



# GTR Newsletter

## September 2006

The Newsletter of IPMS Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers

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- 2006 Meltdown Event Coverage
- New Revell Chopper Kit Review



Butch Hartman USAC Dodge Charger Stock Car, by Bob Dineen, at 2006 Summer Plastic Plastic Meltdown

## 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: September 16, 2006**

**At the Fountains of Crystal Lake**

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

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

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

# GTR Mailbag

by Chuck Herrmann

## Industry News

From England and the BBC we receive the bad news that "iconic model-maker" Airfix is in trouble, as their parent, Humbrol, has gone into administration, which sounds like the British version of bankruptcy. 31 of 41 employees have lost their jobs. Their principal supplier, Heller SA from France is behind in shipments since it, too, is in administration.

Airfix has been making model kits since 1949. While their recent automotive kits have not been that frequent or particularly great, it would be a shame if the company goes out of business. Hopefully they can be reorganized and continue on.

## Events

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

## Real World

### US GP at Indy in 2007!

From [www.speedtv.com](http://www.speedtv.com)

Formula 1 will return to the [Indianapolis Motor Speedway](#) next year, Speedway president Tony George has confirmed. The new deal between George and Formula One Management boss Bernie Ecclestone is only for one year, although George said his intention is to commit to Formula 1 long term.

The [race](#) would be held June 17, 2007, returning to its previous date on the third weekend in June rather than in July, as was the case this year. The date remains provisional, subject to approval by the FIA. "Though this contract is for only one year, it is still our goal to make the Speedway the longtime home of the [United States Grand Prix](#)," said Joie Chitwood, IMS president.

The future of the United States [Grand Prix](#), whose contract with F1 expired this year, was in doubt following last year's fiasco, when all the Michelin runners failed to race due to safety concerns. There were rumors of a Las Vegas temporary street course replacing the Brickyard.

# GTR News

## GTR Update

The September meeting will be at the Fountains of Crystal Lake, on the usual 3rd Saturday, September 16.

## Build a Bike GTR Club Project

Following up from the June meeting when we discussed a possible club project kit, we decided that the next club project would be 1/12 scale motorcycles, either the new Revell chopper bikes which are on the store shelves now, or a Tamiya motorcycle if you cannot bear to do a chopper. Kitbashing or modifying the kits is encouraged so we can see how many variations or themes our members can come up with. So start building a bike in time to show it at the February meeting. Previous club projects have lead to slim participation; hopefully we can get more kits built this time around.

## 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), *Dew Line* from the Upper Peninsula Scale Modelers and Lake Michigan Model Car Club.

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

## August GTR Meeting

The August regular GTR meeting was held at the Fountains of Crystal Lake on August 19. After the treasury and business updates, we decided on the next club project, Build a Bike (see above for details).



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

Dave Edgecomb: 1/18 diecast 2005 LeMans Corvette and Aston Martin, Tamiya kits of NSX Accura NX5 Japan racer and Tamiya Ducati GP4 motorcycle, also Fujimi Ferrari Challenge 430 kit.



Steve Jahnke: Polar Lights Ford GT, Italeri Ferrari GT40, 1966 Chevelle wagon, 1948 Ford Woody, Mustang Super Stallion.



Ed Sexton: Franklin Mint Cobra 427, and the book "Monogram Models" by Tom Graham.

Chuck Herrmann: Revell 1/12 scale chopper, Motor Max 1/24 diecast Porsche Carrera GT.



Ron Kohler: AMT Chevelle Modified stocker, Model King Rat Packer, Nitto Lamborghini Muria, 62 Rolls Royce, Monogram 70 Trans Am, Monogram Chaparral 2D.



George Pritzen: Revell Porsche 911 GT1 Evo

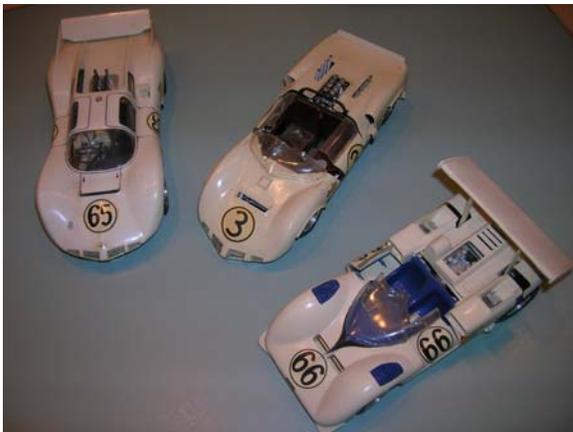




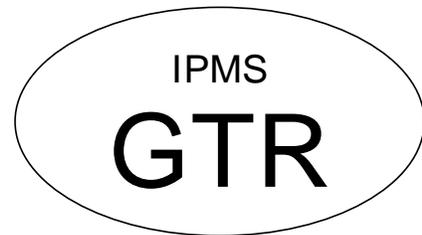
Les Whitfield: three vintage, original issue Chaparrals built when new: IMC 2E and 2C, and a Monogram 2D



Ken Zinnen: Revell Ferrari 612 kit in progress, AMT Chrysler 300 kits, two Polar Lights CarToons models.



Kevin Freitag: lots of 1/32 slot cars: Ferrari 250 short tail, Porsche gulf 917 long tail, Corvette Grand Sport, Sauber Mercedes, Aston Martin DB9, Ferrari P4. Two 1/24 die cast US Army top fuel dragsters, 1/18 Grumpy's Toy Nova.



# New Revell Chopper Kit

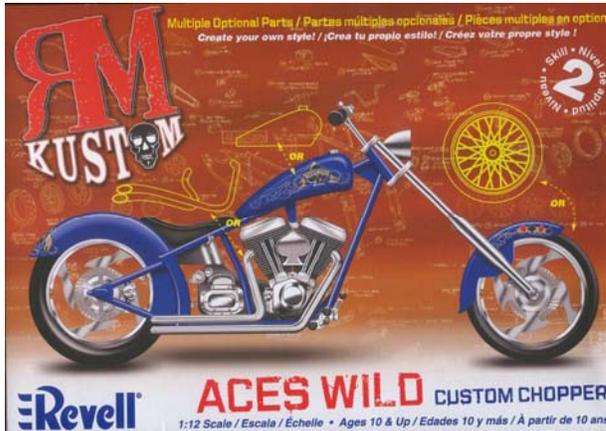
Subject: **Aces Wild Custom Chopper**

Manufacturer: **Revell**

Kit Number: **85-7315** Scale: **1/12**

By Chuck Herrmann

Revell has issued a series of kits depicting custom chopper style motorcycles in 1/12. There are 6-8 different kits planned, the first ones came out in July. These are "phantom" kits in that they do not represent a specific real subject, rather they are an example of what a customer could order from one of the specialty custom motorcycle shops. Each kit has several options, and all the parts are interchangeable between kits so ultimately there would be a lot of possibilities if you were to kitbash parts from the different kits.



The kit I built was the Aces Wild version. The kit is molded in white and chrome, with clear glass and rubber tires. There are 54 pieces, which includes the optional parts. In this kit you have a choice of wheels, gas tank, exhaust pipes, air cleaner and belt drive cover.



The design is relatively simple, especially when compared to the Tamiya 1/12 bike kits. But then it is about a third the cost. The tube frame is two main pieces. It fits together well, but in order to secure the front fork, the fork mount on the front of the frame clamps around the fork, which means there is a seam that needs filling once the pieces are assembled. Also, the frame cannot

really be painted until this is filled and sanded, by which time the chrome fork is attached making it difficult to mask and paint. The frame does fit together nicely, the mold lines are not excessive, and the other join seam is on top, which can be sanded smooth and is eventually hidden by the fuel tank.



For wheel options there are the standard spoked wire wheels or custom billet wheels, which mount treaded rubber tires. The wheels need to be glued to the fork and rear frame, so they cannot turn. The fork style is not the same as shown on the box art. There are chrome disc brakes.

Speaking of chrome, there is a lot of it in the box, probably half the parts. This is the way real custom bikes are finished, but all the usual problems with plated plastic crop up here. The engine is all chrome, but the two block halves leave a big gap that cannot be filled without ruining the chrome, same for the oil tank. The mold lines are very noticeable on the fork and handlebars. This is common on models with lots of chrome but since everything here is so visible it is an issue.

I bought my kit on a Monday and wanted to finish for the Saturday meeting. Since this meant I didn't have time for a nice paint job, I went for a rat rod theme. I removed the chrome from the fork, assembled the frame per the instructions and filled the front seam afterward. I brush painted the fork and frame with Humbrol metallics, the fork chrome and the frame dark gray. When dry I burnished the frame to give it a metallic patina, this worked better than the fork.

The fenders and gas tank I sprayed Testors Flat Black from a rattle ca, then polished and waxed with "The Treatment" to give a satin sheen. I sanded the seat smooth (it has an Ace logo molded in), then painted it Model Master British crimson, a flat paint which I rubbed out to look like leather/vinyl. On the engine, I just glued it together then ran thinned flat black in the fins for highlighting. I picked the straighter exhausts, stripped the chrome and painted them Model Master Jet exhaust, another metallic paint you

can rub out to get some sheen.

The rest I glued as is, since I had a tight deadline. (note the bottom of the oil tank is in the kit but not called out in the instructions). The assembly goes smoothly, I did not experience any major fit issues. The fork will turn, the finished bike stands up using the kickstand. It builds up into a decent shelf model.

The negatives are the mold lines and joints for the chrome parts, again a common modeling problem, and the design for mounting the front fork. For the next one I do, for the GTR club theme, I will probably remove more chrome and refinish or paint it. Also fill more joints, and do a better paint job. I am looking at an alternative way to mount the fork, maybe a bolt or rivet from the bottom? And I may look at some of the aftermarket pieces made for the Tamiya kits.



The 2006 Plastic Summer Meltdown event, hosted by **IPMS/CARS in Miniature** and **GTR**, took place Sunday, August 20, at the same location as last year, the Algonquin Township Offices in Cary. There were indoor swap tables as well as the outside "trunk sale". The event was an NNL style exhibition, for all classes of models.



Outside Trunk Sale



Being an NNL style event, the only trophies were people's Choice awards for the Best Of each category.



Best Theme (Deuces) Winner was a Cuda by Brian Jaslowski, who also won Best Automotive.



One of the Automotive display tables



A collection of Corvettes: every year is represented!



Aircraft Table

The weather was pleasant, sunny but not too hot. The entry fee included pizza for lunch. Turnout looked to be about the same as last year. In summary, it was a nice, informal event. And how many other model contests let you work on your tan?

# GTR Event Calendar

September 9 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Zoo Contest  
IPMS/W Michigan and Kalamazo Modelers  
Air Zoo Museum, Kalamazoo MI  
Clarence Wentzel cewentzel@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 Nordic Con  
IPMS Twin Cities Aero Historians  
South St Paul Minincipal Airport (Fleming Field)  
[robertmaderich69@hotmail.com](mailto:robertmaderich69@hotmail.com)

September 23-24 Road America Champ Car  
Elkhart Lake, WI

October 7 ICON6 by IPMS DesMoines Hawkeye  
Modelers  
Urbandale Senior Citizen Center, Urbandale, IA

October 7-8 Toledo Swap and NNL

October 14 Hobbytown USA Oshkosh  
Fall Model Contest 10:30 – 4:00

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 4 Lake 2 Lake Modelers 13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Swap Meet 9:00-2:00  
Butch's opera House, Nazianz, WI

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  
Marco Fernandez mfchi@sbcglobal.net

Nov 12 Tri State Collectors Classic Toy Show  
Park Place of Contryside 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 22-25, 2007 Anaheim, CA

2008 – Virginia Beach, VA

2009 – TBA - Central US

2007 Region 5 Convention:

June 8-9, Ottawa IL by IPMS/SPASM



## GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter

LeMans, 2006

IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers  
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Next GTR Meeting: September 16, 2006  
[www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com](http://www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com)