



GTR

Newsletter

February 2004

The Newsletter of IPMS/Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers



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GTR Auto Modelers

2002/2003 IPMS/USA Region 5 Chapter of the Year

2004 Meetings: Every 3rd Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

Location alternates between member's homes and the Fountains of Crystal Lake

Next Meeting: February 21, 2004

Fountains of Crystal Lake

On Rte 31, about 1 mile north of Rte 176, Crystal Lake

Your current GTR Officers are:

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The GTR Newsletter is edited by Chuck Herrmann

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Unless indicated, all articles written by the editor. All errors, misspellings and inaccuracies, while the editor's responsibility, are unintentional. Feel free to copy for any other nonprofit use.

Check out the GTR Auto Modelers website at: www.gtrautomodelers.freeservers.com

Message from the President

Welcome to 2004! I don't know about you, but the Holiday season was like a blink of the eye for me. Of course, my rotator cuff surgery in December didn't help either, but hey, first there was Thanksgiving and wooosh! Happy New Year! Anyway, I'm back with two good arms, going to the house of pain every other day to get my arm yanked, so my muscles come back to life. I feel like the guy in Little Shop of Horrors who goes to the dentist and tells him not to use any Novacaine. But, you know what they say, no pain, no gain.

So, what did Santa give you for Christmas? Why don't you bring it to this month's meeting and show it off? Speaking of meetings, try and make this one, we have a lot to discuss, and most important, we have to decide what to do for the diorama project for the NNL in April. I will some sections of the garage to look at to see if we want to use it. That, among other things should make for a busy night, so try to make it.

Now that the racing season is in full swing, it looks like there will be some new stuff coming down the pipe this year. With the Daytona 24 race just finished, this marks the beginning of the racing season here in the states. NASCAR starts on the 15th, with a lot of new paint schemes, and even some new competition in the truck series from Toyota! I have to admit though, I was a little disappointed in the Daytona 24 hour coverage. I really got tired of hearing Tony Stewart this and Dale Jr. that. There were a lot of talented drivers there, and they deserved better coverage. Well let's hope Sebring turns out better. Check out my other article about the F1 season.

So, I just wanted to thank everyone for allowing me to continue on as president of this club. I still think we have the best bunch of car modeling guys out there and I always enjoy getting together with all of you. Here's to 2004 and another year of GTR Auto Modelers!

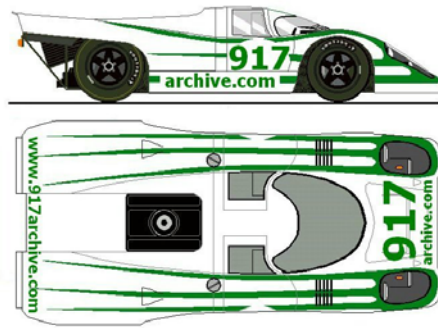
Tim Leicht

GTR MAILBox

by Chuck Herrmann

Media

A useful reference to help build the new Fujimi Porsche 917 reviewed this issue is a web site titled www.917archive.com. This webpage gives a detailed history of every 917 by chassis number, with lots of photos.



Another site with lots of information on this car is www.porsche917.com.ar. This is mostly in Spanish, but lots of detail photos and historical results that are useful references.

Real World

Maserati's supercar racer

From www.autosport.com

Maserati has revealed its V12-powered supercar with which it hopes to take GT racing by storm – although it refutes that the mid-engined car will kill-off the category.



The new Maserati MCC

The new car, codenamed MCC, will be launched at the Geneva Motorshow in March, and features a six-litre, normally aspirated engine. Between eight and 10 race cars will be built in time for next year, in addition to the 25 MCS road cars that need to be constructed to satisfy the FIA's homologation.



Car borrows concepts from Ferrari's Enzo design

Contests/Events

This month the big local show is the Wheaton show and LMMCC contest, at the traditional DuPage County fairgrounds site on February 29. The Milwaukee NNL, on April 17, will be at the same location it has always been, except that it is now a Quality Inn, not a Holiday Inn. GTR will have a club display.

For all the 2004 dates and details that I have so far, see the calendar page and also our website.

Industry News

Slixx quitting the decal business!

In a surprise announcement, Slixx will be ceasing the production of their fine aftermarket decal line. The main reason appears to be licensing costs. This may have a big impact on the overall NASCAR modeling market. Will people buy six new Monte Carlo kits if they cannot get five alternative sets of decals?

More bad news. After 49 years as a Northwest Chicago institution on Milwaukee Avenue, Stanton Hobby has closed. As a young modeler growing up in Chicago, I fondly remember many mile long walks to the shop to stock up on kits and paints back in the 60's.

The Internet dealer M & S Hobbies has now released a 1/24 transkit for the 1/24 Lowenbrau (and Miller, although only Lowenbrau decals are included) Porsche 962C, based on a Tamiya 962 donor kit.



El Oso Kits offers a series of 1/12 and 1/20 F1 driver figures, also some 1/12 motorcycle racing drivers, 1/24 F1 accessories and 1/24 WRC engine bay detail sets that would help finish off many of the recent Tamiya WRC kits. Check them online at:
<http://perso.wanadoo.es/jaibroca/osokits/osof1.html>

THE STATE OF THE HOBBY

by Tim Liecht

With the current crop of NASCAR models just hitting the shelves, I was quite surprised to receive a fax last week from Slixx decals announcing they are not going to produce decals any longer. What the heck is going on here? I know their reasons were licensing issues, and I know that Revell/Monogram chose to leave the Goodyear logos off the box art for the same reasons, but when is this nonsense going to stop? Corporate greed has finally gone too far. Why would some bean counter at Goodyear worry about getting a piece of EVERY kit sold to allow their name to put on the very tire that already has it on it?

AND, just how much do they think they are going to make by demanding Revell or any other kit maker pay them? I'll bet the total figure would not even pay the guy's salary for a year, and the end result would be just what we are seeing now. Take the name off, don't pay them, and the greed department shuts down. Well kudos to Revell for doing just that. And I hope that all the rest of them do the same thing. It's time to put your feet down, and tell these people enough is enough!

In fact, in my humble opinion, one could take them to court and say that Goodyear is a common name and that there is a connection between tires and the name and therefore, trademark or not.....yeah right, not in our lifetime! I can tell you though, that I was taken to task by BMW, for using their logo in my yellow pages ad and my business cards. I wrote them a nice letter stating that when I pick up the phone and order parts, I tell the guy on the other end the car is a BMW, not "an automobile from Bavaria that I need parts for". Therefore BMW is a common name and is used every day in that regard. You know what? They agreed! They sent back a nice letter giving me some examples of where I could use the BMW name. I could not use the Roundel logo, but the letters B-M-W were acceptable. I know it was a small victory, but I stuck to my guns.

In the grand scheme of things we are all going to pay the price of this. Kits are going to cost more. Decal makers like Slixx won't be around, but I think we all can see the handwriting on the wall. NASCAR is completely out of control right now, because of their greed, but that's going to come full circle real soon. The NASCAR diecast market is way too saturated and it's all going to come crashing down when there is way more product than demand. Then what are people like Goodyear going to do? Their own greed will, in the long run, bring the cash machine to a halt when all the fans can't stomach any more models, especially after paying twice as much because of licensing fees. So, I guess we just have to wait out the storm, support the cottage decal industry, and hope for the best. This isn't over just yet.

GTR Club News

News

The February meeting will be on February 21 at the Fountains of Crystal Lake. If you haven't paid your 2004 GTR dues of \$15 please do so next meeting or mail it to me (make checks payable to Chuck Herrmann, not GTR as we do not have an account).

GTR will have a table in the vendor area for the upcoming NIMO 10 event April 25 in Crystal Lake. Members can bring in stuff they want to sell, or we will use it as a place to hang out during the show. Hope to see lots of members and modeling buddies there.

The deadline for getting articles, reviews, etc. in the next (March 2004) issue of the newsletter is February 29.

Newsletters

Since last time, we have received newsletters from: IPMS/Lakes Region Scale Modelers, IPMS/Seattle, AMG Milwaukee, IPMS/C.A.R.S. in Miniature, the IPMS/Bong Chapter in Milwaukee, and Lake Michigan Model Car Club.

January GTR Meeting

The January 2004 GTR meeting was held January 17 at the Fountains of Crystal Lake.

First we took care of some business:

- ◆ The official seal Chapter renewal was affixed to our charter.
- ◆ The current slate of officers was retained for 2004.
- ◆ After reviewing the treasury we decided to keep the dues at \$15.
- ◆ We voted to sponsor a trophy at eh NIMO show in April.
- ◆ There will be no April meeting, instead we will once again attend the Milwaukee NNL and put on a club display.
- ◆ In October we will not have a regular meeting, we will plan a road trip to the Lake Michigan Model Car Club Open House.
- ◆ In December we will move our date to the second Saturday and join CARS in Miniature at their meeting.
- ◆ We discussed a 2004 club project. The idea of doing a tuner car or ultimate road car for the street, such as doing a street legal Tamiya WRC car? This will be finalized this month.



Finally it was on to Show And Tell Among the stuff on display:

- ◆ Doug Fisher: Revell Batmobile, done in flat black and metallics, also two Tamiya 1/12 motorcycles-Honda NSR500 and Yamaha YZR 500. And a Tamiya Mercedes DTM Original Telle version with lots of carbon fiber decaling.



- ◆ Dave Edgecomb: some new kits, the Tamiya BMW 320 Racing Jagermeister and Tamiya NISMO Japanese Touring car kit. Also the new Fujimi Porsche 917 kit and the Studio 27 detail set,

finally the latest Revell Greenwood 1969 Corvette.

- ◆ Ken Zinnen: some 1/43rd stuff, a BBR Ferrari 333SP and a Marsh McLaren Mk8 in progress, and a Ferrari F50 racing version kit.



- ◆ Chuck Herrmann: the old Monogram Porsche 924 racing version, still in progress, and Fujimi's VW Golf GL kit (yes the four door not the two door pictured on the box art).



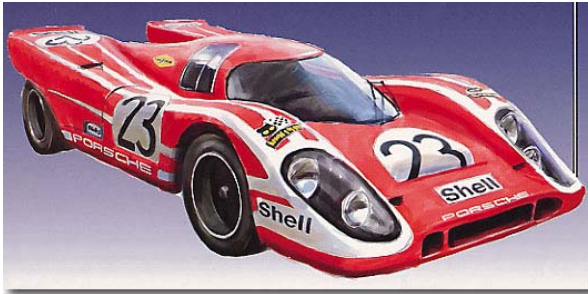
Rockford Classic Plastic Event



The Classic Plastic 5 event, sponsored by the Rockford Wheels in Scale club, was held on Sunday February 8. The vendor room was full, and there was a good turnout of models on the display tables. GTR had a table in the vendor room with club information. And GTR members who won contest trophies include Tim Leicht, Fran Luque and yours truly.



Fujimi's's Porsche 917: First Look



Subject: Porsche 917K 1970 LeMans
24 Hour winner

Kit #: Scale: 1/24

Reviewed by Chuck Herrmann

After years of success in the lower classes, in 1969 Porsche decided to go for the overall win in the classic LeMans 24 race. The 917 was the car that not only won the race in 1970 and 1971 but helped establish Porsche as the dominant sports racing car manufacturer for the next 30 years. Modelers have had to deal with the poor quality Heller model (later labeled as Testors, Union, etc.) or pay for resin aftermarket kits, so Fujimi's announcement of this last year was welcome news. Here is a first impression of this model.

This subject of this kit is the first Porsche LeMans winner, the #23 917K (for Kurtz, or short tail), driven to victory in 1970 by Richard Attwood and Hans Herrmann (who promptly retired after the win).

This kit is what I call a "curbside plus", with just over one hundred parts. Since a lot of mechanical detail was exposed in the rear, the underside of the engine, the transmission and rear suspension are all included. And since the top of the engine is visible through the open vent the trademark fan is included on the top of the power plant. But apparently the body is intended to be displayed in the closed position, as the sides of the engine are not completed.

The kit is molded in red (body parts) and black with clear glass. The front clip of the body has the front fenders and drivers compartment. The separate rear engine cover mates up and both fit on top of the tub, which forms the lower side panels. On my kit the molding is very crisp, my initial test fit is good. The clear glass attaches from the outside. There are hinges for the engine cover, making it easier for those who want to add detail to the engine bay.

There is a fully detailed drive train and suspension, including brakes, shocks and drive shafts. The interior is also fully detailed, with two seat, bulkheads and dash.

Body detail includes vents and louvers, with separate headlight buckets, clear lenses, a three-piece wiper and gas caps. The decal sheet includes all the white striping and roundels along with the proper contingency stickers. There are also both Goodyear and Firestone rub on tire markings. The tires are treaded black vinyl.



This kit also includes 17 extra parts not used, such as the separate front "hood" and the clear upper windshield insert (there is a plastic insert used in this version). Since these parts were used at Daytona and not LeMans, this indicates would that Fujimi will likely issue more versions, like they did with the Ford GT40 kit. And since there were over fifty versions, from the original long tail to various spyders and eventually the Can Am 917, plus the alternative color schemes hopefully we will be seeing more issues of this kit for quite some time. And the aftermarket will soon be churning out more decals and detail sets.

So the first impression is good. The only flaw I see so far are the molded impressions for the roundels on the rear engine cover. There are two but only one roundel and number are used, so one needs to be sanded off. I have already started the kit, in a future issue I will let you know how it goes together.

2004 IPMS/GTR Calendar

February 29 43rd Annual Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy Show, hosted by Past Time Hobbies
with model contest hosted by LMMCC
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL
George Pekarik 630-969-1847

March 5-6 IPMS/Roscoe Turner Show
Sheridan Four Points Hotel, Indianapolis, IN
Rick Wilkes rwilkes698@aol.com

March 21 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

March 27 Strictly 43rd Show
Park Place of Countryside, Countryside, IL
www.strictly43rd.com

March 28 TriState Collectors Toy Show
Tinley Park HS , IL (formerly Hillside)
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

March 28 IPMS/Quad Cities (IL)
Davenport, Holiday Inn Davenport, IA
Glen Broman GRBROMAN@aol.com

April 3 IPMS/Plastic Surgeons 10th annual
Valley Church, West Des Moines, IA
Jim Loomis jbond007@mchsi.com

April 3-4 IPMS/Sioux Falls Scale Modelers
Details to be announced

April 17-18 Tamiya/Con
Aliso Viejo, CA
www.tamiyausa.com

April 17 IPMS/Mad City Modelers (Madison, WI)
Netherwood Knoll Elementary School
Oregon, WI
Jim Turek 608-329-7222
jjtmodel@yahoo.com

April 17 Milwaukee NNL 11
Theme: Animal Kingdom
Sub theme: 40 Years for Ford Mustang
Quality Inn, Waukesha, WI
SASE to Scott Koch
5501 W. Cairdel Mequon, WI 53092

April 18 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Swap Meet
County Exposition Center Waukesha, WI
414-646-4114

April 25 NIMO 10
Northern Illinois Modelers Open
Hosted by IPMS C.A.R.S. in Miniature and IPMS
Lakes Region Scale Modelers
McHenry County College Crystal Lake, IL
www.geocities.com/nimoshow/

May 5-7 IPMS Region 5 Convention
Hosted by IPMS/Great Plains
KCI Expo Center Kansas City, MO
Call Darren Roberts 913-782-1159
Darren.rpberts@ipmsgreatplains.com

May 13-16 Shizuoka (Japan) Hobby Show

May 22 IPMS Region 4 Convention
Hosted by IPMS/Fremont Kit Bashers and
IPMS Toledo Plastic Modelers
Owens Community College, Perrysville OH
Mark McGovern markathy@toast.net

August 4-7 IPMS/USA National Convention
Civic Plaza Convention Center Phoenix, AZ
Auto Theme: Best Racing Vehicle
www.ipms2004.org

September 11 IPMS/Will-Cook The Show 10
Details to be announced

September 18 IPMS/Kalamazoo Air Show
Kalamazoo, MI Clare Wentzel
cwentzel@yahoo.com

September 19 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

September 25 IPMS/Fort Crook (Nebraska)
Details to be announced

October 2-4 Toyko Hobby Show

October 9 I CON 4
Hosted by IPMS/Des Moines Hawkeyes
Northwest Comm Center, Des Moines, IA
K. Long klong41@aol.com

October 17 TriState Collectors Toy Show
Tinley Park HS , IL (formerly Hillside)
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

October 14-17
International Model & Hobby Expo
Rosemont, IL

October 23 IPMS/Glue Crew
Park Inn & Conference Center Wausau, WI

November 13 IPMS/Butch O'hare
Lakeview Jr HS Darrien, IL

December 5 TriState Collectors Toy Show
Tinley Park HS , IL (formerly Hillside)
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

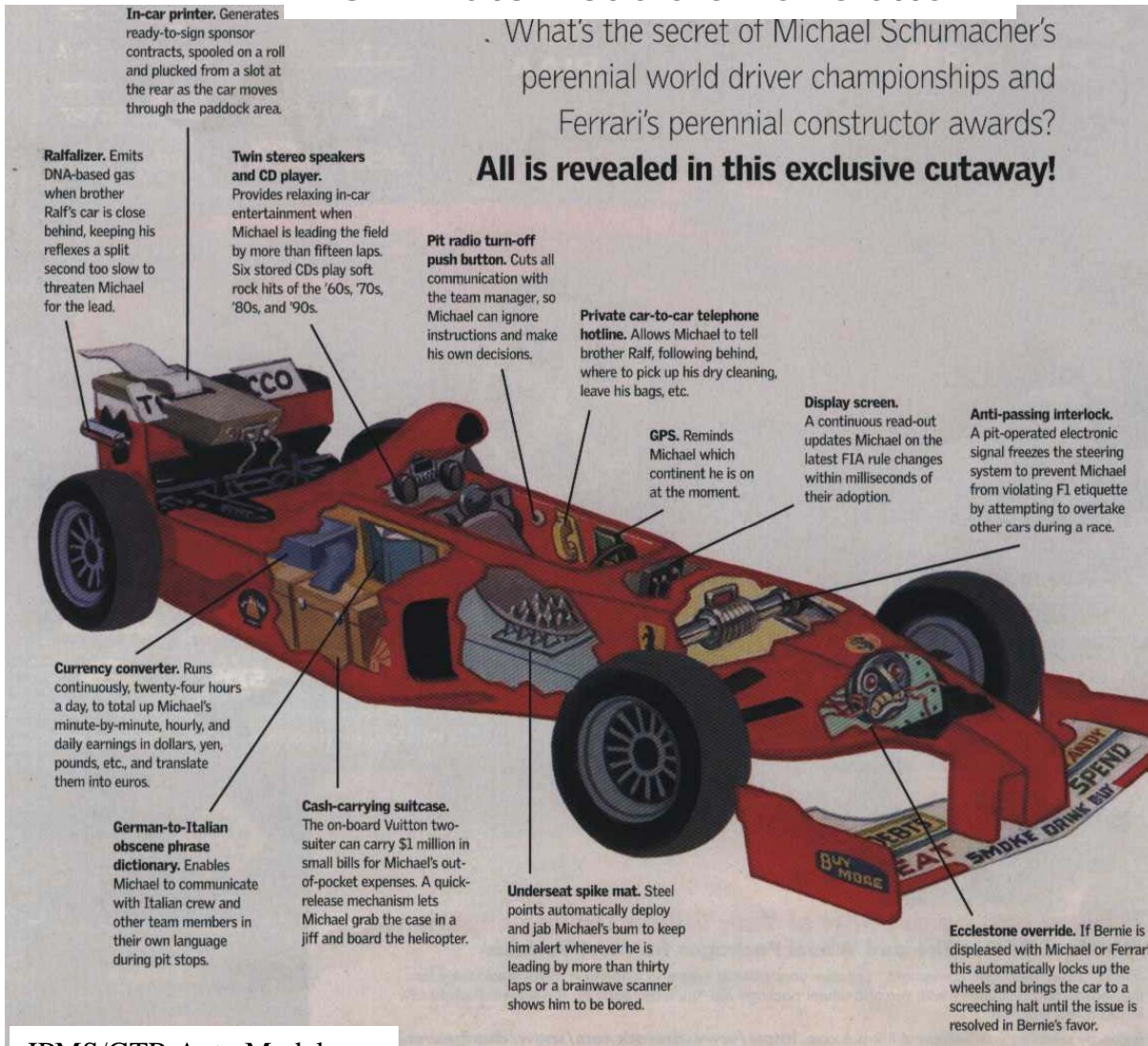
? = event or date not yet confirmed as of this printing

GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter

What's the secret of Michael Schumacher's perennial world driver championships and Ferrari's perennial constructor awards?
All is revealed in this exclusive cutaway!

New Formula 1 Season Opens

by Tim Leicht
Just when you think you've seen it all, along comes the new front end on the Williams BMW Formula One car for 2004. Well, I've included for your review the new Ferrari Formula one car designed with Michael Schumaker in mind. I think it will be a very interesting season. By the way the Williams design is not new. If you recall, Brabham did a similar thing in the '70s. The car was not very successful. Anyway, take a look at the "new" Ferrari:



IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers
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