

This is the newsletter of the Maryland Automotive Modelers Association

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2005 Meeting Schedule

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Meetings are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month (unless noted otherwise). Do NOT assume meeting dates—confirm them with a club officer!

- January 15th
- February 19th
- March 12th (2nd Saturday!)
- April 16th

Sale!

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

Inclement weather phone number: (301) 474-5255. 🚍

MANA

Volume 18, Issue 7

March, 2005

NNL Hijinks!

Our 2006 NNL show themes were a hot topic of conversation at last month's meeting. We should be set to resolve the issue this month.

Start thinking about our annual Auction, most likely at the September meeting. So, start rounding up those automotiverelated items that you wish to donate to the cause now, OK?

With the "Big Go East" (a.k.a. NNL East) next Saturday, expect

everyone to be finalizing travel plans and wish lists

This month's issue is a continuation of the Station Wagon Model Buffet column. Thanks, *Matt!* We also have a comprehensive review of the Polar Lights' 1964 GTO convertibles, courtesy of MAMA's Bov Ron Hamilton. Thanks, Ron—you're a maniac! Coinciding with Ron's review, we take a look at final sales figures for

Pontiac's 2004 GTO to see how well it did in its' first year back.

We also have some new Toy Fair announce*ments* from *AMT* and Revell. Nothing earthshatteringly new. See for vourself!

The raffle yielded \$48.00 (plus \$65.00 from the box). Kudos to the following: Brad, Ron Bradlev, Dan Chicorelli, Fred Enzman, Bob Foster, Matt Guilfoyle, Charlie Magers, Ron Roberts, and Replicas & Miniatures Company of MD. ∰

New Toy Fair Announcements!

More kits announced at the Toy Fair include but are not limited to the following:

AMT/ERTL

MPC "Chuck Wagon" 1/20th Custom Western Wagon Rod (June—Toy Fair special limited edition); Resto Rods restored vintage musclecars with modernized accessories (2 'n 1 styling – stock/custom), including:

'66 Nova, '69 Camaro. '69 Mustang, '69 Cougar (all July), '69 Chevelle (Aug), '66 Mustang (Sept), '66 Ford Galaxie (Nov), and '66 Fairlane (Dec).

Revell

'34 Ford 3-window coupe Street Rod, '68 GTO hardtop, '69 Camaro Z-28, '70 Mustang fastback, '79 Corvette coupe Street Ma-

chine, and Ferrari Testarossa coupe (all 1/32 scale snaps for Sept); VW New Beetle (June), '04 Corvette coupe (June), PT Cruiser convert (Sept), Hummer H1 (Sept) (all "Easy Kits" with custom wheels): '64 Chevy Impala SS hardtop, Stock/ Lowrider (June), '81 El Camino, Stock/Lowrider

(Continued on page 12)

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Polar Lights 1964 GTO Convertible

[Polar Lights #53003; 1/25th scale; 80 pieces plus decals; modified reissue]

The 1964 Pontiac GTO convertible is the third in the Polar Lights' "Great American Rides" series of 1960s muscle car kits, which are pre-painted, snap together, and reasonably well detailed. The first of this series was a 1965 Dodge Coronet 500 2-door *hardtop*, which had not been produced as a model kit since 1965, and the second was the hardtop version of this kit, a pretty good kit in its own right. AMT did a kit of a 1964 Pontiac Lemans convertible as an annual kit back in 1963, which was a pretty nice kit. The 1964 GTO convertible was not done in kit form until the release of this kit. When it was announced by Polar Lights that a kit of that car would be available as a modification of the previous tool, most of the modeling community was happy, as we were pretty satisfied with their previous effort.

This kit is painted in four different exterior color variations, *Black, Red, Yellow, and Pearl White*. More on this later in the review. This kit, which is of snap together construction, and in my opinion, very crisp, represents the real car very well, consisting of 80 pieces, and decals. Let's take a look at the various assemblies.

The *engine* in this car is a simplified Pontiac V8, with two building versions, the first of which is the 389 cubic inch, 325 horsepower with a four-barrel car-



buretor for the Replica Stock version. The second version is also a 389 cubic inch V8, but with a 4barrel carburetor, and a low profile, high-performance air cleaner. Curiously, there is a second 4barrel carburetor, a pair of small air cleaners for them, but no dual quad manifold. There is a set of three 2-barrel carburetors and the tri-power intake manifold, but no air cleaners. The missing parts could have been included, as there was a place on the parts tree for them. It's rather confusing to me. Well, there's always the parts box or the aftermarket. The basic engine block and accessories are molded in a very good representation of "Pontiac Engine Blue," as well as chrome and black. Once assembled, and detail painted, either version represents the subject matter very well.

The *nine-piece chassis* assembly consists of a separate frame, floorboards, separate dual exhausts with the optional "splitter" exhaust tips, rear coil springs for the rear suspension, fuel tank, and simplified front and rear suspen-

sions. Molded in black and very well done.

There are two sets of wheels, the first of which is the factory optional "Custom" covers with separate three prong "knock-off" spinners for the Replica Stock version, which mounts on a set on "no name" blackwall tires. The second set of wheels is a set of Hurst mags, which were very popular in the 1960s, and not commonly rendered in kit form. Curiously, there is no product identification on the wheels, like the other Polar Lights' kits. These wheels are primarily for either the "Street Machine" or "A Drag" building version. There is also a set of "Cheater" slicks for the rear wheels. Both sets of wheels and tires represent the subject well, except that there are no "tampoprinted," or decal-based white walls or red lines, which were the only tire choices on a new 1964 GTO.

The *body* of this kit is prepainted in one of four colors, which are as follows:

(Continued on page 3)

GTO (contd)

(Continued from page 2)

- Red, a very close approximation of Pontiac "Grenadier Red"
- Black, supposed to represent Pontiac "Starlight Black"
- Yellow, not a Factory Stock color
- Pearl White, also not a Factory Stock color

The Black paint on my example was very smooth, and a polish and wax job is not necessary as the paint job is just that good. The "chrome trim" is represented by silver tampo paint, which can be left as is, or foiled over. The "GTO" crests for the front fenders, and the letters for the rear fenders and trunk are represented by decals, and are not engraved onto the body. The body itself, is extremely well proportioned, and captures the look of the car. The proper body panel separation lines are there. The mold lines are very well hidden, and the separate hood and glass units fit perfectly. If you

desire a color other than the prepainted colors, the paint can be removed by submerging the model in 91% rubbing alcohol.

The interior "tub" consists of a floorboard, rear seat/package tray, and the front inner fenders/ battery/windshield washer jar, which are molded as a single unit. The dashboard, the firewall, sidepanels with "dog legs," front bucket seats, the console, shifter, steering wheel/column are all separate pieces. The interior is molded in an "off-white" color which approximates the "Parchment" interior pretty well. The dash top pad, and floor should be done in black, if you choose to do the parchment interior. The inner fender unit should be painted black, for accuracy.

The builder has a choice of a well done boot, and an up-top, both in a low-gloss off-white color, which matches the interior. The up top is done very well, as it was originally clear, and masked off and painted, to leave the clear rear window. One thing though, there are holes in the sun visors to

locate the top, which will be very noticeable if the model is shown with the top down.

There are detail sets for the '65 and '66 GTO kits from *The Model Car Garage* (photoetch) and *The Last Detail* (decals), which can be adapted to this kit, for added realism.

Overall, As I said at the beginning of this review, this is a very good kit. I wish it had a few better detail features such as separate head and tail light lenses. It is very simplified, designed for the less experienced builder, goes together extremely well, and looks quite good once built. I know, because I built a hardtop version in one day, and that included foiling the chrome, and detail painting the various assembles. I used very little glue (my choice) in building this kit, and I am quite satisfied with the end result. I recommend this kit wholeheartedly, and I thank the people who conceived, designed, and marketed this kit.

By: Ron Hamilton 🚝

Reissue Mania!

Looks as though Accurate
Miniatures (http://www.accurateminiatures.com/) is set to rerelease the Corvette Gran Sport
kit(s)! Yup, that's right kits, as in
more than one!

Stock number 24-0001 will be the *Corvette Grand Sport Coupe*, while stock number 24-0002 *Corvette GS Roadster!* The release date for these kits is listed as the third quarter of 2005. Better stock up on *Harold Bradford's Historic*

Racing Miniatures' transkits!

Meanwhile, *Model King* has just announced that he will be issuing the *AMT '74 Malibu/Laguna* (surprised?!). It will be marketed as a short track car, but with some aftermarket decals it will accurately replicate a number of different NASCAR cars. Both Malibu and Laguna front end sheetmetal will be included.

Five versions of this kit were issued back in the early 70's: **Bobby Allison #12 "Coca-Cola"** '73 Malibu (1973), Gordon

Johncock #28 '73 Chevelle (1974), Benny Parsons #72 "Kings Row" '74 Laguna (1974), Donnie Allison #88 "Diehard" '74 Malibu (late 1974), and Lenny Pond '74 Malibu (1975).

Thanks to the gang at Accurate Miniatures, and a special thanks to Model King, not only for this one, but for all the other kits he has done, or is gonna do!! Dave has made it possible for us to relive our youth with his ambitious release program! Thanks Dave—we 'preciate it!

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2004 GTO Production Analysis

	Manual / Automatic	Manual / Automatic	Manual / Automatic
Exterior Color	Production Total	Percent of Total	Final Rank
Phantom Black Metallic	2,706 / 2,304	17.20 / 4.65 = 31.85%	1st / 3rd
Torrid Red	1,566 / 1,527	9.96 / 9.71 = 19.67%	2nd / 1st
Quicksilver Metallic	1,229 / 1,220	7.81 / 7.76 = 15.57%	3rd / 2nd
Yellow Jacket	1,013 / 657	6.44 / 4.18 = 10.62%	4th / 4th
Impulse Blue Metallic	805 / 636	5.12 / 4.04 = 9.16%	5th / 5th
Pulse Red	510 / 282	3.24 / 1.79 = 5.04%	6th / 8th
Cosmos Purple Metallic	366 / 334	2.33 / 2.12 = 4.45%	7th / 6th
Barbados Blue Metallic	271 / 302	1.72 / 1.92 = 3.64%	8th / 7th

Conclusions:

- After a bumbling start (introducing a 350 hp., rear wheel drive performance car in the middle of Winter, based on a Legend, with absolutely no styling cues from said Legend!), out of possible allocation of 18,000 cars, 15, 728 were built and shipped to the U.S., making for a decent 'fumble recovery!'
- Manual/Automatic transmission breakdown 8,466 (53.83%) 6-speed manual transmissions vs. 7,262 (46.17%) Automatics, so fewer people decided to be 'shiftless'
- Not surprisingly, Phantom Black Metallic was the most popular color overall for 6-speeders, while Torrid Red was the most popular color choice for Automatic drivers. Coincidentally, the numbers were reversed Torrid Red was the most popular color for Automatic trans drivers, while Phantom Black Metallic was the second most popular color choice
- Production figures for Yellow Jacket and Impulse Blue Metallic Goats put their final rankings mid-pack, at 4th / 4th and 5th / 5th, respectively
- Production figures for Cosmos Purple Metallic and Barbados Blue Metallic put them near the bottom of the heap (As if in response, these colors have been deleted for 2005, replaced by Cyclone Gray Metallic, and Midnight Blue Metallic)

Let's hope GM learned their lessons on this mini-debacle. When you intend to release a vehicle based on a Legend, and include absolutely no heritage styling cues, and then on top of that, totally ignore the owners of the 'Heritage' version, the results can't be good! Thanks to the *May*, *2005 High Performance Pontiac*.

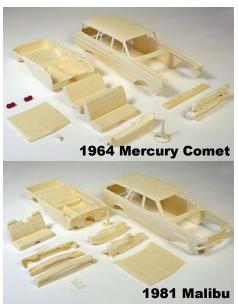
Model Buffet

We're a still a *loooong way* from being done with 'Longroof sedans,' gang, so, let's get started!

Lets start off with F & F Resin (http://www.resinkits.com/). The Fluck Family have had sone interesting stuff available at one timr or another. First off we have both 1955 AND 1957 Pontiac Safaris, a 1959 Oldsmobile Super 88 Fiesta, as well as both 1960 and 1963 Olds wagons. From the Chevy camp, we have a chopped '56 Nomad (body only), 1963 Chevy II, a 1964 Chevelle 2-door wagon, and both 1969 and 1972 Chevelle wagons.



Randy Frost at Perry's Resin (http://www.perrysresin.com/) has two interesting wagons in his inventory—a 1964 Mercury Comet, and a 1981 Chevelle Malibu. Both appear to be complete, looking at the enclosed pics (you'll notice the lack of chrome, so plan on a chrome service, or Alclad).



Scale Auto Replicas offers a **1949 Ford Woodie wagon**, a conversion that is apparently meant to be used with **AMT's 1949 Ford**.

TKM Models also includes a single wagon in his inventory—a 1958 Mercury. Included besides the body is a metal chassis plate, and resin wheels. Search eBay!





Shawn Carpenter offers a unique Pontiac. Rather than jump on the Safari bandwagon, he offers a **1957 Super Chief Safari**.

As you can see, it is a curbside, but includes chrome, an interior, and whitewall tires.

To my knowledge, Shawn doesn't have a website. You can most likely catch him on eBay, or by 'snail mail' to *Shawn Carpenter*, 7776 Yates Street, Westminster, CO 80030.



It is highly recommended that you double-check price and availability on anything in this column (don't forget shipping and handling, too!) prior to ordering.

A special thank you goes out to **Dave Lindsay** at **SocalCarCulture.com** (http://socalcarculture.com/) for some of these photos. He has an awesome website—check it out!

And let's not forget *Matt Guilfoyle*, for his constant hard work at bringing this column to the membership. If you find something, send it along to me!

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This 'n That

Two Doors no more? The Chrysler group will reportedly abandon nearly all two-door vehicles after the 2006 model year. The **Dodge Stratus** and **Chrysler** Sebring coupes are expected to go out of production at that time although, Chrysler will continue to offer a two-door Sebring convertible. Chrysler is redesigning its mid-sized vehicles for the 2007 model year. They will share a platform with Mitsubishi. A sedan and a convertible are expected to be the first two offerings. Dodge is developing a five-door hatchback. The Sebring/Stratus coupes are built at Mitsubishi's Normal, Ill., assembly plant. The Chrysler group's contract with Mitsubishi to produce vehicles in Normal expires in 2005. The Sebring/Stratus sedans and the Sebring convertible are built at Chrysler's Sterling Heights, Mich., assembly plant. Meantime, the Chrysler group is spending \$419 million to renovate its Belvidere, Ill., assembly plant to build a new generation of small vehicles for Dodge and Jeep. Currently, Belvidere builds the **Dodge Neon**. The plant will begin assembling a new range of models based on a platform developed with Mitsubishi Motors Corp. Chrysler said production is planned to start in early 2006. Belvidere is expected to build a *four-door Neon* replacement for the 2006 model year and small SUVs for Jeep and Dodge. The Neon name will be dropped. Chrysler is also trying to determine if it makes sense to build a *Jeep Gladiator concept*

pickup truck, which debuted at the Detroit auto show..."Little Old Lady from Bonners Ferry (Idaho)?!" a



didn't pull over 'cause he wasn't thinking straight.' *Doh!*...*Deere-ly Departed?!* A 99-year-old dairy farmer in Pennsylvania recently *took his*

66-year-old woman recently led officers on a slow-speed 15-mile chase through two counties. Shades of O.J. Simpson!! She was finally stopped when three of four tires were blown out by spike strips. She initially refused to pull over for a four-wheel-drive Chevy Silverado pickup, since, in New York where she hails from, they drive only police *CARS*. She was charged with eluding police and reckless driving, and was jailed on \$600 bond. Don't know if she was drivin' a Buick or not, though... A Policeman's worst nightmare! Someone recently stole a *Krispy* Kreme delivery truck in Harrisburg, PA, while the driver was inside making a delivery. Police were able to easily track the van, because the rear doors were left open, and they simply followed a trail of doughnuts! No arrest was made, and the truck was returned to the company..."Help, Police!" A speeder recently managed to flee police in Louisiana at speeds up to 100mph, before abandoning his car and fleeing into the woods. Deputies and dogs brought in to search for the lawbreaker got some help from a nearby resident who heard the man crying out for help, and called authorities! He was charged with aggravated flight and driving with an expired license. He told officers that he

passion for John Deere tractors to the grave with him! At his funeral, his green casket (pulled to the cemetery using a 50s vintage John Deere) had a liner embroidered with a yellow and green tractor image, while flower arrangements were yellow and green. Finally, the family downloaded music featuring the sounds of a running, idling tractor engine from the John Deere website. His daughter said, "He loved those machines. They never let him down"... Getaway car! Cops in Denver were in search of an unmarked 2003 Monte Carlo that was stolen from in front of an officer's house after he left the engine running! No weapons were in the car, but thieves did get a traffic vest, handcuffs, and two laptops. But wait, there's more! The cop who 'lost' the car could be charged with violating a city ordinance that prohibits leaving a running vehicle unattended! Poetic Justice? ... "I need a drink!" A judge recently stopped a hearing and ordered a suspect to take a breathalyzer test, when several people smelled something funny. The test indicated a bloodalcohol content of 0.296 percent, or more than three times the state's legal limit! Why was this guy in court in the first place?

(Continued on page 7)

T'n T (contd)

(Continued from page 6)

Why, drunken-driving charges following an accident, of course! He was sent to a local hospital for a blood test, and his hearing was rescheduled... Crash and Burn?!? Looks as though *Monster Garage* guru Jesse James could be settin' himself up for a fall. According to an item found via the HHMB, this year's **season finale** involves an attempt to make a Panoz Esperante fly (and not driven off a cliff, either!!). Yup, you heard me right. The two-part season finale set to air on June 13th and 20th will see the *Monster Garage* gang attempt to get a Panoz Esperante airborne. I wanna see Jesse drive *THIS* one when its finished... Zero to 60 XLR?! Guess you've all seen the 0 to 60 Caddy commercials running lately? Too bad that the cars can't move off showroom floors that fast. Last summer, customers waited in line to buy Caddy's hot XLR. Now dealers are waiting to sell 'em. GM has reduced XLR production at its Bowling Green, Ky., plant from 23 cars a day to 12. As of February, Cadillac had a 200-day supply of the \$76,200 vehicle—about 1,700 units. Cadillac once hoped to sell 6,000 annually, but in 18 months, Cadillac has only sold only 4,744. GM says it has never offered rebates on the car, and doesn't intend to. Never say never...Toyota Super Coupe? **Scion** will offer a **supercharged** version of its tC sport coupe. It should arrive around April, and will be the first vehicle sold by

Toyota in the U.S. to get a supercharger from the factory... G6 Sans Hardtop? GM has delayed the launch of the **Pontiac G6** hardtop convertible, and engineering problems appear to be the culprit. The G6 must be reengineered because it was not originally designed to be an openair vehicle, the supplier says. The convertible needs a stiffened underbody, and the interior must be redesigned to store the hardtop. These engineering problems led GM to delay the vehicle's launch by 14 weeks, the supplier said. Doh!...More Bad News for Ford **GT?** Ford is using a time-tested but unusual repair method to fix an engine oil leak in its flagship GT sports car. It is telling dealership mechanics to install a "Speedi-Sleeve" to stop oil from leaking from the crankshaft rear seal. The sleeves have been used for decades, largely on older, high-mileage cars or those undergoing an overhaul. It's extremely unusual for them to be used on a new car, sources say. The engine oil leak, which is caused by an improper finish on the crankshaft, isn't a problem in all cars. The crankshaft finish has been fixed for production cars. For vehicles with the problem, the Speedi-Sleeve, a metal band that fits over the end of the crankshaft, will close any gaps that might allow engine oil to leak. It is a low-cost part, but requires several hours of labor to install. Until the GT, the sleeves hadn't been used recently by Ford. It's uncommon because Ford hasn't experienced this type of leak during that period...No Sale for GM? GM will reportedly

drop not only the *slow-selling* **Ouadrasteer option**, but it will also discontinue producing the slow-selling GMC Envoy XUV (So much for hauling grandfather clocks!). GM will stop Envoy XUV production in March. In the meantine, GM's next rear-wheeldrive premium vehicles will expand Buick's product line and give consumers options—sporty cars and comfy sedans. GM's new executive director of body frame integral design, says the new Zeta architecture will extend Buick's product portfolio. Within two years, Zeta will debut on a Buick sedan. A *coupe* and possibly *a* convertible will follow. Zeta, which will be engineered by GM's Australian subsidiary Holden Ltd., will debut with Pontiac in the *next-gen GTO*, but they say the design won't be retro (like the 2005 GTO. Yeah, right!), GM is also working to make two safetyoriented technologies—OnStar and Stabilitrak (stability control)—standard on vehicles sold in the United States and Canada by 2010...The next-generation *Ford* Explorer Sport Trac will get a V-8. It will go on sale in 2006 after moving to an updated Ford Explorer platform....Cat on a Hot Car Roof! A woman in Idaho recently drove about 10 miles on Interstate 15, without realizing that her cat was on on the roof of the car! She apparently put him out of the car at home, and he jumped onto the roof without her knowledge before she drove off. **Doh!** (Thanks to the Washington Times, autoweek.com, and other Internet sources for this insanity! Ya can't nake this stuff up) 🚔

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Detroit Auto Show

Production









Note: Bob Lutz is PO'ed that the press is panning GM's version of the PT Cruiser, and his thinking that he can sell 100,000 of 'em!





Magnum SRT8







Concepts







All 'Tooned' Up?!?









Just in case you guys have been livin' under a rock somewhere, *NNL East's* theme this year is "Class of '55," along with a sub-theme of *Tuner Cars* (see flyer on page 10). Just thought this *Russian Mark VIII 'Tooner*' might get those creative juices flowin'!!

The Old Pro - Again!



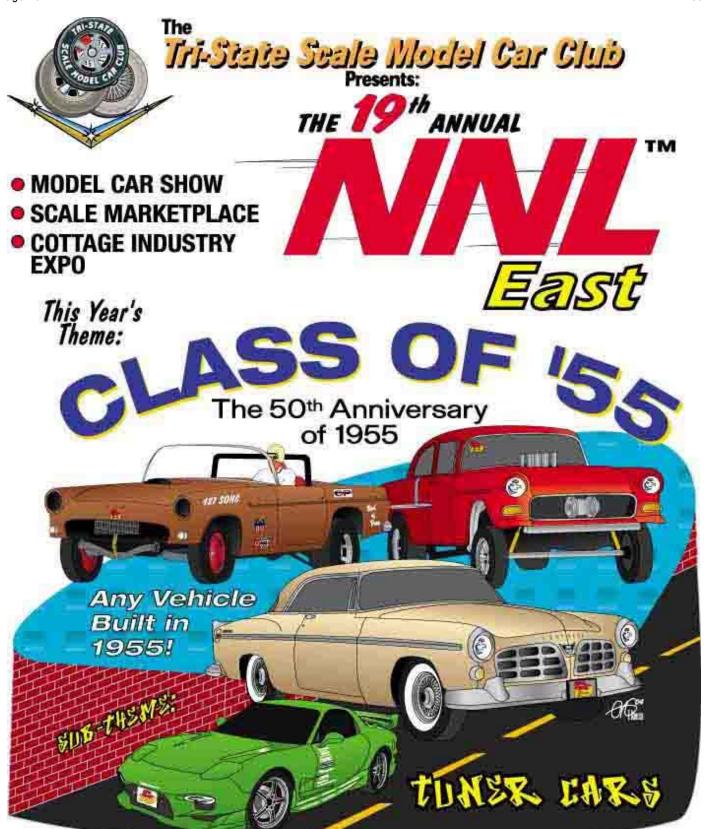
leased several times down through the years, eh? **Wrong!** It's a **1/18th scale diecast!!** Should be out by the time you read this.



Hobby Works 25th Anniversary Year Spring Clearance Sale!

Huge discounts, bonus points for Works Advantage Plan customers, and a \$2,500 Silver Anniversary Shopping Spree Giveaway! Price drops 10% each Monday up to 60% off! Sale starts Monday, March 12th, so be there, or be square!

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SATURDAY, MARCH 19th, 2005 PARSIPPANY, N.J. USA



VENDOR INFO: CONTACT NORMAN VEBER 410-768-3648

This is the newsletter of the Maryland Automotive Modelers Association

Chapter Contact:

Timothy Sickle 15905 Ark Court Bowie, Maryland 20716 Phone: 301-249-3830 Email: gtoguy@verizon.net

MAMA's BoyZ do it in scale!



Toy (contd)

(Continued from page 1)

(June), Corvette 327 Fuel Injection, and a small block Chevy Street Rod (both 1/6th metal/ plastic engines) (Sept). Thanks to the gang at the Hobby Heaven message board for the scoop.











Classifieds

FOR SALE—Reference material! Weekly Winston Cup **Scene** newspapers (several years worth), available by year or lot. Contact Tim Sickle, at (301) 249-3830, or see me at a meeting.

WANTED—Tamiva 1/20th scale Porsche 935 in either Kremer or Martini markings. Contact Frank Knapik at (301) 340-2837

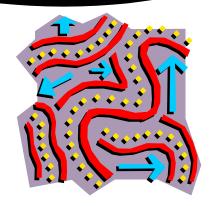
"A device for shrinking time and distance!"



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 offramp, stay to the right and merge right onto Southway (see below).

From the Washington Beltway (RT 495/95): 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 (read on!)



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