



GTR Newsletter

December 2007

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

This Issue:

- GTR News and Calendar
- Book Review: *Porsche and the Mille Miglia*
- Monogram Scarab Kit Review
- Revell Germany Audi R8



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: December 8, 2007 (2nd Sat)

At Algonquopin Township Offices in Cary

On Rt 14, about one mile east of Rt 31

Your current GTR Officers are:

President: Ed Sexton

Vice President: Steve Jahnke

Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann

847-516-8515

847-516-0211

ESexton@modelrectifier.com

stevejahnke@comcast.net

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

Merry Christmas, Happy New Years and/or Happy Holidays to all our readers and fellow Modelers!

Real World



Congratulations to NASCAR 2008 Champion Jimmy Johnson and the Lowe's/Hendricks team



Trabant Turning 50!

From Reuters.com

The infamous East German "Peoples Car", the Trabant, turned 50 in November, with a party planned at the old factory site in Zwickau, Germany. There were over 2.2 million Trabants produced from 1964 into the mid 1980s. It is becoming a cult car, with 52,000 driveable examples registered in Germany this year. It seems that the trend is to rebuild these cars into Euro tuners. (hey, it's on the internet so it must be true!). Remember everyone was amused when I brought in my Revell Germany Trabant kit, in process, with the lowrider rims, bucket seats and big stereo? Seems I was ahead of the curve. Now if only the @\$#@Q# kit will go together, it is a bad as the real car!
From Reuters.com

Media

Speed TV will be catching up on all the road racing coverage they missed earlier this year (enough *Pinks*, *Whips* and *pimps* already!). Check the listings for European LeMans Series, DTM, Australia V8s, Porsche Super Cup, SCCA Runoffs and Monterey Historics programming throughout November and December.

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

There will be several local events that GTR will have a presence at in the first part of 2008. The Rockford Wheels in Scale Classic Plastic event is January 27. The Ferrari Expo and contest at Continental Motorsports in Hinsdale is April 12. The Milwaukee NNL is April 19, with the Waukesha Swap Meet the next day.

See the events calendar for details and for all the events I know of. If any readers are aware of any other events of interest to GTR please send them along to me.

GTR News

GTR Update

For our December meeting we will once again join with IPMS/CARS in Miniature at their meeting at the Algonquin Township office in Cary, as we have done for the past several years. Note that this will be on the second Saturday (December 8) instead of our usual 3rd Saturday, so mark your calendars. This will be a Build Night for CARS, so bring something to work on in addition to something you wish to show. There will be the usual raffle, and for this meeting CARS will do their annual kit exchange, bring in a wrapped new kit and you can get one from the pile! GTR guys can take part in this, so wrap up something to bring in.

For January we will be back at the Fountains. In April the Milwaukee NNL falls on our meeting night, so instead of a regular meeting we will

have our usual road trip to the NNL along with the GTR display table. If anyone has suggestions for a future meeting let me know.

GTR's own Doug Fisher is organizing a donation of model kits and related supplies for the troops in Iraq. Doug has done this before, GTR has twice sent over some supplies so the troops can get their minds off their situation for awhile. We will also ask CARS in Miniature to join us, so bring in your donations to the December joint GTR/CARS meeting.

GTR is a local chapter of IPMS/USA. 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.

November GTR Meeting

The November meeting was held 11/17/07 at The Fountains of Crystal Lake. The attendance was pretty light, not too much on the table. We voted to authorize the GTR table at the Rockford show and to sponsor a trophy at the Ferrari Expo.

Here are pictures from Show and Tell.



Dave Edgecomb brought in some recent NASCAR 1/24 diecast, including the Kaliber NAPA Dodge of Michael Waltrip with lots of details.



Dave also brought in some 1/32 slot cars, two Listers by Fly and the Porsche 911 GT2 car from the Flying Lizard team at the 2007 Sebring 12 Hours.

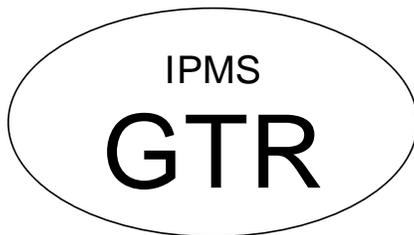




Chuck Herrmann: two \$1 swap meet reclamation projects. A Revell 1/24 CART Reynard, rebuilt into the 1999 Tony Kanaan McDonald's car with missing bits replaced from the parts box and using Scale Coachworks decals.



Also an old Airfix 1/32 VW Beetle, made into a beater style daily driver with flower power decals from the old Heavenly Hearse kit. And a Jada Toys VW Beetle rat rod/resto custom in 1/32 (but out of scale per usual from Jada – too big!).



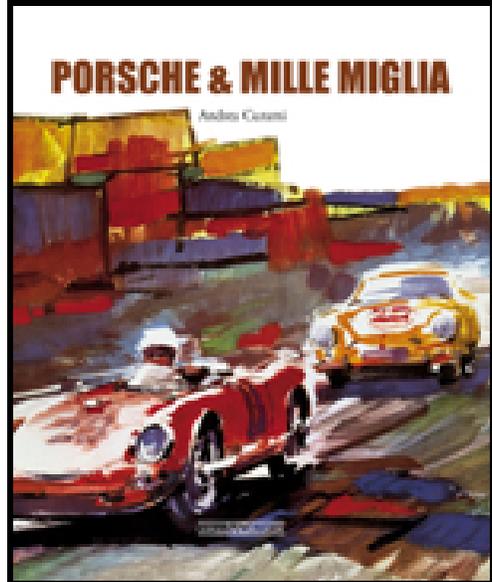
Book Review

Porsche and the Mille Miglia

By Andrea Curami

Giorgio Nada Editore, 2004

By Chuck Herrmann



Size: cm. 24.3x27 - Pages: 144 - Photos: 192 in b/w and 20 in colour - Hardbound - Text: Italian/English

Porsche and the Mille Miglia. Two legends, two names from the history of motor racing that came together from 1952 to 1957, the years in which the Stuttgart manufacturer competed in the classic Brescian marathon, first with the 356 A and B models and, in a second phase, with the 550 RS barchette. The most prestigious drivers of their time took to the narrow roads of Sicily in those cars, often winning their class or category: from Hans Herrmann to Giovanni Bracco, Wolfgang von Trips to Umberto Maglioli. This book covers their brief but intense and fascinating story, which has never been told before with such precise text in reconstructing the facts, and which is supported by hundreds of unpublished photographs provided by Porsche themselves, plus rare documents and designs of the period.

While on vacation back in October, I stopped in a bookstore in Palermo, Sicily. Obviously everything was in Italian, so it was a little strange being in a bookshop without being able to read most of the merchandise. But I hoped to find something automotive to bring back as a souvenir. Luckily, I found the AUTO section, and so I came across *Porsche and the Mille Miglia*. This coffee table size book details the history of Porsches racing in the famed 1,000 mile race over everyday roads in Italy from 1952 to the final event in 1957 year by year. There are also details from other significant GT racing events from those years, such as the Targa Florio. Most

photos are in B&W, giving it a vintage feel. Text is in both Italian and English. The Porsches that raced were mostly early 356s, along with 550 and RSK Spyder models. Reading this book has inspired me to pull out the old Matchbox/Revell 356 speedster kit I started years ago, maybe I will finish it off!

This book is published by **Giorgio Nada Editore**, an Italian publishing house based in Milan that specializes in automotive titles. Obviously their catalog offers a strong emphasis on Italian subjects, but there books on many automotive topics, such as *Porsche and the Mille Miglia* (and the companion *Mercedes and the Mille Miglia*). There are titles on various marques, drivers, lots of motorcycle books and several magazines, including *Porsche Club Italia* and *Miniauto & Collectors* (on auto miniatures). Many of the books do feature English text. For auto modelers, one title that looks interesting is *Model Cars Made in Italy 1900-1990* by Paulo Rampini.

The company also operates a retail store, The International Motoring Bookstore, in Corso Venezia, Milan. They offer over 10,000 titles, and they do mail order. So if you are looking for reference materials or just some interesting automotive reading, check out their webpage, which can be viewed in English, at:

www.giorgionadaeditore.it

Kit Review: Scarab Rear Engined Racer

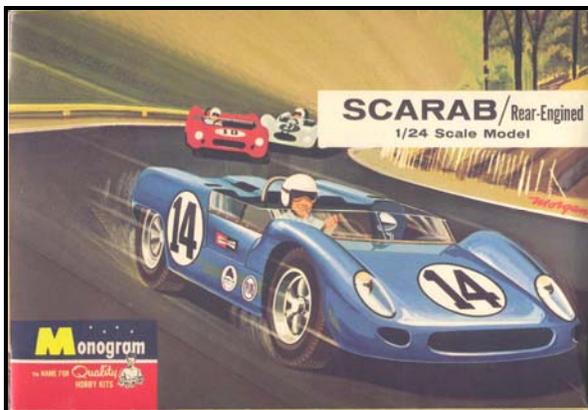
Kit: Scarab Rear Engined Racer

Mfg: Monogram

Scale: 1/24 Kit # 0124

By Pat Crittendon

Reprinted from Nov 2007 MAMA Sez Newsletter of the **Maryland Auto Modelers Association**



Pros: A very obscure subject for the average man to remember, so a very welcome re-issue. Parts for your old slot cars guys!

Cons: Body doesn't sit on display chassis very well; shifter is out of sight when model is finished.

The Car: Seems this model also represents a car with a very illustrious history (like the Predicta) as well. The car was the only (and last) rear engine racer ever produced by Reventlow Automobiles Inc. This car was built for Mr. Reventlow's own use and what a car it was! This was like nothing before with every inch tailored to the "big man's" specs. It was pure "business". Total weight was around 1500 lbs! And after the change from Olds to Chevy power, this car's final B.H.P. came in at 425 HP! (not bad for a 327!). With this combo, many victories were achieved in both 1963 and 1964.

The Model: This is a throwback that yours truly knew nothing about until 1997 when it was re-issued. Unfortunately, this kit suffered water damage. I then decided it was a builder, which brings us to the kit at hand.

Engine: There is none, but the more skilled among us that could surely fabricate some sort of detailed engine/chassis combo for this one. Otherwise, this is curbside at its best.

Wheels/tires: Each is a three piece deal with a chrome rim, black "rubber" tire and body colored wheel back. I gave the wheel backs a flat black paint job and black washed the chrome rims with gloss black.

Chassis: The display model's "pan" is a one piece affair with two plastic axles for the wheel/tire combos.

Interior: This assembly consists of three pieces; the "tub" itself, the roll bar and the shifter. I also brought this to life with a little detail painting.

Body: The finished body consists of twelve pieces (I combined parts from both the slot car and display versions for this). It was not painted but merely waxed out with some Novus #2.

Decals: Decals come with all the appropriate markings for the original. Mine were lost to water damage so my decal collection was raided for its markings.

Final Assembly/Thoughts: This build helped get me out of a rut I was in and didn't turn out too bad. The box art and instruction sheet were both beautifully reproduced and highly educational. By the way, A.J. Foyt drove this very car to a second place at Laguna Seca in 1963. This is what caused the change from Olds to Chevy power. Those of you building a collection of this man's cars may want to look into this kit as well. Oh and did I also mention, parts for your old slot cars folks?!

I give this model 4 paint bottles (out of a possible 5). Recommended,



Kit Review: Audi R8

Mfg: Revell Germany

Scale: 1/24 Kit # 07398

By Tim Leicht

Just when you think the Supercar market is full, along comes another two seat fire breathing monster of a car, the Audi R8. This midengine V8 powered coupe is Audi's answer to the Ferrari F430 and Porsche's Carrera GT. This car is quite at home in this marketplace and is a worthy competitor. Revell Germany's choice to make this kit was a logical one. While Audi may only sell say 10,000 of these cars, I bet Revell will sell a lot more than that! So, let's take a look at the kit.



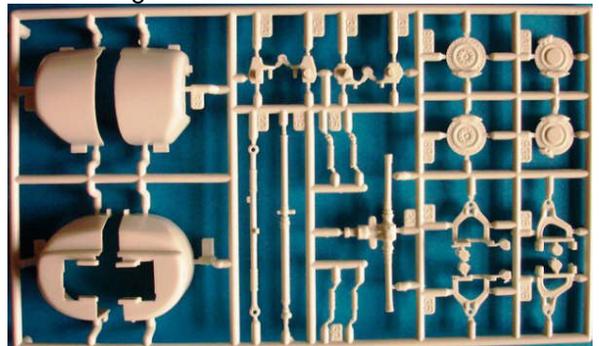
My first impression of this car is "Look! An Audi TT on steroids!" It has that TT body line to it and roofline. While the TT is not midengine, the general shape is strikingly similar. Revell did a nice job on the body, with only four pieces to put together. I'm not real impressed with the swirly silver plastic used to mold it though. That NEVER works on any kit and white would have been just fine for me. All the tall louvers on the front and rear are separate pieces making painting a snap for the body. There are separate carbon fiber decals for the body side pieces making another easy paint step. The glass pieces are all separate, leaving a choice to omit the side windows if desired. There is no headliner detail, just mold pin marks.

As for the interior, Revell must have gotten CAD plans for this car from Audi. Every detail down to the GPS screen in the center dash is faithfully reproduced. The seats are superb and I can see them being pirated for other kits easily. All gauges are decals and Revell left the dashboard flat where they go for accurate

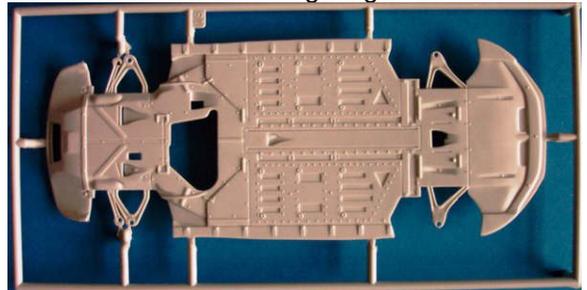
representation. The interior builds into a very realistic replica.

The chassis pan is one piece with no copyright marks on it (Yaaaayyyy!). All fender well tubs are separate pieces with upper control arms mounted to them. I found it odd that Revell included the driveshaft to the front when after the kit is assembled you can't see it. The engine/transaxle is an eleven piece unit, very well engraved with separate ignition wires. This could easily be used to kit bash another car if you wanted to. All the shrouding and air cleaner covers are faithfully reproduced. The exhaust parts are well done but, oddly the tips which are separate are not plated.

The wheels are plated and shouldn't be. It's a common fact that all factory alloys, or at least most of them, are polished aluminum. You need to dull coat them or strip and paint them for maximum realism. The one sided brake assemblies go between the wheel halves and with some detail painting will look quite good. The tires are EXACTLY the same ones from the F430 kits and I'm sure are used in other Revell Germany kits. No big deal, they look good, just are a little generic.



So what does this add up to? I think it's a really well done easy to build kit with Tamiya like features at half the price. This one falls in the **Buy It** category, only a must have if you are a supercar builder. This is a fine kit for the right price. Maybe when it gets here in the Revell USA box it will be molded in white! Either way get one and build it. This one will go together fast.



GTR Event Calendar

2007

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

2008

January 26-27 Rolex 24 Grand Am
Daytona Intl Speedway, Daytona FL

January 27 Classic Plastic Contest and Swap
Hosted by Rockford Wheels in Scale
Ken Rock Comm Center Rockford, IL
Dan Myers dfmyers@aeroinc.net

February 2 Hope it Don't Snow Show
IPMS/Zumbro Valley
Kahler Hotel Rochester, MN
Edward St Denis edwardstdenis@msn.com

February 24 51st Illinois Plastic Kit & Toy Show
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL
Past Time Hobbies 708-485-4544
pthpowerinc@aol.com

February 8-17 100th Annual Chicago Auto Show
McCormack Place, Chicago IL
www.chicagoautoshow.com

February 17 50th Daytona 500
Daytona Intl Speedway, Daytona FL

March 1 13th IPMS/ Mad City Modelers Show
Radisson Inn Madison, Madison WI
Jim Turek jltmodel@yahoo.com
www.madcitymodlers.com

March 2 Scale Auto , Hobby Scale Auto Hobby
and Toy Swap Meet
Serb Hall, Milwaukee
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

March 15 Sebring 12 Hours ALMS
Sebring, FL

April 12 Ferrari Expo with Model Contest
Continental Motorsports, Hinsdale IL

April 12 14th IPMS/Plastic Surgeions Contesr
Point of Grace Church Waukee, IA (Des Moines)
Rob Folen viper.models@gmail.com
www.ipms-plasticsurgeions.co

April 19 Milwaukee NNL 16
Hosted by Automotive Modelers Group
Excellence Center Waukesha, WI
Theme: Flames

April 20 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Show
Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha WI
www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com

May 16-17 IPMS Region 5 Convention
Details TBA

May 25 Indianapolis 500
Indianapolis Motor Speedway

June 14-15 24 Hueres du LeMans
LeMans, France

August 6-9 IPMS/USA National Convention
Virgina Beach Convention Center, Va. Beach, VA
www.ipmsusa2008.org

August 9 ALMS
August 10 Champ Car
Road America, Elkhatt Lake, WI
www.roadamerica.com

Sept 28 52nd Illinois Plastic Kit & Toy Show
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL
Past Time Hobbies 708-485-4544
pthpowerinc@aol.com

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

IPMS USA
International Plastic Modelers Society

National Conventions:

Aug 6-9, 2008 – Viginia Beach, VA

2009 – Columbus, OH

2008 Region 5 Convention:

May 16-17, Council Bluffs, IA
IPMS/Ft Crook

GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter

**Merry Christmas
and Happy Holidays**

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

Next GTR Meeting: December 8, 2007
www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com