



GTR Newsletter January 2012

The Newsletter of IPMS Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers

Happy New Year
2012

from
GTR Auto Modelers

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.

**January 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

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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

From The Prez

Well, it's just about time to bring 2011 to a close. For me, this has been one whirlwind tour over the last 12 months, spanning the globe from San Francisco to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands with stops along the way in Florida, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and others.

The best part however, is coming back home, spending time with family and friends, and I even got some work done in my hobby room! Just last week, I built a Cadillac STS in Mary Kay pink pearl, for my youngest son's girlfriend who aspires to own one someday, maybe after college graduation next year and using her nursing degree for a few years. I just thought I'd give her a small one for Christmas to motivate her cosmetic career. It's not exactly a race car, but it was a fun build.

So with that out the way, I'm going to get some race car modeling done over the next month before getting the race car ready for the 2012 season. I'm looking forward to that especially if our now unbelievable weather turns on us in January.

I hope all of you had as much fun in 2011 as I had. Here's to making 2012 a year to remember as well. Happy Holidays to everyone and get some building done in the New Year!
Tim Leicht



New Dart to be Built in Belvidere

The new Dodge Dart – the new generation of the 1960's subcompact – will be built at Chrysler's Belvidere, IL plant. It will be a four door compact car utilizing Chrysler's parent Fiat Italian technology, based on the Alfa Romeo Giulietta. Chrysler will invest \$600 million to update the plant to make the Dart, or is it the Dartolino? Here is the Alfa version since US pictures are hard to come by until the Detroit Auto show.



Alfa Romeo Giulietta

INDUSTRY NEWS

Round 2 Acquires AMT and MPC

Round 2, LLC, based in South Bend IN, has announced today that they have acquired all rights to industry leading model kit brands AMT, MPC and Polar Lights from TOMY International, Inc. (formerly RC2 Corporation). They have acquired the brands from TOMY International after manufacturing branded model kits under a licensing agreement since 2008. Round 2 has been working with TOMY as a licensee the last three years but now owns the tooling and artwork. Hopefully they plan to bring back classic model kits in original-styled packaging.

The history of the model kit brands goes

GTR Mailbag



by Chuck Herrmann

REAL WORLD

2012 Dakar Rally



This year the Dakar changes its route. It runs January 1-15, from Mar del Plata, Argentina thru Chile to Lima, Peru. As I write this US TV coverage is still not clear since apparently Versus TV, which used to carry it is no more and it is part of NBC Sports Network. Maybe modelers can get some ideas for models for our 2012 GTR Summer NNL theme of Dirt/Off Road?

www.dakar.com

back as far as 1948 when AMT, which stands for Aluminum Model Toys, was founded as a promotional toy company. Model Products Corporation, MPC, was started in 1963 and focused on bringing even more automotive subject matter to market in kit form.

Founded in 1996, Polar Lights has focused on the figural, horror and pop culture genres.

Revell Midget Kit wins at IPMS Nationals

The latest issue of the IPMS Journal features coverage of the 2011 IPMS US Nationals. I noticed that the Open Wheel Competition winning kit was a Revell Kurtis Midget racer. Usually, the 1/20-25 scale open wheel class winning kit is a F1 car by Tamiya or Fujimi. So for the Midget kit to win a category traditionally dominated by the great Japanese kits that have set the standard for many years confirms all the good things we have seen and heard about Revell's amazing new kit.

Congratulations, Revell!!!



Revell has also announced a new version of their Corvette CR-5 racing kit, this time in the blue markings of the 2003 LeMans GT class winning entry.

Revell Germany has announced a 1/24 kit of the classic London British double decker bus. Kit 07651



EVENTS

This month the Rockford Classic Plastic swap meet will be on January 29.

The date for the 2012 Ferrari Expo at Continental Motorsport in Hinsdale was set for March 17.

GTR will have club tables at both shows

See the events calendar for details for all of the events that I know of. I will be adding the 2012 events I am aware of soon. If any readers wish their events or any other events of interest to GTR listed send the information along to me.

2012 GTR Summer NNL

We are happy to announce the fifth annual GTR Summer NNL will be held next year. The date will be August 5, 2012. The format and location will be the same as prior shows. The theme will be Dirt: Off Road Vehicles, anything designed or modified to be operated off the pavement. Such as dune buggies, rally racers, dirt track sprints, midgets and stockers, construction equipment and more. We will again have a sub theme, this time it will be commemorating 50 years of the Daytona 24 Hours race, any subject that was or is eligible to compete in the event is eligible.

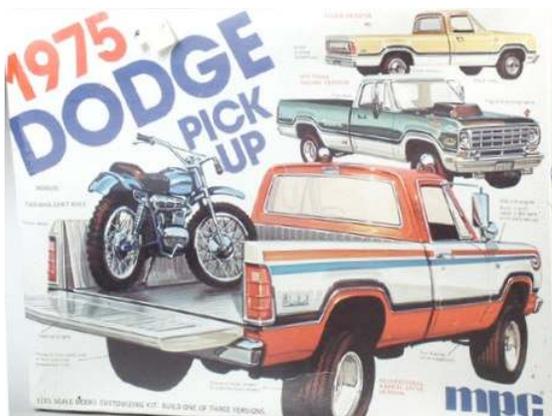
Dirt Theme Kits

There are a lot of kits that will fit our 2012 GTR theme of DIRT. So even if you don't necessarily build off road kits, I will publish several pictures and suggestions over the coming months, for kits that are eligible for the theme for inspiration! This month I found some rally racers and some SUVs.

Also there were several off road kits at the last GTR meeting, see the meeting photos for those. So get building a Dirt/off road kit for this year's show!



Dirt Theme Kits



GTR Update

The next regular meeting will be Saturday, January 7, at the Algonquin Township Building. Until we firm up any alternate plans or events we will meet at the Township. The February meeting will be Feb 4th.

The Rockford Plastic Classic event is back for 2012, date will be Sunday January 29 at the Ken Rock Center in Rockford. We have reserved club tables in the swap room so GTR members can bring in their stuff to sell or just come and hang out. We have heard the date for the Ferrari Expo this year will be March 17, we plan to have tables there too as well as help with sponsorships.

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.

We are now accepting 2012 GTR dues. The cost will remain at \$15.00, bring it to the next meeting or mail it to me. Make checks out to Chuck Herrmann, not to GTR, please.

Past issues of the GTR newsletters are available on line.

Go to www.carsandracingstuff.com, then click on Newsletters, find GTR and our newsletters are achieved back to 2004. Thanks to Bill Crittenden for storing our newsletters on his site.

2012 GTR Club Project

If during the next year GTR members build a model that fits the Summer NNL themes (Dirt: Off Road and 24 Hours of Daytona: Sports Racing cars) and present it (or via an emailed photo) at a club meeting or event before the GTR Summer NNL you will get your club dues of \$15 refunded.

December GTR Meeting

The last regular GTR meeting of 2012 was held at the Algonquin Township Office on December 3. Since it was our first ever Christmas Holiday Party, the business portion of the meeting was kept to a minimum. We picked up our food order from the nearby Portillo's. After we finished eating that, we had some cookies, cupcakes and éclairs for desert, then it was on to Show & Tell.

Joel Peters: Joel donated a tin plaque that his painting group raffles off for charity at the annual World of Wheels show. We raffled it off at the meeting and the lucky winner was Gerry Paquette. Thanks to Joel for the donation. He also donated CDs with photos from the recent Detroit NNL for which he gave a report.



Gerry Paquette: an Italeri Ferrari SWB kit, along with the great Replicas and Miniatures of Maryland resin V-12 engine kit for this car.



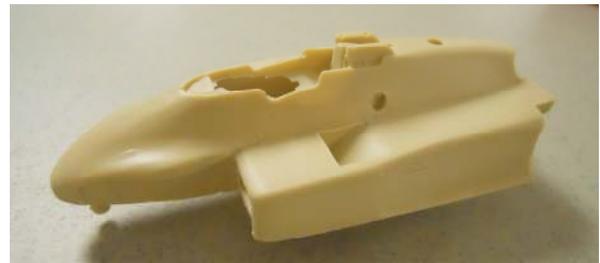
Tim Leicht: the latest reissue of the Modeler's Chaparral 2D,...



also the Fisher resin Porsche RSK kit.



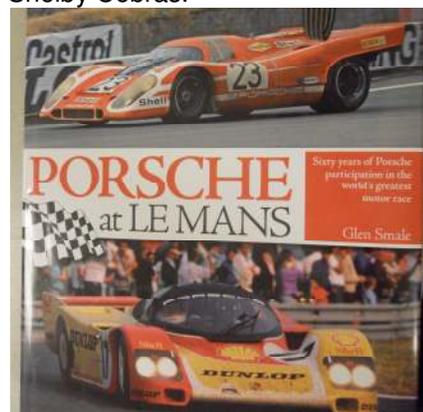
Ed Sexton: a resin transkit for the 1/25 AMT Indy car series, of the 1983 March Indy chassis...



also a built up Revell Germany 1/24 Jordan F1 car.



Dave Edgecomb: the latest updated edition of the book *Porsche at LeMans*, also a book on the history of Shelby Cobras.



Steve Jahnke: Hasegawa Toyota Celica World Rally car kit, the African Safari version, a candidate for this year's club project build.



Jim Brooks: a Revell Jeep CJ-7 kit, also a report on the current status of the IPMS Make-n-Take program, which he is helping to coordinate.

John Walzak: a report on the recent Muscle Car Nationals event, along with the Make-n-Take and CARS in Miniature model contest reports.

Doug Fisher: Doug brought in his ongoing Tamiya kit of the Mazda 787B LeMans winner in process with more great detail work.



Larry Fulhorst: 1/43 Starter kits of 4wd Audi Quattros from 1986-7, the rally and Pike's Peak versions (more potential club project builds).....



also, a Spark 65 Buick Riviera diecast....



and Tri Scale 1/43 diecast Porsche 917 Flat 16



Chuck Herrmann: a long ago started dune buggy project, the Revell Gypsy Dune Buggy from the 1990's reissued version of this kit,



also an original issue (1970) Revell Super Safari kit (in gold metallflake plastic).



Finally, a 1951 Chevy Bel Air Convertible primer hot rod in progress, from the Round 2/MPC recent issue. It has been lowered, with a 1976 Corvette 350 V-8.squeezed in.



IPMS News

GTR is a local chapter of IPMS/USA, in Region 5. We have received our official 2012 Charter Renewal certificate and sticker which we will affix to our charter next meeting. The latest update from Region 5 Coordinator Kelly Quirk reports that all 38 clubs in Region 5 have successfully rechartered for 2012.

The 2012 Region 5 Convention has secured a venue. The Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Overland Park, KS. The date is Saturday, May 19 2012. Contest Theme is "In the Movies".

Local chapters need five active national IPMS/USA members to remain an IPMS chapter. We 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.



IPMS USA
International Plastic Modelers Society

2012 Region 5 2012 Region 5 May 19,
KC MO.

2012 Nationals: Aug 8-11 Orlando, FL
www.ipms2012.org

2013 Nationals: Loveland, CO

GTR: 2011 Year in Review and 2012 Plans

By Chuck Herrmann

This is the time of year most publications publish year in review and predict the future articles, so here is the 2011 GTR Year in Review.

Overall 2011 was a pretty good year for GTR, by year end we had increased attendance at the regular meetings with the biggest being in December, maybe free food for our first Christmas Party had something to do with that! The biggest changes in 2011 were moving our meeting date from the third Saturday to the first Saturday each month, along with changing the location to the Algonquin Township Office.

Our annual event, the GTR Summer NNL, was held for the fourth time in 2011, and it was a success with about the same turn out as previous years, and the weather was fine this time after rain hit the outdoor vendor trunk sale in 2010. And we were able to cover our costs with a little profit so we can have it again in 2012. Some of the proceeds were used for our Christmas party, some will be used for the 2012 GTR Club Project. The rest is seed money for the 2012 event.

We missed the Rockford Classic Show in January, as the event was canceled but we had a presence at the Ferrari Expo in March and the Milwaukee NNL in April. And GTR had a club display tent at the Meadowdale Car Show in September.

For 2012, we look forward to taking part in all these events again: the Rockford event on January 29, Ferrari Expo March 17, Milwaukee NNL April 14, (the themes for the Milwaukee NNL are Sports Car Racing and LeMans Winners, subjects dear to GTR members) and hopefully the Meadowdale show in September. The NIMCON show, hosted by IPMS/Lakes Region, is planned for July. It was not held last year but in 2009 GTR sponsored a trophy and had some vendor tables so I assume we will do so again. And our big event, the 5th Annual GTR Summer NNL will be August 5. The Club Project this year is to build a kit that fits one of our NNL themes, if you do your dues will be refunded.

Here's hoping 2012 is another good year for GTR. Keep building and hope to see you in 2012.

State of the Hobby

By Chuck Herrmann

Every year around the time of the iHobby Expo in October, the annual trade show for the hobby industry, we see articles and opinions on the current state of the hobby. So having had time to absorb everything I now will add my perspective.

It seems everyone is concerned that the auto model hobby is aging or graying. There is certainly some truth in this, just look at the average age of GTR members, or the age of most participants in local swap meets or contests. The second "Golden Age" of car modeling, back in the 1990's, saw lots of people, myself included, who were active modelers during the original prime years of the hobby in the 1960's renew their interest in the hobby once other priorities like college, jobs, marriage and family settled down and there was time to get involved in a hobby. However, the younger generation of auto modelers has not seemed to develop. And it is not just auto modeling but interest in the automotive world itself that is waning among young people. As I now work in the automotive industry, I see lots of articles in the industry literature indicating that mainstream young people are just not just as interested in cars as something that is considered "cool" or trendy as it was back in the 1960's. So if it a concern to Detroit and the real auto industry, it will pass through to auto modeling. Back in the 60's, automotive technology, the new industry of plastics, and an improving economy with more disposable income led to the first Golden Age of Modeling. As I mentioned in my review of the book *Hot Rod Models* several months ago, plastic models were to that generation what the internet, electronic games and technology is to the current younger generation. In the mid 60's there were many kits that sold over one million copies (the Red Baron sold over 2 *million!*). AMT, Monogram, Revell and MPC were all significant companies with ties to the entertainment, automotive and racing worlds.

In this new millennium, on line technology has grabbed people's interest (as the recent Christmas advertising has demonstrated). Articles have shown how it is more important to lots of young people to live in urban or downtown environments where cars are not always the only (or best) way to get around. And that they would rather spend money on the latest electronic trendy gadget than a car. They

are not as engaged with cars and trucks as the Gen X or Boomers generations were. New car buyers age 21-34 is 27% of sales while the 55 older age group is trending up.

So, if real cars are falling from mainstream favor among the younger demographic, replicas and models will be affected. This has impacted the auto aftermarket, as many of the tuner companies have suffered or disappeared in recent years. And if people make less money and/or live in smaller homes, the room to enjoy modeling is just not there – I know that without my several hundred square feet of work and storage space in the basement I would not be able to model the way I do now. And with current kit retail prices of \$20-\$30 or more, people may not be willing to spend that to try out a new hobby.

The aging of the hobby seems to be reflected in the new products coming out. Round 2 has done a nice job of reissuing lots of classic vintage products but apart from Corvettes and Camaros, Mustangs and Challengers there is not much current subject matter. Same for Revell, every new tool of a current subject seems matched by a reissue. Their great new Midget racer kits are aimed at a mature audience. Other new molds, like Polar Lights 60's TV Batmobile and the great new Hudson kits by Mobius are not aimed to young builders. There may be some interest among people really into hot rodding (*Kar Kulture DeLuxe* magazine has ads and review articles for Round 2 hot rod and nostalgia kits). Japanese model companies, like Fujimi and Hasegawa, seem to issue some current street subjects that are not exotic dream cars but not too many.

So where does leave us who are still involved in our beloved hobby? There are plenty of kits just out (the Hudson) or coming out (the 50 Olds from Revell) to satisfy the vintage kit builders. Round 2 will keep reissuing classic kits. New Corvettes, Camaro and Mustangs always seem to pop up. While the news from Tamiya has been discouraging lately, Fujimi, Hasegawa and Revell Germany are issuing new sports, exotics and racing cars. And these new kits usually are nicely done, if a bit pricey. The aftermarket keeps issuing lots of nice kits and accessories to fill in the gaps left by the major manufacturers. And the event calendar for this year shows a full schedule of the usual model contests and swap meets in the Chicagoland area.

So for now, the hobby seems fine, if not as the hot new thing it is a nice established niche

hobby. There are two dedicated auto modeling magazines that seem to be going strong. While the loss of the big retail outlets like Wal Mart and Toy-R-U's had an impact, at least locally we still have a number of decent hobby stores as well as hobby sections at Hobby Lobby and Michael's. The local clubs, while down in numbers from a few years ago, are still going, and all 38 of our IPMS Chapter 5 have renewed for 2012. So the faithful are still around.

We will have to see how the future plays out. Maybe before the current generation dies off, sooner or later people will have maxed out on electronic gadgets, the social media scene will become over saturated and people will be looking for more hands on activities? For now we have plenty to keep us busy, so ignore the doom and gloom predictions, just keep on modeling and enjoy the hobby!

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!

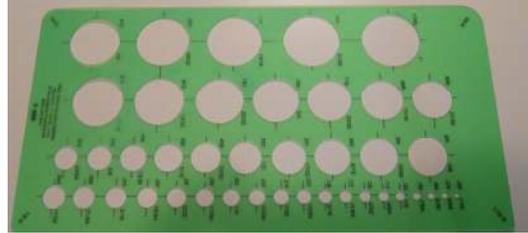
Masking Template for Wide Whitewall Tires by Chuck Hermann

Many readers of this newsletter know that I have been on a rat rod/hot rod building craze for a while. I'm still also still doing my first love, sports car and race cars but I have had several hot rod projects also going recently. So I have needed to find some new techniques and parts to build in this previously unfamiliar genre.

Whitewall tires are something I do not need to worry about for race cars, but they are prominent on lots of vintage rods and rat rods. Some new issue kits, like the Round 2 '25 Ford and the new Mobius Hudson, feature nice printed wide whites as an option. But since I am refurbishing a lot of old glue bombs lately I need more wide whites. So I decided I needed to paint them.

Of course getting a concentric circle with a nice round edge is the main difficulty. I tried hand brushing some tires that featured a raised

sidewall line and that was okay, but many tires do not have raised lines or they are not where you need them. So I remembered the circle drawing template from my high school drafting days and thought I would try that.



These templates are available at art supply and office supply stores; I found mine at Office Max for about five dollars. They are flexible plastic with lots of different size circle cutouts to allow for tracing a true circle onto paper. Mine has holes from 1/16 to one inch.

I found the size I desired then taped my tire onto the back of the template. To avoid having to clean off the overspray from the entire template I cover nearby holes with cardboard.



Then you just mix up some paint and airbrush it on. The whole process takes a while as you need to let the paint set for few minutes on each tire before removing and repeating. But remember to use acrylic paint, not enamel or oil based which never seems to dry thoroughly on rubber or vinyl plastic tires. Usually I use Tamiya Flat White but I recently tried Humbrol Flat White and it worked fine.



The final result:



Note: For race car modelers, this can be used for painting on roundels for numbers.

2012 GTR Summer NNL 5th Annual Contest & Swap Meet

Hosted by: IPMS/GTR

Theme: **DIRT-Off Road**



Sub-Theme: 50 Years
of the Daytona 24 Hours
Sports Car Racing



Attention Automotive Modelers; we have a summer show and swap meet for you! You are invited to our GTR Summer NNL contest and swap meet.

The Summer NNL will be held on Sunday August 5th 2011 from 9:30AM to 2:00PM at the Algonquin Township Building, 3702 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

For the out-of-towners, there are tons of local accommodations from Days Inn to Holiday Inn. Admission to the show is a measly 5 bucks; you can enter as many models on the tables as you like (no additional charge) and we will serve a pizza lunch (again, no additional charge, soda extra; sorry had to draw a line somewhere) to all show entrants.

Did we mention that there is a swap meet too? There will be a free "trunk sale" swap meet in our spacious parking lot, vendors and show goers are encouraged to open their trunks and sell-sell-sell rain or shine. Vendor set-up starts at 8:30AM. Also we raffle off some nice prizes.

Our NNL style contest bestows "Best Of" awards as mandated by popular vote as determined by show attendees, official judging and nit-picking is strictly forbidden, praise and admiration from fellow modelers strongly encouraged.

Classes:

Competition Open Wheel	All scales	F1, Indy, Drag, etc
Competition Closed Wheel	All scales	NASCAR, LeMans/IMSA, Can-Am, Drag
Street	All scales	Street legal - Muscle Cars, Sports/Exotics, Tuners, beaters, factory stock
Custom	All scales	Modified custom vehicles
Commercial	All scales	Trucks, Taxis, Police, Ambulance and Emergency
Motorcycles	All scales	All types
Curbside	All scales, all types	Hood closed, judged as displayed, includes slammers
Out of the Box	All scales, all types	No modifications to the kit except filler, paint, decals and foil
Theme: Dirt Off Road	All scales, all types	Anything designed or modified to be operated off the pavement. Dune Buggies, Rally racers, dirt racers, etc.
50 Years of the Daytona 24 Hours	All scales, all types	Any sports racing cars that were eligible to compete at the Daytona 24 Hours
People's Choice	Any model in the contest.	

Contact: gtrchab@yahoo.com
www.gtrautomodelers.freeservers.com



2012 GTR Event Calendar

Jan 1-15 2012 Dakar Rally
Argentina-Chile-Peru
www.dakar.com



Jan 15 Scale Auto Hobby & Toy Show
American Serb Hall
Milwaukee, WI 53219
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

January 29 RWIS Classic Plastic Swap Meet
and Model Display at Ken Rock Community
Center / Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy
3218 Eleventh Street, Rockford IL

Feb 26 59th IL Plastic Kit & Toy Show
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton
(630) 969-1847
Email: pthpowerinc@aol.com.

March 4 Scale Auto Hobby & Toy Show
American Serb Hall
Milwaukee, WI 53219
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

March 17 31st Annual Ferrari Literature, Art &
Model Expo with Model Contest
Continental Motorsports
420 E. Ogden Avenue Hinsdale IL

March 17 Sebring 12 Hours ALMS
Sebring, FL

March 25 Countryside Collectors Classic Show
Park Place of Countryside
Countryside, Illinois 60525
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

April 14 Milwaukee NNL 20
Hosted by AMG
Family Centers of Excellence Waukesha, WI
Theme: Sports and Road Racing;
Subtheme: 24 Hours of LeMans
email: scottiekl@charter.net or Mike Dowd,
mdowd@wi.rr.com

April 15 30th Annual Spring Show
Milwaukee Miniature Motors
Waukesha County Expo Center Waukesha, WI
www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com

May 5 IPMS/Mad-City Modelers Model Show
Doubledays Banquet House
Cottage Grove (Madison) WI
[Michael A. Luedke](mailto:Michael.A.Luedke) 262-567-9147

May 19 IPMS Region 5 Convention
Theme: "In the Movies"
Host: IPMS/West Central Missouri
See www.ipmswcmo.org

May 27 Indy 500
Indianapolis Motor Speedway, IN

June 16-17 LeMans 24 Hours

July 14 NIMCOM hosted by IPMS/Lakes Region
Scale Modelers

Aug 8-11 IPMS National Convention
Disney World, Orlando, FL
www.ipms2012.org

August 5 5th Annual GTR Summer NNL
Theme: DIRT (Off Road)
Subtheme: 24 Hours of Daytona
Algonquin Township Building Crystal Lake, IL
grchab@yahoo.com

August 18 Road America ALMS
Elkhart Lake, WI

November 4 Scale Auto Hobby & Toy Show
American Serb Hall
Milwaukee, WI 53219
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

Oct 21 Countryside Collectors Classic Show
Park Place of Countryside
Countryside, Illinois 60525
www.uniqueeventsshows.com



**GTR Auto
Modelers
Newsletter**

Happy New Year

from

GTR Auto Modelers

IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers

Chuck Herrmann

338 Alicia Drive

Cary, IL 60013

Next GTR Meeting: January 7, 2012

www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com