



GTR

Newsletter

June 2004

The Newsletter of IPMS/Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers

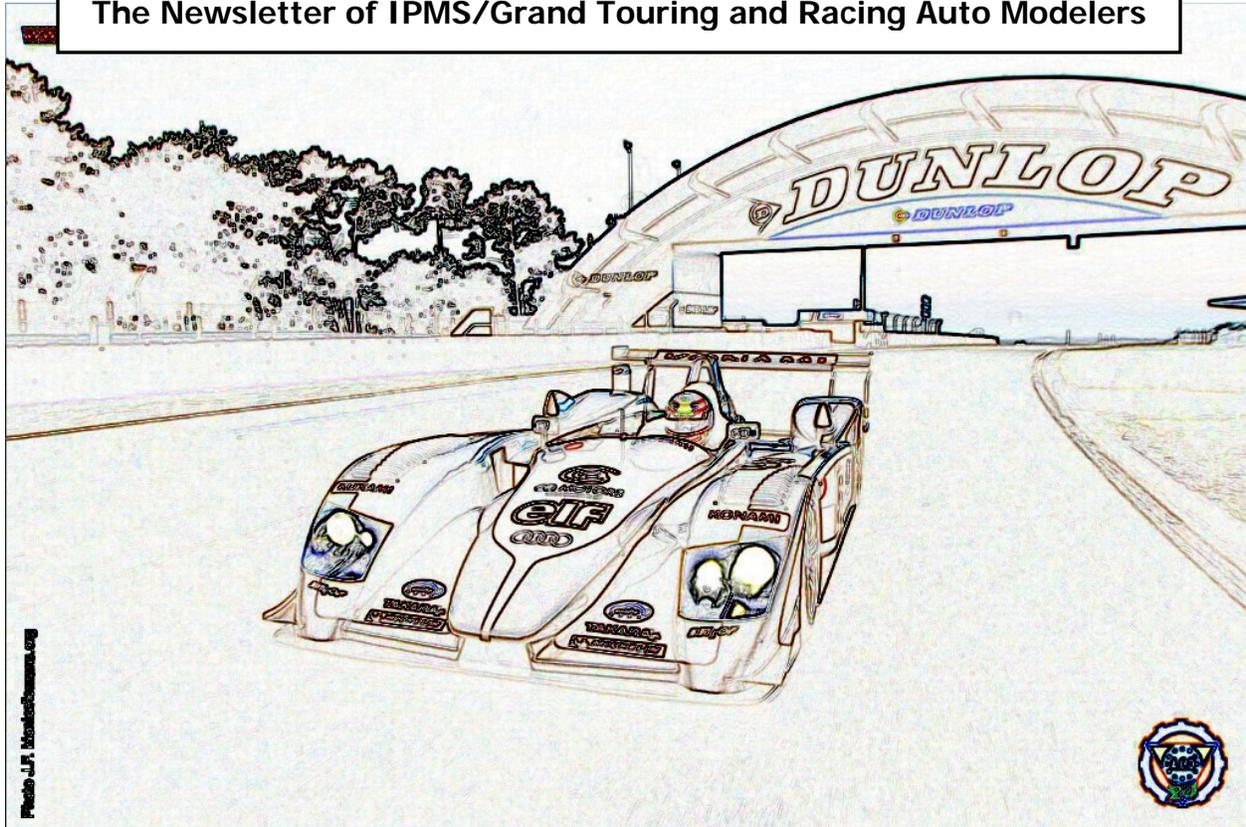


Photo: J.F. Henschel@msn.com

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 GTR Meeting: June 19, 2004

Fountains of Crystal Lake

On Route 31 about one mile north of Route 176

Your current GTR Officers are:

President: Tim Leicht (815) 344-9109

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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

GTR MAILBox

by Chuck Herrmann

Industry News

It appears Slixx will stay in business after all. They will no longer do NASCAR decals but they will continue to produce and distribute drag racing and various graphic decal sheets.

New from Revell in May were the Focus SVT Tuner 2 n 1, and the Cadillac Escalade kits. Good to see more contemporary subjects coming out.

AMT will be reissuing some old race kits, including the 1966 Hemi Under Glass Barracuda funny car. For stock car fans there will be the Gremlin, Vega and Pinto Modified kits, and the 1971 Dodge Dart sportsman which can be used to build a car run by Richard Petty.

Polar Lights new Love Bug kit is now available, see my review this issue for more.

Shizuoka Hobby Show

There were several announcements at this show last month.

- Tamiya will be doing a 1/12 die cast kit of the Ferrari Enzo, looks beautiful but it will be pricey (\$450!!).



Also they will be reissuing their Group C sports racers, with Cartograf decals. These include the Jaguar XJR-9LM, Sauber C9, Toyota 88C-V, Mazda 787 and Nissan R89C. Tamiya will be distributing Italeri kits of the Mercedes S600 and Alfa Romeo Guilietta Spider.

- Aoshima has new tuner kits of the Mazda RX-7 and Nissan Skyline and lots of other Japanese subjects..



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- Hasegawa displayed their new kit of the Lamborghini Jota, also new street version of the Lancia Stratos.



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- Fujimi will do a new tool of the new Mini Cooper.



And the next version of their Porsche 917K will be the Monza 1000 KM 1971 winner in Gulf colors.

- Ariei will do several reissues including a Mercedes C111 and a Porsche 924..

Check out pictures of these and more at the HobbyLink Japan website, www.hlj.com.

Events

Note that the IPMS/Duneland event, that was scheduled for October 2 in Portage, IN, has been canceled.

See details on this and other events on the calendar page and our website.

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, and Lake Michigan Model Car Club, which has several pieces on the Polar Lights Love Bug kit reviewed elsewhere this issue.

GTR Club News

GTR News

The regular June meeting will be at the Fountains of Crystal Lake on Saturday, June 19.

The deadline for getting articles, reviews, etc. in the next (July 2004) issue of the newsletter is May 30.

GTR May Meeting

The May GTR regular meeting, was held May 15 at the Fountains of Crystal Lake. Not much business, we did the mailbag and treasury and then it was time for Show & Tell:

George Pritzen: 1940 Ford Delivery in rat rod style. Also a built Testors 1/6 Hemi metal kit, see review.

Dave Edgecomb: Revell reissue kit of the BMW M1 Procar racer,

Chuck Herrmann: Gunze Sanyo Ferrari 365 GT4 BB in progress, and a Porsche 917 reference book.



Testors Hemi Engine Kit

Subject: Hemi Engine

Kit #: 450 Scale: 1/6

Reviewed by George Pritzen

Manufacturers Description:

"Hey! You got a Hemi?" This is the second in the series of 1/6-scale replicas of famous automobile engines. The 426 Hemi's are one of the most recognized engines in the automotive world and has become an icon to car lovers everywhere. The Testor Hemi has all the same details you would expect. The engine block is die-cast metal and pre-painted in the famous "Hemi Orange". Details such as the ignition wires, and dual quad carburetors all there. This kit is a must for any car historian, muscle car enthusiast or Mopar fan!

Review:

This kit has both metal (block) and plastic pieces that come pre-painted, the block in Chrysler red. Some but not all wiring is included. The detail is so-so for a kit of this scale, but considering the price it is okay. Everything pretty much went together as described, there could be a lot more carburetor detail but the air cleaner covers it. Not bad for a quick project.

Polar Lights VW Love Bug: First Look

Subject: VW Love Bug

Kit #:6816 Scale: 1/24

Reviewed by Chuck Herrmann



While readers of this newsletter know I am a big VW fan, I must admit I have never understood the fanatical obsession many people have with the Love Bug racing Beetle, named Herbie, from the Disney movie series. The first movie, "The Love Bug" was released in 1968. However, since it is a VW of course I was eagerly awaited this all-new licensed kit from Polar Lights.

Herbie was a 1963 VW Beetle that was slightly modified for racing. Not having seen the movie I don't know what kind of racing it competed in but knowing most Hollywood racing movies it was probably some made up class.

This is a snap tight kit, molded in racing white (body parts), gray (interior) and black (chassis and engine) with chrome and clear glass. The parts are little heavy, and there is a lot of flash on the sprues but minimal mold lines that should clean up easy. Despite being a snap tight it is a full detail kit, with complete interior, engine and chassis details. There are over 90 parts in the kit. Packaging is impressive, the different trees are separately bagged and the box is very sturdy, but it is one of those hated flip up one-piece type that other manufacturers abandoned some time ago.

Being a snap (an several screws) design, some of the accuracy is sacrificed to allow for assembly. The body trim is molded in, things like the hood handle is a molded blob. And I really do not like the thick, molded on windshield wipers. But again, this is due to the snap design that is targeted to beginning or casual builders.

One interesting feature is the opening trunk and hoods. Although the hinges are a little crude and use screws to hold the panels they will allow viewing of



the engine and storage compartment. The front trunk contains a full size spare tire.

The body to me looks a little too thick around the side window openings. A disappointment to me is the sunroof. I had hoped for an opening in the body, but instead the roof is solid with some holes that allow the soft top to snap into. So it cannot be displayed open.

The headlight buckets, door handles, bumpers, front turn signals and side view mirror are separate chrome pieces. One unusual thing is that there are no VW logos.

The complete engine is a twelve-piece assembly with the bottom molded into the rear end, transaxle and suspension to allow for secure assembly.

The interior builds up off the floor, with separate front and rear seats. There is a lot of nice detail molded into the side panels. The dash contains lots of molded on details and a separate chrome grab handle.

The tires are black vinyl with no sidewall details. The wheels covers are chrome (with no VW logos) that snap into the wheels. However, there is no detail under the covers so you cannot leave them off. The wheels mount onto metal axles.

The body markings are stickers, not waterslide decals, so that is disappointing.

In summary, considering the snap design, target audience and price this is an acceptable kit. The Tamiya and Fujimi Beetle kits are better quality, but more expensive.

2004 IPMS/GTR Calendar

June 12 GMO 6 NNL, theme Station Wagons.
Mall of America Grand Hotel
South Bloomington, MN
www.moagrandhotel.com 952-854-2244

June 12-13 24 Hours of LeMans

June 20 U.S Grand Prix
Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis, IN

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

August 29 44th Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy Show
With model car contest hosted by Lake Michigan
Model Car Club
Dupage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL
Show: 630 969-1847
Contest: 630 268-0859

September 11 IPMS/Will-Cook The Show 10
Millennium/James Hart Cafetorium
Homewood, IL
Ed Mate obviouschoice@juno.com

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)
Mid America Center
Council Bluffs, IA
Mike Cavel 402-493-9669

October 2 IPMS Duneland **CANCELLED**
Willowcreek Middle School **CANCELLED**
Portage, IN **CANCELLED!**
John Fluck jfluck@aol.com

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
(formerly Hillside)
Tinley Park HS Tinley Park, IL
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

October 14-17
iHobby Expo (formerly RCHTA)
Rosemont, IL
www.ihobbyexpo.com

October 23 IPMS/Glue Crew
Park Inn & Conference Center
Wausau, WI jdrew@dwave.net

November 13 22nd Annual Contest & Swap
Hosted by IPMS/Butch O'hare
Lakeview Jr HS Darrien, IL
Jwendt001@aol.com

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



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www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com