

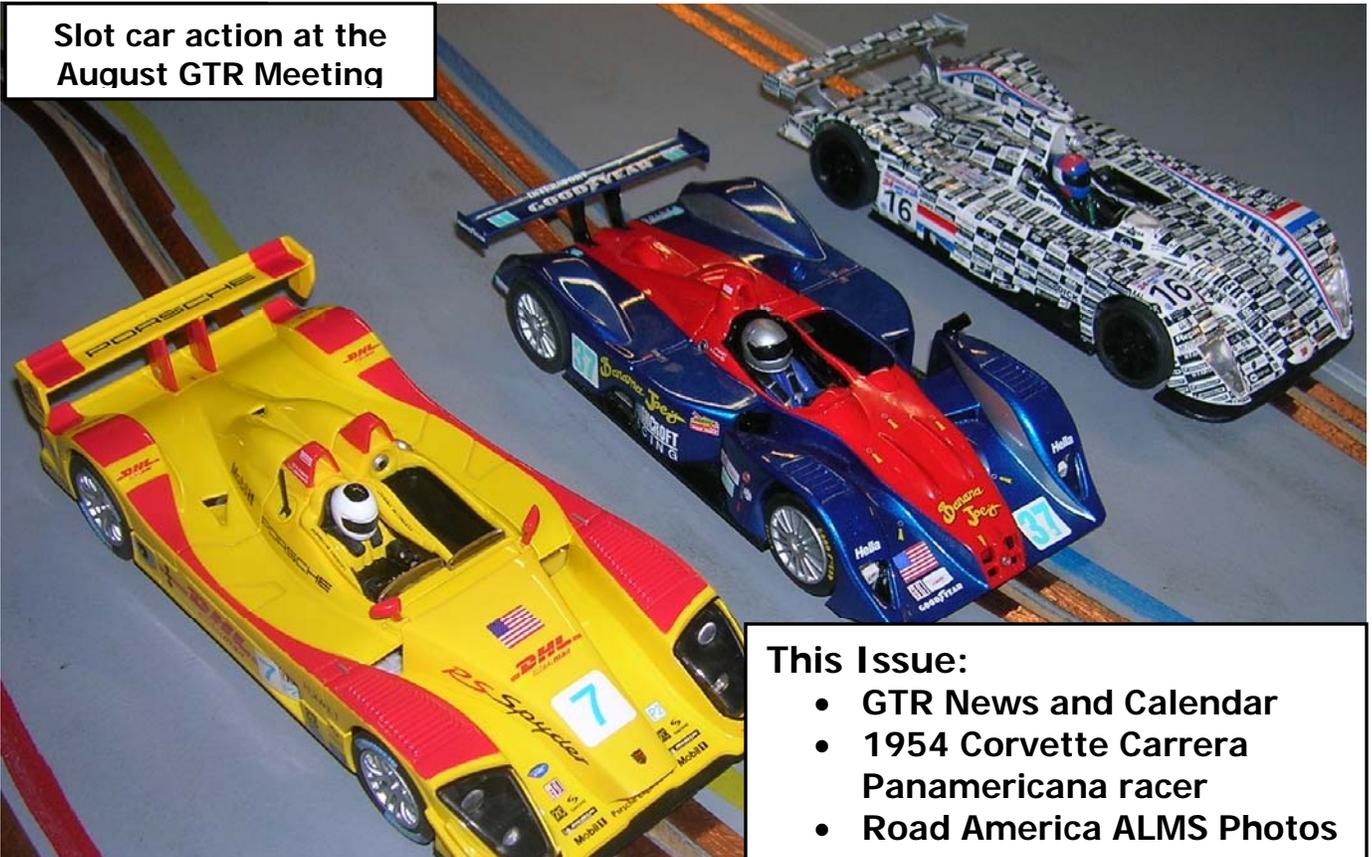


GTR Newsletter

September 2007

The Newsletter of IPMS Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers
2007 IPMS/USA Region 5 Newsletter of the Year

Slot car action at the
August GTR Meeting



This Issue:

- GTR News and Calendar
- 1954 Corvette Carrera Panamericana racer
- Road America ALMS Photos

GTR Auto Modelers

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

2007 Meetings: Every 3rd Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Next GTR Meeting: September 15, 2007

At Fountains of Crystal Lake

On Rt 31, about one mile north of Rt 176

Your current GTR Officers are:

President: Ed Sexton

847-897-5840

ESexton@revell.com

Vice President: Steve Jahnke

847-516-8515

stevejahnke@comcast.net

Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann

847-516-0211

gtrchab@yahoo.com

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.

Check out the GTR Auto Modelers website at: www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com

GTR Mailbag

by Chuck Herrmann

Real World

To promote the season ending IRL race at Chicagoland Speedway, the Marco Andretti Indy car was on display for a week at the Ogilvie Transportation Center METRA train station in downtown Chicago.



Industry News

The latest newsletter from MS Hobbies indicates they now have the Revell Germany Audi R10 TDI kit, so it is hitting the stores in the US. (*I just picked mine up at Ron's Hobbies in Mundelein*) Also the Scalemotorsport upgrade set for that kit is available. They also announce a mid- September release of a new Studio 27 1/24 multi media kit of the Peugeot 908 from this years LeMans 24 Hour race, so the major LeMans contenders are now available in 1/24.



Check out their website:
www.mshobbies.com

Random Thoughts

By Les Whitfield

"Let's see if we miss America." That was a Reuter's quote of Bernie Ecclestone regarding the F1 race at Indianapolis (and I believe all of America Les). It was reported that the city of Indianapolis might loose up to \$100 million in revenue because of the loss of tourists. Talks may begin again for the 2009 race. One of the stumbling blocks may be the sanctioning fee of \$30 million required for hosting the race. Some foreign governments are reportedly ready to come up with this money. I think they should be allowed to. Let them run themselves broke. While America is considered to be an important part of the equation, Europe and Asia are considered emerging markets where the future is. Reported in *National Speed Sport News*; Honda not only hopes the race to resume, but, to add a second race in the United States. BMW considers the US their number one market and an important venue to display their product. Ferrari was not mentioned, however, I believe with their order backlog they would not seem to be too concerned.

I understand Indianapolis will host a round of motorcycle racing (the MotoGP) next year. I believe that Tony George should let Champ Car run the road course next year in place of the F1 circus. What a gesture that would be toward the reconciliation of the two American open wheel racing groups. Neither would be invading the others area of expertise. Another race could be a round of ALMS. (if it does not cut into the spectator count with Road America or Mid Ohio).

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, Winnebago Auto Modelers (WAM), Back Porch Modelers Group, Maryland Auto Modelers Assoc (MAMA), IPMS/Racing Plastic Modelers (RPM), IPMS/Quad Cities and Lake Michigan Model Car Club.

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

Events

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

2007 IPMS/USA National Convention



The 2007 IPMS/USA National convention was held in Anaheim on August 23-25. Some pictures from the event are below.



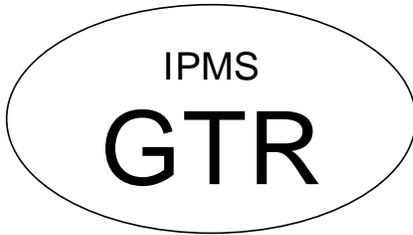
The numbers: 713 modelers entered 2,172 models. Award winners: Chapter of the Year IPMS/Ocala (FL). Newsletter of the Year *Spare Parts* IPMS/Richmond.



There are a lot more photos at the IPMS/USA webpage, at www.ipmsusa.org. Full details will be in an upcoming issue of the *IPMS Journal*.

The 2009 IPMS/USA Nationals will be held in Columbus, Ohio.





GTR News

GTR Update

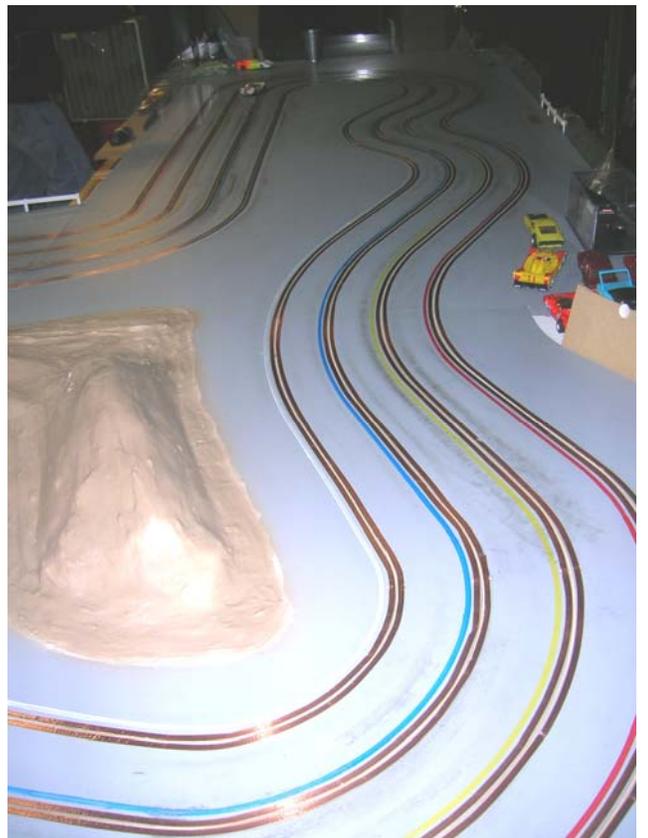
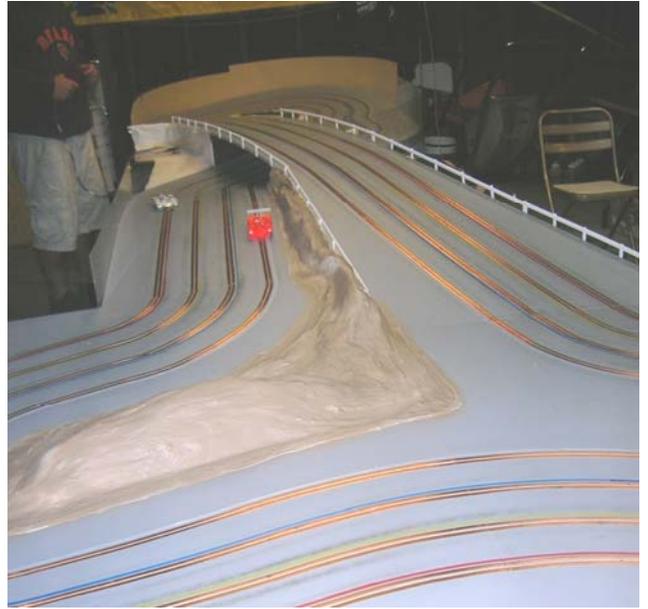
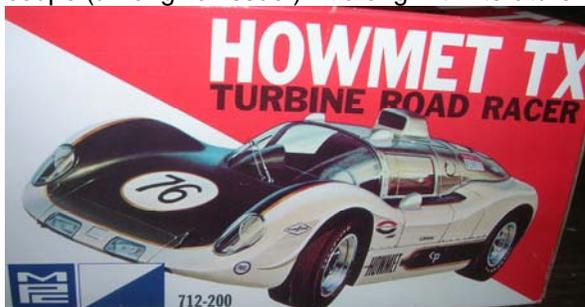
The September GTR meeting will be back at the usual location, the Fountains of Crystal Lake. If anyone has suggestions for a future meeting let me know.

We will be going thru the annual IPMS/USA chapter renewal process soon. So 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, or see me for membership forms.

Past issues of the GTR newsletters are now available on line. Our website is rather basic, as are my webmaster skills, but if you go to 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.

August GTR Meeting

The August meeting was held 8/18/07 at Kevin Freitag's home in Elmhurst. As usual for summer meetings, turnout was light. We dined on pizza, did a brief business update then most of the night was spent racing and looking at slot cars. Kevin has a nice homebuilt (routed) track in his garage, and a large collection of slot cars. I brought along my collection of vintage (60's) Revell and Cox slot cars, some of which ran surprizing well. Les Whitfield brought in some kits to show, including the rare Howmet turbine coupe (an original issue!) kit along with literature.



Thanks to Kevin for hosting the meeting.



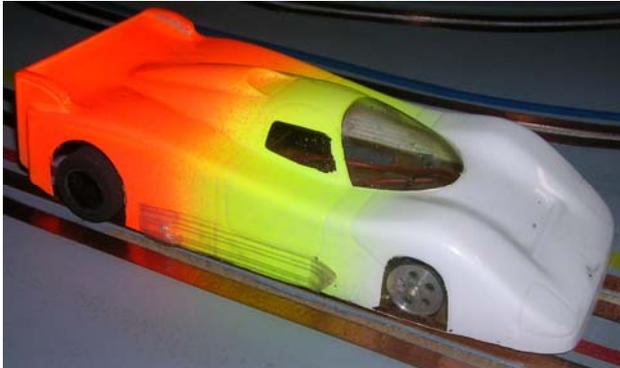
Classified Ads

For Sale: All 1/24: Fujimi #08257 Ferrari Daytona coupe \$28, Monogram # 210 Mercedes 450SL \$10, Monogram 2943 1970 (really a 1971 since mislabeled) Hemi 'Cuda \$8. **FREE:** If you have a computer that is in need of a floppy drive, CD ROM drive or ribbon cable let me know as I have extras laying around that are in my way. No, I will not install them.

Contact Les Whitfield lwhitfield1@yahoo.com

Wanted: the chrome center hubs for the Revell 2004 Caprice police car - need one.

Chuck Herrmann gtrchab@yahoo.com



IPMS News

Our IPMS Region 5 Coordinator Mike George, has established a Region 5 Website. It is at:

<http://ipms-gateway.com/Region5coordinator.html>

Since the 2009 nationals will not be in Region 5, we will have a Regional. Chapters can submit a bid thru April, 2008.



IPMS USA

International Plastic Modelers Society

National Conventions:

August 22-25, 2007 Anaheim, CA

2008 – Virginia Beach, VA

2009 – Columbus, OH

2008 Region 5 Convention:

May 16-17, Council Bluffs, IA

Building the 1953 Corvette Carrera Panamericana Racer

In 1953 Chevy introduced the very first Corvette to fill a need for an American made sports car. There were only 300 made, all were white with red interiors. The first Vettes featured a 235 ci straight six Blue Flame engine with 150 HP and a two speed automatic Powerglide transmission. So while it was a sports car, it took a few years until the performance was enhanced with V-8 engines and manual transmissions, leading to the many famous racing Corvettes over the years continuing thru today.

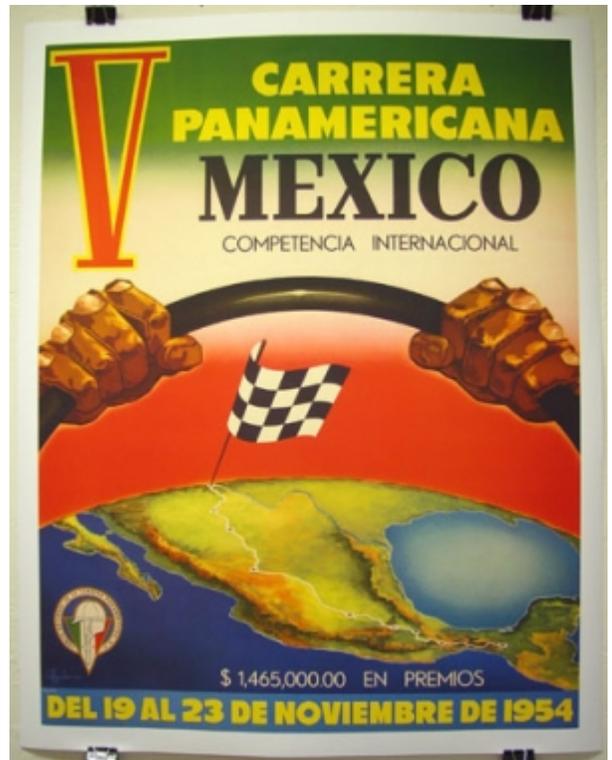


The first example of a racing Vette was a car entered in the 1954 open road race running over roads in Baja Mexico, the famous La Carrera Panamericana. This event was similar to the Millia Miglia and Targa Florio events in Europe, and was held from 1950 to 1954. Today there is a vintage type event held each year over much the same course, but the original races were dangerous, flat out blasts through Mexico.



Photo from *Corvette Thunder* by Dave Friedman

In the 1954 Carrera Panamericana, Bill von Esser drives a 1954 Corvette in what was then called the "Large Sports" class. The car tosses a rod through the block during the first leg of 329.3 miles from Tuxtla to Oaxaca and does not complete the race.



The Corvette was also sponsored by von Esser, who owned a performance shop in Chicago. The car was basically stock, and with the standard powertrain was no match for the factory backed exotic Ferraris and Mercedes than dominated the overall results. The obvious modifications were red wire wheels replacing the steel wheels and hubcaps, the grille and headlights were taped up and of course the racing numbers and graphics.



The red and white color scheme always looked neat to me, so I wanted to do a model of this Vette. In 2002 Revell reissued the 1953 Corvette, kit 85-2164 in 1/24 scale. This is an old tool that had been released many times in the past. This time it included some decals for the Carrera car. (Note: there is also a Fred Cady

decal sheet for this car). But there were no wire wheels in the kit, just the stock hub caps which do not look like they would belong on a race car. Correct ones are available from the aftermarket, by Curbside Dioramics (RDU-1518) available from R&D Unique. After putting off ordering them I finally did so earlier this year then got to work on the model.

This is a full detail kit, with engine and suspension detail. The kit shows its age, lots of mold lines, especially on the chrome bits and there are some fit problems. Most of it I built up box stock, so I will touch on the updates for the race version along with any problem areas.

The engine is an eight or nine piece assembly (there is an option for the carb set up). I used Testors sky blue but it looks a little too light, but in a built up compartment it is not so bad. One thing missing was any hoses connecting to the radiator, I added some from parts box bits but once the hood is installed this is barely visible. Note that if you wanted to add spark plug wires, on the real thing they are hidden under a cover so they were not visible.



There is a full suspension included, but to use the aftermarket white metal wire wheels I had to modify the mountings. The kit wheels slide onto plastic posts, but the wires had a much bigger hole. So I cut some 5/32 brass tube, pushed it onto the posts and glued it onto the wheels. Neither the new wheels nor the kit provide brake details, which really shows up on these wire wheels. So I found some old style drum brakes in the parts box and adapted them to fit. I found the rear shock assembly very difficult to fit, ultimately I gave up and did not use it. I painted the wheels red. Note that the instructions with the wheel set say to soak the tires in hot water to soften them up to press onto the wheels: do this! Otherwise it is a very difficult task to squeeze them on. Glue on the knockoffs last or you will break them off adjusting the fit and height.



The interior is rather basic, and it should be red with a white dash. I used Testor Flat Red then did a wash to bring out the details. The dash glues onto the body, so be careful fitting it so it lines up when assembled. The top of the dash is actually part of the body, the section behind the windshield. I test fit the windshield frame, marked off the dash part then painted it the same red as the interior. There are no decals for the gauges so I picked out details with paint. The steering wheel features a chrome horn ring.





The body is basically one piece, with the hood a separate piece. There were a few mold lines but they are in the usual places and cleaned up easily. I painted it with Tamiya Pure White lacquer from the rattlecan.

While it may not be accurate, I sanded off the chrome trim on the sides and the front emblem. There is a decal for the front emblem, and I felt the graphics on the sides looks better without the trim in the way (and I am not that comfortable doing a lot of Bare Metal foiling). I also removed the front wipers, they were molded in with little detail. I still am looking for a nice replacement.



The rear exhausts exit thru the body above the bumpers. I thought they looked too small as provided so I drilled out the holes and scratchbuilt some from brass tube.



The chrome bumpers have no defined mounting position on the body. So I drilled a hole on the back and glued in a small piece of wire, then drilled out a spot on the body to mount them into. There is no side mirror provided in the kit, and the rear view mirror on the dash has two severe sink marks. So I cannibalized an AMT Snap Fast kit of this car that I had earlier decided not to use for this project.

The headlights are chrome buckets that did not fit the holes in the body. They are covered up, but the kit decals provided would never have fit, and did not match the reference photo I had. So instead I cut some white labels to cover more of the lights. The grille used in the race is a screen rather than the stock "teeth". There is a decal to represent this, but no place to apply it! I put it on a piece of plastic stock cut to fit, but ended up using a piece of screening material from the parts box. The license plates are decals, but again there is no place to put them so plastic stock was used here as well. Speaking of decals, they went on with no problems.



That's it. There were some issues with the kit, and I am not sure the headlight's poor fit, on my example at least, would have let me build an acceptable stock version. But overall I am satisfied with the results. As I said I always liked the color scheme of this car, and the old style road races, like the Carrera and Mille Miglia, are fascinating reminders of how racing got its start.



Danbury Mint

Danbury Mint makes a finished diecast of this subject. The photos off the web look nice if you don't want to build one. The AMT snapper I mentioned is also a possible easier alternative, but it is 1/25 and noticeably smaller so the wheels and tires may be a bit too big. And the level of detail is very simplified.

Road America ALMS/Champcar Weekend

For 2007 Road America, in Elkhart Lake, WI combined the American LeMans and Champ Car series into one weekend, August 10-12. This was good chance to see great US road racing action, so I went on the Saturday for the ALMS race and the Champ Car qualifying.



It was an interesting day, starting out nice, then hot and sunny for the warm ups and qualifying. The ALMS race started at 4:00, a four hour event to finish at dusk. But less than an hour in, the skies turned black and rain and thunder hit so there was a yellow flag for about an hour until the lightening left the area. Then the race finished in the dark, I believe for the first time at Road America.



Stephan Johansen and David Brabham signing autographs



The paddock was open, there was an ALMS autograph session by the cars. Then for the pre race lineup fans could walk out on the track. So I had a chance to get close to the cars and drivers.



A fan's Ford GT in the parking area. The new Audi R 8 was on display too



A Maserati showed up to challenge the Corvettes in GT1



Champcar's Speedy Dan Clark signed autographs.





Champ Car wheels and tires



Audi R10 Diesel front clip



Kumho tire grid girl

2007 GTR Event Calendar

September 15 IPMS/Gateway
First Baptist Church, St. Louis MO
Chris Merseal 314-832-4840
<http://ipms-gateway.com>

Sept 16 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap Meet
Serb Hall, Milwaukee
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

Sept 29 Nordicom 2007
IPMS Twin Cities Aero Historians
So. St Paul Mun Airport, South St Paul, MN
<http://areohistorians.org>

October 7 Collectors Classic w/1/43 Collectors Club
Park Place of Countryside, Countryside IL
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

October 13 NNL Nationals (Toledo NNL)
Lucas Cty RecCenter, Maumee, OH

October 13-14 Toledo NL and Swap
Lucas Cty RecCenter, Maumee, OH

October 13 IPMS Glue Crew
Howard Johnson's, Wausau WI
Joe Drew 715-842-4840

October 18-21 iHobby Expo
Donald E Stephens Conv Center, Rosemont, IL
www.ihobbyexpo.com

Nov 4 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap Meet
Serb Hall, Milwaukee
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

Nov 10 25th IPMS/Butch O'Hare Model Contest
and Swap
Lakeview Jr HS, Downers Grove, IL
mgchi@sbcglobal.net

Dec 2 Tinley Park Toy Show
Tinley Park HS
Jim Welytok unievents@aol.com

December 9 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Winter
Show (with contest)
Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha WI
www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com

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



Figure models from the IPMS/USA Nationals

