

## Show Report: AMPS EAST 2008

By John Gazzola

AMPS EAST 2008 was held September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Danbury Plaza Hotel, in Danbury, Connecticut. The story of AMPS EAST 2008 is one of exceeding expectations, exceeding all expectations. It was a record breaking year for our show on many fronts, with the first simply being the number of attendees and entrants to the exhibition. Indeed, our ninth annual armor extravaganza experienced a 40% increase in attendance over 2007 with 468 people through the doors, who displayed 254 entries. Far and away the highest numbers of attendees, entrants, and entries AMPS EAST has seen to this point. Needless to say, numbers like these posed a challenge to the AMPS EAST team, led again this year by Matt Toms and Bill Schmidt, but the team proved not only to be up to the challenge, but to surpass it. I hope all those who attended this show will remember this when you see all the team members mentioned in this article, and you offer them your thanks for all their hard work and perseverance.

The first clue the team had that AMPS EAST 2008 was going to exceed expectations was when the vendor room sold out. Matt Toms took over as vendor coordinator this year. He set a lofty goal very early on to sell out the vendor room. Through his hard work and creative marketing ideas, he succeeded. Thanks to Matt exceeding expectations, the AMPS EAST vendor room was packed from wall to wall and from floor to ceiling with literally thousands of armor models, resin kits, detail sets, aftermarket barrels, photo-etch, track sets, modeling magazines, and reference books. I think I can safely say that for one day, the AMPS EAST vendor room was the largest armor focused hobby shop on the North American continent. Many of the vendors who have supported our show over the years were there including S & J Hobbies, Panzer Tracts, Tiger Productions, Farina Enterprises, Olde Depot Hobbies, Baseline Models, and Hobby Fan. Some of the newer vendors to the AMPS EAST vendor zone were also there like Military Miniatures Warehouse, Armor Plate Press, Alpenflage Hobbies, Monroe Perdue Studios, Horners Hobbies, Finescale Hobbies, The Marx Man, Aaron Elson, and Time Machine Hobbies. AMPSCT also threw its own hat into the ring with our new club table, ably manned by Jim Zilvitis and Joe Denza. Needless to say, the AMPS EAST vendor room has become a great place for any armor geek to separate their money from their wallet. We thank all those who contributed to its success from both sides of the tables, and look forward to seeing you all back again next year.

Holding down the carpet on three tables in the corner of the vendor room was the monster AMPS EAST raffle. Again helmed this year by yours truly, with the assistance of Bill "Doc" Wiseman, Chris Ekstrom, and Leif Ekstrom. The raffle was well populated this year with many donations from a wide variety of vendors and manufacturers. Hobby Link Japan was very generous, as was Testors Corporation, Model Rectifier Corporation, Master Box Ltd., Archer Fine Transfers, Tower Hobbies, Evergreen Scale Models, Midwest Products, Tiger Productions, H. Gerstner & Sons, The Barrel Store, Woodland Scenics, and Osprey Publishing. However, there was generosity above and beyond the call of duty displayed in the Super Raffle. It was populated with three Dremels, two of which were thoughtfully donated by AMPSCT member Jeff Nelson, two Iwata-Madea airbrushes donated by the manufacturer, and a one-year subscription to Military in Scale Magazine which came from Traplet Distribution USA (an \$82.00 value). This year's raffle was far and away the most financially successful one that AMPS EAST has ever had and it too exceed all expectations. I personally want to thank everyone who participated, and hope to see you all back at the raffle table again next year.

A new element added to AMPS EAST this year was our juniors program, enjoyed by all the kids who attended the show. This program was created and run by Steve Reid of Nordland AMPS. It included a make-n-take with models donated by Rob Burnside of Alpenflage Hobbies. All the kids who participated got to make and take a model home, as well as a new tool kit with another new model kit. Steve will be having the same program again in 2009, so make sure you bring the little ones with you.

The seminar line up at AMPS EAST 2008 was as solid this year as it is every year. Leading the slate was AMPS EAST's recently drafted seminar coordinator Neil Stokes who continued his fascinating series of studies on the Soviet KV series of tanks. Next up was Bill "Doc" Wiseman with his always popular "Resin Casting 101," a skill no good modeler should be without. Following Doc was Mac Johnston with a comprehensive new seminar on scratchbuilding techniques. And, of course, in his usual final spot on the list was Tom Jentz with an interesting look at "Panzers In Depth" that merged well with his new book on the subject.

I can also certainly use the adage "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" when describing the entire judging team at AMPS EAST 2008. Everyone who contributed to the cause had to go out of their way in an unparalleled effort in AMPS history to fairly and objectively judge over 250 entries in a one day show. It was indeed an enormous and overwhelming task to engage and much of the credit for its successful completion must go to Chief Judge Georg Eyerman. Constantly adapting to, and overcoming, the problems and concerns that came with a literal flood of entries that no one had foreseen, Georg was a rock. Throughout the day he never lost his cool, gave up on anyone or anything, or even displayed an uneven demeanor. He simply did the job he was tasked to do, and hit one out of the park while doing it, again, exceeding all expectations.

However, Georg didn't achieve his grand slam alone. The team had significant contributions from many other members, including all the members from AMPST, Eastern Front AMPS, Albany AMPS, Nordland AMPS, and the Upper Valley Model Club that volunteered to help with the judging. It also had a couple of outstanding individual efforts that must be recognized. First and foremost was that of Tarra Toms. She worked ten hours straight at the data entry position, making her participation in the AMPS judging system invaluable to the team. It is difficult to put into words the importance of her contribution to the success of AMPS EAST 2008, but, suffice it to say, we are all forever in her debt. We must also recognize the effort of Bill Schmidt in the Ramrod position at this show. Keeping the nearly 250 entries flowing in to the judging zone in an ordered fashion was certainly no easy task at AMPS EAST 2008. This was the first time I have ever seen anyone in the Ramrod position literally surrounded by entries at an AMPS show. Bill definitely has earned our thanks and respect for keeping all those entries organized, and with their proper paperwork. A feat that I hope he's able to demonstrate again next year.

So, another AMPS EAST is history, and we look forward again to next year. We thank you all for your support of the show, and hope to see you all back at the Danbury Plaza Hotel September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. As always, you can find all the latest, up-to-date info on the show at [www.ampseast.org](http://www.ampseast.org). Please also remember to say thank you to all the people you saw working hard to bring you the show this year. Below you'll find the results of all that hard work beginning with the Special Awards, and remember we are always looking for sponsors of those awards. If you're interested, please contact a member of the AMPS EAST staff. Thank you.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Entry Title</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Tony Fradkin	Best British or Commonwealth	Kiwi Staghound	
Alan Weller	Best Russian or Soviet	T-62	
Rob Riviezzo	Best German	PzKpfw III	
Bill Carls	Best American	M4 105mm Sherman	
Steve Martein	Best Diorama	"Always Time For Coffee"	
Tony Fradkin	Best Small Army	Kiwi Staghound	
Ian Barron	Best Junior	Stalingrad	
Ron Harrison	Best Figure	Stryder	
Wayne Borowsky	Best Sherman	"Ambush"	Armorama.com
Matt Weisberger	Missing "E" Award	KV-1E	Georg Eyerman
Rob Riviezzo	Theme Award: "Heavy Metal"	Tiger Ausf. B	
Bill Carls	Peoples Choice	M4 105mm Sherman	
Steve Martein	Judges Best in Show	"Always Time For Coffee"	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Skill Class</u>	<u>Entry Title</u>	<u>Medal</u>
Leif Ekstrom	XII	Junior	Easy 8 Sherman	Bronze
Arden Adams	XII	Junior	BMW R75 Motorcycle	Bronze
Ian Barron	XII	Junior	Stalingrad	Gold

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Skill Class</u>	<u>Entry Title</u>	<u>Medal</u>
Larry Appleton	I	Beginner	Mine Clearing Operations	Bronze
Craig King	I	Beginner	Tiger I	Bronze
Brian Watchon	I	Beginner	JagdTiger	Silver
Marc Dupuy	I	Beginner	Panther A Early	Gold
Frank Kizanick	I	Beginner	Tiger I	Gold
Michael O'Keefe	I	Beginner	King Tiger	Gold
Craig King	II	Beginner	M4 A3 Sherman	Bronze
Robert Kerr	II	Beginner	M26 Pershing	Bronze
Michael O'Keefe	II	Beginner	SU-85M	Bronze
Larry Appleton	II	Beginner	Sherman Firefly	Silver
Joseph Denza	II	Beginner	Russian JS II	Silver
Kevin Kuperberg	II	Beginner	On the Lookout	Gold
Marc Dupuy	III	Beginner	M109AG Paladin	Gold
Larry Appleton	IV	Beginner	Kampfpanzer 38 T Bison	Bronze
Craig King	IV	Beginner	M4 Half Track	Gold
Larry Appleton	V	Beginner	Tank Transport	Silver
Kirk Vanderbogart	V	Beginner	Commando Jeep	Silver
Marc Dupuy	V	Beginner	LAV-25	Silver
Craig King	X	Beginner	Tropical Training	Silver
Michael O'Keefe	X	Beginner	The Crossing	Gold

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Skill Class</u>	<u>Entry Title</u>	<u>Medal</u>
Jody Kelm	I	Intermediate	Tiger I	Bronze
James Terry	I	Intermediate	Tiger I	Bronze
Dan Feldman	I	Intermediate	Muncheberg Tiger	Silver
Marc Rocca	I	Intermediate	PZIII Tiger	Silver
Tim Greeman	I	Intermediate	Pz IV H	Silver
Fred Hooper	I	Intermediate	Tiger II	Silver

Wayne Borowsky	I	Intermediate	King Tiger	Gold
James Naveira	II	Intermediate	Stalin IS II	Bronze
Lou Caroso	II	Intermediate	M4 Composite Hull	Bronze
Pierre Salazar	II	Intermediate	T34 1941	Bronze
Douglas Brown	II	Intermediate	MK II Matilda	Bronze
Robert DeMaio	II	Intermediate	SU-85	Bronze
Frank Socci	II	Intermediate	CDL Grant	Bronze
Georg Eyerman	II	Intermediate	Char B1	Bronze
James Phinney	II	Intermediate	M4A1 Sherman	Silver
Martin Gailliez	II	Intermediate		Silver
Curtis Jurren	II	Intermediate	T34/76	Silver
Brian Brown	II	Intermediate	Cromwell MK IV	Gold
Carl Gerard	II	Intermediate	T-34-85	Gold
Brian Brown	III	Intermediate	M103 "Heavy" US Army	Bronze
Jody Kelm	III	Intermediate	Russian T-72	Bronze
Martin Gailliez	III	Intermediate	TSS	Bronze
Georg Eyerman	III	Intermediate	USMC M103A2	Silver
Doug Brown	III	Intermediate	Canadian Leopard	Gold
John Simmons	III	Intermediate	Academy M2A2 Bradley	Gold
Wayne Borowsky	III	Intermediate	M1A1 Abrams	Gold
Marc Rocca	IV	Intermediate	Dickermax	Bronze
Brian Brown	IV	Intermediate	Wirbelwind Flak Pz IV	Bronze
Jody Kelm	IV	Intermediate	Panzer Kampfwagon	Bronze
Michael DelVecchio	IV	Intermediate	M8 Greyhound	Bronze
Trevor Harms	IV	Intermediate	M36B1 Tank Destroyer	Silver
Bill Herd	IV	Intermediate	Tiger "Cut Away"	Silver
Chris Arcouette	IV	Intermediate	Humber Scout Car	Silver
Jim Rebbitt	IV	Intermediate	FT-17	Silver
Douglas Brown	IV	Intermediate	MT-LB Russia in Afg.	Silver
Frank Socci	IV	Intermediate	Grant	Gold
Wayne Borowsky	IV	Intermediate	M36 B1	Gold
Pedro Rosenbery	IX	Intermediate	Russian Infantry/Afg. War	Bronze
Doug Brown	IX	Intermediate	Red Devils	Bronze
Jody Kelm	IX	Intermediate	SS-Oberturmfuher Gerhardt	Silver
Wayne Borowsky	IX	Intermediate	The Wizard	Silver
Michael DelVecchio	V	Intermediate	M925 w/M332 Ammo Trailer	Bronze
Curtis Jurren	V	Intermediate	M1126 Stryker	Bronze
Brian Brown	V	Intermediate	Sdkfz 234 Puma	Silver
Roger Carrano	V	Intermediate	Jeep Willy's Follow Me	Silver
Tim Greeman	V	Intermediate	S.Lebanon Half-track	Silver
Wayne Borowsky	V	Intermediate	Staghound	Silver
Curtis Jurren	VI	Intermediate	SFH 18 Howitzer	Bronze
John Simmons	VI	Intermediate	M102 105mm	Bronze
Michael DelVecchio	VI	Intermediate	M119	Silver
Bill Herd	VI	Intermediate	Nebelwerfer	Gold
Roger Carrano	X	Intermediate	Jeep Willy's w/ trailer	Silver
Steve Kelczewski	X	Intermediate	Blow that Bridge	Silver
Bill Herd	X	Intermediate	3 German Elites	Silver
Dave Dross	X	Intermediate	Proletarua	Silver
Wayne Borowsky	X	Intermediate	Ambush	Silver
Doug Brown	X	Intermediate	Guns for food	Gold
Martin Gailliez	XI	Intermediate	Big Mac	Bronze

Georg Eyerman	XI	Intermediate	E-25	Silver
Douglas Brown	XI	Intermediate	Vietnam Mortar Pit	Gold

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Skill Class</u>	<u>Entry Title</u>	<u>Medal</u>
Chris Ekstrom	I	Advanced	Tiger 1	Bronze
Alan Dewey	I	Advanced	Zwischenzolonung L-70	Bronze
Dario Romaro	I	Advanced	Tiger I	Bronze
Joe Yeager	I	Advanced		Bronze
Brian Saksa	I	Advanced	Jadgpanther	Bronze
Robert Magina	I	Advanced	Jagdtiger	Silver
Jerry Geesaman	I	Advanced	Stug III	Silver
Bill Schmidt	I	Advanced	Marder IIIM	Gold
Steve Martein	I	Advanced	Bergepanzer Tiger	Gold
Rob Riviezzo	I	Advanced	Panzer III Ausf.J	Gold
Chris Ekstrom	II	Advanced	IS - IIM	Silver
Jerry Geesaman	II	Advanced	ISU-122	Silver
Matt Weisberger	II	Advanced	M4A3E8 A Paper Doll	Gold
Bill Carls	II	Advanced	M4 105 Sherman	Gold
Alan Weller	II	Advanced	T-80	Gold
Steve Jung	III	Advanced	T-55A	Bronze
Steven Brezinski	III	Advanced	Israeli M4A1 (1961)	Bronze
Bill Schmidt	III	Advanced	IDF Magach	Silver
Jerry Geesaman	III	Advanced	STRV 103-C Swedish	Silver
Chris Ekstrom	III	Advanced	FV214 Conqueror	Silver
Steve Fitzek	III	Advanced	Finnish T-72M1	Silver
Alan Weller	III	Advanced	T-62	Gold
S. Brezinski	IV	Advanced	Sdkfz 251/2 Ausf C	Bronze
Howie Belkin	IV	Advanced	M3A1 Half Track	Bronze
Jerry Geesaman	IV	Advanced	Early Ardennes Confusion	Bronze
Steven Brezinski	IV	Advanced	Sdkfz 251 Ausf D. Romanian	Bronze
Alan Dewey	IV	Advanced	Grille SPG Sig33 in Hungary	Silver
Steve Jung	IV	Advanced	Stug III	Silver
Bill Schmidt	IV	Advanced	Porsche Jagdtiger	Silver
Douglas Brown	IV	Advanced	T-34/76 Med. Tank	Silver
Neil Stokes	IV	Advanced	Graceful Retirement	Gold
Dario Romaro	IV	Advanced	PzKpw2 III	Gold
Lois Ripa	IX	Advanced	Kirmann Mamelyke Sqd Chief	Bronze
Craig Hunt	IX	Advanced	Panzer Commander	Bronze
Louise Ripa	IX	Advanced	Mounted Mameluke Bearer	Bronze
Al Bubnis	IX	Advanced	Spartan	Silver
Al LaFleche	IX	Advanced	Uncas	Silver
Al Bubnis	IX	Advanced	Soldier of the queen	Silver
Brian Saksa	IX	Advanced	SS Bust	Gold
Eric Flesher	IX	Advanced	Wait	Gold
Ron Harrison	IX	Advanced	Stryder	Gold
Kevin Conlon	V	Advanced	Autobelinda	Silver
Chris Ekstrom	V	Advanced	Morris CS 8	Silver
Dario Romaro	V	Advanced	Opel Blitz	Silver
Steve Jung	V	Advanced	Krupp Protze	Silver
Steve Martein	V	Advanced	Willy's Jeep	Silver
Tony Fradkin	V	Advanced	KIWI Staghound	Silver

Steven Andreano	VI	Advanced		Bronze
Mark Natola	VI	Advanced	Setting up Pak 40	Bronze
Kevin Conlon	VI	Advanced	V-1 Buzz Bomb	Silver
Chris Ekstrom	VI	Advanced	Long Tom	Silver
S. Brezinski	VII	Advanced	Sd Kfz 251-9	Gold
Al LaFleche	X	Advanced	Turok Son of Stone	Silver
Craig Hunt	X	Advanced	"Stand off"	Silver
Brian Saksa	X	Advanced	Tunis	Gold
Robert Magina	X	Advanced	10 Minute Break	Gold
Steven Brezinski	X	Advanced	Tiger Maintenance	Gold
Brian Fowler	X	Advanced	Path of Destruction	Gold
Steve Martein	X	Advanced	Always Time for Coffee	Gold
Kevin Conlon	XI	Advanced	Corporate Alliance (Snail Tank)	Silver