

## MARYLAND AUTOMOTIVE MODELERS ASSOCIATION

*Volume 13, No. 9, May 2000*

by: "GTO"

(The *Maryland Automotive Modelers Association* is a chapter of the *IPMS*)

Well gang, the *April meeting* had about 52 members in attendance. Anyone notice the *April Fool's gag* last month? I mentioned that we celebrated the (*triumphant*) return of *Chad Shapiro* from his *excellent NNL East adventure, from which he managed to come away, after the smoke had cleared, with the Best Junior award! Waytogo, Chadwick!! Well, duh! NNL East wasn't until the following weekend!* But with deadlines being what they are, that is how I was able to tell you about it before it actually happened!

As far as our *annual NNL show* last weekend, the numbers were down a bit, with just shy of *275 models* in the display room, and *47 vendors* in the hall. This was due largely to the lack of advertising, caused by a lack of communication with the armory. This resulted in a last-minute contract, with no time to advertise. This will improve *next year*, as Matt already has a contract in hand for *May 12th, 2001!* All we need are themes to begin advertising it. That gives s almost a year to make next year's show, our tenth annual, the best yet! Thanks go out to *trophy sponsors Hobby Works, Ladds Hobby, Bradley's Model Car Collectibles, Replicas and Miniatures Company of MD, Max Wolfthal, Midnite Modelers, and the Central Pennsylvania Model Car Club. Door prize thanks* go out to *Detail Master, F & F Resin, Model Car World, Model Cars magazine, Replicas & Miniatures Company of MD, Revell, Scale Repros Plus, and Tony Meeker.* Without these sponsors, as well as the *club members* who *set up* and *ran the show*, this event wouldn't have been possible. So, give yourselves a pat on the back, and rest up for next year! *Winners will be announced in the next issue (meaning, I don't have 'em handy!)*.

The raffle raised *\$84.00 (as well as \$40.00 from the box)*. The club would like to thank the raffle donors listed below: *Ron Bradley, Lyle Willits, Ron Hamilton, Tim Powers, Walt Rook, Chris Whalley, Phil Jones, Brad, Harry Charon, Dave Hebler, Chad Shapiro, and Replicas and Miniatures Company of MD.* Special thanks also go to those listed below:

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Dyersville, IA 52040-0500

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8601 Waukegan Road  
Morton Grove, IL 60053-2295

## *Double Zero (Y2K) MEETING SCHEDULE*

Well guys, here it is, just as I promised ya! Ain't it great when things work out like they are supposed to? Thanks to Matt Guilfoyle for his hard work in ensuring that we have a place to meet every month next year! Yup, we are back at the *Greenbelt Community center* multipurpose room for the dates listed below. As usual, the meetings start at noon, and last until 3 or 4 P.M. (*and maybe even later, depending on what is going on!*).

January 15th  
February 19th  
March 18th  
April 15th  
May 20th  
June 17th



July 15th  
August 19th  
September 16th  
October 21st  
November 18th  
December 16th

**From the Baltimore Beltway (RT 695):** Take Exit 7, Route 295 (*Baltimore-Washington Parkway*) south towards Washington approx. 18 miles to Route 193 (*Greenbelt Road*), and exit. When on the off-ramp, stay to the right and merge right onto Southway (see below).

**From the Washington Beltway (RT 495):** Take Exit 22 north, towards Baltimore. Stay in the right lane and take the first exit onto Route 193 (*Greenbelt Road*). When on the off-ramp, bear to the right and take Greenbelt road west, towards College Park. Stay in the right lane and immediately after passing over the Parkway, make a right (*at the light*) onto Southway (*see below*).

**Once on Southway:** Go straight to the second (2nd) STOP sign. Make a left onto Crescent road. Go to STOP sign and make a right into the parking lot behind the Greenbelt Library. Once in parking lot, look to right. The large, white building is the Greenbelt Community Center. Enter building using doors near fenced tot lot. The multi-purpose room is on the second floor. There is an elevator to the left of the entrance.

### *Seminar Listing*

*Bare Metal Foil*-Ron Hamilton ✓

*Gold Foil application*-Matt Guilfoyle ✓

*Fear of Photoetch*-Lyle Willits ✓

*Interior Detailing*

*Panel Opening*-Bill Geary ✓

*Engine Detailing*-Norman Veber

*Paint Polishing*

*Airbrush Technique*

*Restoration of a Built-up model*

*Decal Application*

*Scratchbuilding small details* (*acetate windows, antennas, etc.*)

*Building a resin kit/conversion*

*Tire Detailing*

### *SNEAKIN' A PEEK!*

This column appears as frequently (*or infrequently!*) as new releases from the manufacturers. The idea behind it is to give a "thumbnail review" of the releases as they hit the shelves with a more detailed review to follow at a later date (*hopefully!*). We'll see how it goes! How about this, gang? To better identify possible kit reviews, at the end of the item on the kit, the words 'Available' or 'Not Available' will appear. Obviously, a club member may reserve any kit that is available with a simple call to the Editor. Conversely, a kit which is 'Not Available' was either already reserved by someone, or was something new inserted by yours truly, and paid for with my hard-earned moolah! (*Ed. Note: The kits are listed in no particular order*):

- **1960 Ford Starliner** (*AMT/ERTL #30044*): Molded in Lt. Gray....24-piece 352cu. in. V-8, including a nice two-piece carb w/fuel line....Firestone blackwall tires, steel rims w/dog dish hubcaps....brake detail on backing plates....separate chassis and floor pan....front and rear suspensions are eight-piece each....two-piece dual exhaust system....platform-style interior....pedals all suspended from dashboard....two-piece gas tank....separate heater hoses....separate door handles, windshield wipers, mirrors, fender ornaments....clear headlight lenses, clear red tail light lenses....1960 Ford Starliner color matrix chart....decals include underhood markings, and two sets of license plates (*both vintage*) (*Not Available*).
- **Smart Car** (*Revell ProFinish #1347*): Molded in technicolor (*including red, green, yellow, and blue!*)....opening doors, two-piece bucket seats, 'miniscule' tires, and hubcaps....separate windshield wipers....self-adhesive markings include several 'smart' labels and logos, and speedometer, and ancillary gauges (*Available*).
- **Volkswagen New Beetle Complete** (*Revell #2155*): Molded in Blue....Curbside, meaning no engine detail....dashboard consists of separate instrument hood, steering column and wheel, passenger's side handgrip, and gauge face decal....one-piece bucket seats, with rear seat molded to interior pan, but featuring separate headrests....separate side panels....clear headlight lenses and buckets, clear parking light lenses, and taillights....separate rear view mirrors (*two pieces per side*)....separate outside door handles, antenna, and windshield wiper....glass unit one piece clear tub....decals include emblems, wheel centers, tail and rear lights, speaker grilles, and [plates (*European and Domestic*)] (*Available*).
- **'64 Chevy Impala Lowrider 2 'N 1** (*Revell #2574*): Molded in white....nice 23-piece 327 cu. In. small block V-8, w/optional manifold and carb setup, as well as a stock and a custom air cleaner....multi-piece front and rear suspensions, which have three different ride height settings....separate frame and floorboard....dual exhausts are one piece per side....stock wheel and tire combo (*w/SS hubcaps*), or gold-tone wire wheels and low profile lowrider tires, w/whitewalls added as decals....platform-style interior w/bucket seats (*two pieces each*), separate console, dash (*w/pedals suspended from it*), and separate side panels....separate trunk floor (*stock and lowrider!*), for opening trunk....upper and lower radiator hoses, and steering box included....three-piece tie rod!!....upper chrome grille bar separate, to mount on leading edge of hood....nice graphics, which include, along with the 'Grim Reaper' lowrider graphics, all body emblems, speedometer, underhood markings, wheel centers, stock and lowrider whitewalls, and two sets of plates, one stock '64, the other a lowrider plate - **'REAPER'** (*Not Available*)
- **'39 Chevy Sedan Delivery Lowrider** (*Revell #2592*): Molded in white....reissue of earlier version of kit, but with lowrider special items: gold-plated rims, lowered suspension, sunvisor, two different hood emblems, and lowrider graphics, consisting of several pinstripes and curly-Q's, two different wheel centers, and a California lowrider plate -

- 'OLDIE'....same excellent tunnelram-equipped big block available as before, down to and including the optional sunroof which can be cut out, if desired. (*Available*).
- **'71 Cuda Street Machine** (*Revell #2984*): Molded in white....reissue of earlier 'Cuda kit, with a pop art style box art....same Hemi, finned oval chrome air cleaner, same wheels, etc....very little necessary to return this one to stock....in fact, decals include both black and white 'HEMI' billboards for side of car, in addition to two 'CUDA' plates and two California 'CUDA' plates, a 'HEMI' windshield band, and a set of red/yellow/orange stripes to run the length of the car (*Available*)
  - **'68 GTO Street Machine** (*Revell #2985*): Molded in white....again, as in the case of the '71 'Cuda, a straight reissue of the earlier kit....pop art-style box....'68 body, with entire '69 interior....5-spoke mag wheels....tunnelram-equipped Pontiac V-8....curiously, full exhaust system AND sidepipes are included (*and mounted?!*)....decals include stylized flame decals for areas around front and rear wheelwells, '400 cu. In.' designations for hood, a 'GTO' windshield band, and three sets of plates - one 'GOAT' set, one California 'GOAT' set, and one 'GR-RRR!' set (*Available*).
  - **'80 Ford Bronco** (*Revell #7682*): Molded in white....reissue of earlier Ford Bronco kit....15-piece small block Ford V-8....stock or custom wheel option....skid plate included....separate fender flares, and rear cap....pedals suspended from dashboard....two bucket seats are two pieces each, and rear seat is also a two-piece item....tub-style interior....clear head, turn signal, and taillight lenses....three-piece spare tire/mount, two-piece gas can....separate, multi-piece roof rack with skis, and chrome outside mirrors....decals include nice, colorful graphics for side of vehicle, two sets of plates - 'Ford' logos, and Colorado plates, two different windshield bands, and '*Fred's Landscaping*', and '*Alpine Ski Lodge and Resort*' logos for doors (*Available*).
  - **Li'l Coffin** (*Monogram Classic #0094*): Molded in color....reissue of original kit (*down to and including the instructions*)....again, as in the Predicta, a Hemi V-8, this time equipped w/six carbs....separate whitewall inserts....skeleton for display purposes (*in the instructions, he asks us to visit them at their website!*)....decals include 'Li'l Coffin' logos, and several sets of vintage speed decals (*Available*).
  - **Predicta** (*Monogram Classic #0095*): Molded in color....reissue of original kit (*down to and including the instructions*)....multi-piece Hemi V-8, complete w/fuel injection....multi-piece chassis (*still simplified*) w/posable front wheels....separate whitewall inserts....upper radiator hose....clear headlight lenses....hinged hood....decals include a few vintage speed decals, four 'Predicta' logos (*one set larger than the other*), and two 'by Starbird' decals (*Available*).
  - **'61 Chevy Impala "Joker's Wild" 1/64th scale Lowrider** (*Revell #86-3323*): Purple car with panelized pinstriping, with opening trunk, and gold-toned wheels and trim....posable suspension....white interior with lavender seat inserts.
  - **'71 Buick Riviera "Ruby Lipz" 1/64th scale Lowrider** (*Revell #86-3324*): Candy Apple Red car, with gold curly-Q pinstriping, gold-toned wheels and trim, and a lady's head on the hood....red and black interior.
  - **'59 Chevy Impala "Tribal Aguave" Lowrider** (*Revell #86-3328*): Teal car with green pinstriping on the sides, hood, and trunk....chrome wheels and trim, opening trunk, and posable suspension....white interior with blue seat inserts.

*[Note to all concerned: It has been brought to my attention of late that there is a potential problem with regard to the review articles published in this newsletter. Let me give you a little background on this subject. The model manufacturers (AMT/ERTL, Revell-Monogram, and Lindberg) all attempt to send our club current releases in exchange for our critiques on what we liked and didn't like about them. That means that we need to get written reviews published in the newsletter in a reasonable time frame to accomplish this. If you will recall, I have stood up at recent club meetings to enlist the aid of the members in attendance to get kit reviews. At present, Ron Hamilton has done more than his fair share of reviews. In the past, Lyle Willits also did his share of reviews, as well as yer Fearless Editor. If anyone wishes to see reviews written by someone else (or take a crack at it him or herself), they need to contact me, in order to determine which kits are available for review. I don't have the time to chase anyone down and browbeat him or her for a review. Rest assured though, if you take a review sample, I will be your worst nightmare if I don't get a review within a reasonable time (right, Leonard?). You may also rest assured that if you take a kit for a review, and do not return a review of it within a reasonable time, that you will not receive another!]*

## **'41 Ford Woody**

*[AMT/ERTL # 30052; 1/25th scale; 100+ pieces; molded in gray, chrome, clear, vinyl tires; 1 version - street rod only]*

This is a good kit. The shame is, a few years ago this would have been an exciting kit, too. But it suffers the misfortune of existing in the shadow of Revell-Monogram's outstanding 1948 Ford Woody kit and comparisons between the two are inevitable. This kit just pales somewhat next to the '48 kit. It is engineered similarly to the '48 in the way the interior constructs, but throughout the kit, the parts tend to feature less detail than the '48. Also, the detail that is included tends not to appear as sharp or accurate as that on the '48. Where this kit shines, though, is in two areas. First is the fact that it's the only game in town for the '41 front end in 1/25 scale. Second is that it features some nice suspension parts for street rod models including a nice quick-change rear and good-looking "Hairpin" radius rods for its dropped front axle. These would look right at home on 50's and 60's style '32 and '34 Ford highboys.

The 1941 Ford body was the first in a series produced from 1941 through 1948. The 1941 edition featured what was arguably the least attractive front-end sheet metal design of the series. By narrowing its fenders and widening its body, Ford's engineers were able to offer the car-buying public seven inches more interior width than they did the year before. But they still lost significant ground in their sales war with Chevrolet.

The *body* features a separate hood, headlights, parking lamps, grille inserts (3), side view mirrors, taillight/license plates, spare tire with mount, and antenna. AMT/ERTL includes molded clear windows for the windshield, rear windows, and vent windows only. They provide a small sheet of clear plastic from which the builder is to cut the side windows. Templates for cutting the windows are provided in the instructions. Though a good rendering with Super Deluxe trim, the body could be improved. The rails and stiles have a heavy appearance. They look to be about 20% too thick. This extra thickness makes the window openings appear a bit small. The profile of the front fenders is a gently rising curve from the rear to the front whereas the prototype fenders feature a mild, graceful compound arc towards the front. The padded top rises straight up then rolls over abruptly rather than being a soft radius as on the prototype. The fender trim is weakly molded and has mold line cutting through it on both front fenders. And finally, AMT/ERTL chose to mold on overly thick door handles rather than make them separate chrome plated pieces.

The *14-piece interior* builds up stock. Following the directions, the interior builds up on the floor board platform with floor-to-ceiling side and rear panels. The dashboard and the windshield trim are all molded as one piece. Unfortunately, the backsides of the interior panels are waled like corduroy. The variations in plastic thickness from the waling cause an uneven surface on the front side that will be seen on the finished model. This condition will not be easy to correct without harming some of the interior panel detail. All interior door handles and armrests are molded in place. The accelerator pedal is molded to the floorboard while the clutch and brake pedals are separate parts. The dash appears quite accurate with narrow strip gauges and high-mounted radio controls. The roof ribbing is molded on the underside of the roof. The only drawback to this approach is that ejector pin marks are located where they will be visible on the ceiling of the finished model and will be very difficult to remove.

Following the directions and assembling the interior on the floor board, then mounting the floor board to the frame, and inserting the whole deal into the body leaves you no way to assure a good fit between the interior panel and the body. It seems that assembling the interior in the body, then adding the floorboard and frame to it will yield better results. Install the rear window and windshield in the body. Remove the mounting pins from the bottom edges of the interior side and rear panels. Install the side windows and vent windows in the interior side panels and glue the panels into the body. Then install the rear panel and dash panel. Then install the floorboard, firewall, and steering column. Follow up by mounting the engine, splash aprons, and front shocks to the otherwise completed frame and the frame to the floorboard.

Speaking of the *frame*, it is a 14-piece arrangement that represents a stock frame with C-channel rails and an X-shaped cross member. The separate exhaust system depicts modern glass pack type mufflers with tubing that splits into twin outlets for each pipe. The rear axle is a nicely depicted quick-change unit and the dropped front axle is located by a well-done set of "Hairpin" radius rods.

For *motivation*, this kit uses a mildly detailed rendering of a *larger than stock 296 cubic inch flat head Ford engine with modern speed equipment*. The nondescript block/transmission/oil pan halves feature an attempt to depict the stock type oil drain in the center of the pan. A separate oil pan would have yielded superior results. The cylinder heads represent *modern milled aluminum 24-bolt pieces* with the water outlets at the front. The front cover matches the cylinder heads, doubles as the front engine mount, and has the full distributor detail molded on. The fuel injection intake system features a fuel rail which hovers above the manifold and an ill-fitting ram assembly that holds two throttle bodies adorned with aftermarket style air filters.

*Rolling stock* consists of a nicely done set of *17-inch Halibrand wheels* mounting wide and wider *Goodyear Eagle GS-C tires in 255/45ZR-17 and 285/45ZR-17 sizes*. The Halibrands feature valve stem detail and lug covers. They could really benefit from the addition of a set of knock-offs, too. Four chromed wheel backs with drum brake backing plate detail are included. Oddly another set of four un-plated wheel backs with different drum brake detail are included in the kit. Perhaps there's a stock version in the future?

The *decal sheet* isn't much. It offers a pair of 1941 California license plates, a possibly club plate with an unfamiliar symbol on it, and 14 simplistic wood grain decals for the body panels. Have you seen those commercials where the announcer asks, "Ever feel like some people have just stopped trying?" These wood grain decals are symbolic of them. They are simply black lines. No attempt at color was made. The molded in wood grain details on the body are far superior to the decals.

The *instruction sheet* is well drawn and easy to follow. AMT/ERTL has provided factory color information for the stock interior and suggests using flat colors to represent cloth, gloss colors to represent metal, and semi-gloss for anything else.

The inclusion of a surfboard, presumably for no reason other than that this kit represents a woody, is incongruous at best. This is not a 60's street rod style woody, evocative of the California beach scene. This is a 90's style street rod borne of the street rod nationals' scene.

Although there's no mention of the fact on the box, this is a street rod only kit. The instruction sheet correctly identifies it as such. If you want to build a stock 1941 Ford woody, you'll have to kit bash this kit with a Revell-Monogram 1948 Ford Woody or Convertible. That is, at least for now.

By: Tim Powers

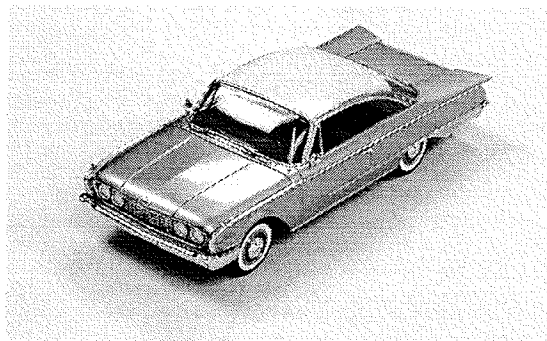
## ***1960 Ford Starliner***

*[AMT/ERTL 1/25 scale kit #30044: 111 pieces; molded in gray, clear, and clear red, with Firestone vinyl tires, decals for the rocker covers, fan shroud, and two sets of license plates]*

At first glance I was impressed. All parts are placed in plastic bags. I couldn't wait to open all the bags and check out all the goodies. The 60 Ford is one of my all-time favorite cars from the 60s, and AMT didn't let me down.

**Instruction Sheet** AMT included the factory paint and interior colors. This should help make that great looking Replica Stock model. Just a slight misprint though - it has the wrong year printed for the production run and factory price. I know, I checked this out in a book I have. The numbers are correct, but the year should be 1960.

**Engine** A nicely detailed 24-piece assembly, with decals. It has two piece carburetor with fuel line, separate fuel pump attached to the fuel filter and with the fuel line. A plated air filter is supplied, but it is to be painted gold along with the rocker covers. The transmission is 3-speed stick, and detail includes the throwout-bearing lever.



**Chassis** The chassis is separate from the floor pan and nicely detailed. The instruction sheet doesn't say anything about not gluing the spindles to allow for poseable front wheels. This is mentioned on the box. If you decide to pose your wheels, you will notice that there is no connection to the tie rods. They are molded to the lower A frames.

**Wheels/Tires** The kit has bare steel wheels with dog dish hubcaps. The caps are smooth, and thus missing the indentations around the outer edge. I am surprised that a top of the line car would not have the full wheel covers. The outer lip of the rims are a little too large, and when the front and back halves are glued together, the wheel is too wide for the Firestone tires. The tires are black walls, with no white wall insert. The tires from the 58 Edsel would have been a nice addition to this kit, as I think the size of the white wall would be correct for the Ford.

**Interior** The interior has separate door and side panel. The engraving is nicely done, no complaints here. The pedals are attached to the under side of the dash. The parking brake pedal is a little too large, but a file fixes that quickly.

**Body bumpers and grill** The body is very sturdy, nice thick plastic. On the inside they have the headliner, interior light and sun visors molded in. This causes a sink mark in the middle of the roof that should be filled in, you also may see the lines from the headliner, and just a little sanding took that out. There is also a slight sink on the top of the left fin. The front wheel openings look a little too high, and not rounded enough. The grille fits into the body from the rear of the grill opening. The chrome trim around the grille opening is not part of the grille, and will require the Bare Metal foil treatment. The chrome line around the edge of the hood is faint and after painting is hard to see. Just as in the Edsel, the taillights are not dark enough. I painted the back of mine with Testers spotlight red to darken them. In my mind, AMT could have used a darker red plastic.

**Assembly** Here is where I ran into a problem. The chassis fits nicely under the floor pan. The interior fits nicely in the body. The problem is when you put all three together, the wheels do not line up with the wheel openings and the firewall was forward of the cowl. There are two tabs on the floor pan that fit into slots in the rear bumper. I removed these and had to remove just over 1/16 of an inch from the back of the floor pan, bringing the rear cross member almost flush with the back

edge of floor. The back edge of side panel of the interior had to be trimmed to clear the back glass. By doing this the wheels lined up, and the firewall now sits back from the cowl edge. But now there is a small gap between the dash and the front glass. When you glue the front inner fenders to the body, you will have to slightly bend the frame, just before the floor, so the frame will attach to the under side of the inner fenders. After doing this my model sits level and looks good.

Overall I like the kit, with a little work it is a makes for a nice model.

By: Harry Charon

## ***BITS & PIECES***

- ❑ **Vette screensaver!** For you *Vette freaks* out there, The *National Corvette Museum* has a *free Corvette screensaver* available to website visitors! It features *10 Corvette images representing all five generations of Corvette greatness*. It features 18 special effect transitions, delay times, optional music, and password. The site can be accessed at [www.corvettemuseum.com](http://www.corvettemuseum.com). Check it out! Thanks to the *June 2000 issue* of *Corvette Fever magazine* for this one!
- ❑ **Red Light Bandit!** A lawyer from *Baltimore* has filed a *federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Maryland's red light camera law*. *Imad K. Dajani* is an *arbitration and civil rights lawyer* who got a citation (*Surprise! Surprise!*) thanks to one of the cameras, and claims motorists are deprived of their right to defend themselves. He is quoted as saying that the statute in effect creates a presumption of guilt, meaning the burden of proof is the driver's responsibility, while the state isn't required to prove anything, just show a photograph. No word on the outcome yet, but I'll keep you informed if I hear anything! On a *related note*, a *motorist this past week received a ticket for running a red light, even though the before and after photos show his car sitting at the intersection!!* A local news station took up his case, and managed to *get it declared null and void*, after *getting someone to actually look at the photo*. *Duh!*
- ❑ **Indoor Speedway progresses!** Remember the story I ran recently here about the *Pittsburg area developers* who are intent on building the *first 1-mile oval indoor speedway*? Well, Findlay Township has approved the rezoning of 217 acres for the *\$390 million facility* adjacent to the Pittsburgh International Airport. The track would be housed in a *2.6 million square foot building*. *Oughta be interesting!*
- ❑ **Build yer own Toyota-if you are rich!** The *Alliance of Automotive Insurers* recently computed the price of rebuilding a *1999 Toyota Camry* with parts supplied by the Car Company. The tab came to only (?) *\$101,355*, compared with an original sticker of about *\$23,000*. *Geez! Wonder what it would cost to rebuild a Lexus?!*
- ❑ **Recyclable autos.** The European Parliament recently passed an *automotive recycling plan*, which could conceivably cost the car manufacturers billions. This would include *Ford, GM, Daimler Chrysler*, as well as *Toyota, Honda, and Nissan*. Car companies will soon pay for *disposal and recycling of any car they sell in Europe*. The manufacturers would be responsible for the cost of collecting the vehicles, transporting them to recycling centers, separating the materials in the cars, and shredding the parts that won't be recycled. Not surprisingly, *consumers will share in the effort, as auto prices will surely rise*.
- ❑ **Caddy V8-6-4 Revisited?!** The *'innovative' V8-6-4 engine* developed by *Cadillac* in *1981* which was a major flop, could be resurrected as a good idea for increased fuel economy. *GM's Powertrain Group leader Fritz Indra* said he believes the *time is ripe for cylinder deactivation technology*. Mr. Indra said he believes that *modern electronics* can be the answer. Time will tell. The big difference here would be the lack of a 6-cylinder mode. The car would run in V-8 mode, until cruising speed is reached, where 4 cylinders would be deactivated, leaving four operating. The claim of fuel economy gains of 18 percent are being bandied about with this system.
- ❑ **Computer Caddy!** Speaking of Cadillac, GM has confirmed that it will offer *voice-activated personal computers, E-mail, navigation, Internet access*, and an *infrared port* as *options* on its *Seville and Deville sedans*. An *audio system will read E-mail to drivers while the vehicle is in motion*, and an *in-dash screen will display messages when the vehicle is stopped*. No word on how much these services would cost.
- ❑ **Welcome back, Alfa Romeo?!** Parent company *Fiat* recently announced it would use a *new partnership with General Motors to bring Alfa back to the states*. This could happen in *2003* with the next-generation *Spider Roadster*, followed a year later by the *next-generation 156 sedan*. The main question at this point is how the cars would be distributed in the US.
- ❑ **"Taking the bus-literally!"** In Berlin, Germany, a *teenager* was caught *driving a stolen bus* recently after police observed him run a red light. They pulled him over, arrested him, and took him directly to court, only to find that he was on his way there when they stopped him. *He was to go on trial that day* for another charge of *leaving the scene of an accident the previous week*. The judge's response? *"Well, at least he was on time for court!"*
- ❑ **"Seat Belts Save Lives!"** Not to be outdone, in Hollywood, California, police spotted a *guy driving erratically*, so they took off after him. When he noticed the police cruiser behind him, he figured he better *get rid of the beer can*

- he had been drinking from.* So, he *calmly opened the car door* (without slowing down. Do you see where this is going?!) to dispose of the can. Unfortunately, *he forgot to let go, and tumbled out the door with it!* The cops stopped to arrest him (*after they stopped laughing!*), And took him to a hospital.
- **Six-door SUV?!** Apparently, '*The General*' is developing a *six-door sport utility vehicle!* Word is that the two extra doors will be *smaller, suicide-style doors* to aid access to the third row of seats. Wheelbase would increase marginally as well. Sources report a *2002* release for the vehicle. No word on whether it will be badged as a *Suburban, GMC Yukon XL, or both.*
  - **Speakin' about SUVs.** Did you hear that GM wants to give *Saturn* a *small SUV* (very similar to the upcoming *Pontiac Aztek* and *Buick* versions)? 'The General' wants to *add two cars to the Saturn lineup*, in addition to expanding the Spring Hill plant. Why am I not surprised about the SUV?!
  - **Rumor Mill!!** Rumors are reaching me (*from the Hobby Heaven message board, no less!*) about several interesting subjects, including a *'51 Ford Woody* (pre-finished), a *'41 Willys* designed to be built **EITHER** as a *60's gasser*, or a *new Pro Street car*, and last but certainly not least, a *1968 Firebird 400. Kool!*
  - **Diecast goodies!** Remember a few issues back when I told you about the *1/25th scale 1972 Chevy Cheyenne pickup* in *Redskins colors?* Well, with the *Rabid Ravens fans* in this area, it was just a matter of time before the gang at *Danbury Mint* came up with a version for Ravens fans! Done up in the Ravens colors, and featuring the logo, a *Weber kettle grill, director's chair, helmet and jersey, duffel bag, bag of nuts, and a beer keg*, this one goes for *\$145*, payable in five monthly installments of only *\$29* (plus a total of *\$7.50* for shipping and handling). Or, if that one doesn't float your boat, how about a *1952 Ford 8N Tractor?!* This one is *1/16th scale*, and its features include: *Steering wheel which operates the front wheels, operator's seat which lifts up like the original, opening battery compartment to reveal the gas cap and toolbox, removable PTO cover, and movable "Ferguson System" three-point hitch, and reversible rear wheels (with wrench supplied) to adjust the track width.* This one goes for *\$119*, payable in four easy installments of only *\$29.75* (plus *\$8* for shipping and handling). You can reach 'em at 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857. **And, remember their money-back guarantee.**
  - **'Modeling in the woods!'** Our own *Chuck Conner* is actively trying to get a *modeling club* started in his neck of the woods. It's not that he is trying to, as he puts it, "One-up anybody", he's a MAMA's Boy for life! He does not intend to compete with MAMA, he would just enjoy the luxury of being able to share the hobby we all hold near and dear without driving over an hour one way! If you live in *Chuck's 'Neck of the Woods'*, he has reserved the meeting room at the *Charlotte Hall library* on *June 10th*, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Watch for flyers and directions at upcoming meetings, if you are interested! Chuck's E-mail address is [cconnor@us.hsnet.net](mailto:cconnor@us.hsnet.net).
  - **More Club meetings.** Mark Wheeler, founder of the "*Our Model is Christ*" *model car club*, has announced their *2000 meeting schedule: January 16th, February 20th, March 19th, April 9th, May 21st, June 11th, July 9th, August 13th, September 17th, October 22nd, November 12th, and December 3rd* (Christmas gift exchange and Christmas party as well!). Mark's club meets at *Fork Christian Church, 6908 Sunshine Avenue, Fork, Maryland 21051, (410) 592-2292*. Meetings will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays. For further info, call Mark at (410) 551-4230.

## **COMING EVENTS**

- *May 18th to 21st- Cruisin' Ocean City 2000.* For info, call (410) 798-6304.
- *May 20th- 2nd Annual Antique and Classic Car, Van, Truck, Fire Truck, & Motorcycle show* (whatta mouthful!) at the Prince George's Equestrian Center & Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, MD from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to benefit the Mary Baker fundraiser. Dash plaques to the first 150 vehicles, vendor spots available (*\$25.00*), door prizes, and music by way of a DJ. For more info, contact Carol Kiernan (*swap meet*) at (301) 345-9463, Vivian Morgan at (301) 736-7176, or Mary Russell at (301) 449-3995 (*all after 6 p.m., please!*).
- *May 21st- 49th Pennsylvania Model car, Diecast, & Kit Collector's meet* at the Gilbertsville Fire Hall in Gilbertsville, PA from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is \$4.00, children 12 and under are free. For info, contact John Carlisle (*See listing for Gilbertsville show on Feb. 27th*).
- *May 27th & 28th- 14th Annual Rod Run* sponsored by *the Custom Cruisers of Northern Virginia* at historic Ida Lee Park on Rt. 15 north of the city limits in Leesburg, VA. Streets closed 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday night, live band, car show at Ida Lee Park on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with dash plaques, door prizes, Top 50 awards, Club participation. Open to Pre-1972 Street Rod, Street Machine, Custom, Antique, Muscle Car, and Classic vehicles only. For info, call Chuck Sommers at (703) 777-3632, or John Ennis at (703) 754-7453.
- *June 15th to 18th- Bowtie/Late Great/Yesteryears Chevy Eastern National Convention* hosted by *Baltimore's Best Classic Chevy club* at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn in Baltimore, MD. Open to all 1955-1972 Chevy cars/trucks. For more info, call April Grammont at (410) 876-8898; [AprilG57@Juno.com](mailto:AprilG57@Juno.com).
- *June 24th & 25th- 13th Annual Mid-Atlantic Chevelle Show & Swap Meet/ ACES Northeast Regional* in NorthEast Community Park in Northeast, MD.

- ❑ *July 15th & 16th-York US 30 Dragway Reunion* at York Fairgrounds in York, PA. **Race car art, vintage photos and T-shirts, diecasts, books, magazines, videos, toys, signs, models, well, you get the picture!** A one-day ticket is \$10, or you can get a 'York Club Package' (two-day pass, VIP parking, name badge, and program) for \$25. Vendor space (one or both days) is 10X10, and costs \$50. Reply to **Frank Spittle**, P.O. Box 490, Cornelius, NC 28031; (704) 892-8008.
- ❑ *July 23rd- 50th Pennsylvania Model car, Diecast, & Kit Collector's meet* at the Gilbertsville Fire Hall in Gilbertsville, PA from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is \$4.00, children 12 and under are free. For info, contact John Carlisle (See listing for Gilbertsville show on Feb. 27th).
- ❑ *July 30th- Sixth Annual Pontiacs at the Grove*, drag Racing, car show, and flea market at Maple Grove Raceway in Mohnton, PA. For info, cal (610) 856-7200, or check out their website at [www.maplegroveraceway.com](http://www.maplegroveraceway.com).
- ❑ *Sept. 10th- 12th Annual Out of the Past Revue Antique Auto Show* at Spring Hill Recreation Center in McLean, VA, featuring *Washington Times' Autoweekend cars*.
- ❑ *Sept. 15th to 17th- East Coast Nationals* hosted by *The Goodguys* in Rhinebeck, New York. If you are in possession of *model cars, pedal cars, or other 'Cool Nostalgia Stuff'*, then the Goodguys want you to bring it out! For info, contact Rick Hanmore at (914) 564-3757.
- ❑ *Oct. 7th- Volunteer Classic VII* presented by the *Knoxville Scale Modelers* and the *Ridge Runners Car club* at the Sevier County Fairgrounds in Sevierville, Tenn. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Rain or Shine!). 20 trophies to be awarded! Door prizes, vendor swap meet. For info, contact Bruce Cloninger at (865) 693-3496, or Bill Crowder at (865) 983-3336.
- ❑ *Oct. 14th- Inaugural 2000 Great American Car Show and Picnic* sponsored by *Start Your Engines* from noon until 7 p.m. Fireworks, food, raffles, games, entertainment, hydraulic competition, Top 50 plaques. For ticket info (Pre-registration only!), call (410) 335-5545.
- ❑ *Oct. 29th- 51st Pennsylvania Model car, Diecast, & Kit Collector's meet* at the Gilbertsville Fire Hall in Gilbertsville, PA from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is \$4.00, children 12 and under are free. For info, contact John Carlisle (See listing for Gilbertsville show on Feb. 27th).
- ❑ *Nov. 11th- 2000 NNL Southern Nationals* hosted by the Atlanta Car Model Enthusiasts (ACME) at the Smyrna Community Center ion Smyrna, Georgia. Themes are *Box Stock*, and *Car of the Century!* For Vendor info, contact Paul Wehner at 2459 Jacks View Ct. Snellville, GA 30078, (770) 985-5953.
- ❑ *Nov. 25th- 2nd Delaware Model Car, Diecast, & Kit Collector's meet* at the NUR Shrine Temple on Rt. 13 and Rt. 40 split, just off I-95. For info, contact John Carlisle (See listing for Gilbertsville show on Feb. 27th).
- ❑ *Dec. 2nd & 3rd-11th Annual Street Cars of Desire Car Show* at the MD State Fairgrounds, in the Cow Palace at Timonium, MD.

## ***CLASSIFIEDS***

**WANTED - SAE magazine binders; old custom parts; old model boxes, empties, any condition-even just tops.** Call Mark Mason at (540) 371-8931, or see me at the meetings.

**WANTED - Front and rear 1966 Barracuda glass.** Call Joe Bush at (410) 592-7926.

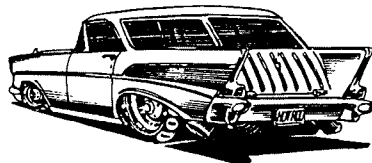
**WANTED - Hood for Monogram 1969 GTO Judge.** Call Tim Powers at (410) 255-2976, or E-mail to [tepower@toad.net](mailto:tepower@toad.net).

**FOR SALE - 1968 Pontiac 455 HO** bored .060 over, with an extra set of heads for \$600. E-mail Dan Chicorelli at [danchic@netzero.com](mailto:danchic@netzero.com).

**FOR SALE - Assorted kits**, ranging from *Street Rods*, to *Exotics*, to *Pickup trucks*. Thinning collection, not quitting. See me at a meeting for a list. **Tim Sickle**.

Anyone having an item for the newsletter, whether it is a Bit, a Piece or even a Classified, it can be included by contacting one of the individuals listed below:

Timothy C. Sickle  
15905 Ark Court  
Bowie, Maryland 20716  
(301) 249-3830



Norman F. Veber  
317 Roosevelt Ave., S.W.  
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061  
(410) 768-3648