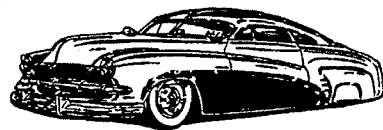




MAMA Sez!

Volume 15, Issue 6

February, 2002



This is the newsletter of the **Maryland Automotive Modelers Association**

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2002 Meeting Schedule

- January 19th
- February 16th
- March 16th
- April 20th
- May 18th
- June 15th
- July 20th
- August 17th
- September 21st
- October 19th
- November 16th
- December 21st

Let's Go Racin'!

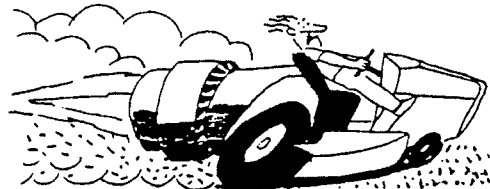
Well, last month's meeting was rather sparsely attended, with only about two dozen of us there. Do you think it had anything to do with the snow forecast that morning?! Depending on who you called, the meeting was either on or off. Sadly, **Prez Lyle Willits** and **Norman Veber** were not in attendance. The important thing though (*at least for those in attendance!*) was the appearance of **Ron Bradley**, with new stuff! Other than that, the meeting was held, and we were on our way home by **2:30 p.m.!**

In response to the feedback I have received, I have made some minor format changes to the

newsletter. Again, let me know if they are to your liking.

I don't know about you, but I am more than ready for the *racing season* to start (*It will be interesting to see if the new Intrepids can build on last year's success!*) I know racing overdue, for the simple reason that I was actually watching *lawnmower racing* on Speedvision (*er, excuse me, the Speed Channel*) the other day! And, you know what? The FX mowers were flyin'! I got a kick out of the *Mowercam!*

The raffle brought in a



You know it is time to go racing, when you catch yourself watching lawnmower races on cable!

whopping \$27.00 (while the box contributed \$20.00). Guess in retrospect, we should have cancelled the meeting due to inclement weather, eh? The *raffle coordinator (me!)* would like to thank the following people this month: **Rich Wilson, Ron Bradley, Matt, JC Recknor, Brad, Ron Hamilton, yours truly, and Replicas & Miniatures Company of Maryland.** 🍀

The Ala Kart

[AMT # 31159]

If memories of your youth do not include such things as *milk bottles*, the *Arthur Godfrey Show* or *John F. Kennedy's presidency*, then you may not fully under-

stand the impact of the Barris-built Ala Kart show car on the rod and custom scene in 1958. Hot rods, as they were called then, were mostly early Fords, painted black or red with steel

by Lyle Willits

wheels and flathead engines or an occasional Olds or Buick powerplant. A handful of *"high dollar"* cars were powered by the *NEW Chevy V-8*. Custom cars

(continued on page 6)

#9 Dodge® Intrepid R/T

by Tim Sickle

[Revell #85-2361; 1/24th scale; 103 pieces; white, clear, vinyl tires]

More likely than not, the hottest story for 2001 was the return of the Dodge brand to Winston Cup racing. Back in the 70's, when the aero wars were in full swing, the winged Daytonas and Superbirds seemingly ruled the Superspeedways, until Mopar pulled out of the series.

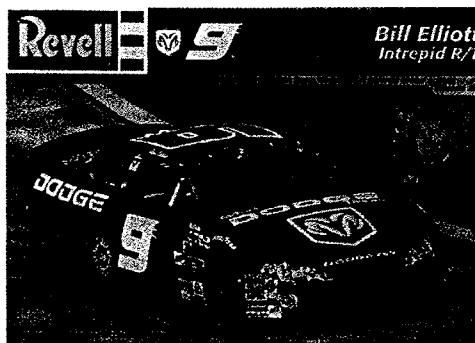
This kit appears to have been knocked off of Revell's upcoming ProFinish Dodge Intrepid. I say this mainly due to the thickness of some areas of the body (*plus, the screws to attach the chassis to the body are a dead giveaway!*). That said, let's move on.

Engine: The simplified engine consists of fifteen pieces, and features the requisite longitudinal seam to attend to. Of note here are the nice *finned Dodge valve covers*. The headers are hollow on the back side, where they won't be seen, and mount up to a two-piece exhaust dump.

Chassis/Interior: Nothing new here—one-piece left and right hand roll cage pieces with the padding molded in, which mate up to the chassis (*nine pieces in all for the roll cage*). The pedals are molded to the floor, and the steering wheel is separate. The *window net* and *air intake hoses* are also *soft rubber* as in the ProFinish kit. The front suspension is simplified, with the upper A-arms separate items, and the lower suspension molded as one piece, with metal rivets to mount the front wheels and tires. With the exception of the rear shocks and springs, the rear suspension is also molded simply,

with the majority of the suspension from the firewall back being molded as a single piece. The rear end housing hides the metal axle. A driver figure is included, as in the ProFinish kit series. Decal markings are also included for the driver's uniform.

Wheels/Tires: The tires in this kit are, as noted previously, the tampo-printed Goodyear Eagles from the ProFinish kit line. This saves the builder from painting the lettering, or worse yet, having to use decals or dry transfers to replicate the Goodyear Eagle markings.



The rims feature open slots, and separate brake rotors for each wheel.

Body: As noted earlier, the body seems a bit thick in spots, but seems to be pretty accurate for the new Dodges (*which are based on the Ford Taurus racers*). At first glance, the hood fit so well, I thought it was molded shut! Consequently, it may take some 'clearancing' prior to painting to allow it room to close properly. A nice touch is the inclusion of the camera pod for the roof, as well as the much-maligned '*barn door*', which is used on superspeedways to slow the cars.

Glass: The glass is also pirated from the ProFinish series of kits,

meaning that the requisite areas on the inside of the glass have already been painted black. The glass even features openings for the jacking points, to allow for adjustments during the race.

Decals: Very nicely done, with very little excess carrier visible. Obviously, with the inclusion of the better pre-marked tires, 'Goodyear' markings are absent. But little else is. Head and tail lights, grouped sponsor decals for the fenders, screened-in grille openings, and a gauge face decal to mount behind the open dash cluster. A small negative here is the definite lack of any placement aids for help in positioning the headlights—you are on your own!

Instructions: Again, no surprises here—Revell has been kitting NASCAR racers long enough in order to ensure clear, step-by-step instructions, and diagrams to ensure proper decal placement for the multitude of decals on a modern Winston Cup stock car. According to the instructions, this car depicts the car that paced the 2001 Daytona 500 race, where the Dodges were seemingly '*sandbagging*', until they snatched the two front row starting positions (*this made possible by Jerry Nadeau's Chevy failing tech inspection for being 1/2" too low, allowing Stacey Compton to move up to the front row!*) And the rest, as they say, is history. In their inaugural year in Winston Cup, the Dodge Boys managed to win races—four in all, at Michigan, Darlington, Charlotte, and Homestead, with drivers *Sterling Marlin, Ward Burton,* and *Bill Elliott* proving, quite convincingly, that *Dodge is back!* 🏆

Sooper, Sooper, Sooooooopercar!

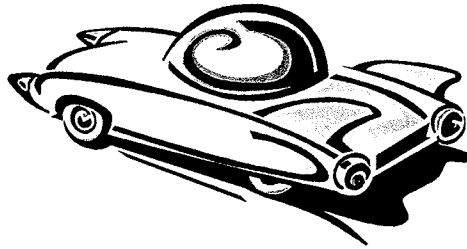
General Motors plans to take an active role in development of a new, **\$250,000 U.S.-built supercar** in order to compete with the likes of **Ferrari, Lamborghini, and Aston Martin**.

The vehicle under development is now known as the **Cunningham C7**, which was debuted at the 2001 North American International Auto show in January. It was designed by the **Cunningham Motor Company**, a so-called virtual car company. As such, Cunningham's plans call for outside suppliers to be responsible for the design, engineering, and production of its vehicles.

GM and Cunningham announced last month that GM had acquired a minority ownership interest in the company. The company was created in January 2000 by **Briggs Cunningham III** and former **Chrysler Corp. exec Robert Lutz**,

who, coincidentally is the new **vice chairman of product development for GM!**

The Cunningham C7, described as a **'world-class touring car'**, is currently configured as a two plus two coupe with a **6.8-liter, 600**



horsepower V-12, which is supposed to be available sometime in 2004. It is rumored to be available with your choice of either an **automatic** or a **6-speed transmission**, and **all-wheel drive**. The majority of the car is supposed to be built by subcontractors. With GM's new involvement, it is assumed that GM will either help build the car,

or farm out parts of the production. Cunningham said it hopes to build and sell **600 C7 cars** each year.

It should be noted that **Roush Industries** of Livonia, Michigan has been chosen to develop and integrate the car.

Mr. Lutz will continue in his role as a part-owner and board member, but will not actively participate in transactions between the two companies.

Rumor has it that GM's involvement is based on **'Supercar Envy'**—the lack of a supercar in their lineup, what with **Ford** owning **Aston Martin**, **BMW** owning **Rolls Royce**, and **VW** having the rights to **Bentley**. Guess we'll have to wait and see how the General does on execution.

(Thanks to a recent issue of *The Washington Times* for this expensive tidbit) 🍷

Pink Cadillac!

Pewter Snakes?

Well gang, it has been a little while, but the guys at **Franklin Mint** are making a real play to get at the green stuff in your hip pocket! This time, its you Ford fans who need to worry. The Mint is set to release a **1/12th scale Shelby Cobra 427 S/C™** in **fine pewter!** This baby is reported to be **12 ¾" long**, and weighs **12 pounds!** It includes most features of other Franklin Mint cars, i.e., **opening doors and hood**, but this one goes further. The **seats** in this car are upholstered in **real leather**. When you order this puppy, they provide you with a personalized **Certificate of Authenticity**, as well as a custom-made nameplate en-

graved with your name to attach to the **wooden display base**. The first car in this run, number 0001, is reported to be on its way to **Shelby himself!** If you are interested, this guy could be yours after only **ten monthly installments of \$100 each** (plus state sales tax, and a one-time charge of \$19.95 for shipping and handling), for a grand total of only **\$1,069.95** (at least for you MD residents!). It should be noted that due to the 'personalized' nature of this offering, you should allow four to six weeks for delivery. They can be reached at Franklin Mint Precision Models, Franklin Center, PA 19091-0001. 🍷

Guess most of you guys saw the Superbowl, and **Cadillac's new ad campaign** for the **CTS**, where they featured the song **"Rock and Roll"** from **Led Zeppelin?** Well, I don't know about you, but I am no fan of the 'New Look' CTS (or the **Escalade and EXT**, for that matter!)

Wouldn't it have been more interesting if they had chosen another Rock and Roll icon's song to draw buyers into showrooms? Something like, **Bruce Springsteen's "Pink Cadillac"**?! Guess at that rate, they could count on sales to the nice folks at Mary Kay, eh? **I don't know if I could imagine any one of these vehicles in Mary Kay pink, though!** 🍷

Lightning Strikes!

For nearly a decade, *Johnny Lightning* has had its finger on the pulse of the diecast community. Forty brand-new castings lead Johnny Lightning's hot new **2002 lineup**.

February will see the release of the *Thunderbirds series*, dedicated to the '50s and '60s cars that defined personal-luxury automobiles for a generation. From the classic two-seat '56 to the '58-'60 "Squarebird," the bullet-shaped '61-2s and the unforgettable '67-8s, **four new castings** spanning ten years of classic Ford power and style will be introduced.

In **March**, watch for the *Volkswagen series*! Four more new castings grace the lineup—**three classics**, and a **new favorite!** A '64-'66 Beetle, a '64-'66 Type 2 "Microbus" 21-window van, and the rare Type 2 pickup (all sporting slender Euro-style bumpers) cover the vintage era, while a **New Beetle**, ripe for customization, will round out the lineup. Watch also for the debut of the *America's Heroes series*, featuring castings that will celebrate the **police, fire** and **rescue** workers that are this country's unsung protectors of safety, health and liberty.

Woodies and Panels will be in stores in **April!** Five hot new castings—a '31 Ford Model A Woody, '33 Willys Van, '41 Chevy Woody, '40 Ford Sedan Delivery and '55 Ford Panel Delivery—will join the classic *Merc Woody* in this lineup. Optional engines poking through hoods, bright colors and new wheels for every release will make you want to collect every one of these hot new castings. Also debuting in April will be the *Clas-*

sic Chevy series—in reality, a re-pack of the **fourth** and **fifth releases** of *Camaros 2* and *Corvettes 2*. Most collectors didn't get a shot at these vehicles as they were very narrowly distributed and nearly impossible to find.

May sees a number of debuts, including the *Marvel Comics series*, the *Pro-Collector Tin series*, and the latest *Classic Gold series*. The Marvel Comics series celebrates forty years of the best-loved super-

"For nearly a decade, Johnny Lightning has had its finger on the pulse of the diecast community."

hero comics produced! With the *X-Men* a big-screen hit and *Spider-man* sure to repeat that phenomenon come Spring, you can bet that this licensed diecast will be the hottest thing since the Fantastic 4's Human Torch. Two dozen different vehicles will be available, each with a miniature replica of a significant Marvel comic cover. The Pro Collector tin series offers a new way to collect Johnny Lightning: by keeping it in its own protective box! You've got to see it to believe this innovative concept. Classic Gold will contain a typically wide mix of vehicles including cars you've seen in magazines, including a **former Hot Rod Magazine project car** and the *Ter-alingua Shelby Cobra*. A *Chrysler PT Cruiser* is also scheduled to debut in Classic Gold this month.

June will see the debut of a **new Camaro series**, celebrating the **35th anniversary** (and impending de-

mise) of one of America's best-known and loved performance cars. A '98-'02 Camaro will be available in **Z28** and **SS** forms, and in **coupe, T-top** and **convertible** guises.

They kick off *Corvette's 50th anniversary* a little early, in **July** with four great new castings: the '98-'02 (coupe, roadster and hard-top, including the white-hot Z06), a '68-'72 coupe, T-top and roadster, and the '86-'96 models, including closed coupes, open targa-roof models, and open-top roadsters. Just think: just four castings, with roof and year variations, replicate more than five dozen different classic Corvettes! And that's before they start making color changes!

Also in July ... are you ready for the '70s? Two separate series, *Boogie Vans* and the *Super '70s*, will be on their way—**seven new castings** total! Boogie vans recreates the ultimate '70s customized machines; each release will feature **two Ford, two Chevy** and **two Dodge** castings in far-out paint schemes. Who cares who's knockin' ... these vans are rockin'! Their Super '70s lineup consists of a series of **disco dandies** like the '71-'72 Pontiac Grand Prix, '70-'72 Chevy Monte Carlo, '71-'72 Buick "Boattail" Riviera, and the '76-'77 Olds Cutlass Salon formal-roof coupe.

August will see two new programs featuring reissued castings: *Retro Rods* and *Tom Daniel Dragsters*. Retro Rods will feature their **Hot Rods 2 castings**, and other favorites, done up '50s-style. If you love the look of a traditional

(Continued on page 5)

Lightning

(Continued from page 4)

hot rod, in candy-apple or suede, on wide-whites and steelies, this series is for you. Tom Daniel's latest joint venture with Johnny Lightning recreates a line of *1/32 scale snap plastic model kits* he did in the early '70s. *Six different 1/64 scale* all-diecast Johnny Lightning *funny cars* with *Daniel-designed graphics* will make up the sole release of this sure-to-be-classic series.

September heats up with *James Bond*, a *new Willys Gassers* series, and a *new Mustang series—ten brand-new castings* this month alone! Britain's top super-spy celebrates forty years on film, and to celebrate Johnny Lightning will have one vehicle from each film available to collectors! *New castings* will include the *Aston Martin Vanquish* from the new film (untitled, at this writing), the *AMC Hornet* from *The Man with the Golden Gun*, the *Hispano-Suiza* seen in *Moonraker*, and the *super-*

charged 4.5L Bentley seen in *From Russia With Love*. Additionally, the *View to a Kill Corvette* will be made from their new *C4 Corvette* tooling. Willys Gassers will combine their two classic Willys Coupe castings and their new-for-02 '33 *Van* casting with two more *brand-new Willys castings*: a '33 *pickup* and a '41 *pickup*! Their *Mustang* series will feature *all-new versions* of the '70 *fastback*, '65 *notchback*, '71 *ragtop* and '69/'70 *Shelby GT500 coupe* and *ragtop* versions will be stampeding to your favorite stores in September.

October is new-car season ... and in the '50s, GM celebrated new-car season in style with their traveling *Motorama show*. Johnny Lightning has been given the exclusive license to do *Motorama cars* ... and along with a phalanx of *vintage '50s GM tooling* in the series, one lone *new casting*—the '54 *Corvette Corvair fastback*—will make its debut.

It's supposed to get chilly in *November* but you'd never know it looking at their releases! *Street Tuner* will feature *six new castings*, to be named later. More will be announced at a later date, but they are expecting *Street Tuner* to be a breakout program in late 2002. New programs featuring re-issued castings will include *Ragtops* and *Mooneyes*. *Ragtops* features some of their best-loved top-down castings, to get you thinking summery thoughts as winter approaches. One of the greatest speed-parts companies ever comes to life in 1/64 scale with their *Mooneyes* series! Six vehicles tuned and painted in signature *Mooneyes* livery will bring you back to a simpler time.

All feature the exquisite details you've come to expect from Johnny Lightning including die-cast body and chassis, realistic wheels, and graphics that replicate real cars. Forty castings—a little something for everyone. 🍷

"Another One Bites the Dust!"

Well, it looks as though another brand will be history shortly! I am talking about *Ford's* recent *announcement to discontinue* the *Lincoln Continental*!

Many loyal Lincoln Continental fans and club members believe this to be a good thing, to discontinue a car that has seen steadily dwindling sales in favor of releasing a new style that harks back to its heyday of the 60's, when they were so successful. Club members hope to see a new car after a two or three year hiatus. As a matter of

fact, just last month, Ford displayed a prototype Continental at the Detroit Auto Show, which draws upon this successful 60's image.

The car was never actually intended to be a production model. Many years ago, Edsel Ford, Henry Ford's son (and the company's owner at the time), was planning a trip to Florida. In preparation for the trip, *Ford's chief designer, Bob Gregorie*, built a special convertible coupe from the 1938 Zephyr. It was *three inches*

lower, and *seven inches longer* than the Zephyr. It also featured a *squared-off roof and trunk*, that added an elegant flair to the car. It caught so much attention on the trip to Florida, that he decided to put it into regular production. The Lincoln Continental was born!

The car made its debut in 1940, powered by a *V-12 engine* which produced 120 horsepower, and a price tag of *\$2,840*. Fast forward to 2002, when a Connie could set you back *40 large*. *Guess that's progress for ya, eh?* 🍷

The Ala Kart

(Continued from page 1)

were mostly Fords and Mercs, chopped and channeled, with enough lead in the body work to flatten the tires while they were parked.

Most of us were introduced to the Ala Kart through the pages of the October, 1958 issue of *HOT ROD magazine* and I remember staring at those pictures for weeks. This ground-breaking, radical show car was unlike any rod or custom I had ever seen. It was a Model A pickup with the back half of a '27 Model T welded to the cab with sculptured fenders, a shortened molded bed, a radical hand-formed nose and grille, quad headlights (!) and a wild chromed suspension. It was sprayed with *30 coats of pearl white paint with multicolored scallops*, which today would be called "*graphics*". Motivation came from a heavily chromed *Dodge Red Ram "baby hemi" engine*. Most other rods and customs of the time suddenly looked like old antiques compared to the Ala Kart. To say that George Barris raised the bar for all future show cars would be a huge understatement.

Much to the delight of thousands of youngsters, a detailed model kit of the Ala Kart was released by AMT in 1961 which also included a second, *stock Model A roadster* right in the same box. I quickly cashed in my lawn-mowing revenue and paid the princely sum of *two dollars* for the Double Trophy Series kit. Throughout the 60's and early 70's, the kit was reissued a few times, each time losing more and more of the original Ala Kart parts until it became a kit of the

stock-bodied Model A roadster with the Ala Kart engine and a couple of the "Kart's" chassis components. It was last seen as the A-Venger Model A roadster and is likely to be reissued again sometime this year.

Almost 40 years after the original kit release, AMT/ERTL announced it was bringing out an *ALL-NEW KIT* of the Ala Kart. This was very welcome news for adult car modelers as mint, *original kits* were valued at about *\$200*, if one could be found at all. After another two-year wait since the initial announcement, the new kit is finally here! Let's take a look.

The *body parts* consists of the cab, bed, "padded" upton, one-piece hood, unique nose piece and the one-piece floorpan/fender unit. Noticeable mold lines are found on the sides of the cowl and around the taillights. The tops of the grille shell and hood are rather flat compared to the prototype. A two-piece clear plastic and chrome grille assembly joins the quad headlights in the nosepiece. The headlight lenses are completely smooth with no engraving.

Added to the above parts are the separate tailgate, bed cover, box rails, firewall and chromed windshield frame/dash panel unit with individual chrome wipers.

Twenty pieces make up the *chassis* which are all chromed, except the frame rails and the transmission cross member. The front and rear air bag shocks and spring units are nicely engraved. Separate dual exhausts, steering arm and four conventional shocks complete the assembly. The whole assembly "rides" on nicely done chrome re-

verse wheels with the correct center bullets, and mount big and little tires with separate whitewall inserts.

More than 23 parts make up the *engine* depending on which of the three induction systems the builder chooses. The assembled engine appears to be *VERY small* upon first inspection. However, when the built engine is placed in the frame rails with the cab, firewall and radiator in place, it looks to be properly proportioned. Could it be that the original kit's engine was *TOO BIG*? The really odd thing about the new engine is the *lack of chromed parts*.

None of the induction systems parts are chromed and the few parts that *ARE* chromed should be painted flat black (?) according to the instruction sheet.

The valve covers are chromed but unfortunately do not include the "*Dodge Red Ram*" logo engraving.

The *interior* is a simple bucket affair as it was on the real Ala Kart with an integral seat. The seat and side panel engraved rolls and pleats are very nicely done. The chromed one-piece windshield/dash panel has a textured surface engraved with eight gauge trim rings. Oddly enough, the textured engraving is also *INSIDE* the trim rings instead of engraved gauge faces. Don't look for the gauge faces on the decal sheet either! The interior is completed with the steering wheel and floor shifter.

The car is completed with various parts, i.e., the chromed hood scoop "teeth", nerf bars, taillight bezels with clear red lenses, fuel

(Continued on page 8)

This 'N That!

Thanks to the recent success of the *Corvette C5-R* on the racing circuit, *General Motors Racing* has begun a program to offer *race-ready versions* of its 'baby' to 'buyers with a passion for performance.' GM is working with partners *Pratt & Miller* (chassis) and *Katech* (engines) to produce the cars, at least *five* of which were to be ready this year. GM Racing said it had received inquiries from private teams seeking the powerful C5-R, that it had taken deposits on several. The C5-R dominated its competition in several races last year, including scoring an *overall win* at the *24 Hours of Daytona*, a *double podium finish* at the *12 Hours of Sebring*, a *one-two GTS class finish* at the *24 Hours of Le Mans*, and *class wins* at *American Le Mans* series races at *Texas Motor Speedway*, *Sears Point*, and *Portland*. "It will help us communicate our world-class engineering message to sports car enthusiasts everywhere," said Corvette Brand Manager Rick Baldick. "In my view, the C5-R has begun to hit full stride in what is still a young racing career" said Corvette Program Manager Doug Fehan. *Kudos to the General!* ...It looks as though the *Brey brothers* (Kevin & Mike) are in the process of *building themselves a domain!* Name not familiar to newer club members? They run *Hobby Works*, a hobby shop in *Laurel, MD* which has, for several years, graciously *sponsored a trophy for our Mid-Atlantic NNL*, as well as taking care of club members with *discounts, and special order items*. Business was good enough to allow them to open a *second*

store on Rockville Pike. Well, in a conversation with Kevin recently, I find that they now have a *THIRD location!* This one is in the *Fair City Mall* at the corner of Pickett Road and Rt. 236 (9650-42 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22031), in nearby Virginia. You can reach 'em by phone at (703) 426-8600. *You go, Kevin and Mike (not to be confused with YUGO Kevin and Mike!) Look out Hobby City USA!....* French carmaker (*Hey, Matt!*) *PSA Peugeot Citroen* and Japanese partner *Toyota* presented

"In my view, the C5-R has begun to hit full stride in what is still a young racing career"

Czech Prime Minister Milos Zeman with plans to build a *small car plant* in their country. *What a combination!....Danbury Mint* has announced the release of a 1/24th scale diecast *1957 Mercury Turnpike Cruiser* in red and white. As is usual fare for FM replicas, it will feature *opening doors, hood (to show off the 368 cubic inch, 290 hp. V-8, w/plug wires), and trunk*. Additionally, it will have *steerable front wheels, a swingaway continental kit, folding front seats, and a retractable 'Breezeway ventilation window' just as in the real car*. It will be available in the near future for just *\$112*, payable in four easy monthly installments of only *\$28 (plus a total of \$7.80 for shipping and handling)*. You can reach 'em at 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857, or call toll-free 1-888-

854-7108 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time....The *Dodge Intrepid stock cars* have barely hit the shelves as I write this, but there are several decals available (*or soon to be*) for them, including the "*Coors Light Kiss*" #40, "*Spiderman*" #9, and "*Levi Garrett*" #92. Check 'em out at www.bsrrrep.com....New website for the *Grand Touring and Racing Modelers* – www.gtrautomodelers.freeservers.com....How many of you bought one of the new *BMW Minis*? Check out www.mini.com for reference material to build this cute little kit! Thanks to the GTR Auto Modelers!....The soon-to-be-released *Revell '68 Firebird* was burning up the *Hobby Heaven message board* recently. Well-known modeler *Terry Jessee* had nothing but good things to say about it, and I quote: "You need one of these. You need three or four of 'em. It says 2 'n 1, but you could actually do three different versions – stock, racing, and mild street. Separate door handles, American Torque Thrusts, crisp detail everywhere, a nice racing engine with lots of little fiddly parts, super chassis and suspension, platform interior with lots of parts (*including a roll bar*), a BIGGGGG decal sheet, and a box chockful of little white and chrome and clear and transparent red and vinyl parts – and all of it wrapped! Somebody's done a *HELL* of a job!" *I can't wait!* (BTW, the box art pics posted show a *hood tach, ram air air cleaner, and Pontiac Rally II's!*) Watch for a full review next month! 🍷

The Ala Kart

(Continued from page 6)

filler cap, hood braces, etc.

In many model car kits, the decals are optional decorations. For an Ala Kart replica, the decals are a major part of the picture. The *scallop*s on the decal sheet are *usable* but they are frankly, *not true to the prototype's colors*. They should be a *deep purple and gold*, but *instead* are *medium lavender and school-bus yellow*. Also included are decals for the pickup bed sides which are also yellow instead of gold. Virtually *half* of the decal sheet is *incorrect* as it contains what are supposed to be the piping around the rolls and pleats in the interior. The piping on the 1:1 Ala Kart seats and door panels is chrome-silver. The pleats are to be painted black, so the **BLACK** piping decals are pointless. A correct California license plate is included depicting the original on the show car. Even with the few shortcomings in the execution of this kit, I think adult modelers will want to grab these up in large quantities. Straight from the box and with the addition of a couple coats of pearl white paint, the kit builds into a decent representation of what is, arguably, the most famous show car in history. For those wanting to produce a detailed, exacting replica of the Ala Kart, some work here and there, and some aftermarket help will be needed. *The Model Car Garage* can provide *photoetched Barris emblems* and *gauge kits*. *Fred Cady* has excellent *Ala Kart decals*. It's just good to have this old favorite back after 40 years **AND** it's about *\$190 cheaper* than an original kit! *Thanks, AMT.* 🍷

Super Charger!

Found these helpful hints on 'accuirizing' the *Polar Lights Petty Charger* on the *Hobby Heaven message board*. Sadly, I don't know who to attribute them to!

"Started working on my PL Petty Charger today. I made *four small changes* to the body that IMHO helped it out 100%!

First off, I thinned the A pillars to about the same size as the old MPC Charger body. I just used my X-acto and dragged it down the pillar until it was thinner. This helped a lot, it made the roof look lighter and helped the side window look more correct too. Next, I removed the mold line on the front fender. While I was doing this, I rounded the fender off a little. This helped the look of the whole front fender/hood area. I then did the same thing to the rear fender area. There is a sharp edge at the top of the fender, where the mold line is, that must be rounded off. The plastic is thick here, so don't worry too much about going though the body. I again dragged the X-acto down this edge until it was gone, then used sanding sticks to finish it off.

The last thing I had to do was trim the deck spoiler to the width of the trunk. There should not be any spoiler on the fender tops. After a light sanding of these areas, and a shot of primer, I was surprised at how much better it looked!

Should we have to do this on an \$18.00 kit? No, but if this looks as good as it appears, I will I build a few more."

So, run out and get yer Chargers, and get started, race fans! 🍷

MORE Diecasts!

Got a line on a new diecast website the other day, www.supercar1.com. I went to check it out, and this is what I found! Looks like *more pocket-picking* is gonna happen for you diecast fans! And this is by no means all of it!! All told, they list *over 400 different 1/18th scale diecasts!*

Two Lane Blacktop 1955 Chevrolet (Made by ERTL; delivery expected 2/02; price - \$29.95)

Two Lane Blacktop 1955 Chevrolet (Made by ERTL; delivery expected 2/02; price - \$24.95)

Pro Stock Cuda (This is the *Merchandising Incentives Corporation (MIC)* version of the 1970 Sox & Martin Cuda; Limited Edition of 2,000 being made; delivery expected late 3/02; price - \$64.95)

1963 Chrysler Turbine car (!) (Made by Road Legends; delivery expected 4/02; price - \$19.95)

The Fast & The Furious 1970 Charger (Made by ERTL; delivery expected 4/02; price - \$29.95) The Black supercharged Charger in the movie "The Fast & The Furious".

1969 Baldwin-Motion Chevelle (Limited edition of 4,998 made by ERTL; delivery expected 5/02; price - \$32.95)

1970 Motown Missile Challenger (Limited Edition of 2,000 made by ERTL for MIC; delivery expected 5/02; price - \$59.95)

Baldwin-Motion Chevelle Super Stock (Made by ERTL; delivery expected 5/02, price - \$32.95)

Munsters Coach (Made by ERTL; delivery expected 5/02; price - \$29.95)

Speed Racer Mach V (!) (Made by ERTL; delivery expected 5/02)

1970 Baldwin-Motion Chevelle (Limited Edition of 4,998 cars; de-

MORE Diecasts!

(Continued from page 8)

livery expected 5/02; price – \$32.95)

1967 Sox & Martin Hemi Belvedere (Limited Edition of 2,502 being made by Die-Cast Promotions for Supercar Collectibles; delivery expected 6/02, price - \$59.95)

1967 Sox & Martin GTX 440 (Limited Edition of 2,502 being made by Die-Cast Promotions for Supercar Collectibles; delivery expected 6/02, price - \$59.95)

1962 Arnie Beswick Pontiac (Limited Edition of 2,000 cars made by ERTL, for Merchandising Incentives Corporation; Expected delivery 6/02, price: \$59.95) Commemorating **75 Years of Pontiac Racing**, this is a Bristol Blue 1962 Catalina driven by Arnie Beswick, lettered as “**Mr. B's Passionate Poncho**”. They will also be individually serialized.

1962 Fireball Roberts Pontiac (Limited Edition of 2,000 made by ERTL, for Merchandising Incen-

tive Corporation; delivery expected 6/02; price-\$59.95) Commemorating **75 Years of Pontiac Racing**, this is the Gold & Black 1962 Catalina that was driven by Fireball Roberts. This car won the 1962 Daytona 500. They will also be individually serialized, similar to the Arnie Beswick cars..

1951 Merc - JUNKMAN version (Made by ERTL; delivery expected 6/02; price: \$23.95)

1971 Motown Missile Challenger (Made by ERTL for Merchandise Incentives Corporation; expected delivery month not yet determined, but in mid 2002; price - \$64.95)

1970 Pontiac GTO Judge (Made by GMP / Peachstate; delivery expected 10/02; price - \$119.95)

This will be an Atoll Blue Metallic 1970 GTO Judge.

“Tweek” Drag Buick (Made by GMP/Peachstate; expected delivery 12/02, price-\$59.95) This will be a drag racing Buick GN.

So, check ‘em out gang, but **hang onto yer wallets!** 🍷

Leesport, PA. Pennsylvania automobiles, auto literature (no car parts), auto parts memorabilia, owner's manuals, sales brochures, data books, service bulletins, shop manuals, parts books, dealer's albums, auto & gas station ads & much more. Indoor heated building, food on premises, ATM on site, free parking, free admission. For info, contact J&G Auto Parts, (215) 679-4683.

Mar. 1st to 3rd – 22nd Annual Ocean City Hot Rod and Custom Car Show at Ocean City Convention Center, Ocean City, MD. For info, call Jack Hennen at (410) 798-6304, or go to <http://www.ocean-city.com/calendar/index.html>.

html.

Mar. 1st to 3rd – 45th Annual World of Wheels at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center. For info, call (301) 977-7449.

Mar. 2nd – The Birmingham Classic 2002 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., hosted by the Magic City Car Modelers and the Birmingham IPMS. The theme is “**Pickup Lines**” – **Pickup trucks and straight-line racers**. For show info, contact Tommy May at tmaymccm@aol.com, or write to Magic City Car Modelers 5605 12th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35222; for vendor info, contact Dan Morgan at (256) 739-1819, or write Magic City Car Modelers P.O. Box 98 Cullman, AL 35056.

Mar. 23rd – 16th Annual NNL East Model Car Show and Swap Meet at the Parsippany P.A.L. Building on Baldwin Road, in Parsippany, NJ. Themes this year are **Lions, Tigers, & Bears.... Oh my!** (Cars with animal names), and a **sub-theme of pickup trucks**. For info, E-mail Ken Walkley at TSSMCCKJW@aol.com, or Tom Geiger at ModlCitizn@aol.com.

Mar. 24th to April 13th - Ho Chi Minh Trail Rally beginning in Hanoi (!) and finishing in scenic Singapore. £12,500 per car entry fee, open to classic cars or 4-wheel drive cars. A fantastic 3,500 mile adventurous 3 week drive through Laos, Kampuchia, Thailand and Malaysia to Singapore along the clandestine guerilla path used by Ho Chi Minh. The trail takes us through ancient cities, exotic jungles and testing waters, across plains, along tropical coastlines and mountain tracks and more to our journeys end in the bustling and exciting city of Singapore for a gala night at the world famous

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Coming Events

I think we will try something a bit different here. We will try again listing them by quarter, rather than overwhelming you guys with a year's events all at once. Lemme know how it goes, OK?

Feb. 3rd to 17th - Daytona Speed Weeks at Daytona International Raceway, in Daytona Beach, FL
Feb. 17th - Daytona 500 at Daytona International Raceway, in Daytona Beach, FL. **It's finally time to go racin'!** **Yehaaaaah!**
Feb. 23rd - Literature Show at the Leesport Farm Market, Rt. 61 in

This is the newsletter of the
Maryland Automotive Modelers
Association

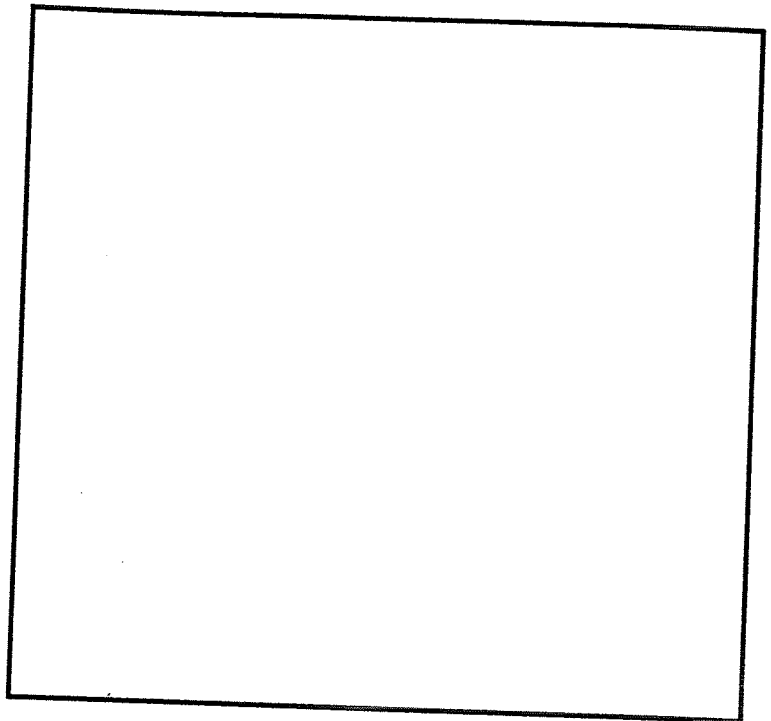
15905 Ark Court
Bowie, Maryland 20716

Phone: 301-249-3830
Email: gtoguy@mindspring.com

MAMA's BoyZ do it in scale!



**Daytona won't be the
same without ya,
Dale!!**



We're on the web!

<http://www.geocities.com/MAMAzboyz/>

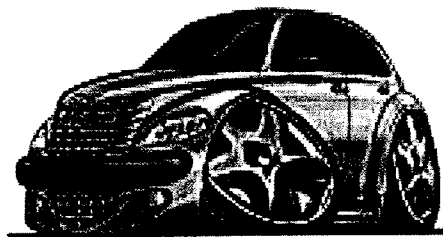
Directions

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 the STOP sign and make a right into the parking lot behind the Greenbelt Library. Once in parking lot, look to the right. The large, white building is the Greenbelt Community Center. Enter building using the doors near fenced tot lot. The multi-purpose room is on the second floor. There is an elevator to the left of the entrance. ☺



Events

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Raffles Hotel. For info, contact David S Bull, 129 Oldham Rd, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax, West Yorks, HX6 4QG, England, PH/ FAX: 0044-0-1422-825456; e-mail: info@worldwiderallies.com or www.worldwiderallies.com.
Mar. 29th & 30th - Thirty-Second Annual Indoor Parts Meet & Auto Auction sponsored by Sugarloaf Mountain Region AACA at Frederick Fairgrounds. Opens at 6 a.m., registration varies by space size. 250+ vendors last year. 7 enclosed buildings, more if needed. Food, door prizes, no pets, free admission. For info, contact Bob Clubb, PO Box 120, Germantown, MD 20874, (301) 831-0300, e-mail: gulfmate@aol.com. ☺