



# GTR Newsletter

## September 2011

The Newsletter of IPMS Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers

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## GTR Auto Modelers

Based in the Chicago, IL Northwest Suburbs  
2002/2003 IPMS/USA Region 5 Chapter of the Year  
2007 and 2008 IPMS/USA Region 5 Newsletter of the Year  
2011 Meetings: Every 1st Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

**September Meeting at Algonquin Township  
Building, Rt. 14 about one mile east of Rt. 31**

Location alternates between member's homes and the Algonquin Township Building

Your current GTR Officers are:

President: Tim Leicht	815-344-9109	<a href="mailto:benzwrench@msn.com">benzwrench@msn.com</a>
Vice President: Steve Jahnke	847-516-8515	<a href="mailto:stevejahnke@comcast.net">stevejahnke@comcast.net</a>
Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann	847-516-0211	<a href="mailto:gtrchab@yahoo.com">gtrchab@yahoo.com</a>

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

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**Check out the GTR Auto Modelers website at: [www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com](http://www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com)**

# GTR Mailbag



by Chuck Herrmann

## From the Editors desk:

While at a local Hobby Lobby recently, I saw a large end cap display of half price plastic kits. Hoping this did not mean the end of their offering models, I checked out the model aisles. Make that one aisle, with all plastic on one side and paints, die casts and supplies on the other. At one point, one whole aisle was devoted to plastic car kits, with another aisle die cast, military and figure kits. Reminds me of the ever dwindling CD racks at Best Buy and Borders. Oh, and they had the full Christmas display up (in August!) Summer may be ending, but it sure ain't winter!

## Real World

### 2012 Indycar



The new Indycar to be used next season tested recently at Mid-Ohio, the first photos have been released.

### BMW 2012 DTM Race Car



In 2012 BMW will reenter the DTM championship. Photos of their new car in test marking are available from the web.

### McLaren MP4-12C debut



The new McLaren MP4-12C sports car made its racing debut at the recent Spa 24 Hour enduro.

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And German tuning firm Gemballa announced that it will enter the GT racing arena with a team of two McLaren MP4-12C GT3 racers for the 2012 season.

### New MINI Coupe



The coupe is the first two-seat Mini since the brand relaunched in the United States. It will be offered with three four-cylinder engine choices, topped by a 208-hp John Cooper Works model. Six-speed manual and automatic gearboxes are available, depending on the version. It is planned to go on sale in October 2011.

### McQueen's 911 from LeMans Sold at Auction for \$1.25M.



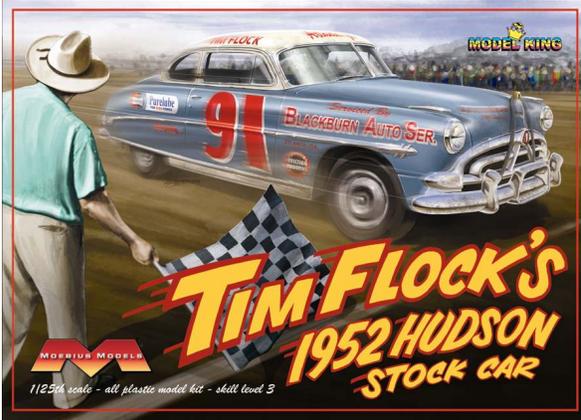
A 1970 Porsche 911 that was actor Steve McQueen's personal car on the set of the movie *LeMans*-- it also appeared in some opening scenes -- has been sold at auction to an undisclosed buyer for \$1.25 million. The car has 112,000 miles and had a starting bid of \$200,000.

### Hobby Industry



From the internet we hear that the "Model King" label will do a limited edition (3,000 copies) run of a Hornet stock car racer based on the Moebius Hudson. The kit will include a few new racing parts (rollbar, exhaust, open wheels, etc.) and the decals needed to build a replica of the

Hornet raced by Tim Flock. Release is set for later this year; no information yet on price.



The kit has been designed so that both 51 and 52 versions are possible, along with a convertible configuration. So we should expect to see several issues of this mold over the next few years.



**M&S Hobbies**

Recent kit releases announced by M&S Hobbies include Model Factory Hiro's kit of the Eagle F1 1967-8

**T1G**

1967



Belgian GP #36 D.Gurney

1968



German GP #14 D.Gurney

1/20 Scale Multi-Material Kit

Studio 27 has released a set of photoetched parts for Fujimi Porsche 911 GT3R along with racing decals sets. And photoetched parts for reissued Tamiya Porsche 961 – this converted RC kit needs extra detail! For these and more see: [www.mshobbies.com](http://www.mshobbies.com)

**Events**

The big local events this month will be the DuPage Swap meet in Wheaton and the Meadowdale Motorsports and Memories Car Show

See the events calendar for details for all of the events that I know of. If any readers wish their events or any other events of interest to GTR listed send the information along to me.

**Random Thoughts by Les Whitfield**

“Because one is proficient at their profession does not mean they are experts at anything else” Les Whitfield-1987. Just ask any exotic auto mechanic or body man on a Monday morning.

I received a mailing from GM recently. It was an offer of savings from \$1.5K to \$3K (looked like a rebate to me) for all of their 2011 and remaining 2010 vehicles. One caught my eye and that was the Corvette \$3K

I really don't care to read labels, but, to see what I am ingesting I have to. I was eating breakfast and had just opened a new bottle of a popular brand of multivitamins. Among the ingredients I found: boric acid (what we use to kill ants), polyethylene glycol and polyvinyl alcohol.

As I type this I am watching the evening news. Why, oh why do they repeatedly announce a special feature just before a break and then when they finally tell the story it is shorter than all the announcement hoopla. They could have just told the story and give more news, that is if it was worth wile.

I recently heard the EPA has decided a milk spill at a dairy will have the same significance as an oil spill, and they want to cut Social Security and Medicare budgets. I think I know which departments budget could be cut.

The governor of Illinois praised a move to convert an old, abandoned steel plant to a coal powered electrical power plant. The EPA already filed suit against it.

When I was a kid, Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck & Co. were the stores of The People. They sold hardware, tools, automotive supplies, televisions furniture, clothes, anything a person needed for the home. Ward's made the mistake of ending its mail order business as they lost their rural customers who did not have a store by them. Sears picked up that business and

Wards shrunk. All solid, basic products. They were reasonably priced items. As time went on price did an upward creep. Soon the prices seemed to mirror other stores. In the mean time another super store came into being, K-Mart (a takeoff of Kreske's five and dime). Though K-Mart didn't carry as many products as Sears, they did sell everyday products at a discounted price. As K-Mart grew (along with some specialty stores) and begun to carry more products Sears business seemed to slow down. Wal-Mart begun its growth in Arkansas and pioneered its just-in-time computer inventory system. This gave them an edge in having stock on hand so it could avoid sales specials with stable prices.. With Wal-Mart moving into other states, and people always looking for a bargain, K-Mart seemed to loose out. A few years ago it seemed every time I went to a store they would be out of several items I needed. Well I decided the effort was not worth the use of gas and just purchased the items wherever I was at. Now I read a heading in the *Wall Street Journal* "Wal-Mart Loses Edge". The article stated it was losing its longstanding reputation offering customers the lowest prices. During this depression (my feelings) customers looking for better prices have been going to Dollar General (Warren Buffet's Berkshire-Hathaway just purchased a large amount of shares) Aldi's and Amazon.

Recently I was driving through Ohio and thought I was getting a deal on gas at \$3.47 (it's \$4.09 here in Chicago) then around Richmond, VA I purchased it for \$3.21. If I purchased it the night before it would have been \$3.19. Even with taxes how can these price differences be justified? As I mentioned in my last column if there weren't price gouging the oil companies' profits would be in line with previous years.

While in Virginia I noticed quite a few trucks driving with timber on the flatbed. I mentioned this to a friend and she told me those logs were being sent to China. Her husband had purchased a table from a company and was proud it came from North Carolina. When assembling it he noticed a tag on the bottom "Made in China". Well he stopped at the "factory" and found out they harvest the timber locally, ship it to China to process it and return it finished to be sold here. What a world.

Have any of you noticed when coming to an intersection, there is a car looking to make a right-on-red in front of you who hesitates till it is too late and turns in front of you causing you to hit the brakes? *I mean WHAT?*  
But,....these are just my random thoughts.



## GTR Update

The next regular meeting will be Saturday, September 3, the Algonquin Township Building

GTR will be hosting a model display at the Meadowdale Motorsports and Memories Car Show at Raceway Woods in Carpentersville, IL on September 17. This is a daylong event to commemorate the history of the former Meadowdale International Raceway, a road course that hosted races up until 1968. The area is now called Raceway Woods, with portions of the old track preserved. Our display details are still being worked out. For event details see: [www.mirpa.org](http://www.mirpa.org)

Any member who wants to bring up other ideas or suggestions for future meetings or activities, do so either at the meeting or contact me.

Past issues of the GTR newsletters are now available on line.

Go to [www.carsandracingstuff.com](http://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 GTR meeting was at Doug Fisher's home in Elmhurst on Aug 6. After meeting up at Al's Hobbies we went over to Doug's, had some pizza and then the meeting. Being summer the attendance was a bit light, we did not do much business just reviewed the GTR NNL and the treasury update, did the mailbag then on to Show & Tell.

**Doug Fisher:** Accurate Miniatures McLaren M8 in progress, nice engine detail,



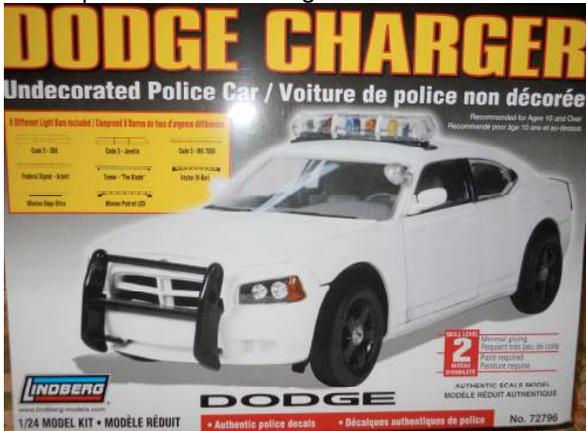
a future project, Tamiya Jaguar XJR-9 kit with S&S detail set and carbon fiber decals,



Also Doug showed his Nissan R380 LeMan racer that is loaded with details.



Steve Jahnke: a Lindberg Dodge Charger police car kit purchased hours ago at Al's.



Chuck Herrmann: Revell 39 Chevy custom, Lindbergh 64 Dodge A100 hobby store delivery pickup, MPC Turbine Can Am racer, and the new Polar Lights Batman preprinted snap kit.



## IPMS News

The IPMS USA National Convention was last month in Omaha. There are lots of pictures of the contest entrants on the IPMS website at [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org). Go to the Galleries page for the national, under automotive there are 25 screens of photos posted, here are some examples.



The site of the 2013 Nationals was announced at this year's convention, it will be in Loveland, Colorado, north of Denver.

GTR is a local chapter of IPMS/USA, in Region 5. We urge those who have lapsed to renew their IPMS/USA membership, or if you have never been a member enroll now! We need five active national IPMS/USA members to renew. We will be undergoing the annual chapter renewal process in October. Often we have had issues getting the required amount of IPMS members, and this year we had the minimum, so help out GTR as well as the IPMS and join or renew now! Details can be found at their web site, [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org), or see me for membership forms.

## Road America ALMS

*Photos by: Chuck Herrmann*

This year's American LeMans Series race at Road America in Elkhart Lake WI was August 20. The race was a four hour enduro running until 7:00 pm on the Saturday of the race weekend. The Trans Am race (yes, there still is a Trans Am series, see the cover photo) started at 8:00 am so it was a long day at the track. But the rain held off (back home the Chicago area was pounded again by severe rain storms).

Despite a light car count in the prototype class we were treated to great racing, as the overall race was won by the closest margin in ALMS history, just .112 seconds! The Muscle Milk Aston Martin Lola and the Dyson Lola Mazda exchanged the lead all day. And the GT classes also saw very competitive racing.



Porsche Panamera safety car.



Ford GT heading out for warm-ups.



GT action on lap 1.



GT Winning Ferrari



Spare noses in the Jaguar pit area.



GTC winning Porsche



Up the hill for the last time, this was the last lap battle for the overall win.



Overall race winner, Lola Aston Martin.



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## Tips and Tools

*Each month (well, most months, as this is the first since May) this column will feature a short article on a new or unique technique or tool. All readers are encouraged to submit a few paragraphs, maybe a picture or two, of something you would like to share with fellow modelers. Feel free to pass along anything you feel would be of interest to fellow modelers – we welcome submissions from all readers, not just GTR members!*

## A Sparkle In Your Eye

*by John DeRosia*

*Reprinted from IPMS/Seattle Newsletter*

Okay - where did that colored light reflection come from?

In the 'old days', most of my lenses on models came from this method : Paint the location silver, let it dry, and then use one of the clear red, green or blue transparent paints on top of the silver. Now I do that on only about 15% of the models I build.

On any of my models that have headlights, side lights, and tail lights, there is a good chance it was from a local crafts store. I have been using these craft 'GEMSTONES' for years. They come in most popular colors - red, clear/silver, blue, green and a few other fun colors. Most are round and faceted like a diamond with a flat bottom chrome backing, but there are also some other shapes available. Do not buy the sharp metal backed types - these are meant for clothes and costumes. They will not make your model look good with deep gouges in the plastic.

The gemstones I use come in two types of materials that I have seen. First and foremost is the cheaper plastic/acrylic type. Then there are the glass types. Bar none, the glass ones are the greatest for headlights - but cost on average three times what the plastic ones cost. A package of the plastic ones runs around \$3 (depending on the craft store) – the same glass ones are running closer to \$10. Depending on the package you buy, they may contain as little as 20 of each to over 100. Some packages are all the same color, others mix the colors together. I have a mixture of all colors and sizes. Speaking of sizes, they come in very large (about a dime size) to about the size of a pin head. Depending on the scale and size of your model - having a mix of sizes also is a great benefit.

This has been my experience on how I fasten them onto my model: They are almost the very, very last items I put on my models. All painting and weathering and decals come first. I used to

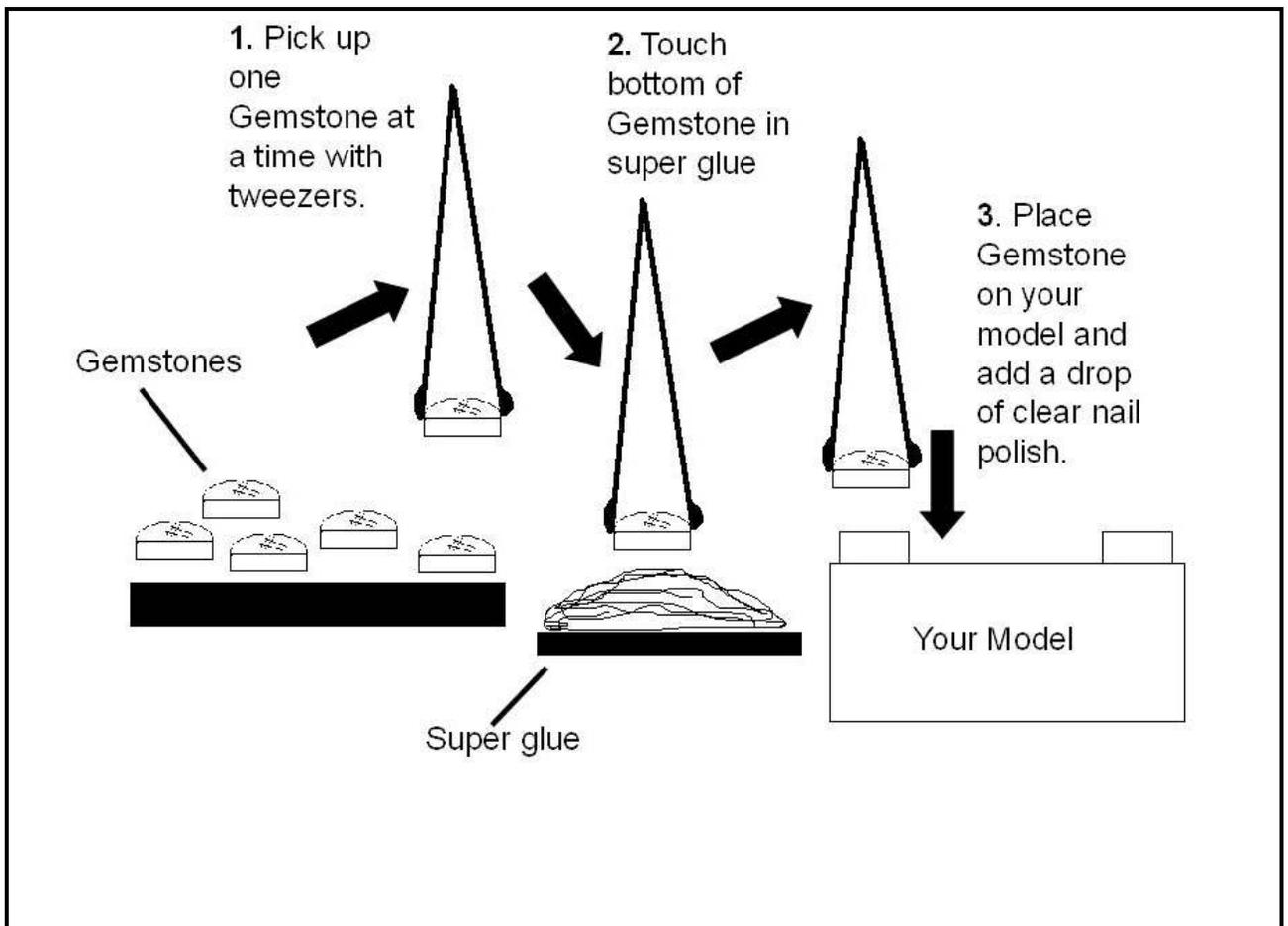
put a drop of super glue on the model and then place the gemstone on top of the glue. It never failed that a typical drop of super glue was most of the time bigger than the gemstone. What I do now is the following: I place some super glue on a throw-away piece of plastic or paper and then take my tweezers, pick up one gemstone at a time, and just touch the back of the gemstone in the super glue. Try not to get any super glue on the tweezers. I then place/position it on the model. Get as close as possible because most super glues do not allow a lot of working time.

The last but final top secret to share with you is this: After the super glue has dried ( a few minutes at best) – take some clear nail polish (the cheap kind that has a little brush built into the cap) and place a drop of clear nail polish on top of the gemstone.

The reflection and shininess of that gemstone will almost double. The drop of clear nail polish rounds out the diamond facets and allows so much more light to reflect through the 'smooth round clear dome' you have added.

Depending on the light hitting your model, you or others will swear they are actually battery powered lights. These little gemstones are the ultimate fake-out and yet most realistic 'lights' you can add to your models.

Have a lot of fun - but I give you this warning. If you take your significant other's clear nail polish - you'll be reading this article from your hospital bed. I made it clear to my wife that the clear nail polish in my paint bin is MINE! Yes - they looked at me funny at the checkout stand with only one bottle of clear nail polish to pay for! I told them it was for my models. They asked which agency do my models work for and do I have any openings?



# 2011 GTR Event Calendar

Sep 17 Meadowdale Motorsports and Memories  
Car Show – with GTR Model Display  
Raceway Woods Rt. 31 Carpentersville, IL  
[www.mirpa.org](http://www.mirpa.org)

Sept 24 Nordic CON 2011  
IPMS/Twin Cities Aero Historians  
North Aire Banquet Hall Fridley, MN  
Bob Maderich 612-423-2985

Sep 25 58th Illinois Plastic Kit & Toy Show  
DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton, IL.  
For info call Past Time Hobbies @ 630-969-1847

October 8 Toledo Swap Meet and>NNL

Oct 15 – IPMS/Glue Crew Contest & swap  
Howard Johnson Inn & Conf Center  
Wausau, WI Joe Drew 715-842-0173

Oct 16 Countryside Collectors Classic Toy Show  
With 1/43<sup>rd</sup> Collectors Club  
Park Place of Countryside Countryside, IL  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

Oct 29 Circle City Modelers Contest & Swap  
Knights of Columbus Hall, Indianapolis IN  
Cgbeach1221954@yahoo.com

October 20-23 iHobby Expo  
Public Days 10 am – 5 pm Saturday and Sunday  
Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont IL  
[www.ihobbyexpo.com](http://www.ihobbyexpo.com)

Nov 6 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap Meet  
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

Nov 12 29<sup>th</sup> Annual IPMS Butch O'Hare Model  
Contest and Swap Meet  
Lakeview Jr HS Downers Grove IL  
John Wendt 630-969-9016

December 4 Tinley Park Toy Show  
Tinley Park HS, Tinley Park IL  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

December 11 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Winter  
Show – Swap and Contest  
Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha WI  
[www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com](http://www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com)

**IPMS USA**  
International Plastic Modelers Society

2012 Region 5 Regional - TBD  
2012 Nationals: Aug 8-11 Orlando, FL  
[www.ipms2012.org](http://www.ipms2012.org)  
2013 Nationals: Loveland, CO



# **GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter**

**IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers**

Chuck Herrmann  
338 Alicia Drive  
Cary, IL 60013

**Next GTR Meeting: September 3, 2011**

[www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com](http://www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com)