



# GTR Newsletter February 2013

1/43 Starter 1995 NASCAR T-Bird  
by Jim Brooks



## Inside this issue:

- GTR News & Events
- MPC BARNABAS Vampire Van Review

## 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  
2013 Meetings: Every 1st Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Your current GTR Officers are:

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Vice President: Steve Jahnke

Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann

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



And on Facebook at GTR Auto Modelers



# GTR Mailbag



by Chuck Herrmann

## REAL WORLD

### 2014 US Sports Car Racing Classes

Following the big merger between the ALMS and Grand Am sports car series set for 2014, the combined series class structure has now been announced.

The top level LMP1 prototypes will no longer be allowed. The top class will be a combination of the ALMS LMP2 prototypes and the Grand Am Daytona Prototypes with some equivalency limits to be set. The LMPC class for smaller spec prototypes as run in ALMS will continue. There will be two GT classes, the ALMS GT will continue and the current Grand Am GT will combine with the ALMS GT Challenge class. Look for further tweaking of the rules as the 2014 season approaches.

### C7 Corvette Launched!



The biggest story from the Detroit Auto Show was the public launch of the next generation 2014 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray,

Now we will watch to see if any model kits come out in time for the GTR Summer NNL as Corvettes are the theme.

### NASCAR gets \$70 million in fiscal cliff deal

Many American taxpayers weren't the only ones breathing a sigh of relief after Washington lawmakers finally came to an agreement to avoid the dreaded fiscal cliff.

NASCAR was also an unlikely beneficiary of the new legislation. The racing series, which is based in Daytona Beach, will receive a \$70 million break in the new deal. The money comes as an extension of a "seven-year cost recovery period for certain motorsports racing track facilities." The \$70 million price tag is an estimate of lost tax revenue if current tax credits, which are scheduled to expire, are extended for a year.

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Nurnberg Toy Fair

Spielwarenmesse, the Nurnberg Toy Fair, will be held Jan 30 thru February 4 in Nurnberg, Germany.

### Revell Germany New Kits

In advance of this major industry event Revell Germany listed some new model kits releases for 2013.

VWs: there will be three new VW kits planned for October 2013. The commercial van is a variant of the 23 Window Samba bus issued several years ago. Kit 07076.



There will be a new tool original Beetle kit, both sedan (Kit 07083) and convertible (Kit 07078) versions.



Even though longtime readers know I am a VW fanatic, I must admit the old Revell US tooling, was pretty beat up after numerous reissues. So this new mold is welcome. *(I'm still waiting for news of the current Beetle to done in plastic...)*

BMW M3 DTM: Two new BMW M3 kits from the 2012 DTM season.



Kit 07082 Martin Tomczyk and Kit 07178 2012 Bruno Spengler DTM Driver Champion. Scheduled for September release.

Red Bull 1/24 F1: The world Championship Red Bull RB8. Kit 07074 is World Driving Champion Sebastian Vettel, and Kit 07075 is for his teammate Mark Webber. Look for these in August.



Ferrari 250 GTR: I have seen conflicting news on this kit, some say a new tool while other say a modified reissue. I assume it is not the old Protar recently reissued? We can find out in July.



### Resurgence of a Myth!

Pocher, the iconic manufacturer of 1/8 scale kits, is stirring again in its lair. At [www.pocher.com](http://www.pocher.com), there is a You Tube film that lists their previous kit releases (their last catalog was in 1998), and it ends with "Resurgence of a Myth – Official Presentation at the Spielwarenmesse Nurnberg Toy Fair". So about the time you read this they hopefully have made their announcement.

**Fujimi:** Fujimi has announced a Mercedes Benz SLS AMG GTS. Kit 312569

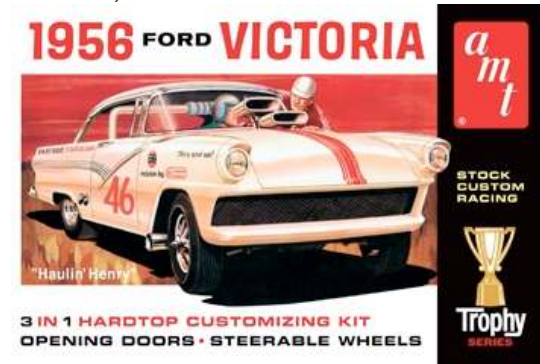


**Scale Motorsports Decals:** A new sheet for the Porsche 911 GT3 RSR Flying Lizard Team as ran at 2011 LeMans

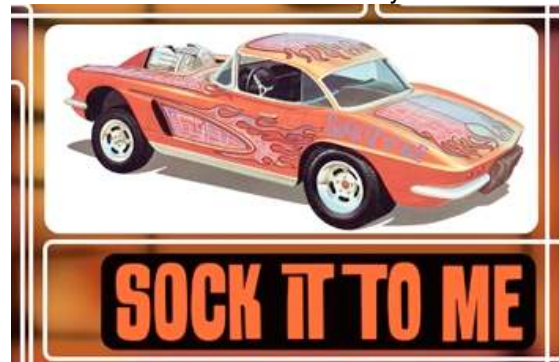


### Follow the Leader

In what appears to be a response to the new Revell 57 Ford and 62 Corvette kits, Round 2/AMT will be releasing reissues of their 56 Ford in March,



and their 62 Corvette in February.



## EVENTS

The Rockford Wheels in Scale Classic Plastic event will take place on Sunday, January 27. GTR was there with several club tables in the vendor area. It missed the deadline for this issue so watch for photos next month.

This month the DuPage swap meet at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, IL will be held Sunday, February 24.

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.



## GTR Update

The next regular meeting will be Saturday, February 2 at the Algonquin Township Building. Until we firm up any alternate plans or events, the regular monthly meetings will meet at the Township.

The 2013 GTR Club Calendar features a photo of a member's model each month. You will need to order your copy; cost to members is \$10. The first order has sold out, but since these are printed to order we can get more. Let me or Steve Jahnke know if you want one, we will bring it to the next meeting. Thanks to Steve for taking the photos, putting the calendar together and handling the orders. We are planning to do several photo shoots for the 2014 Calendar throughout the year, so watch for notice of the meetings where Steve will be taking photos.

Dues for 2013 remain \$15; you can renew at the meeting or get a check to me (made out to Chuck Herrmann, not to GTR).

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.

## GTR is on Facebook



GTR now has a Facebook page. We will be posting news and photos from meetings and events. And others are free to post their photos and messages! Thanks to Joel Peters and Rick Hanna for setting this up.

## 2013 6<sup>th</sup> Annual GTR Summer NNL

Following another successful GTR Summer NNL last year, IPMS has approved our event for this year, on Sunday August 4. It is listed on the IPMS/USA Website Event Calendar. The 2013 flyer is now ready and has been emailed to our newsletter distribution list, and we will start bringing it to shows and events. The Theme will be 60 Years of the Corvette, with trophies for Best Street and Best Racing Corvette models. We have added a new additional category this year, Military Vehicles, so hopefully some of our military modeling brothers will join us at the show! And we are now accepting trophy sponsorships (\$35 per trophy) and raffle donations.

## 2013 GTR Club Project

To promote the NNL and to motivate members to build, the GTR club project this year will be Corvettes. Finish a Corvette model between now and the NNL in August, and bring it to a meeting, the NNL or send a photo to me and your 2013 dues will be refunded! There are lots of options as the Corvette is probably the most modeled subject there is. We are seeing projects each meeting that hopefully will be done by the show. So grab a kit and start building!

Past issues of the GTR newsletters are 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. Thanks to Bill Crittenden for storing our newsletters on his site.

## January GTR Meeting

The first regular GTR meeting of the new year was held at the Algonquin Township Office on January 5. For the business portion of the meeting we did the treasury report and the mailbag, also we approved getting some club

tables at several upcoming events. We passed out the 2013 GTR club calendar to those who ordered one.

Then it was on to Show & Tell. Here is some of the stuff on the tables:

**Steve Jahnke:** New Revell Ferrari 599 GTO kit



**Larry Fulhorst:** Two new 1/32 slot cars, the Swede Savage Barracuda Trans Am and



a Dan Gurney F1 Eagle.



**Chuck Herrmann:** A rebuild project of an original issue AMT 1932 Vicky bought at last year's Cedarville swap, showed in progress a few meetings ago and now completed.



Also two projects. First, a 1968 Corvette Wagon, using a Jimmy Flintstone resin body with a Revell 68 Corvette as the donor kit. And a Revell Ferrari 612 Scaglietti in progress for the Ferrari Expo



**Dave Green:** more resin in progress, a Mike's Scale Speed Shop phantom Cuda body on a Revell 2009 Challenger kit. This will be a Sox & Martin tribute car.



Also some new kits, the Hudson stocker,



AMT's 75 Gremlin and



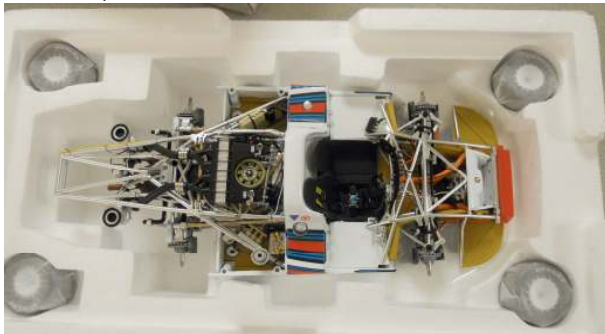
MPC Bounty Hunter funny car.



**Ed Sexton:** The TruScale 1/18 Porsche 937/77 LeMans winner. This is a semi built diecast. Lots of great details!



**Dave Edgecomb:** Dave also had the TruScale Porsche, his was still disassembled in the box.



Also Dave had several neat new kits



Fujimi's new Ferrari F12 and Tamiya's Red Bull 1/20 F1 kit.



**Jim Brooks:** Jim brought in an almost finished 1/43 NASCAR kit by Starter, the 1995 Ford T-Bird of Ted Musgrave –see cover photo.

**John Walczak:** a 1966 Nova altered wheelbase drag car and a restored 1961 Pontiac Bonneville.



**Rick Hanna:** an original issue MPC Mako Shark kit he started over 30 years ago, now hopefully to be completed in time for the NNL



# IPMS USA

International Plastic Modelers Society

## IPMS News

GTR is a local chapter of IPMS/USA, in Region 5. Local chapters need five active national IPMS/USA members to remain an IPMS chapter. We had enough National IPMS members this time, but we can use some more. So 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](http://www.ipmsusa.org), or see me for membership forms.

The 2013 IPMS/USA National Convention website is now up – see:

[www.ipmsusa2013.com/](http://www.ipmsusa2013.com/)

## 2013 IPMS Region 5 Convention

The 2013 Region 5 IPMS/USA Regional Contest and Convention will be held March 9 near Madison, WI. The last show in Madison, in 2009, saw a strong showing of Automotive models in the contest, over 300 as I recall, so it should be a good show to attend. This year it is a one day event.

# IPMS USA

International Plastic Modelers Society

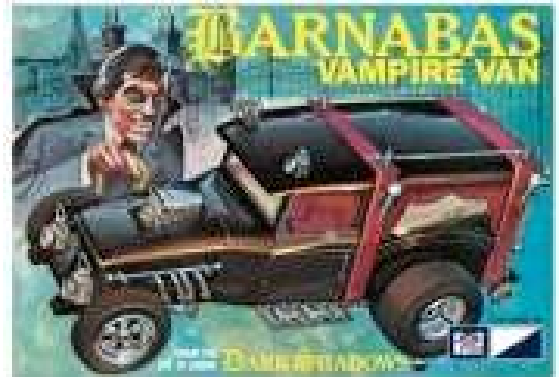
2013 Region 5 Saturday, March 9,  
Madison, WI

2013 IPMS/USA Nationals:

August 14-17 Loveland, CO

2014 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary IPMS/USA  
Nationals at Hampton Roads, VA.

## First Look: MPC's Vampire Van Reissue



**Description:** Barnabas Vampire Van

**Manufacturer:** Round2 - MPC

**Kit#:** 763

**Scale:** 1/25

*By Chuck Herrmann*

**History:** *Dark Shadows* was a daily soap opera that aired on ABC from 1966 to 1971. In an effort to boost poor ratings a vampire character, Barnabas Collins, first appeared in 1967. The vampire aspect made the show a surprise hit, and it eventually came to dominate the show.



The original actor to play Barnabas was Jonathan Frid. There have been several spin off films and shows over the years.



The latest was the *Dark Shadows* movie last year starring Johnny Depp, which I assume had some impact on Round2's decision to repop this model.

The original show became a huge hit that spawned lots of commercial tie ins. The model industry joined in, MPC issued figure kits of Barnabas Collins and a Were Wolf, and then the Vampire Van in 1969.

**Kit History:** MPC originally issued a kit of the 1932 Chevy a a cabriolet/sedan delivery combo about 1967. It was considered a great kit at the time. However, in those golden days of modeling, companies tended to only offer kits for a few years. So to try to captialize on the *Dark Shadows* phenomenon, MPC arranged to sell a licensed Banabas Collins Vampire Van model kit. To do so they chopped up the tolling for the 32 Chevy Sedan Delivery to add the vampire parts. There was never a van featured in the TV show so this was purely a phantom design.

This kit is mentioned in the book *Hot Rod Model Kits* by Terry Jesse (MBI, 2000). There is a description of the classic combo kit, then a quote from Bill Depuy, former MPC kit designer.

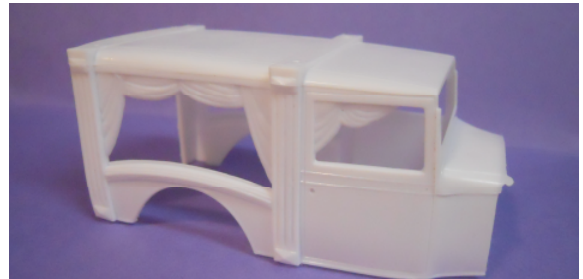
*"After about two years...someboby decided that a Barnabas hot rod would be a good companion model (to their figure kits). They retooled that little Chevy sedan delivery into the Barnabas Vampire Van and really screwed it up I never really forgave them for that one"*

### The Kit

The kit is well packaged, as is usual for recent Round 2 kits. There is a sturdy box featuring vintage art work, and the sprues are individually wrapped. The instructions are vintage, and there are no decals. It is molded in white plastic with chromed and clear parts.



The age of this tooling is apparent by the heavy amounts of flash on many parts. Also, the fit is not very good on a lot of items.



**Body:** The body is molded with the side curtain windows in one piece. There is wood trim with molded grain detail (on most of it, not all), that and the side windows are to model a hearse like custom. There is an unusual front hood/fascia unit, with a hole molded into the hood for the blower to protrude through.

The rear doors are two separate pieces designed to swing open, with clear glass panels. There are a lot of chrome pieces, appropriate for a custom. This includes top and rear rails and head and tail lights that look like lanterns. These are all intended to reinforce the hearse/vampire motif. But the coffin in this kit is too long to fit inside the body! That must be why there is a separate trailer.

**Trailer:** This is a 14 piece assembly of a coffin on wheels, to be towed behind the van. The coffin features a hinged lid. There is a two piece figure that lies in the coffin, molded to resemble Barnabas Collins. But the figure engraving is rather poor, as is the fit of the two halves.



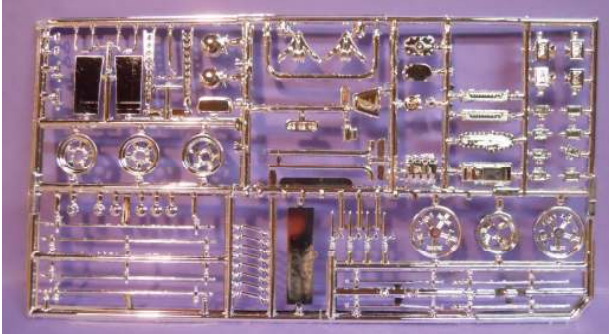
**Engine:** This is a 17 piece big block Chevy with blower. The blower parts, oil pan, belt cover and exhaust are all chromed, again typical of a custom design.

**Chassis Suspension:** There is a full chassis but it is somewhat simplified. There are leaf springs front and rear, and a steering linkage. The front axle is chromed. The wheels are chromed five spoke mags, they attach to the hubs by a chrome knock-off style nut.





The tires feature large, rubber hollow slicks for the rear, with the logos printed on. These are the same slicks that Round 2 has recently reissued as a separate parts package of eight tires.



Lots of chrome.

**Summary:** This is a dated tool, with lots of fit issues. Since it a pure phantom subject I can't comment on accuracy. I assume it will appeal to fans of the old TV show. An Internet search found it being sold at a lot of outlets not normally associated with car models, such as Hollywood memorabilia and monster themed merchandise sites. I plan to do my build up as a conversion to a surf van (still thinking of my recent Hawaii vacation now that is zero degrees as I type this!). It is well in progress so I should be able to feature this in the newsletter in a few months....

### Earlier MPC 32 Chevy Releases:



The original kit above.

It was a nice model, something different from the multitude of 32 Ford kits. There were several other issues of the 32 Chevy by MPC.



### Prior reissues of the Vampire Van:



ERTL did several reissues of this mold prior to this latest Round 2 licensed movie version.





## 2013 GTR Event Calendar

Feb 9-18 Chicago Auto Show  
McCormack Place, Chicago IL  
[Chicagoautoshow.com](http://chicagoautoshow.com)

February 24 61st IL Plastic Kit & Toy Show  
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL  
(630) 969-1847 Email: [pthpowerinc@aol.com](mailto:pthpowerinc@aol.com).

February 24 Daytona 500 NASCAR  
Daytona Intl Speedway, FL

March 9 IPMS/USA Region 5 Convention  
IPMS/Mad City Modelers (Madison)  
Doubledays Cottage Grove, WI  
<http://madcitymodelers.webs.com>

March 10 Cedarville Swap and Contest  
Jane Addams Community Center, Cedarville, IL  
Theme: Jimmy Flintstone Cars 815-238-0634

March 16 Twelve Hours of Sebring ALMS  
Sebring, FL

March 23 Ferrari Expo  
Continental Auto Sports, Hinsdale, IL 60521  
Tom Tanner/Scale Designs  
email: [alfaromeo2465@yahoo](mailto:alfaromeo2465@yahoo)

March 24 Countryside Collectors Classic Show  
Park Place of Countryside,  
Countryside, IL [www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

May 24 1/43 Scale Model Car Expo  
William Tell Holiday Inn Countryside, IL  
9:30AM - 2:30PM Free admission.  
Buz Kinkel 708-246-1543  
Email: [buz@route66modelcarstore.com](mailto:buz@route66modelcarstore.com).  
<http://store.route66modelcarstore.com/>

Apr 13 Milwaukee NNL21 hosted by AMG  
Theme: "Legal in all 50 States", Alcohol,  
Tobacco & Firearms sponsored model vehicles  
Family Centers of Excellence, Waukesha, WI  
Sub-theme: 60 Years of the Corvette  
Info email: Scott Koch [scottiekl@charter.net](mailto:scottiekl@charter.net) or  
Mike Dowd [mdowd@wi.rr.com](mailto:mdowd@wi.rr.com)

Apr 14 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Spring Show,  
Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha, WI  
Call (262) 646-4114 (Voicemail) or email  
[jdunn07@centurytel.net](mailto:jdunn07@centurytel.net)  
<http://www.milwaukeeminiaturemotors.com>

April 14 Scale Auto Hobby & Toy Show  
American Serb Hall Milwaukee, WI  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

May 2-3 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Scale Vehicle  
Championship and Convention  
Sheraton Salt Lake City Hotel, UT  
[www.gslchampionship.org](http://www.gslchampionship.org)

May 11 HMCA Contest and Swap Meet  
Knights of Columbus, Indianapolis, IN  
Contest: Duane Tripp (317) 421-1453  
or [DCT2136@aol.com](mailto:DCT2136@aol.com)  
Swap Meet: Dave Williams (317) 322-1852  
or [indyhmca@hotmail.com](mailto:indyhmca@hotmail.com)

May 19 13<sup>th</sup> NNL North Show & Swap  
Knights of Columbus Hall, Bloomington MN  
Bob Maderich 612-423-2985  
[www.RPModelClub.com](http://www.RPModelClub.com)

May 26 Indy 500 Indianapolis, IN

June 22-23 LeMans 24 Hours LeMans, France

July 13 NIMCON 2  
Host: IPMSLakes Region Scale Modelers  
McHenry County College, Crystal Lake IL  
Phil Pignataro 847-658-9920

August 4 6<sup>th</sup> Annual GTR SUMMER NNL  
Theme: 60 Years of Corvettes  
Algonquin Township building  
Crystal Lake, IL  
[gtrchab@yahoo.com](mailto:gtrchab@yahoo.com)

August 14-17 IPMS/USA National Convention  
Loveland, CO  
[www.ipmsusa2013.com](http://www.ipmsusa2013.com)

Oct 24-27 iHobby Expo  
Cleveland OH  
[www.ihobbyexpo.com](http://www.ihobbyexpo.com)

October 20 Countryside Collectors Classic Show  
Park Place Of Countryside,  
Countryside, IL  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

November 3 Scale Auto Hobby & Toy Show  
American Serb Hall Milwaukee, WI  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

? – awaiting confirmation of date/details

# Happy Valentines Day



*Glue & Plastic*

## **GTR Auto Modelers**

### **IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers**

Chuck Herrmann  
338 Alicia Drive  
Cary, IL 60013

**Next GTR Meeting: February 2 , 2013**

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