



# GTR

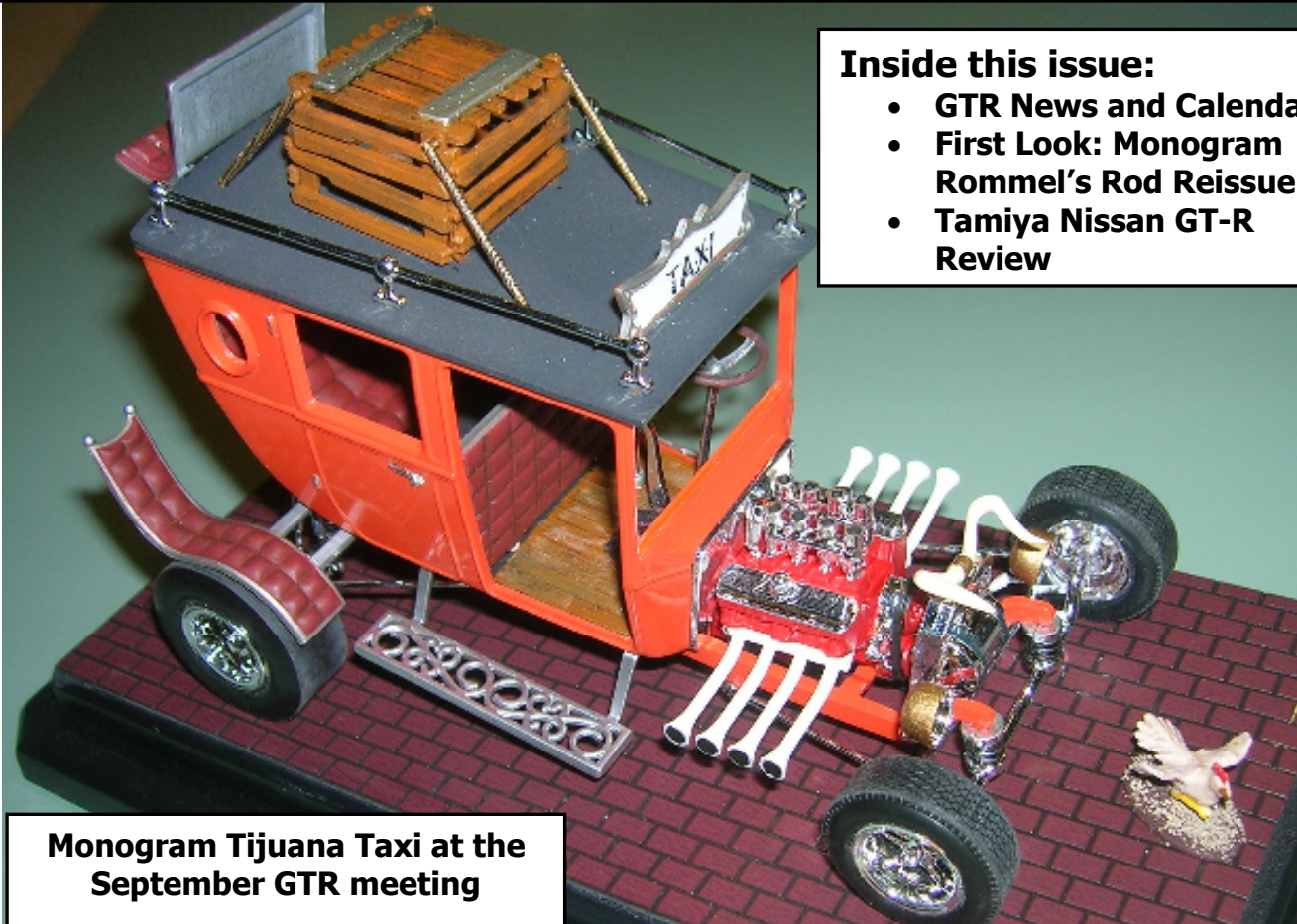
# Newsletter

## October 2009

The Newsletter of IPMS Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers

### Inside this issue:

- GTR News and Calendar
- First Look: Monogram Rommel's Rod Reissue
- Tamiya Nissan GT-R Review



Monogram Tijuana Taxi at the September GTR meeting

## GTR Auto Modelers

Based in the Chicago, IL Northwest Suburbs  
2002/2003 IPMS/USA Region 5 Chapter of the Year  
2007 and 2008 IPMS/USA Region 5 Newsletter of the Year  
2009 Meetings: Every 3rd Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

**October Meeting with the Lake Michigan Model Car Club in Bensenville, IL**

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

Your current GTR Officers are:

President: John Schaefer	630-553-0719	<a href="mailto:johndstp43@cs.com">johndstp43@cs.com</a>
Vice President: Steve Jahnke	847-516-8515	<a href="mailto:stevejahnke@comcast.net">stevejahnke@comcast.net</a>
Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann	847-516-0211	<a href="mailto:gtrchab@yahoo.com">gtrchab@yahoo.com</a>

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.

# GTR Mailbag

by Chuck Herrmann

## Hobby Industry News

From the Revell Germany website we see photos of test shots of several upcoming new releases. The Ferrari California (kit 07276 Spyder) is shown below.



Also they will do the Opel Commodore



The Tokyo Hobby Show will be October 8-11. Among the new releases to be displayed is a new Tamiya 1/20 Grand Prix car, their first new one in a while. It will be the 2009 Ferrari F60. Tamiya will also reissue the 1/12 Martini Brabham BT44, as usual with recent issues it will have additional photo etch pieces. Fujimi will have a new 1/20 Ferrari F2007, from the Brazil GP, also two contemporary 1/20 F1 pit crew figure sets. And they will have new 1/24 kits of the Honda Odyssey and the Nissan Cube.

## Events

The iHobby Expo is this month, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL. The first two days are a trade show for the hobby industry, but Saturday and Sunday, 10/24 and 10/25 are open to the public.

See the events calendar for details and for all of the events that I know of. I will continue to add events; if any readers wish their events or any other events of interest to GTR listed send the information along to me.



## GTR News

### GTR Update

The next meeting is October 17. It will be a road trip meeting, as we will join the Lake Michigan Model Car Club at their annual Open House. It has been several years since we have gone to this annual event; it has always been a good time with fellow modelers. They meet at Faith Community Church Hall, 192 South Center Street in Bensenville, IL. GTR members will receive directions. We will have a table for a GTR club display. Also there is a raffle, an NNL Night with everyone who shows up being eligible for the trophy (GTR members have won several times in past years). This time there will also be an auction, again all are invited to participate. So it looks like it should be a busy and fun evening.

Any member who wants to bring up ideas or suggestions for future meetings or activities, do so at either at the meetings or contact me.

GTR is a local chapter of IPMS/USA. We are going through our annual IPMS chapter renewal process. So I may need to get in touch with members as I update the chapter fact sheet. A local chapter needs at least five national members to renew. If you could join IPMS it will help out the club and the hobby. I urge those who have lapsed to renew their IPMS/USA membership, or if you have never been a member enroll now! Details can be found at their web site, [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org), or see me for membership forms.



## September GTR Meeting

The regular September meeting was held at the Fountains of Crystal Lake on September 18. For the business portion we went over the treasury report and the mailbag, and voted to move the next meeting to hook up with the Lake Michigan Model Car Club at their Annual Open House in Bensenville.

Then it was on the Show and Tell. Here are some photos of the stuff on the table:

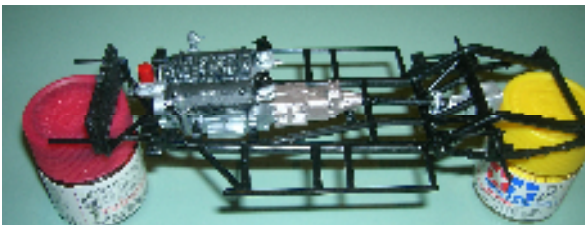
Steve Jahnke: Tamiya Calsonic Nissan GT-R from 2008 Japan Super GT Series (see the review elsewhere this issue),



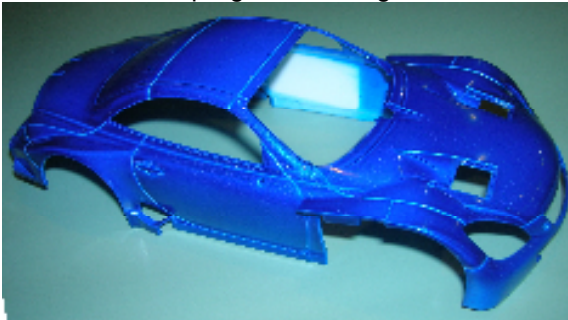
And a 1961 Johan 1961 Olds Wagon rebuilt from a glue bomb,



Also a Revell Germany Ferrari 250 GTO in progress and the Hasegawa Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa kit



George Pritzen: Tamiya Lexus SC Japan Super GT Series kit in progress, turning into a street car



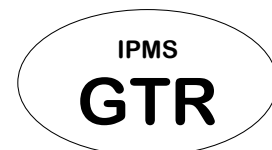
and a Revell 2009 Dodge Challenger kit.



John Schaefer: Revell 1970 Dodge Challenger kit in progress, with a Hemi engine replacing the kit 440, and a NASCAR COT body in progress for the Martin Truex Bass Pro Shop car.



Chuck Herrmann: Monogram Tijuana Taxi, in progress but almost done, also the Rommel's Rod kit reviewed elsewhere this issue.



## GTR Classifieds

### For Sale: Selling Off Collection

Over 300 Plastic Kits: Tamiya, Fujimi, Hasagawa, Revell/Monogram, MPC, AMT and more 1/18th Diecast : Exoto, CMC, Auto Art, GMP, Minichamps, NASCAR, etc.

Resin Kits: Fisher, Renaissance, LeMans Miniatures, Profil 24, CMA, Scale Designs.

Most kits new, some slightly started, mostly race cars and exotics, ASA, Formula 1's. Also many slot cars.

Please contact: Dave Edgecombe, 815-566-2339 or jedgeco@hotmail.com

**Wanted:** 1/24 or 1/25 Surfboards – need several.  
Chuck Herrmann gtrchab@yahoo.com

**Wanted:** Italeri #669 Ferrari 365GTB4 Daytona race version  
Les Whitfield [whitfield1@yahoo.com](mailto:whitfield1@yahoo.com)

We have the new GTR T-Shirts available for members who ordered one, cost is \$9. If you haven't gotten yours by the meeting you can do so there. If you did not let me know that you wanted a shirt, We ordered some extras but most are gone. I have three XL shirts left, first come first served so contact me ASAP if you want one.

Past issues of the GTR newsletters are now available on line.

Go to [www.carsandracingstuff.com](http://www.carsandracingstuff.com), then click on Newsletters, find GTR and our newsletters are achieved back to 2004, more will be added. Thanks to Bill Crittenden for storing our newsletters on his site.

## Kit Review: Tamiya Nissan SUPER GT Series Racer



The built kit was on the table at the September GTR meeting. Note the roof scoop – other photos show the optional chrome panel.

GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter



**Mfg:** Tamiya      **Kit #:** 24312

**Scale:** 1/24      **MSRP:** \$62.00

Molded in blue, black, silver, chrome-plated, red clear and clear, large decal sheet, tire and metal transfers

*By Steve Jahnke*

This is an excerpt from a review that first appeared on the IPMS/USA website, see it and many others at [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org)

### The Car:

The Blue Calsonic race car is a familiar sight at the Japan GT championship races since the series inception back in 1993. The Nissan GT-R is powered by a DOHC 4.5L V8, engine mounted low and in the front while transmitting power to the car's rear transaxle. The car's body panels are mainly carbon fiber with additional aerodynamic body panels available to modify the shape for differing tracks and conditions. This car represents the 2008 Team Impul's entry for the Suzuka 1000K Super GT series race at the Fuji Speedway. Despite less than favorable weather conditions and mechanical difficulties, the team took the winning flag with perseverance and driving skills.



### The Kit:

Modelers familiar with the Tamiya brand of model kits will tell you half jokingly that if you open a tube of glue and place it inside the model box and shake the box vigorously, your finished



model will appear when the box is opened. This urban legend centers around the ease of building Tamiya kits due to the outstanding and clever way Tamiya engineers each kit. Particular attention is always paid to the placement of mold lines and assembly techniques so that modelers at many skill levels can produce an accurate miniature. This urban legend held mostly true for this build.



This kit is a curbside model, since it lacks an engine. It is designed such that the bodywork is attached to the chassis plate/interior tub with a removable plastic 'pin' that is cleverly hidden under the two piece removable roof panel. When you lift off the body you see front and rear suspension and an interior tub with the engine exhaust stacks attached to the front of it.

### **The Build:**

Upon opening the relatively big box, I was amazed at the size of the GT-R body in 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale, it is physically a big car! Everything comes wrapped in separate poly bags so everything including the gorgeous chrome and clear parts are mare free. I admit that I have not build a Tamiya race car kit in a long time so I spent a longer time than normal perusing and familiarizing myself with the 20 step kit instructions and part bags. Decaling this car may challenge you a bit as it did me as there are over 100 decals and transfers in this kit. In step nine you are to apply 26 separate decals to the nose of the car; these would be the "CALSONIC" name and carbon fiber decals over the front air vents of the body.

I started the build by identifying and assembling the parts that were to be painted Tamiya TS44 Bright Blue (Calsonic blue) and TS29 Semigloss black, both colors from their fabulous rattle-can spray lacquer line. The bright blue molded body parts required minimal mold line removal prior to painting, and took only one coat of TS44 to look gorgeous. Most of the inside of the race car except for a few things in the cockpit are semi-gloss, gloss and flat black. I shot everything in spray SG black and then toned up or down with the appropriate Tamiya gloss or flat blacks. The cockpit is very well detailed with

paint call outs, decals and decal based seat harnesses. A separate photo etch sheet not included in the kit but available at extra cost appears to have some harness hardware for the super detailer.



Getting back to the urban legend of Tamiya kits, I did stumble upon a building issue that I will bring up in hope that by calling attention to problem, it may help others in their build of this kit. In step 1 and 3 we are to assemble the brake rotor to a wheel retaining cup that then attaches to the suspension member; the wheel and tire assembly comes through the brake disc and is then retained in the cup. The retaining cup nestles into the suspension member by way of groove in the member, excellent. However, there are no specific guide points with which to attach the member and cup assembly to the rotor. If the rotor and cup are not lined up, the wheel will not slide into the hole. I found this out the hard way and had to whittle away the rotor in order to get the wheel in, due to misalignment in assembly; the result is that the cars' stance is slightly off.

An easier and more accurate way to build this if you are following me is to cement the whole assembly together while using a wheel as a guide for proper alignment. The retaining cup is designed to rotate with the wheel. Other than that, there were no other assembly and fit issues with this kit.



### Kit Decals:

The decals for this kit contain well over 100 decals on two sheets. This kit replicates this car as raced in 2008 in the Japan Super GT series. These are endurance races, with two drivers in each car alternating during the race; the drivers' names (Tsugio Matsuda and Sebastien Phillippe) are included. This car won twice that year at Suzuka and Fuji.

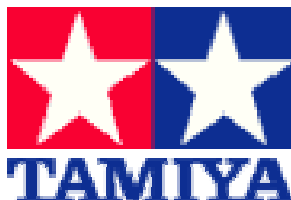
The decals are well done, very crisp printing and colors. And there is very little film next to the individual decal so there is no need to trim closely around each decal. They are very opaque; the white decals cover the blue completely. Most of the placement is straightforward; however the large Calsonic lettering on the front hood is actually made up of 17 separate pieces, due to the large, open louvers in the front of the hood. This assembles like a jigsaw puzzle, but by starting in the middle and working outward it does go on well. Just follow the instructions, as the individual pieces do not look like anything until they are all on the car. In the interior there are several dashboard decals to represent the instruments. And the seat belt harness is five separate decal pieces.



Beside decals there are several other logo markings along with the side mirror faces that use bright plated photo etch that attaches to the body using a self adhesive. And the tire markings are stencils instead of water slide decals. All these markings went on without any problems and look very nice.

### Conclusion

Overall I am very happy with the overall results of this top of the line model car kit from Tamiya. Other than the issues mentioned in the build review, this kit builds a realistic replica of the real race car and welcome addition to my collection. A big thank-you goes out to Tamiya for supplying this kit and to IPMS/USA for allowing me to review it for you.



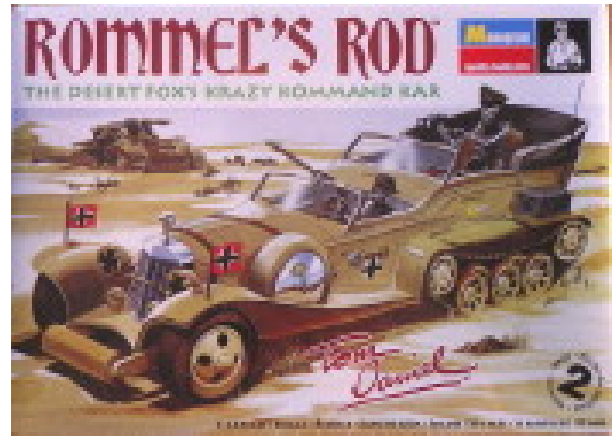
# First Look: Monogram Rommel's Rod

**Kit: Rommel's Rod**

**Mfg: Monogram Kit #: 85-4260**

**Scale: 1/24 MSRP \$22.95**

*By Chuck Herrmann*



The *Rommel's Rod* from Revell Monogram, in the classic original Monogram logo box art, is a reissue of a kit that had not been seen in 34 years. But instead of cleaning up the old tooling, which apparently has been lost, Revell-Monogram has made brand new tooling for this kit as well as several other old 1960's iconic custom kits.

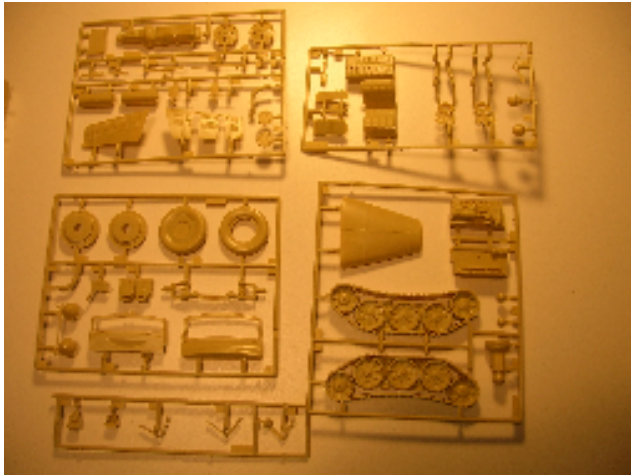
This wild custom was designed by Tom Daniel, who did many original custom designs in the 60's and 70's that were very popular kit subjects. He is still an active artist and designer, his work includes designing several Hot Wheels cars. To see his designs and artwork you can go to his website at [www.tomdaniel.com](http://www.tomdaniel.com). T-shirts for this kit and others are also available.



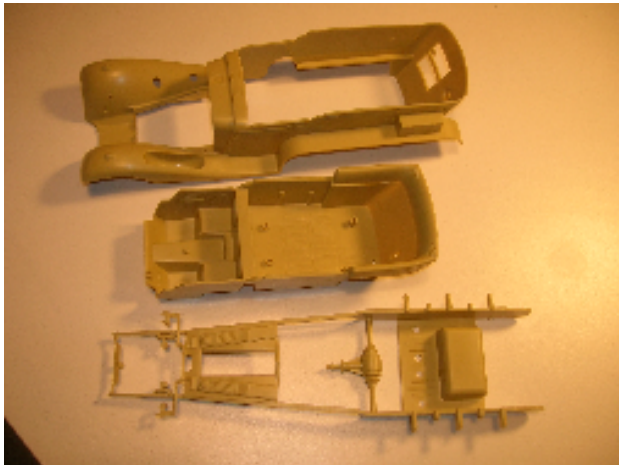


Rommel's Rod is a show car that is a caricature of a WWII German Desert command car, possibly based on a Mercedes Benz staff car/halftrack hybrid. It comes molded in Africa Korps yellow, with chrome and clear parts.

While this is a brand new tool, looking at the design it appears that Revell found the old blueprints and copied them exactly as the original from the 60's. There is no flash on the sprues and mold lines are not significant.

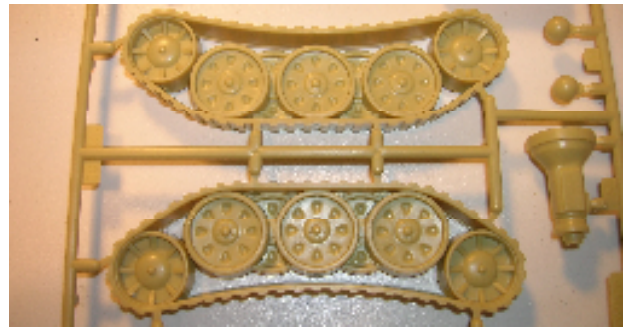


The design is rather simplistic, there are only 71 parts. The interior tub fits in from the top, rather unusual design. The cowls with the two windscreens fit in on top, so plan out your painting sequence accordingly.



The running gear is very simplistic. I do not see any exhaust or mufflers, just some manifolds dumping straight down from the massive in line eight cylinder engine. This is a seven piece assembly, with a chrome valve cover and carburetor.

One thing I was wondering about was how the kit would address the rear tracks, since that is not a common feature in automotive kits. I know that armor modelers love kits that feature separate track links and bogies, with adjustable sag and other features. Since I did not want to clean up and sand a ton of individual track links I was glad to see that this is one big plastic piece in this kit. Maybe not the most realistic but it about what I want to handle for a subject like this.



This is a big model, lots of interior room. It comes with two skeletons with German helmet and officer hats, also a machine gun, jerry cans and spare tracks. There is a neat hood ornament of a skull with a German helmet.



Why did I want this kit, something far out of my usual race car/sports theme? My plans for this kit are to make it into a surf rod, to join my series of beach rods: a Mercedes M Class, the original Surfite, a Surfite 2000 (a Smart car version almost done) and the Hasegawa VW Kubelwagen still in process. All are painted Testors Bright Yellow, and modified with surf and beach accessories. For the Rommel's Rod I see leaving out some of the military stuff like the flags on the front fenders, the weapons and skeletons. I see chrome wheels and bogies (meaning I will finally try the Alclad chrome paint), surfboards on a rack, drink cooler, radio and some interior gear. I will need some different seating; there is only one seat in the rear. I need to look at some of the Maltese Cross accessories left over from some of the Revell chopper kits, they are 1/12 but again this is a big vehicle. Plus it is neat piece of modeling nostalgia, a blast from the past.

# GTR Event

October 10 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Zoo Model Contest  
IPMS/Kalamazoo Scale Modelers & IPMS/West  
Michigan  
Air Zoo Museum 6151 Portage Rd. Portage, MI;  
Clarence Wentzel, (269) 353-6302

Oct 17 IPMS/Glue Crew  
Howard Johnsons Wausau, WI  
Joe Drew 715-842-0173

October 22-25 iHobby Expo  
Donald E. Stephens Conv. Ctr, Rosemont IL

[www.ihobbyexpo.com](http://www.ihobbyexpo.com)

October 24 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Circle City Modelers  
Contest & Swap  
First Church of the Nazarene Indianapolis, IN  
tn68droptop@yahoo.com

November 1 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap  
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI  
Jim Welytok 262-246-7171  
[unievents@aol.com](mailto:unievents@aol.com)  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

November 8 7th Caribbean Scale Auto Expo, by  
the Small World of MB.  
House of Chess, Munoz Marin Avenue, #60,  
Cagus, Puerto Rico.  
787.586.4241  
[www.CaribbeanScaleAutoExpo.com](http://www.CaribbeanScaleAutoExpo.com)

Nov 14 Southern NNL  
Southern Nats, NNL Style Model Car Show &  
Swap Meet.  
Smyrna Community Center, Smyrna, Georgia.  
[www.acme-ipms.com](http://www.acme-ipms.com)

November 14 IPMS/Butch O'Hare 27<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Contest and Swap Meet  
Lakeview Jr HS, Downers Grove, IL  
Marc Breziczki  
IPMS\_Butch\_Ohare@yahoo.com

December 6 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Winter  
Scale Model Show  
Waukesha County Expo Center  
[www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com](http://www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com)

December 6 Tinley Park Toy Show  
Tinley Park HS, Tinley Park IL  
Jim Welytok 262-246-7171  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)



## IPMS-USA

International Plastic Modelers Society

2010 Region 5 Convention:

Hosted by IPMS/Duneland – South  
Chicagoland – details TBD

National and Regional Conventions:

2010 Nationals: Phoenix, AZ

2011 Nationals: Omaha, NE



Happy Halloween  
from GTR Auto  
Modelers!



# **GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter**



**1999 - 2009**

## **GTR Celebrates our Tenth Year!**

**IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers**  
Chuck Herrmann  
338 Alicia Drive  
Cary, IL 60013

**Next GTR Meeting: October 17, 2009**  
[www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com](http://www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com)