



# GTR Newsletter

## July 2006

The Newsletter of IPMS Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers

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GTR Member Les Whitfield's 1/12 Lola T70 Coupe

## GTR Auto Modelers

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

2006 Meetings: Every 3rd Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

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

**Next GTR Meeting: July 15, 2006**

**At the Fountains of Crystal Lake**

**On Rt 31, about one mile north of Rt 176 in Crystal Lake**

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The GTR Newsletter is edited by Chuck Herrmann

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**Check out the GTR Auto Modelers website at:**

**[www.gtrautomodelers.freemove.com](http://www.gtrautomodelers.freemove.com)**

# GTR Mailbag

by Chuck Herrmann

## Industry News

**Lindberg to return:** The Lindberg model brand has been resurrected. The tooling for Lindberg and Hawk kits has been purchased by former Revell and Testors executives, and the first batch of product, reissues of Hawk Weird-Oh figures, is on hobby store shelves now. We await word on future kit releases and dates. They are expected to be at the i hobby Expo in October.

Tamiya has announced that they will do a limited reissue run of the 1/24 Toms Toyota 84C Kit 24289.



And there is word they will do a kit of the Mercedes-Benz McLaren in 1/24. For that kit, Cobra Colors will have all the correct factory paint finishes. Check it out at:

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

## Media



Jacques Villeneuve used the Canadian Grand Prix weekend to launch his first music single. The French language song is titled "Accepteris-Tu?", (translation "Would you accept?"), soon to be followed by a full album.

## Baghdad Hobby Club

We have received confirmation that the second batch of kits and supplies GTR (with help from CARS in Miniature) collected and sent to the troops in Iraq was received by the Baghdad Hobby Club. They appreciate the kits and the opportunity for a break from their stressful mission.

## Events

The 2006 Plastic Summer Meltdown event, hosted by IPMS/CARS in Miniature and GTR, has been set for August 20, at the same location as last year, the Algonquin Township Offices in Cary.

The IPMS/USA Nationals are next month, in Kansas City. For those who have not been to a National, this is a huge event, thousands of models in the contest, "the world's largest hobby shop" vendor

area, seminars and other events. If all goes to plan I will be attending on our way back from our great West vacation, and I should have a report and photos next issue.



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

## Real World

### Porsche: Targa Florio 50 Anniversary

June 10 was a landmark date for Porsche. On that day in 1956, a Porsche 550 Spyder driven by Umberto Maglioli won the Targa Florio. While they had won many class victories, this was the first overall win in a major sports car race. The model designation Targa, for Porsches with the removable Targa top, commemorates this victory. Porsche also won nine other runnings of the Targa before it was discontinued after 1973.



## IPMS Journal's New Look

The IPMS Journal, the publication of IPMS/USA, has a new staff and a new look beginning with the latest issue. It is much more slick and polished than the old format, and there are several articles on automotive subjects.

## Newsletters

Since last time, we have received print and electronic newsletters from:

IPMS/Lakes Region Scale Modelers, IPMS/Seattle, AMG Milwaukee, IPMS/C.A.R.S. in Miniature, *The Wingman* from IPMS/Bong Chapter, Rockford Wheels in Scale (RWIS), Winnebago Auto Modelers (WAM), Lake Michigan Model Car Club and *Dew Line* from the Upper Peninsula (MI) Scale Modelers.

Copies of all these will be available for viewing at the next meeting.

# GTR News

## GTR Update

The July meeting will be at the Fountain of Crystal Lake, on the usual 3rd Saturday, July 15.

2006 dues are still being accepted, cost remains \$15.00. Please pay at the next meeting or mail to Chuck Herrmann. Make checks payable to Chuck Herrmann, not GTR. Last years dues expired March 31.

The deadline for getting articles, reviews, etc. in the next (August) issue of the newsletter is July 8, early as I will be on vacation. Submissions are **always** appreciated.

## June GTR Meeting

The June regular GTR meeting was held at the Fountains of Crystal Lake on June 17. After the treasury and business updates, we saw a test shot of the upcoming Revell 1/12 chopper motorcycle kits.



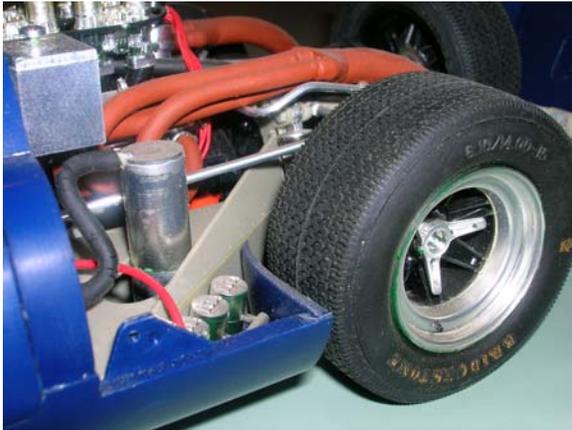
This led to discussion of a possible club project kit, maybe these bikes when they are released? Previous club projects have lead to slim participation. Members should think about this and let me know or bring your ideas to the next meeting.

Then we moved on to Show and Tell. Among the stuff on display:

Chuck Herrmann: Revell Porsche Boxster modified into a lowrider! Also a Tamiya Porsche 961, LeMans 1986 GTX class winner, and two 1/25 pace cars: the Revell snap C-5 Corvette pre finished kit with LeMans pace car decals, and a diecast Corvette 2005 Indy 500 Pace car from Green Light Collectibles



Les Whitfield: Tamiya 1/12 Lola T70 Coupe



George Pritzen: Revell pre finished Corvette C-5 ALMS racer in progress.



Michael Larson: Maisto Ferrari F430 assembled kit, some Ferrari F1 books



Ed Sexton: Revell AG 1/24 McLaren 2005 F1 car, with aftermarket presentation car decals by Tabu, done in Tamiya Brilliant Orange



Steve Jahnke: Heller Porsche 911 kit in progress, a Revell C-5 Corvette Gran Sport (phantom) and a Tamiya Toyota Celica.



## CHAMELEON--PLASTIC SAFE MODEL PAINT STRIPPER

*Modeling Product Review by Al Jones*

Reprinted from *The Wingman*, newsletter of  
IPMS/Bong

Really . . . I never expected to have to strip the paint off of a model car body. It all happened through a series of mistakes stemming from IMPATIENCE. First, I added only a few drops of thinner to a full bottle of Testors Model Master Gloss Paint. This made the coats I sprayed thick and slow drying. Second, because I was getting an orange peel surface on the paint due to lack of thinner, I sprayed a few too many coats. Third, wanting to remove dust specks from the still wet paint, I tried to use the rough surface on a polishing stick on the paint the very next day. The scratches in the paint went clear through to the plastic. Thus, the need to strip.

What to do? The last time I did any paint stripping was over 40 years ago...and then I was not working on a plastic car body. I had heard of using Easy Off Oven Cleaner, but was led to believe that the formula of the stuff that worked good had been changed. I was not in the mood for experimentation. Others told me that brake fluid works. Somebody said that the stuff is really slow and that lots of applications are necessary.

Remember what I said about IMPATIENCE? I drove down to see what Gary and Jay at Greenfield News and Hobby had to say about my predicament. In stock, they carry a product called CHAMELEON—Plastic Safe Model Paint Stripper. The label on the bottle says that this stuff is: BIOCHEMICALLY DEGRADABLE, NONCAUSTIC, and WATER SOLUBLE.

On the other hand, there is a FLAMMABLE warning; it is not good for drinking, and Use of this product in a manor inconsistent with its labeling is a direct violation of federal law. The product contains GLYCOL ETHERS &ALCOHOL.

It is manufactured by Chameleon Hobby Products Inc, A Division of Diversified Products & Services Group, 63 Mason Lane, P.O. Box 2080, North East, MD 21901. It comes in a 16 ounce bottle that sells for around \$17. Their website is:

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

Using one of those black plastic trays from a pre-consumed TV dinner, I poured out the entire contents of the bottle. The tray being not deep enough to immerse the entire car body at one time, I first dropped the body into the liquid right side up and later, flipped it over onto the roof. The directions say to soak for 20 minutes.

Watching TV, I was on a 30 minute schedule. After 30 minutes, I picked up the body and brushed it with an old tooth brush. The paint came off in sheets. Total soaking time was a hour to get both top and bottom. Total paint removal time was about five minutes.

After rinsing thoroughly in cold water, the car body was ready for new paint. Now, what about cleanup? I cut a slit in the edge of a paper towel, formed a funnel filter, and using a small metal funnel I found out in the garage, I was able to pour the stripper liquid back into its original container, all the while filtering out the old paint through the paper towel.

CHAMELEON Paint Stripper is a product that does what it claims.

## Travel Log: California, here I come... 2005

*By Steve DeVaux*

(Steve is a member of the Masscar Club from Massachusetts, and proprietor of VRM decals. Since it is summer I thought I would include a bit of travelogue this issue..ed)

Someone once said 'Go west young man!' – so I did. A bunch of times...

Most recently my trip was to Santa Clara, CA for the NNL West. I've been to this show a half dozen times or so, and it is always fun. I usually fly into San Jose, but American eliminated the nonstop flight that I usually take. My only other choice to go non-stop and fly on American (and use some frequent flier miles) was to go to San Francisco. SF was never one of my favorite airports because it was always crowded, unorganized, and not well laid out. The last time I flew into SF the airport was in the middle of construction, and it was worse than it has ever been. Now, the construction is done, and the place has improved greatly! I had requested a Mustang for a rental car from Hertz. They gave me one, but upgraded it to a convertible just because they like me. It was about 10 degrees back in Massachusetts, and the ground was covered in a foot and a half of snow. California was 55 degrees – warm enough for me to ride with the top down! I was clearly not a native Californian – they all had their windows up and (probably) the heaters on.

I like to plan a few extra trips besides the NNL when I go to California. Last year I had been talking to the owner of one of the James Garner racing Corvettes. He invited me and a friend of mine to go visit the private garage where his Corvette and about 70 other cars were stored.



**Dave Herlinger – owner of the AIR Corvette, and Mike Quarterman**

This year was no different; Friday was to be a busy day, with a two-and-a-half-hour trip to Fresno to visit Dick Smith, the owner of 427 Cobra CSX3035. Dick has owned the same car since the 60s, and has raced it the entire time. He was kind enough to spend a couple of hours with me letting me take pictures of the car, and telling me stories



of the glory days of road racing in America. Back in 1967 the car was Cobra silver mink with a yellow nose. Above is a vintage photo showing the car in race trim with Dick Smith standing behind it. He still has the race windscreen in his garage.



Mr. Smith competed in the 1967 Daytona American Road Race of Champions where he clocked an amazing 198 MPH in his Cobra on the banking of Daytona! This is still the fastest speed

ever recorded for any Cobra roadster. Today the car is red and is routinely raced in vintage events, but it only has a handful of modifications. The car is very original throughout. My pictures of both cars can be seen at: <http://public.fotki.com/VRM/>.

Friday night I attended a gathering of motorsport modelers. It has become a bit of a tradition to gather at the home of one of the local modelers and talk models and racing. It's always fun, and also very informative as some very knowledgeable people show up.

Saturday was the date of the NNL, and it was the first time I attended an event as a vendor. Vendor registration was smooth and painless. AN NNL style event is always a lot less stressful for the club that hosts it, and that can be evidenced by the relaxed demeanor of the Silicon Valley Scale



Vehicles club members. There were a large number of models, but not as many as the average New Jersey NNL. One of the most striking things about models in CA is the wild paint jobs. There were a lot of street rods, customs, and tuners on the tables, and they all seemed to be trying to outdo each other with their paint jobs.

I am a member of GPMA (Grand Prix Modelers Association), an online club of motorsport modelers, and a handful of other members were also in attendance.

We picked a Ferrari 512BB as the best competition vehicle. The 1/43 scale Ferrari was built by Randy Navarrette, and in addition to the great trophy, he won a gift certificate to M&S Hobbies and a GPMA T-Shirt.

Sunday was a work day for me and my San Jose-based decal artist. We spent the afternoon working on some future decal projects including 427 Cobras and Mustang GT350-R race cars for the 1/24<sup>th</sup> Monogram kits.

Absolutely worth the trip! Any takers for next year?

# GTR Event Calendar

August 2-5 IMPS/USA National Convention  
Hyatt Regency Crown Center  
Kansas City, KS  
[www.IPMSUSA2006.org](http://www.IPMSUSA2006.org)

August 6 NASCAR Brickyard 400  
Indianapolis Motor Speedway

August 12 15<sup>th</sup> National Microcar and Minicar  
Club Meet  
100 S Main St. Crystal Lake, IL  
Ken Weger 815-459-5005  
Knsweiger@mc.net

August 20 ALMS Road America



August 20 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Plastic Meltdown  
hosted by:  
IPMS/CARS, Lakes Region and GTR  
Algonquin Township Offices  
Crystal Lake, IL  
[GTRchab@yahoo.com](mailto:GTRchab@yahoo.com)

August 27 48th Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy Show:  
swap and contest  
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL  
Past Time Hobbies 630-969-1847

September 9 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Zoo Contest  
IPMS/W Michigan and Kalamazo Modelers  
Air Zoo Museum, Kalamazoo MI  
Clarence Wentzel [cwentzel@yahoo.com](mailto:cwentzel@yahoo.com)

September 16 IPMS/Gateway Event  
First Baptist Church, St Charles MO  
314-645-1117 [CRM@inlink.com](mailto:CRM@inlink.com)

September 17 Scale Auto Swap Meet  
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

September 23 IPMS Twin Cities Aero Historians  
– details TBA

October 7-8 Toledo Swap and NNL

October 19-22 iHobby Expo  
Public days Sat/Sun 10/21-22  
Stephens Convention Center  
Rosemont, IL  
[www.ihobbyexpo.com](http://www.ihobbyexpo.com)

October 21 IPMS/Bong Event  
Midway Best Western Hotel  
Brookfield, WI <http://www.ipmsbong.org>

October 28 IPMS Glue Crew  
Wausau Inn and Conf Center  
Wausau, WI  
Joe Drew [jdrew@dwave.net](mailto:jdrew@dwave.net)

November 5 Scale Auto Swap Meet  
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

November 11 IPMS/Butch O'hare  
Lakeview Jr High Darrien, IL

Nov 12 Tri State Collectors Classic Toy Show  
Park Place of Countryside Union Hall  
Countryside, IL  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

December 10 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Swap Meet and  
Model Car Contest presented by Milwaukee  
Miniature Motors  
Waukesha Expo Center, Waukesha WI  
[www.milwaukeminaturemotors.com](http://www.milwaukeminaturemotors.com)  
Contest: Loren Busswitz 414-353-0720

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

**IPMS USA**  
International Plastic Modelers Society

National Conventions:

August 2-5, 2006 Kansas City, MO

August 22-25, 2007 Anaheim, CA

2008 – TBA – East Region location

# GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter



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

Next GTR Meeting: July 15, 2006  
[www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com](http://www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com)