



GTR Newsletter

February
2005

The Newsletter of IPMS/Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers



In this issue:

- GTR News, Calendar
- Converting Revell AG's 1/32 Mercedes DTM static kit to a slot car!

**Display Table at
the January GTR
Meeting**

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: February 19, 2005

Fountains of Crystal Lake

On Rt 31, about 1 mile north of Rt 176

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JOHNDSTP43@cs.com

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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.freemove.com

GTR MAILBox

by Chuck Herrmann

Industry News

RC2/AMT/ERTL, recent buyers of Polar Lights, has announced that the previously announced Polar Lights 2005 Ford GT or 2005 Ford Mustang kits will not be released.

Tamiya has released a detail set with photo etch parts for their JGTC Nissan GTZ kit.



Events

The winter Wheaton swap meet and the accompanying Lake Michigan Model Car Club is February 27.

Word is the Strictly 43rd show will not be held this year. Plans are being made to revive the show next year, we await final details.

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

Real World

Speed Channel to air 2005 Trans Am



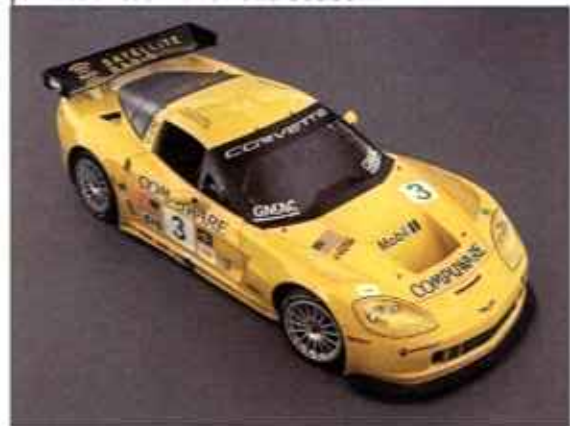
1/17/2005 (www.theracesite.com) -- SPEED Channel will air all 10 Trans-Am Series races during the 2005 season. The 2005 Trans-Am campaign, the Series' 40th consecutive season, will air in one-hour time slots on a tape-delayed basis. Airdates and times will be announced soon.

The Pope is a Ferrari fan and now a model car collector?

Last month the Ferrari team, including drivers Micheal Schumaker and Rubens Barrichello, met the Pope in Rome. They presented him with a scale model of the world championship Ferrari F1 car.



A new generation Corvette ALMS and LeMans racer is ready to replace the successful C5. The new ALMS/LeMans CR6 racer will debut at the Sebring 12 Hours in March. The old cars are said to be sold off to privateer teams for this season.



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.

GTR News

From the Prez:

Let the race season begin! As you read this, the Daytona 24 hour race will have already ended and, as you know, that race signals the official start of the 2005 race season! I for one can't wait to see how things turn out in various racing formats this year. Will Michael keep his strangle hold on Formula One? Will Rahal/Letterman take Indy again this year? How about the new rally season? I don't follow the drivers too much but I LOVE the action! Those guys are just plain crazy. What about Toyota in NASCAR? Can Nissan and Honda be far behind? It's going to be a great year in racing. You can tell just by the huge field of entries in the 24 Hours of Daytona. So guys, get ready for some great action.

I want to thank all of you for allowing me to continue as club president. I look forward to working for you again in 2005. There is one thing though that we need to address. We need more IPMS members in our club. I know what you are thinking already, IPMS is for military guys BUT, the main reason we need to be a chapter (besides supporting the largest hobbyist group in the world)- is INSURANCE. No matter where we meet as a group, IPMS covers us with liability insurance at no cost. God forbid we ever have a problem, but it's nice to know that we are covered in the event of a problem. You know the Fountains of Crystal Lake are nice to allow us to use their facility and the least we can do is assure them that we are insured and even if we meet at someone's house we are covered. It's a nice deal for a small price to pay for. So please, consider joining as we are dangerously close to not having enough IPMS members to qualify for chapter status.

Anyway, enough whining, what are you working on? Don't tell me in the last two weeks with all the snow you didn't sit down at your workbench! I'm finishing up my 1/12 scale Ferrari F1 2002 and I should have it done for the next meeting. You will be surprised at the build up. So bring in what you're working on and join us for some conversation. See you then.

Tim Leicht

GTR Update

The February meeting will be Saturday, February 19 at the Fountains of Crystal Lake.

We have held the dues to \$15 for 2005, so please pay at the next meeting or mail to me.

(make checks payable to me, not GTR as we do not have an account).

The deadline for getting articles, reviews, etc. in the next (March, 2005) issue of the newsletter is March 1. Submissions are *sorely* needed.

February GTR Meeting

The January GTR meeting was held 1/15/05 at the Fountains of Crystal Lake.



After the Treasury report (we ended 2004 in the black, so we do not need to raise dues) and the paying of dues by most members present we discussed the fact that we need more IPMS/USA national members to recharter with IPMS for 2005. We welcomed a new member. David Stone from Algonquin, who will join IPMS and along with other renewals get us over the requirement.

In other business discussed, we talked about boosting membership and meeting attendance. Flyers are available to distribute at local shows (the next show is February 6 in Rockford) and we will drop off flyers at local hobby stores. Any other ideas from members would be appreciated, let me or Tim know.



Then it was on to Show and Tell.
 Among the highlights were:
 Tim Leicht: 1/18 Auto Art Mercedes Benz 190
 in Senna race markings, Prepainted Tamiya
 Mercedes and Opel DTM kits.
 Ed Sexton: Mini Exotic 11/24 resin McLaren
 Mk1B.



Dave Edgecomb: 1/18 Minichamps Porsche
 917 diecast, 1/43 diecast Roneau LeMans and
 Mercedes DTM racers, Fujimi Ferrari F40 and
 Tamiya Nissan JGTC Xanau kits
 Ken Zinnen: Model King Daddy Warbucks 1965
 Falcon Funny Car reissue, Revell Chevy SSR
 with Jimmy Flinstone resin sedan delivery body
 in progress.
 Chuck Herrmann: Tamiya Porsche GT2 Rohr
 from Daytona 1996, Maisto diecast VW Toureg
 with painted out interior, Revell Porsche Boxter
 lowrider in progress.
 David Stone: Tamiya 1/12 Lotus 49 in progress,
 abd a 1/24 Italeri Ferrari Daytona California



Converting the Revell 1/32 Mercedes-Benz CLK "Easykit" into a smashing slot car. by Carl D. Jara

For almost three decades I've been creating slot cars from model kits. Any 1/32 kit unlucky enough to cross my path was soon disemboweled and attached to any number of different chassis components, then raced and crashed until the shards of plastic threatened to tear the tires off. I will admit that in the early days it was easy enough to screw a body to an Atlas chassis and call it done, wheelbase considerations, balance, and aesthetics (come on, those four screws sticking out of the sides looked great to a ten year old!) were not really important to me. These days, with the advent of so many really great looking (and even better running) slot cars from any one of the numerous brands out there, I've turned my attention towards detail and performance (hey, I got races to win, OK?)

So when my girlfriend's uncle Tim gave me a few kits and made me promise to do something great with them I felt I couldn't let him down. One of the kits was the AMG livery Mercedes-Benz CLK from Monogram, one in a set of six available in Europe, and, if you look closely, from a few websites in the US. The kit itself is quite beautiful; sharp tampo printing, bright colors, and a mean, low stance. From a slot car builder's point of view it is perfect; flat pan chassis (the DTM series requires the underside to be flat, so it's not for lack of realism), a shallow pan interior (allows PLENTY of room for slot car innards!) and free rolling wheels with very little up/down or side to side play. This kit SCREAMED to be made into a slot car!

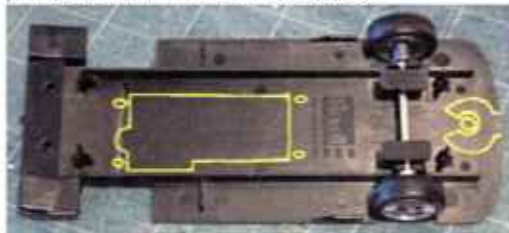
The most difficult part of building a slot car from a model kit is obviously figuring out

how to install the running gear properly, simply attaching a motor and throwing in an axle can become quite a challenge and I've approached this subject so many times I've lost count. But lo and behold there sat in front of me a brand new Porsche 956 from Slot.IT, flat pan chassis, aluminum wheels, a special in-line running gear component, gee I'm starting to see something here! So I carefully disassembled it, laid the motor mount atop the chassis of the Mercedes and there it was, the perfect solution!

A quick look on Professor Motor's website and a couple days of impatience and my slot car was ready to start. First step is to get rid of those pesky rear wheel mounting posts and some material from that same vicinity, using a razor saw cut along the yellow lines in Figure 1.



Now you will be able to line up the existing assembly with the chassis (make sure the wheels are EXACTLY in the center of the wheel openings on the body) and scribe around the motor mount with an Exacto knife. I used a cut-off wheel on my drill to remove this material, and then trimmed with a blade.



Checking the opening again, I knew I might want to adjust the fit a little once it was assembled so I trimmed a little front and back then drilled four holes for the mounting screws. (making these a bit elliptical front to back will allow you to adjust the running gear later as well) A couple spacers in the back and a flat plate glued in front raises the height of the running gear just enough to center the wheels in the openings.



Slot cars run in a slot, right? So the next step is to cut away a space in the front to install the guide flag. Again I turned to my Slot.IT Porsche for inspiration, and simply lined up the two chassis and scribed the opening directly from the Porsche, using the cut-off wheel from several different angles I was able to open up the space and trim with an Exacto. I then reinforced the hole for the guide flag with some scrap plastic and brought it up to level. The guide flag from Professor Motor had to be trimmed just a little with the razor saw to fit the height of this addition.



Now the wheels provided by Slot.IT come with black plastic inserts which don't look anything like the ones on the Mercedes, so I took a tip from another website and made my own from the wheels provided in the kit. Install one wheel on the axle and put the assembly in the chuck on your drill,



holding the razor saw steady, just in front of the center ridge, turn the wheel until it cuts clean through.



I had to sand a little away the first time to get the thickness right to fit the Slot.IT wheel depth.



Now turn the wheel on some heavy grit sand paper until the wheel is the exact size as the opening in the Slot.IT wheels (check often because it's really easy to go too far!)



Once the fit is just right, turn the wheel on the razor saw to cut off the hub, trim and drill a hole right in the center to accommodate the hub.



A little Super Glue to hold it in and there you have it, exact matching wheels.



By the way the front wheels and axle provided with the kit are perfectly suited, so just install them according to the directions.

All together this slot car is fantastic, it runs as well as it looks! The Professor makes one heck of a peppy little motor, and the Slot.IT components run so smooth you'd think it was a factory car (even though it just nuking the competition!) Now that I know this setup works I've got an Opal Astra and an Audi TT to build, see ya!



Parts List:

- M7120 Monogram 1/32 Mercedes-Benz CLK "AMG" DTM 2002 Livery - Driver Jean Alesi - Pre-Painted "Easykit" Model Car Kit -
 - SICH13 Slot.IT Reverse Motor Mount
 - PMTR1500 Professor Motor 1/32 Motor - Hot Rod Pro - 26,000 RPM
 - SIP109 Slot.IT Inline 9 Tooth Pinion Gear
 - SIKK07 Slot.IT rear axle starter kit for NINCO- 28 Tooth Inline Gear, Axle, Bushings, and Large Hub Wheels
 - SICH07 Pickup Guide With Extended Blade
- SISP05 Slot.IT Braided Soft Copper Competition Braids
 IG2007 New Compound Indy Grip Silicone Tires for Slot.IT PA10/PA18/PA19 Rims 0.790" O.D.

GTR Event Calendar

2005

February 11-20 Chicago Auto Show
McCormack Place Chicago, IL

February 20 Daytona 500 Daytona Beach, Florida

February 27 Illinois Plastic Kit & Toy Show
With Model Contest hosted by the Lake Michigan
Model Car Club DuPage County Fairgrounds
Wheaton, IL 630-969-1847

March 5 IPMS/Roscoe Turner 12th Annual Contest &
Swap Meet Lakeside Elementary School
Indianapolis, IN

March 5 IPMS/Great Plains
Frank Ciccarell F.Ciccarell@aol.com

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

March 19 12 Hours of Sebring

April 2 IPMS/Plastic Surgeons
Valley Free Church Des Moines, IA
Greg Metge gmgaha@mchsi.com

April 9-10 IPMS Sioux City Area Scale Modelers
Old Courthouse Museum Sioux Falls, SD

April 10 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

April 16-17 10th Annual TamiyaCon
Tamiya USA Corporate Office
Mission Viejo, CA www.tamiyausa.com

April 16 NNL Milwaukee 13 Hosted by AMG
Quality Inn Waukesha, WI

April 16 IPMS/Mad City Modelers
Radisson Inn Madison, WI
Jim Turek jtmodel@yahoo.com

April 17 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Swap Meet
Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha WI
Joan Dunn 262-646-4114

April 28-May 1 GSL-XX 20th GSL International Scale
Vehicle Championship and Convention
Prime Hotel, Salt Lake City UT
Hosted by Utah Miniature Automotive Guild
www.GSLChampionship

April 29-30 2005 IPMS Region V Convention
Holiday Inn Convention Center
Quad Cities, IL grbroman@aol.com

May 7 25th Annual Swap and Contest
Hoosier Model Car Association
First Church of Nazarene Indianapolis, IN
indyhcma@hotmail.com

May 25 Indy 500 Indianapolis Motor Speedway

June 8-19 24 Hours of LeMans

June 19 US Grand Prix
Indianapolis Motor Speedway

July 20-23 2005 IPMS/USA National Convention
Cobb Galleria Convention Center
Atlanta, GA www.ipmsusa.org

September 10 Nordic Con IPMS/Twin Cities
Minneapolis, MN

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

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

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

October 20-23
iHobby Expo Los Angeles, CA

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

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

IPMS USA
International Plastic Modelers Society

www.ipmsusa.org

2006 National Convention Kansas City, MO

GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter



NASCAR Daytona Test Photos

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Cary, IL 60013

Next GTR Meeting: February 19, 2005
www.qtrautomodelers.freesevers.com