



GTR Newsletter

August 2005

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

2005 Meetings: Every 3rd Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Next GTR Meeting: August 20, 2005

Ed Sexton's House

Northbrook, IL

Your current GTR Officers are:

President: Tim Leicht (815) 344-9109

Vice President: John Schaefer (630) 553-0719

Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann (847) 516-0211

The GTR Newsletter is edited by Chuck Herrmann

Please send all correspondence, newsletters, IPMS information, articles, reviews, comments, praise, criticism to: Chuck Herrmann 338 Alicia Drive Cary, IL 60013

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.freesevers.com

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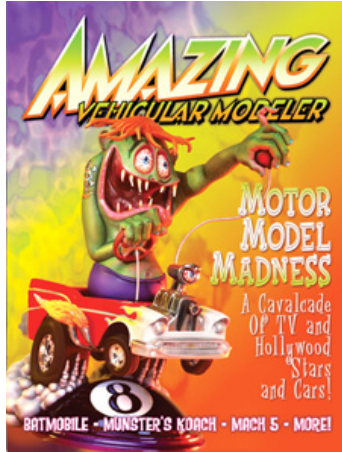
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GTR MAILBox

by Chuck Herrmann

Media



From the producers of "Amazing Figure Modeler" magazine comes "Amazing Vehicular Modeler," an exciting new publication that presents vehicular and figure modeling in a whole new fashion! That's right gear heads, America's favorite figure modeling magazine has revved up its engines to produce this special, full color 48 page magazine for all you models with a need for speed!

"Amazing Vehicular Modeler" Modeling Special #1 presents a spectacular bumper-to-bumper look at some of the coolest TV and Hollywood star and car kits ever produced. Featured back-to-back are 13 interesting and informative articles dedicated to creating, detailing and combining all sorts of vehicles, figures and dioramas. Build your own Batcopter or model the Batcave! Gas up Ed Roth's Mr. Gasser! Customize Elvira's Thunderbird or burn rubber with the Munsters' Coach and Dragula! Race to the finish with the Mach 5 or spin out in a cemetery with Frankie's Fliver!

Sound cool? Sure it does spark plug! Best of all there's plenty more to this fuel injected publication that touts the same look and excellence that has made AFM the leader in model figure publishing.

"Amazing Vehicular Modeler" Modeling Special #1 retails for only \$9.99 (plus \$2.00 postage U.S.; \$5.00 overseas air) and is only available at select model and comic shops and directly through AFM for a limited time. Don't miss out! Put the pedal to the metal and make sure you cross the finish line with your very own copy of "Amazing Vehicular Modeler" by ordering today!
www.amazingmodeler.com

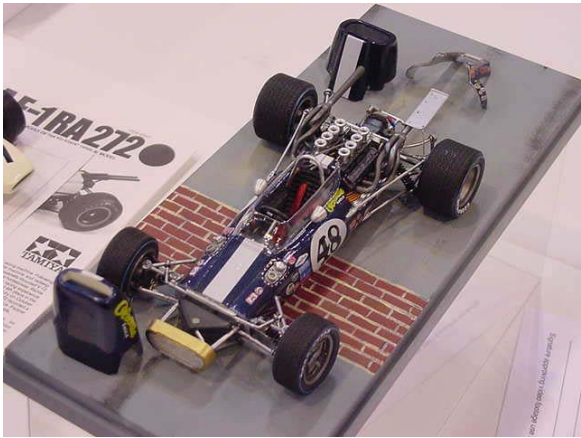
2005 IPMS National Convention



The 2005 IPMS Nationals were held July 20-23 in Atlanta, GA. The accounts all praise the facility and the organizers. There was a record turnout of models, the total entries were 3,222, breaking the prior record by over 1,000! There were over 400 vendor tables, along with a special sale and display area hosted by Dragon Models. Here are some photos. For more details and photos check out the IPMS website at:

www.ipmsusa.org





IPMS USA

International Plastic Modelers Society

August 2-5, 2006 Kansas City, MO

August 22-25, 2007 Anaheim, CA

GTR News

GTR Update

GTR's Summer Road Tour continues as the August regular meeting will be at Ed Sexton's home in Northbrook. Directions were sent to members in this newsletter. In September we will be back to the usual meeting location at the Fountains of Crystal Lake.

The deadline for getting articles, reviews, etc. in the next (September, 2005) issue of the newsletter is August 31. Submissions are **desperately** needed.

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, IPMS/Bong Chapter, Rockford Wheels in Scale (RWIS) and Lake Michigan Model Car Club. Copies of all these will be available for viewing at the next meeting.

Events:

In addition to the usual swap meet, there will be a model car contest at the Serb Hall, Milwaukee event on Sept 18.

See the Events calendar for all the events I know of.

July GTR Meeting

The July GTR meeting was 7/16/05 at David Stone's house in Algonquin. David is being transferred back to North Carolina, so this was a farewell. Thanks for hosting us and for the refreshments, David. He will be a long distance member for now, who knows what the future brings?

During the business section, we heard the treasury report and mailbag. We agreed to hold the August meeting

at Ed Sexton's home. Then it was discussion on the recent US GP, Ed Sexton and guest Mike Siegman told us what they saw earlier that day at the Brian Redman Historic event at Road America, Ken Zinnen told us about his Laguna Seca Moto GP experience.



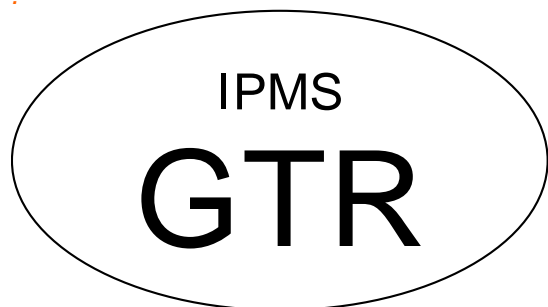
Les Whitfield: photos from the June meeting of the Ferrari Club held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
Ken Zinnen: two in progress kits, the Aoshima Aristo (Lexus IS3000) and the Fujimi Nissan V35 Skyline Impul.

Then it was on to show and tell. Among the highlights:



Ed Sexton: a test shot of the new 1/25 Revell Chevy Impala police car snap kit, along with a die cast 1/25 Renault F1 by Hot wheels.

Chuck Herrmann: a built Gunze Sanyo Ferrari 365LM, built 1/32 Surtees F1 by Matchbox, a Tamiya Porsche 936/77 in progress, and the new Polar Lights 2004 GTO kit reviewed this issue.



Polar Lights 2004 Pontiac GTO



Subject: 2004 Pontiac GTO
Manufacturer: Polar Lights
Kit #: PM6402 **Scale:** 1/25
MSRP \$15.95 (available in red, yellow and black)

Reviewed by Steve Jahnke



This model represents the long awaited return of Pontiac's factory hot rod, the legendary GTO. Produced in Australia by GM's Holden division and powered by a variant of Chevrolet's 5.7L engine, this rear wheel drive beast was brought to the market in hopes of reviving interest in the GTO performance nameplate and as an alternative to the abandoned F body Firebird and Camaro.

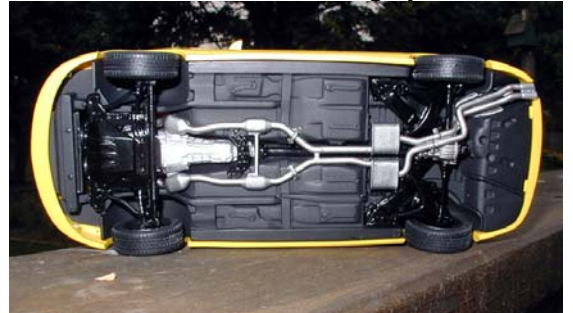


The Polar Lights kit of the GTO is designed as a pre-decorated body shell snap kit. My bright yellow GTO body appeared dull when pulled from the box, so a rub down the GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter

"Final Treatment" carnauba wax with a cotton makeup pad brought a nice shiny luster back to the finish. I was impressed with the overall paint and decorations of the body, front and rear clip, and rear spoiler. Under high magnification you can see bits of black overspray, this is the second Polar Lights predec to have overspray, (I have a pearl white Dodge affected also) it is probably a QC issue at the companies paint spray line in China. Overall though the body is nicely painted and all of the markings are very nicely done tampo art. In case you want to strip your body (91% isopropyl alcohol does the trick) and repaint another color, Polar Lights thankfully included a complete set of waterslide decals...thanks Polar Lights for considering the modeler!!!



The 10 piece 5.7L engine builds up into a really nice piece. I chose to cut off the locating/locking tabs and glue the engine halves together which attaches to the one-piece oil and trans pan eliminating the unsightly molding line from below. The rest of the engine pieces snap together without any problems. I sprayed the entire engine with a stainless steel spray bomb can and then detailed the engine with different shades of silver, grey and blacks.



The 13 pieces that make up the chassis of this kit (a high parts count for a snapper) is a work of art in itself. The IRS assembly is particularly sweet. I painted the chassis plate flat black while painting all of the suspension components semi-gloss black, the differential was painted aluminum. I did have

trouble figuring out how to mount the front and rear sway bars, the instructions are of the "Exploded View" type and do not clearly show how and where they mount. Frustrated, I left mine off.

Several reference articles for the car indicated two tone interiors; one in particular was black with red leather seating and red highlights on the door panels. That seemed a good match for the screaming yellow exterior and went about painting the seats and side panels with flat red and brush painting the rest of the interior in semi-gloss black adding aluminum highlights per my reference pictures. The finished interior provides a nice contrast to the yellow car. There is no decal for the instruments so I painted that area gloss black to represent the instrument glass.

For the two piece wheel assembly, the wheel backs are engraved with a rotor and caliper which I painted and detailed. Two chromed wheel choices are given, the stock 5 spoke and a custom wheel. I stripped the chrome off of the 5 spoke wheels and repainted them aluminum. I think the wheels are a tad to small size-wise, but once they are on the car they look OK but not quite tall enough.

Overall I am very happy with the results of this kit. The body fits very snugly over the chassis and interior assembly, so snugly that there is a tendency for the rear clip to separate slightly from the body, I will probably take some plastic off of the rear of the chassis so the fit is not as snug. The only other detraction is the front license plate holder, it appears undersize and I left it off leaving two mounting holes in the front clip...which I will live with instead of the front plate frame.

I recommend this little beauty highly, it makes up into a very nice replica of the new GTO

More GTO by Chuck Herrmann

In the May/June issue of *Car Models* magazine, there is a review of this kit by Larry Greenberg. And there is a good reference article, detailing the differences between the real 2004 and 2005 GTOs, most notably the hood scoops and larger wheels.

I have a red version of this kit, and like Steve's my finish needed a good shine.

Racing GTOs

GTR guys may be interested in turning the new GTO into a race car. There are several possibilities.

The next version of this kit from Polar Light should be available soon. It will be a "drift

version, presumably with more racing equipment. Here is a picture from their website www.playingmantis.com.



GTO race cars compete in the Speed World Challenge Series, in the GT class. These are modified production cars. Some racing wheels and tires and a rear wing, along with interior modifications, would be needed to make the Polar Lights kit into a WC race car.



At the recent Daytona Paul Revere Rolex Grand Am series race, the factory supported team of Pontiac GTOs made their debut in the GT class. This is full blown race car, competing against such import competition as the Porsche 911 and BMWs, This would be a more difficult subject, these are tube frame purpose built racers. It would need the 05 hood scoops and serious racing rubber. So far no aftermarket decals, but if it is successful we may see some.



GTR Event Calendar

2005

August 14 1st Annual Summer Plastic Meltdown
Hosted by IPMS/CARS in Miniature
Algonquin Township Office
Cary, IL Details to come

August 21 Road America 500 ALMS
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

September 10 Nordic Con IPMS/Twin Cities
Minneapolis, MN

September 17-18 Vintage Racing Weekend
Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI
www.roadamerica.com

Sept 18 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap Meet
Also Plastic Model Car Contest
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI
Jim Welytok 262-246-7171 unievents@aol.com
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

September 25 46th Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy Show
With model car contest hosted by Lake Michigan
Model Car Club
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL
Swap: 630-969-1847
Contest: 630-268-0859

October 1 The Show XI by IPMS/Will-Cook
James Hart/Millennium Cafetorium
Homewood, IL obviouschoice@juno.com
Ed Mate 915-478-4432

October 2 Tri-State Collectors Classic Toy Show
Tinley Park HS, Tinley Park, IL
Jim Welytok 262-246-7171 unievents@aol.com
(formerly Hillside) www.uniqueeventsshows.com
October 20-23
iHobby Expo Los Angeles, CA

October 29 IPMS Glue Crew
Wausau, WI Joseph Drew j.drew@dwave.net

November 6 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap Meet
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI
Welytok 262-246-7171 unievents@aol.com
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

November 12 23rd Annual Butch O'Hare Show
Details to be announced

December 4 Tri-State Collectors Classic Toy Show
Tinley Park HS, Tinley Park, IL
Jim Welytok 262-246-7171 unievents@aol.com
(formerly Hillside) www.uniqueeventsshows.com

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

1st Annual Summer Plastic Meltdown

Who: IPMS C.A.R.S. In Miniature and IPMS GTR

When: Sunday, August 14th 2005 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM

Where: Algonquin Township Offices, 3702 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

You are cordially invited to attend the first annual Summer Plastic Meltdown hosted by IPMS/C.A.R.S. in Miniature and IPMS/GTR Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers, co-organizers of the Northern Illinois Modelers Open (NIMO). The first annual Summer Plastic Meltdown is the first all new forum for multi- subject plastic scale modelers in our area.

We patterned this show after numerous successful "NNL" style automotive model shows. Our show is not a competitive show in a traditional sense, however, it offers a forum for the scale modeler to display his or her work for others to enjoy and appreciate. We will bestow (with the help of your fellow modelers), "Peoples Choice" awards for Best Automotive, Best Military Vehicle, Best Aircraft, Best Science Fiction and Best Ship category (all scales, all types for each category). Every person entering the show will have a chance to decide which model will win the "People's Choice award" in each category.

There is no limit to the number of models you may display; bring as many models as you like -- we will provide 8' tables on risers for your viewing pleasure. Admission is \$5.00 per person all ages at the door which includes a pizza lunch (soda and bottled water will be available to purchase). As an added feature we are offering free vending/swap space in our parking lot for the great Summer Plastic Meltdown "trunk sale". Show-goers and vendors are invited to sell and swap out of their vehicle's trunk, come rain or shine

Contact: Steve Jahnke stevejahnke@comcast.net or 847-516-8515

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Chuck Herrmann gtrchab@yahoo.com

Call for directions or find us on www.mapquest.com



GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter

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Next GTR Meeting: August 20, 2005 www.gtrautomodelers.freeservers.com