



MAMA Sez!

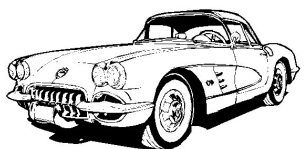
Volume 38, Issue 9 May, 2026

"Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 37 Years!"



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

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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 🍷

MAMA NNL Is History!

Last month's meeting was consumed with deciding on the themes for our 2027 NNL. Eventually, the themes chosen were **Pre-World War II vehicles (1939 and older)** and **Mustangs**. Mull these over, pick your poison and get busy for May 8th, 2027!

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 **\$127.00**, while the door added **\$191.00 (!)**. Paid the rent again—and then some! Thanks to the following donors: **Steve Autry collection**

(posthumously), **Kevin Buter, Steve M. Buter, Mike Costic, Jim Derreth, Matt G, Duane Hinton, Greg Johnson** (northern VA benefactor), **Dean Lewis, Mark Mason, Rich Meany, Mark Parkhurst, Steve Scott, Ken Shanks, yours truly, Replicas & Miniatures Co. of MD**

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MAMA NNL Results!

Our annual event took place as usual on the first weekend in May.

Before getting to the details regarding the winning entries and their builders, I would like to thank everyone who made the show possible: every MAMA member who put in their time and effort, and especially all of our door prize donors for their support. We had 161 happy attendees, and 380 models displayed.

As always, we couldn't do this without spon-

sors. So, kudos to the following sponsors:

- Raffle Donors**
(Aftermarket)
 3D Concepts, LTD
 Automobilia Resource magazine
 Automodello
 Bob Smith Industries, Inc.
 Gofer Racing decals
 ICM
 Mean Machine 3D
 Microscale Industries
 Neffy's Customs
 Scale Finishes
 Slixx decals
 USCP

VCG Resins by Reese Day of Show Raffle Donors

- Mike Abate
 - Lewis Hicks
 - Ed Isnardi
 - George Openhym
 - Mark Parkhurst
 - Steve Scott
 - Ron Shirey
 - Ricky Wallace
- Day of Show Make-and-Take Donors**
 Mike Costic
 Matt Guilfoyle
 Carl Michaelman

Thanks for all donations, and please do your best to support these businesses as they sup-

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MAMA Meeting



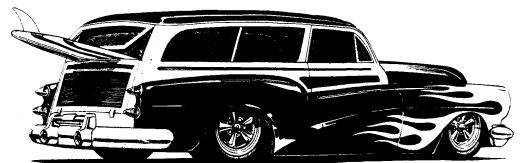
MAMA Meeting



Raffle Goodies!



Theme Table



M.O.M.*

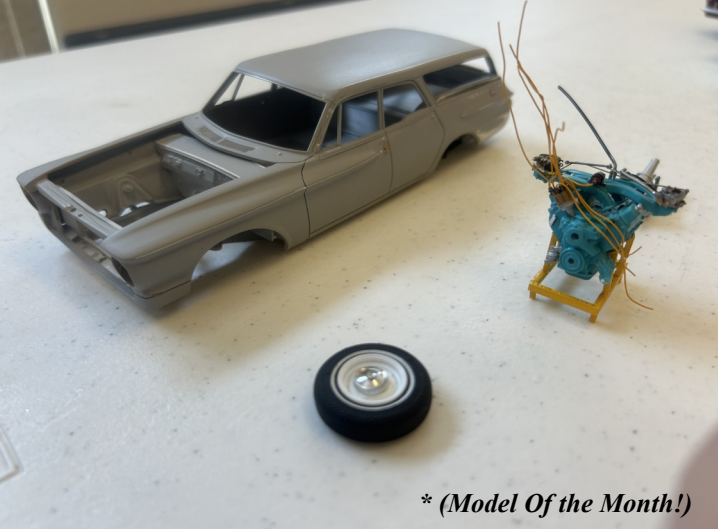
The April honoree for this “official unofficial” award is **Bob “Mr. Mopar” Guarino.**

Like me, I’m quite sure you have seen and followed Bob’s build of this unique station wagon at past MAMA club meetings.

Not very many detail were available at press time, but I have no doubt that Bob could’ve written a book about what and how he created this Plymouth station wagon conversion from a hardtop.

One thing that I DO know is that the wild 413 cross-ram V8 was correct for a 1962 Chrysler, but not a Plymouth.

Great job on a unique kit subject, Bob—I can’t wait to see the finished product—*Tim* 🚗

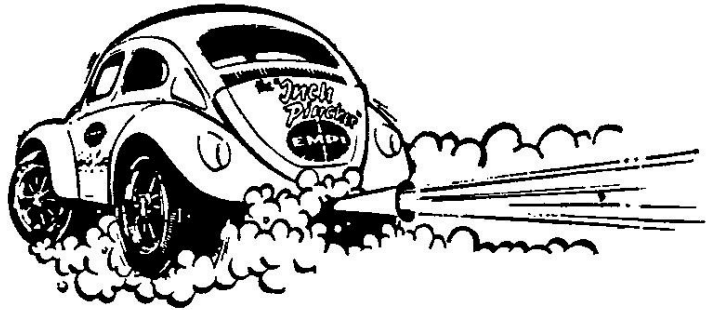


** (Model of the Month!)*

MAMA NNL! LOOK



John Dell'Osa's winning Curbside entry



Dan Essad's winning Street Machine entry



Dylan Thomas's winning Custom entry



MAMA NNL! LOOK



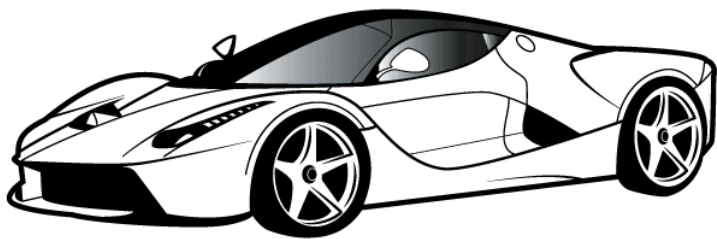
Marcos Cruz's winning Curbside entry



Jack Bouman's winning "F" Body entry



James Brannan's winning Truck entry



Vince LoBosco accepted both Competition and Best Adult awards for his '57 Ferrari Testarossa

A T-Bird Tale: Sometimes, We Just Get Lucky

We've all been in hot pursuit of some "Holy Grail" kit. Often, it's a model we first built as a kid, long since given away with other childhood treasures (*like that shoebox of baseball cards Mom made us get rid of when we went off to college or moved away from home*). But we *know* if we could just lay our hands on another one, we could relive those good ol' days—and build a much better version today.

So we search. Pre-internet, we'd hunt at model shows, classic-car swap meets, yard sales, dusty antique shops and musty Goodwill stores. These days, we can literally scour the world with online sellers like Spotlight Hobbies, Model Roundup, the sadly defunct Fred's Model World—and the global granddaddy of all yard sales, eBay.

Mostly, we'd find glue bombs in need of a careful stripping of extraneous parts and hand-brushed paint, followed by painstaking restoration. Curse you, AMT, for including cruiser fender skirts in all those otherwise wonderful annual kits from the late 1950s and early '60s! And why did so many kids back then feel compelled to glue literally *every* custom part onto those perfectly-replicated 1/25th-scale car bodies?

Every now and then, we might find a spray-painted survivor cleanly built by a careful child, or a skilled grown-up modeler—or even one untouched by paint of any kind.

Rarely, we might stumble across an unbuilt kit, in its original box, all parts present and ac-

counted for—and unassembled (*not even the engine block halves*). Unfortunately, these usually fetch crazy prices well into three figures. Lately, I've seen unbuilt AMT kits that cost \$1.49 sixty-odd years ago going for \$500 and up on eBay. Does anybody actually buy those kits? (*Raise your hands, you know who you are...*)

But rarest of all? One of those "unicorn" kits at an *affordable* price. Like the one I just found.

I love 60s Fords in general, and Thunderbirds in particular. I still have the 1962 Corinthian White T-Bird promo that came in the mail from Ford when I was eight years old. Over the years, I've managed to find 1963, '64, '65 and '66 Thunderbird promos in excellent condition on eBay at reasonable prices (*in the \$50-60 range*) and add those to my collection. But a good 1961 T-Bird eluded me.

Oh, over the years, I'd managed to find surprisingly clean, restorable, built-up 1961 T-Birds (*hardtop and convertible*)—but I sold them when I realized I had accumulated far too many models to build in multiple lifetimes. Still, driven by belated regret, I kept looking.

And then I recently found what appeared to be a nearly-pristine 1961 hardtop on eBay



with a starting bid under \$20. So I added it to my watchlist...and watched. AMT's Styline kits were un-built promos, plus a boatload of custom parts. This particular kit came in the original box, most parts still on their sprues, and from the listing photos it looked complete and untouched.

Too good to be true? Maybe. Would the bidding hit unaffordable heights? Probably. What would I be willing to pay for something I'd like but certainly didn't need? With a couple of days to go on the auction, I threw in a \$60 bid, which was the highest at the moment—certain I'd be outbid.

But I wasn't. Miraculously, I won this T-Bird for \$36 (*plus reasonable shipping under \$10*). That's right around what it would cost for a newly-reissued edition if Round 2 could find the tool and produce it today. Of course, there could still be unpleasant surprises waiting for me once it arrived in my eager hands—bent A-pillars, tire-melt marks embedded in the body, faded chrome in need of replating.

When it arrived, I opened it

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C8 Watch

In mid-April, a major vehicle crash in Southern California resulted in a C8 flipping off a freeway before landing next to a Maserati dealership. Amazingly, the driver and passenger in the C8 were not seriously injured in the crash. In addition, the incident was captured on camera by another motorist.

According to a report from KTLA 5, the incident occurred during the early morning hours of April 15th, 2026, in the City of Industry. The report states that Vette was traveling on the 60 freeway before it left the roadway, resulting in significant damage to the Maserati dealership and the

surrounding area.

Video recorded by what appears to be a rear-facing camera on another vehicle shows the Corvette sliding across multiple lanes of traffic before it leaves the roadway and goes airborne, flipping end over end multiple times before landing in front of the dealership located adjacent to the freeway. Additional footage from the scene of the crash highlights the heavy damage around the area of impact. Officials have not yet announced the cause of the incident, but looking at the footage and hearing witness statements, high speed appears to be the most likely cause.

A witness who spoke about the incident said that the Corvette collided with their vehicle while

driving on the freeway before the crash. The witness claims the Corvette appeared to be traveling at a high rate of speed before the driver lost control. According to the account, the Corvette and another vehicle were allegedly driving recklessly and may have been racing, and that the cars may have been traveling in excess of 110 miles per hour. For now, the California Highway Patrol states that there is currently no confirmed evidence that supports the claim that the Corvette was racing, and that for now, the incident is being treated as a property damage case. However, the investigation is ongoing.

Scratch yet another C8—*Assorted sources* 🍷

T 'n T

Hot Rod Pontiac! After the convention in Dallas, TX, Nick informed me that later this year (*likely in the Fall*), **Hot Wheels** will release a replica of the wildest Pontiac on the planet—the **1982 J2000 of Matt and Debbie Hay!** It will be in the **Redline Col-**

lector's club series, which are a notch above typical dollar cars in both quality and working features. Matt and Debbie Hay have been responsible for a series of Pro Street creations showcasing several manufacturers. This is actually the second of their cars kitted, the other one obviously being their hot pink 1988 Thunderbird. The unfortunate thing about this

release is its limited availability. It will go well with the four or five Revell kits in my collection (*Thanks to GM Authority, Autoweek, and other Internet sources for this insanity! Ya just can't make some of it up!! Thanks also to those of you in the Peanut Gallery who have helped entertain by sending stuff—I 'preciate it!*)—*Assorted sources* 🍷



New Stuff LOOK

Here are a few test shots that were displayed at NNL East. The '32 Chevy will be street rod only, I believe. No idea on release dates 🤖



1981 Chevy Camaro Z28 Street Machine MPC981



Hot Wheels Twin Mill Snap AMT1530



1963 Pontiac Lemans Convertible AMT1416



1972 Chevy Pickup Short Bed AMT1042M

NNL (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

port the show.

Congrats go out to all of the raffle winners, especially the *Automodello* special drawings:

- ◆ Prize 1: 1937 Delahaye—Kelvin Brown
 - ◆ Prize 2: 1987-92 Cadillac Allante—Chris Whalley
- What follows is a list of trophy sponsors.

- Competition:** Ron Shirey
 - Curbside:** Chris Whalley
 - Custom:** Bob Dudek
 - Replica Stock:** Lyle Willits
 - Street Machine:** Dave Schmitt
 - Street Rod:** Kitchen Table Scale Models
 - Truck:** Dave Toups
 - Tuner:** Diversified Scalerz
 - “F” Body:** Ron Leedy
 - Pickup:** Chris Whalley
 - Best Junior:** Bill Booz
 - Best Adult:** CPMCC
- Thanks to everyone who stepped up with trophy sponsorship.

With that said, here is the run-down on the builders chosen by

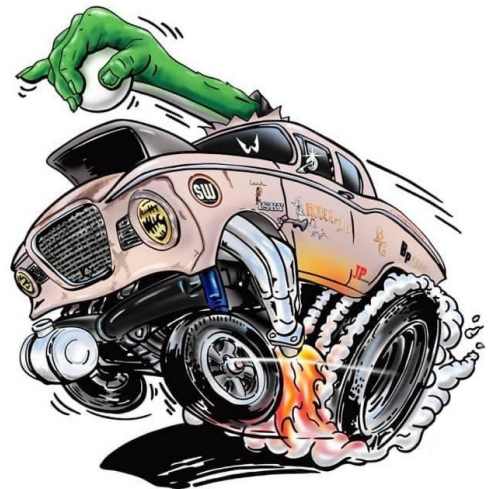
their peers for an award.

- Competition:** ‘57 Ferrari Testarossa, Vince LoBosco
- Curbside:** ‘59 Pontiac, John Dell’Osa
- Custom:** ‘66 VW Beetle, Dylan Thomas
- Replica Stock:** ‘70 Hemi Cuda, Marcos Cruz

- Street Machine:** ‘55 Chevy Belair, Dan Essad
 - Street Rod:** ‘29 Model A sedan, Dylan Thomas
 - Truck:** 9-car Hauler, James Brannan
 - Tuner:** Toyota KE17 Sprinter, Marcos Cruz
 - “F” Body:** ‘69 Camaro, Jack Bouman
 - Pickup:** ‘50 Chevy pickup, Jorge Ramos
 - Best Junior:** No Entries
 - Best Adult:** ‘57 Ferrari Testarossa, Vince LoBosco
- The hard work paid off, and we have every reason to believe



that a good time was had by all in attendance. See you in ‘27—*Tim P.S. Thanks to everyone for all of the Birthday wishes! Despite all the running, it was a good day 🍷*



T-Bird (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

up, expecting the worst—and found I'd managed to buy a true unicorn at a bargain price. The box isn't water-damaged, crushed or falling apart. The body, from what was then a brand-new tool, is still shiny. The chrome gleams. Even the vinyl whitewall tires are still soft.

It looks exactly as if seven-year-old me had just plunked down my buck-forty-nine (*saved from my allowance and birthday money*) on the Woolworth counter, watched the clerk ring up my purchase and slide it into a paper bag, and rushed home to sit down, open the box—and start gluing on a bunch of those custom parts.

Now, sixty-five years later, I found one unexpected bonus tucked inside—a message from the past.

I don't know about you, but when I buy an old model kit, I wonder about its history. Who first bought it, decades ago? How come nobody built it? How did it manage to survive fifty or sixty years? Usually, all I can do is speculate. But at the bottom of this '61 Thunderbird box, under the instruction booklet and de-

cal, there was this little Christmas gift tag. It says:

For Richie

From Dutchess & Queenie

DO NOT OPEN TILL
CHRISTMAS

Who were "Dutchess & Queenie"? Sisters? Aunts? Pets?? (*They do sound like dog names, don't they?*) I'll never know.

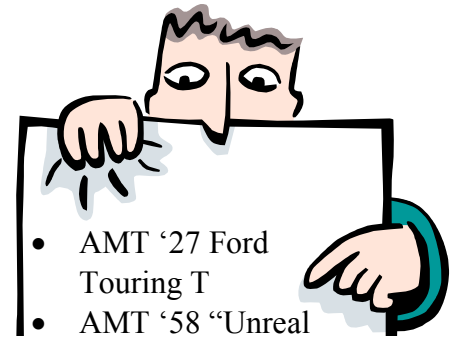
But Richie, whoever and wherever you may be, thanks for never getting around to building this Thunderbird. Or gluing on all those tempting custom fins and scoops.

Sometimes, we just get lucky.

by Howard Weinstein 🍷



Ron's Rant



- AMT '27 Ford Touring T
- 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 '69 "John Wick" Mustang
- AMT '70 "Supernatural" Chevelle SS
- AMT "Hot Wheels" Silhouette
- Atlantis '26 Mack Bulldog Dump Truck (1/24th)
- Atlantis '56 Chevy 🍷

(1/25th, unless noted)



This month was a “smorgasbord.”

Brian Beatty parked his **Orbit Orange ‘71 Judge** in the “Remote Reserved Parking” (front table).

I brought my **Burgundy ‘64 ‘64 Grand Prix**, joined by the **Automodello ‘88 Fiero GT** that I got in a deal that I couldn’t pass up. **Thanks again, Lewis!**

My final item is a future project. Back in the day, ‘GMC’

paired GMC trucks with Pontiac, making this okay. This one will end up as a “Fall Guy” GMC pickup, using Andrey Bezrodny’s 3D-printed bed.

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

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MAMAs BoyZ do it in scale!



June Theme

This month's theme is *Corvettes*. 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



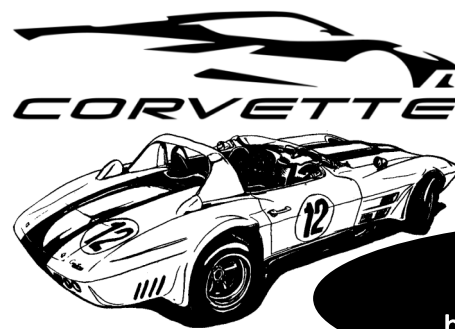
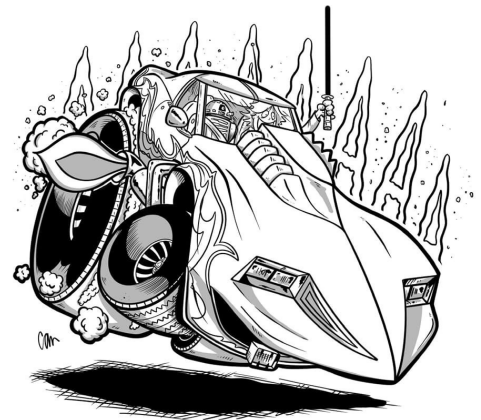
THE CAROLINA SQUAT HAS CREPT INTO JAPANESE CAR CULTURE

Intro (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

(Norman), and *Ron Shirey*. Thanks guys—we 'preciate it!

Before closing, I want to thank club members *Lyle Willits* and *Howard Weinstein*. I was struggling a bit putting this month's newsletter together, until they both came through. Lyle with the use of some of his renowned photography, and Howard for a piece on a grail find. Thanks, guys. I really appreciate it—Tim 🍷



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/>

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