



MAMA Sez!

Volume 38, Issue 6

March, 2026

“Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 37 Years!”



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

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Show Season Commences!

February, given the time of year, and chances of a weather “event,” came off very well, with quite a group of MAMA members present.

An update on **Ron Hamilton**—I spoke with him just before the meeting. Seems to be doing well, losing weight, and hoping to return very soon (*a month or two?!!*)

The “*other*” **Ron (Shirey!)** did his usual excellent work on what to expect with regard to upcoming releases.

The “**Pontiac Garage**” was onsite as always.

The raffle raised **\$89.00**, while the door added **\$228.00 (!)**. Paid the rent again—and then some! Thanks to the fol-

lowing donors: **Brad, Bruce Black, Steve M. Buter, Mike Costic, Matt Guilfoyle, Greg Johnson (northern VA benefactor), Mark Mason, Jim Maness, Rich Meany, George Openhym, Mark Parkhurst, Replicas & Miniatures Co. of MD (Norman), and Ron Shirey.** Thanks guys—we ‘preciate it—**Tim** 🍷



2026 MAMA Schedule

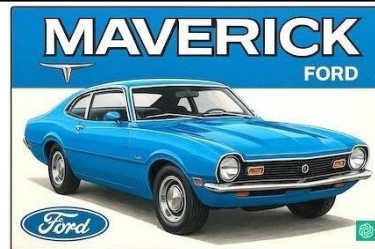
We meet in our new location, the **Salaried Employees Association (SEA) Union Hall**, 1300 Hanover Road, Hanover, MD 21076, on the schedule listed below, from **10 am to 2 pm**:

- 🔊 January 17th
- 🔊 February 21st
- 🔊 March 21st
- 🔊 April 18th
- 🔊 May—**No Meeting!**
- 🔊 June 20th
- 🔊 July 18th
- 🔊 August 15th
- 🔊 September 19th
- 🔊 October 17th
- 🔊 November 21st
- 🔊 December 19th (10-3!)

Hope to see you there 🍷

New Stuff!

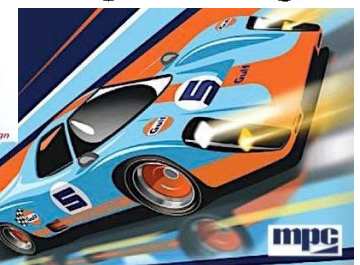
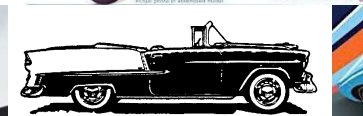
As discussed at the February meeting, the recently held New York Toy Show had some announcements of note posted on social media (*with more apparently to be revealed at a later date*). **Cool**—Assorted Sources 🍷



← Believed to be from Moebius

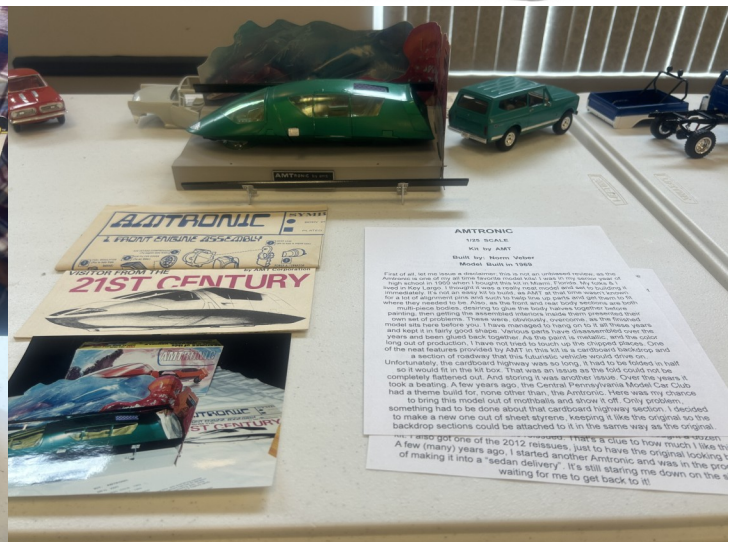
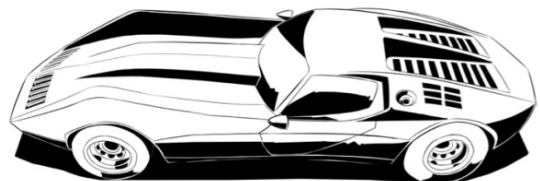


ATLANTIS FIRE IRON



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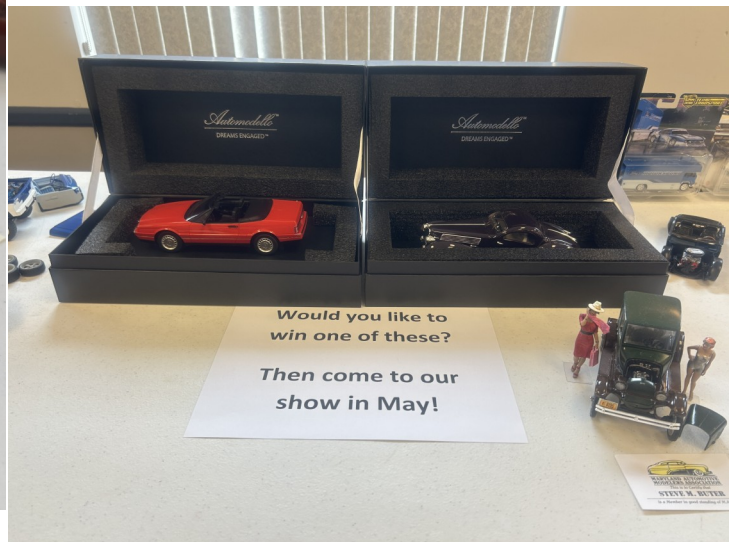
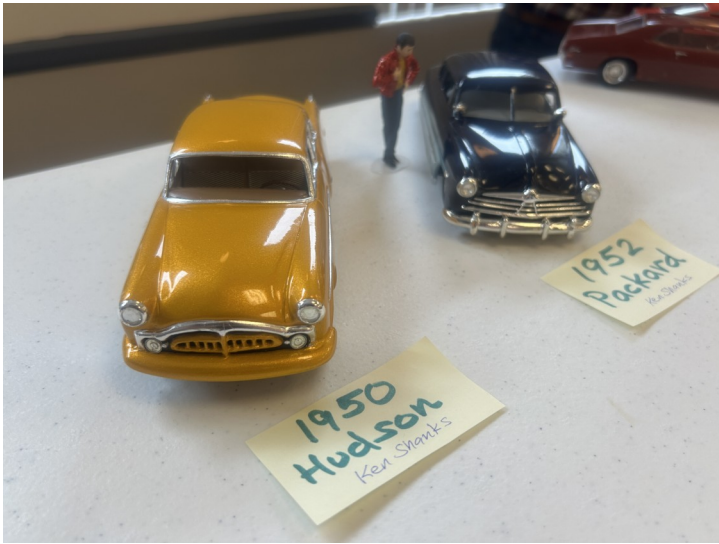
MAMA Meeting



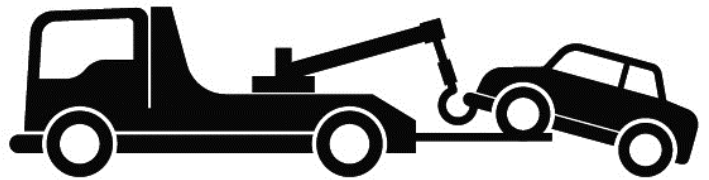
MAMA Meeting



Raffle Goodies!



Theme Table



M.O.M.*



The February honoree for this “official un-

official” award is *MAMA’s Prez Tim Powers*.

Tim started out with an “Odd couple”, consisting of AMT and Testors kits. Here is Tim with the details.

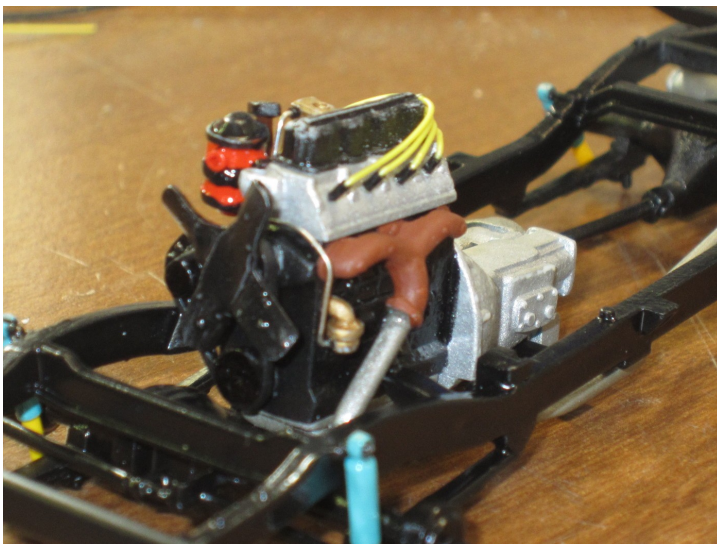
The Jeep Hot-Rod

The olive-drab green hot-rod Jeep was inspired by an actual vehicle I saw in a YouTube video from a French Jeep event in 2013. I learned that it’s a hot-rodged Hotchkiss M201, which is the French-licensed version of the WWII-style Willys Jeep MB model.

I started with an un-boxed Testors re-issue of the Italeri Willys MB that I had bought as a \$5.00 bagged kit. I partly disassembled a built-up Hasegawa Willys Jeep MB that I had bought at NNL East for \$5.00 to get the seat cushions and dash, which better resembled the Hotchkiss dash. For the rear non-directional tires I raided a 1/35 scale Long Tom M59 (*a heavy World War II era towed 155MM Cannon*) kit from AFV Club. These tires fit the Testors wheels perfectly and had a taller profile than the Testors tires, giving the jeep that traditional “bigs-and-littles” look that works so well on hot rods.

The front suspension, rear disc brakes, engine mounts, transmission cross-member, 302c.i. engine/C4 automatic transmission combination, and front frame horns are from a leftover Revell 1932 Ford hotrod kit in my parts stash. The front axle, rear axle, disc brakes, radiator, electric fan, drive shaft,

(Continued on page 10)



** (Model Of the Month!)*

‘GMC’ has issued product recalls for the following vehicles:

- ◆ A total of **43,832 2022 SUVs**, broken down as follows: **3,609 Cadillac Escalades**, **2,239 Cadillac Escalade ESVs**, **17,178 Chevy Tahoes**, **7,616 Chevy Suburbans**, **7,920 GMC Yukons**, and **5,270 Yukon XLs**, all of which may exhibit an issue with the software monitoring the SUVs’ transmission valve. ‘GMC’ previously released a recall for the same issue in 2024, but now, this new recall covers the 2022 model year, as well.

The issue involves the potential failure of the transmission valve, which, if left unaddressed, can result in rear-wheel lock-up.

In the new recall, ‘GMC’ states that the transmission control valve for the vehicles may wear out over time, which can potentially result in a fluid leak inside the valve body. The leak may not be flagged by the vehicle software.

If there is a pressure loss in the transmission valve, it can lead to harsh shifting. Further wear can also cause the rear wheels of the SUV to lock up, which may result in a crash.

To address the issue, dealer techs will update the transmission control module (TCM) software, which will monitor the transmission valve and flag any excessive wear

before a wheel lock-up condition occurs. If excessive wear is detected, the software will limit the transmission to fifth gear and illuminate a service engine light, while also reducing available propulsion.

- ◆ A total of **749 2020-22 light and heavy-duty pickups** broken down as follows: **34 Silverado 1500s**, **218 2500HDs**, and **76 3500HDs**, **164 2020-22 GMC Sierra 1500s**, **234 Sierra 2500HDs**, and **23 3500HDs**. The original recall impacted **66,897 Chevy Silverado 1500s**, **166,541 Chevy Silverado HDs**, **80,033 GMC Sierra 1500s** and **135,323 GMC Sierra HDs**.

The updated recall addresses an issue wherein certain units may have received an incorrect soft-

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ware update rolled out in an earlier safety recall released in 2024. The initial recall was issued to address a potential transmission valve failure issue, which could result in the vehicle’s rear wheels locking up, however, some of the recalled units may have received the wrong software update.

<p>‘GMC’ Recall Ticker</p> <p># of Recalls 356 (!)</p> <p># of Vehicles Affected 59,205,992</p>
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(Continued on page 11)

C8 Watch

You can fit a surprising amount of stuff in a C8. With 12.6 cubic feet of cargo space split between the front trunk and the rear, the mid-engine sports car offers enough room for a weekend's worth of luggage or, as one driver recently discovered, enough space to land yourself in a federal prison. US Customs and Border Protection officers at the Laredo Port of Entry arrested a motorist last month after discovering a small arsenal hidden inside a 2021 C8.

The incident unfolded on February 3rd at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge in Texas. Officers conducting outbound operations—inspections on vehicles leaving the US for Mexico—pulled the C8 over for a secondary examination. After a nonintrusive inspection system scan and a canine sniff, authorities found **44 handguns** and **79 magazines** concealed within the vehicle.

Homeland Security Investigations special agents took the driver into custody and launched a criminal probe. Federal authorities haven't released the suspect's name or a potential motive, but the sheer volume of weaponry suggests a smuggling operation rather than a personal collection. The seizure highlights the critical outbound work CBP performs, catching illegal firearms before they cross the southern border.

“Significant outbound weapons seizures, like the one realized by our officers at Juarez-Lincoln Bridge, reflect the relentless dedication of our officers to upholding

CBP's border security mission and keeping our border communities safe,” said Port Director Alberto Flores, Laredo Port of Entry.

The C8 itself now sits in an evidence lot, its fate uncertain. The government could auction the seized sports car to the public or add it to the government fleet. Regardless, the driver won't see it again anytime soon. The C8 delivers supercar performance for a fraction of the price, but even its blistering acceleration can't outrun federal law enforcement. At least now we have another real-world example of the sports car's cargo hauling capabilities.

The 2026 C8 introduces a variety of important updates, including a major interior overhaul highlighted by a trio of digital screens, now included as standard across the C8 lineup. Unfortunately, customers are already reporting problems with the updated display system. To make matters worse, the only solution seems to be an outright replacement of the affected hardware.

For those readers who may have missed it, every C8 variant is now equipped with a sweeping, driver-focused digital cockpit, which was introduced in conjunction with the debut of 2026 model year. The new setup includes a 12.7-inch center infotainment display, a 14-inch digital Driver Information Center (DIC), and a 6.6-inch auxiliary touchscreen



mounted to the left of the steering wheel. The new cabin arrangement also replaces the vertical “wall of buttons” seen prior to the 2026-model-year refresh with a cleaner, more horizontal layout.

However, despite the upgraded infotainment hardware, owners are reporting that the large center infotainment screen on their new C8 can malfunction shortly after startup. In affected vehicles, approximately half of the display becomes covered by a grid-like pattern that obscures critical information. The glitch makes menus, icons, and system functions difficult (*if not impossible*) to read.

According to ***GM Authority*** sources, replacing the screen assembly is currently the only known fix. At this time, Chevy has not provided a timeline for when replacement units will be widely available, potentially leaving early buyers waiting for parts.

The 2026 Corvette is equipped with ‘GMC’s IVE infotainment screen hardware, which is part of a broader rollout of next-gen display technology across multiple ‘GMC’ models, and to that end, the C8 isn't the only model impacted by this screen issue.

(Continued on page 12)

@Rick_Da_Builder Presents:

Model Cars & Coffee

**\$10.00 Per Person
Children Under 12 Free**



Sunday March 22, 2026 9am -2pm

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Contact: rickyscarsandcoffee@yahoo.com

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- SCALE MARKETPLACE
- AFTERMARKET VENDORS

Show Theme:
The 63rd Anniversary of 1963

Sub Theme:
250th Anniversary of USA
The Red, White & Blue!

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WAYNE PAL BUILDING, 1 PAL DRIVE, WAYNE, NJ 07470

TOM GEIGER (732) 687-8171

EMAIL: NNLEAST@AOL.COM

FOR THE LATEST SHOW INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.NNLEAST.COM

M.O.M. (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

fire extinguisher, and mufflers came from my parts box. I actually went through three different front end setups: the first made the front sit too low, the second was going to use airbags (*which didn't fit*), and then the one that is on the finished model.

Along with the suspension and chassis modifications were a lot of body modifications. The firewall, firewall supports, transmission tunnel, and rear compartment were scratch built. The windshield and soft top were chopped and the body smoothed. The radiator hoses and exhaust pipes were made of solder. The oil and transmission dipsticks were scratch-built as are the ignition coil, throttle cable, return spring, shifter cable, fan belt, and hose clamps.

Aftermarket parts include:

- ◆ 3D-printed highly-detailed open-bodied shifter from *VCG Resins*
- ◆ Resin distributor from the *Replicas and Miniatures Company of Maryland*
- ◆ Photoetched sparkplug wire looms and wheel weights from *Detail Master*
- ◆ Headlight and taillight lenses sourced from *Czech Truck Model*

The body, frame, engine/transmission, interior, and soft top are painted with Tamiya Acrylic colors, all other colors are Testors enamel paint.

Out back, I printed a license plate decal that says, "BILKO" as a nod to the character, Sgt. Bilko,

played by Phil Silvers from 1955 to 1959. Sgt. Bilko was known to occasionally take a Jeep from the Fort Baxter base and race it at the local stock car track in Roseville, Kansas.

The Tan Jeep

The tan Jeep started life as an incomplete 2001 AMT reissue of the MPC Dukes of Hazzard Daisy's Jeep CJ-5 kit that I had taken the hood and grille from for another project. One day I got to wondering how it would look if the CJ-5 had a hood and grille from a 1971 Jeepster Commando, so I raided a parts kit for the hood, grill, and radiator. There were also two influences that factored into this build: a B&W photo of an agricultural CJ-5 in *Peter C. Sessler's JEEP 1941-2000 Photo Archive* book that always stuck in my mind, and a tan with orange wheels CJ-5 that Uncle Bobby (*Bob Doebley*) built many years ago and displayed at one of our MAMA meetings back in the Greenbelt days.

After fitting the hood to the cowl and scratch-building hinge details, the rest of the build was pretty straight-forward with standard detailing: wires, hoses, paint, and decals. I printed all my own decals for this one and they work great except for the speedometer decal: all the letters and numbers on the first one disappeared when I put it on the black bezel – I had printed it on clear film instead of



white. That started me down a series of about seven different gaffs and errors including painting, repainting, sanding, filing, and even milling the bezel as well as issues with the decals themselves wrinkling. Eventually, I gave up and used a speedometer decal from a scrap Monogram CJ-7 kit.

For that agricultural Jeep look, I used the leftover Hasegawa rubber tires from the green Jeep hot-rod project, and modified the MPC kit wheels to fit them.

Aftermarket parts on this build include:

- ◆ Scale tailgate chains (*chemically blackened for me by Norm Veber*)
- ◆ Valve stems from the *Replicas and Miniatures Company of Maryland*
- ◆ Battery cable clamps from a *Model Car Garage Pontiac 1962 Pontiac Catalina photoetch detail set*
- ◆ A pair of 3D-printed ignition keys (*leftover from a USCP Renault Alpine A110 detail set for another in-progress project*) in the

(Continued on page 14)

Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

Per the recall, these trucks may have received the wrong software update. For those vehicles affected, the transmission control valve may undergo excessive wear, which can lead to a loss of internal pressure within the valve over time. The pressure loss can result in harsh shifting, and in some cases, may even lead to the rear wheels momentarily locking up.

In the event that the rear wheels lock up while the vehicle is in motion, the driver may lose control of the vehicle and crash.

In order to correct the issue, 'GMC' is instructing dealer techs to first inspect the vehicle in question in order to determine whether or not the correct software update was installed. If the vehicle did receive the incorrect update, dealers will perform an additional software update to correct the issue. No new parts are required.

- ◆ A total of 22 2024 Cadillac Lyriqs after discovering that a software error may cause the rearview camera display to go blank while reversing.

Per documents filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), these vehicles received a software

update with an incorrect calibration. That can cause the rearview camera screen to turn gray with no image.

Without a functioning rearview camera, drivers lose rear visibility while backing up. 'GMC' explains, "If the rear-view camera is not functioning properly, rear visibility is reduced, increasing the risk of a crash during a backing event." 'GMC' says it is not aware of any crashes or injuries related to the condition.

'GMC' will update the vehicle cockpit unit (VCU) software with corrected calibration. The update can be performed at a dealership or delivered over the air (OTA) to eligible vehicles. The revised software restores proper rear camera functionality.

- ◆ An *unknown number* of 2026 Buick Enclaves, Envisions, Cadillac CT5s, Escalades, Escalade ESVs, Escalade IQs, Escalade IQLs, Lyriqs, Op-tiqs, Vistiqs, Chevy Blazer EVs, 2025-26 Colorados, 2026 C8s, 2026 Equinoxes, 2025-26 Equinox EVs, 2026 Silverado 1500s, 2500HDs, 3500HDs, 2026 Silverado EVs, 2026 Tahoes, Suburbans, 2026 Traverses, 2026 GMC Acadia, 2025-26 Canyons, 2026 GMC Hummer EV Pickups, Hummer EV SUVs, 2026 GMC Sierra 1500s, Sierra 2500HDs, 3500 HDs,

2026 GMC Sierra EVs, 2026 GMC Terrains, and 2026 GMC Yukons, Yukon XLs, and the reason is almost too simple to believe: the vehicles left the factory *without their owner's manuals*.

According to official 'GMC' documents, the condition affects a diverse array of nameplates ranging from the Chevy Colorado to the Cadillac Escalade IQ. Even high-profile electric vehicles like the Lyriq and the Hummer EV are caught in the net.

The oversight triggers a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) noncompliance. When a customer takes delivery of a new vehicle, they expect to find the manual tucked away in the glovebox. Without it, owners lack immediate access to critical information regarding safe operation, feature explanations, and maintenance schedules. "These vehicles may have been delivered without an owner's manual," the report states. "Owners may be unable to find information on the safe use and operation of the vehicle, increasing the risk of injury in a crash."

'GMC's phrasing in the documentation raises an eyebrow. The company writes that it "has decided that certain... vehicles may fail to conform," a

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C8 (cont'd)

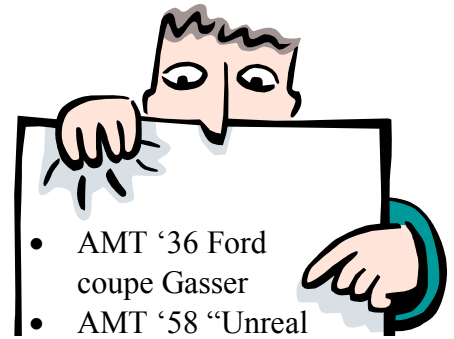
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As covered previously, ‘GMC’ is actively working to resolve a range of concerns related to its new Driver Information Center and infotainment systems, including both the IVD and IVE screens. Reported problems across various models include screens going black, intermittent loss of audio, and connectivity failures.

The scope of the issue prompted ‘GMC’ to release a dealer bulletin, which states that engineering teams are investigating the issue.

For a vehicle that can be marked up by greedy dealers into the hundreds of thousands of dollars (and then lowballed due to high purchase prices and low demand!), this latest issue really puts both the car and ‘GMC’ in a very bad light—*Assorted Sources* 🍷

Ron's Rant

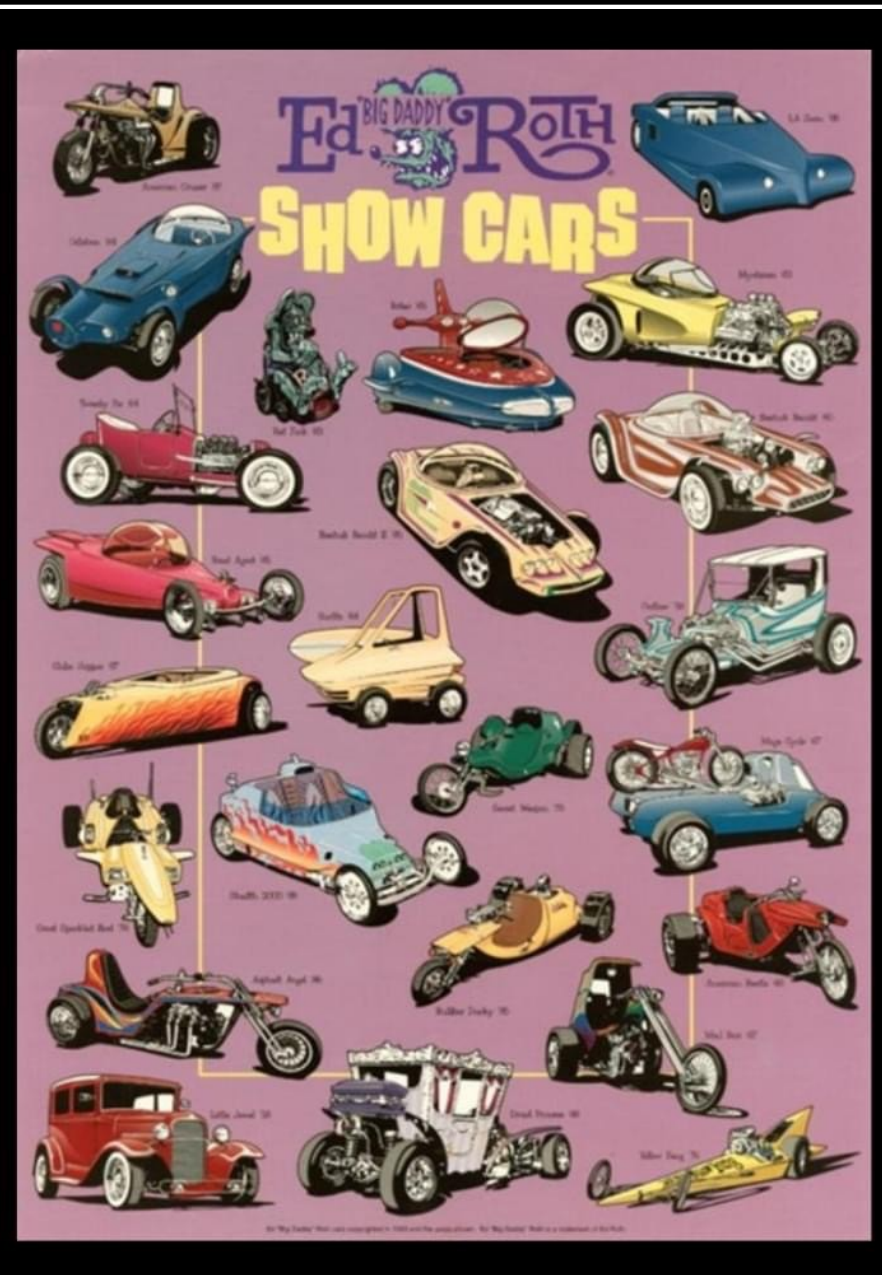
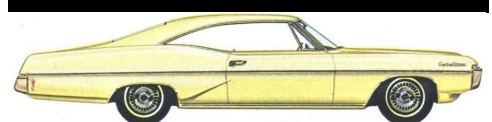


- AMT ‘36 Ford coupe Gasser
- AMT ‘58 “Unreal Edsel” funny car
- AMT ‘65 Coronet 500 Hemi hardtop
- AMT ‘65 Grand Prix 4 ‘n 1 hardtop
- AMT ‘69 “Funnyhugger II” Camaro funny car
- AMT ‘04 GTO
- AMT ‘12 “CSR Racing” Corvette coupe
- Atlantis ‘55 Bel Air hardtop
- Atlantis ‘56 Chevy hardtop 🍷

(1/25th, unless noted)



I See Pontiacs





This month, I am trying desperately to “shame” myself into getting some of my many projects that I have started but failed to complete (“Project Hell”!).

The first is the musclecar that started the modern craze, the GTO. And, what better “Goat” to choose to replicate than Arnie “Mr. Pontiac” Beswick?

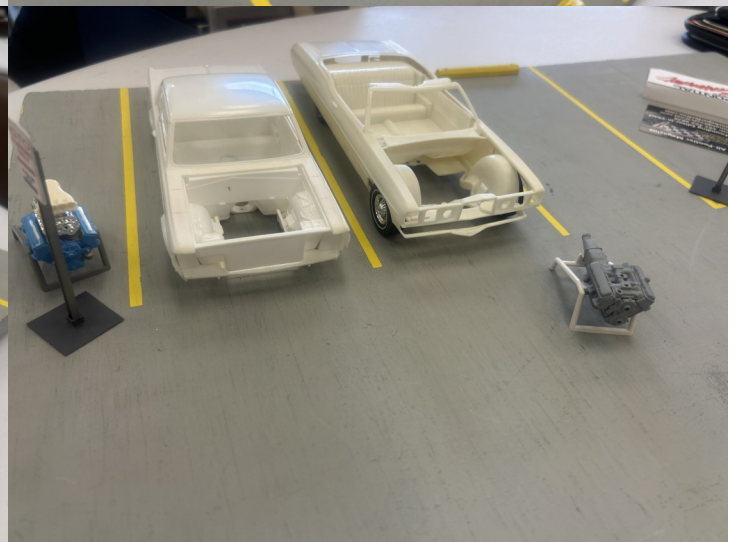
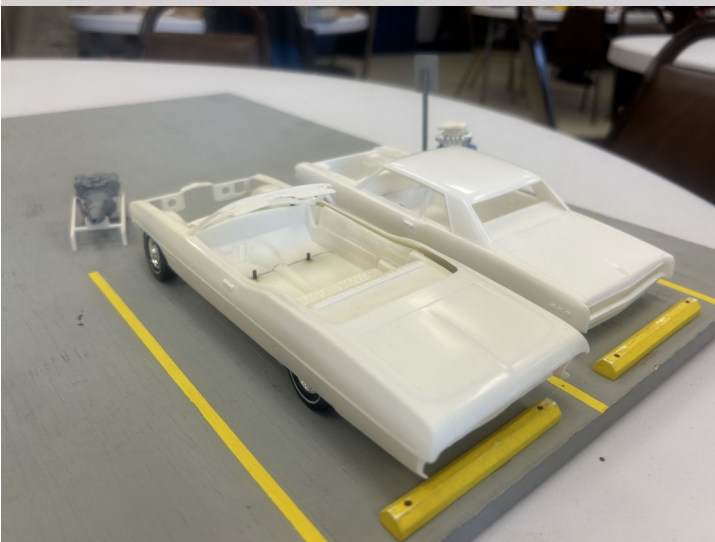
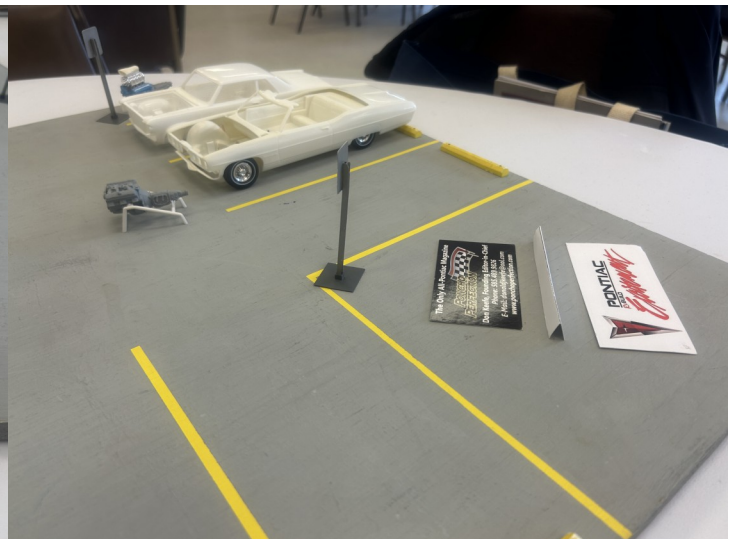
Next is a project that I had in mind which took center stage

when I saw the color combo that I wanted to use on this “big” musclecar. The idea was to equip it with 8-lug rims, a tri-power V8 and a 4-speed.

Here’s hoping that you’ll keep bringin’ and showin’ ‘em! ‘PoP’ (*Pontiacs on Parade!*)



Sickle signin’ off! And don’t forget—MAMA may not need all these Ponchos, but I’m diggin’ ‘em. Thanks!!—Tim 🍷



This is the newsletter of the
Maryland Automotive Modelers
Association

Chapter Contact:

Timothy Sickle
356 Makers Way
Martinsburg, West Virginia
25405
Email: gtoguy@verizon.net

MAMAs BoyZ do it in scale!



Mar. Theme

This month's theme is **Tri-Five Chevies**. Bring whatever your fertile imaginations can conceive of (*and you my need to be even more creative!*). So, let's all dig deep or raid your display cases, stashes or finish bench projects to display at the meeting, okay? Again, thanks to the **MAMA Presidential Monthly Theme selection sub-committee**, including **Don Sutherland**, **Lyle Willits**, and **Dino Lewis**—Tim 🍷

Websites

Central PA Model Car Club:

<https://www.cpmcc.org>

LIARS Model Car Club:

<https://www.longislandautoreplica.com/>

NNL East:

<https://www.nnleast.com/>

Carlisle Events:

<https://www.carlisleevents.com>

East Coast Indoor Nationals:

<https://motoramaproductions.com/east-coast-indoor-nats>

Online Event Calendar:

www.NortheastWheelsEvents.com

Club Contact Info

M.O.M. (cont'd)

(Continued from page 10)

dash

- ◆ As with the Jeep hot-rod, the headlight and taillight lenses on this build were also sourced from **Czech Truck Model**
- ◆ Wheel weights came from **Detail Master**

The only scratch-building on

this one is the distributor and tail pipe made of bent aluminum tube.

The body paint is Tamyia TS-46 Light Sand from a spray can and all other colors are Testors paint.

Because this mash-up of a CJ-5 and a Commando deviates from the normal appearance for either vehicle, I made a license plate decal for it that says, "DV8".

Great job on a double kit build, Tim—Tim 🍷

Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 11)

passive acceptance of a fundamental assembly-line error. It remains unclear how many units are affected, but considering the number of high-volume models involved, the total could easily climb into the hundreds of thousands. Dealers will likely handle the remedy by simply distributing physical manuals to owners who missed out. While the fix itself is minor compared to a mechanical defect, the scope



of the mistake highlights a strange breakdown in quality control across multiple assembly plants. If you recently took delivery of a new 2025 or 2026 'GMC' product, it might be worth popping the glovebox to see if you actually have a book in there.

'GMC' will notify owners of affected vehicles via mail, and instruct them to make an appointment with their local dealer.

Somebody should at very least get fired over that last one—Assorted sources 🍷

Classifieds

WANTED: Unbuilt '06 Dodge Magnum kit, #85-2019, or 85-4059 for a friend. Contact me at gtoguy@verizon.net, or see me at a meeting. Thanks! (Tim Sickle) 🍷



We're on the web!

<http://www.mamasboyz.org/>

President: Tim Powers, partsbox@broadstripe.net

Vice President: Dave Toups, davetoups351@gmail.com

Treasurer: Matt Guilfoyle, blackbuick1941@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Tim Sickle, gtoguy@verizon.net

Club Photog: Lyle Willits 🍷

