, and you haven't been before, you really owe it to yourself to make the trip. Trust me, you won't be disappointed..







Elevated Tables are really easy on the back!!



Now I know it is a "wedgie"

The AMPS Judging Room. Models are transported one at a time into the judges room where they are judged on their own merits. Notes are kept as this takes all day.... The critique at the end is somewhat useful.



The Fabulous Fifties

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