

# MARYLAND AUTOMOTIVE MODELERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, No. 8 Apr. 1990

Editor: Tim Sickle

About 45 people were in attendance at the March meeting which was a surprisingly light meeting with no clinics or entertainment planned beforehand. Conspicuous by his absence was our fearless leader Norman who is apparently out of town for a short time (taking his show on the road?). Our illustrious (?!?) Vice President Larry "Hot Rod" Boothe filled in admirably.

At this time, I would like to say Howdy! to our new members: Wally Swift (Beltsville), Pat Howard (Hyattsville), Derald Carpenter (Laurel), Gary Frazee (Silver Spring) and Ron and Dave Roberts (Baltimore).

The March raffle raised \$88.50! MAMA video tape royalties totalled \$3.00. The club would also like to thank the raffle donors as shown below: Ron Hamilton, Jim Irby and Lyle Willits. Special thanks also go to Larry Welck for the soda & chip donation (the sale of which netted \$7.00 for the club treasury) as well as those as shown below:

Charlie Atkinson  
Family Hobbies  
5411 East Drive  
Baltimore, Maryland 21227

John Mauchamer  
Wheels Hobby Shop  
45 Waverly Drive- Unit 0  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

John O'Neill  
AMT/ERTL  
Highways 136 & 20  
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Jay Adams  
Monogram Models, Inc.  
8601 Waukegan Road  
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053

MAMA's Boys

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By: Tim Powers

Vinny Tufano's Customs are uniquely creative cars. Then again, Vinny is a unique individual. This 41 year old Medical Records Analyst for the Maryland State Department of Education has been building model cars for the past 29 years. For the last 9 of those years he has enjoyed a great amount of support from his loving wife, Teresa, who is always ready to offer Vinny praise for his modeling achievements. The fact that she's built a few kits of her own provides her with an appreciation of modeling skill and technique that few modelers' spouses can call upon when commenting on a newly completed project.

Vinny says he was happy to complete the questionnaire for this month's column. Oh well, I guess everyone has to have some eccentricity.

MAMA: Do you spend a lot of money on the hobby?

Vinny: Very little— a few dollars a month spent mostly buying cottage industry supplies from Norman at the monthly MAMA meetings.

MAMA: How long have you been building model cars?

Vinny: I started building model cars in 1960.

MAMA: Can you recall what the first model car kit you built was?

Vinny: My first model car kit was an old '56 Revell Mercury kit with one of those old fashioned multi piece body assemblies. I remember how disappointed I was with that kit. I was looking for an AMT kit but was "taken in" by the seductive box art of the Revell kit and bought that one instead. The kit was never finished, winding up in the garbage can a few days after I bought it. Nothing fit right. I remember the first good car kit I ever bought, an SMP 1960 Corvette. I really enjoyed building that one. Certainly, not a good kit by today's standards, but acceptable in 1960.

MAMA: What sparked your interest in model car building? How did you get started?

Vinny: I had been building model planes, ships, rockets and military models for years before being introduced to model cars in 1960 by my friend Ritchie. I remember him taking me to his home and showing me his collection of **Custom Car** and **Hot Rod** magazines, and his model car collection. I was "hooked" right there on the spot and have been building model cars exclusively ever since.

MAMA: How many built and unbuild model car kits do you have in your collection?

Vinny: I have 33 built models, about a dozen unbuild models, and I have had scores of other car models that, for one reason or another, have wound up junked!

MAMA: What kind of work area do you have? Is it dedicated to car models?

Vinny: My work area is barely adequate— just a home made work table about 1.5' x 1.5' x 2.5'. It's used just for my models, but it certainly leaves much to be desired.

MAMA: Where do you do your painting?

Vinny: I paint my models on the stairway leading to my basement outside of my home.

MAMA: What kinds of paints do you use?

Vinny: Currently, I use Testor's or Pactra spray paints, and, sometimes, Dupli-color.

MAMA: What kind of special tools and equipment do you have?

Vinny: Since I build my model kits with only one hand, I depend on a Black & Decker Hobbymate. It's a large vice-like device that is able to grasp my models and

allows me to work on them with my good hand. Other than that, I use regular modeling tools such as X-ACTO knives, hobby saws, files, tweezers, etc.

MAMA: Do you keep a big spare parts inventory for swapping?

Vinny: No, though I should have. When I need a special part, I go through my unbuilt kits in search of what I need.

MAMA: Do you use cottage industry products?

Vinny: Yes. I think they are excellent for those extra details and finishing touches, and I am happy that Norman makes a large variety of cottage industry items available to the club members.

MAMA: Do you build other types of models?

Vinny: Cars only.

MAMA: What's your favorite type of model car to build?

Vinny: Customs and Hot Rods, though I'm becoming interested in building some Street Machines which seem to be so very popular these days.

MAMA: What's your favorite scale to build in?

Vinny: 1/24 or 1/25 scale.

MAMA: Which is your favorite model company?

Vinny: Monogram. Their models have never let me down like Revell and some of the other model companies have.

MAMA: What older kits would you like to see reissued?

Vinny: Some of the old AMT and Monogram kits, especially the Ala Kart/'29 A combo, the old AMT '32 Ford sedan/Willys coupe kit, or the Dream Rod/King T kit. I'd also like to see an updated version of Monogram's old Green Hornet kit, and their 1930 Ford Phaeton kit, or a reissue of AMT's old Styline '57 Thunderbird kit with all of the styline parts

MAMA: What new subjects would you like to see produced?

Vinny: An '89 Toyota Corolla, so I can replicate my own car!

MAMA: What do you like most about today's kits? The least?

Vinny: The greater level of detail being produced into the kits, with photoetched parts and all! We still have kits being produced with the same old problems: parts that don't fit, and kits that are sometimes nearly impossible to assemble.

MAMA: What current projects are you working on? Future plans?

Vinny: A '49 Merc Custom with a chopped top, front and rear rolled pans, etc. I have some rare old 1/16 scale Aurora classic car kits I'd like to build. I have an old 1/16 scale Mercer Runabout and an old Stanley Steamer kit that I'm hoping to complete in 1990. I also have a 1/25 scale Auburn Speedster kit that I'd like to build into a Street Rod.

MAMA: Do you subscribe to any model car magazines?

Vinny: Scale Auto Enthusiast.

MAMA: What other hobbies are you involved in?

Vinny: Model Cars and Photography.

MAMA: Do you have any tips, suggestions or advice to anyone just starting into car modeling?

Vinny: Learn slow and take your time building models. Haste in building models is a sure way to ruin projects.

Also, learn and get ideas from reading the real car magazines.

**MAMA:** What do you like most about MAMA? The least? Suggestions for improvement?

**Vinny:** Meeting guys with similar interests and the pleasure of seeing the models of our fellow members. I get tremendous enjoyment in viewing the models of our members and have been greatly impressed by being able to see at the meetings, up close, some of the best models I have seen anywhere. I like it all.

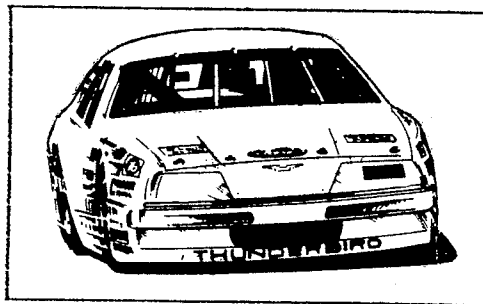
**MAMA:** Any further comments?

**Vinny:** Model car building is a great hobby. It costs little(!) and gives tremendous amounts of pleasure. I'm very pleased to be a member of MAMA and to have met such a great bunch of guys who are so friendly, generous and helpful. I'm also very pleased that Norman runs the club in such an intelligent and open manner. He never tries to impose his will on the members, and he is always respectful of opinions or suggestions made. I am pleased that MAMA is such a success under his leadership.

### "Zerex" Thunderbird Stock Car +

(Monogram # 2908; 1/24; one version; 119 pieces; white, satin chrome, clear, vinyl tires)

Hallelujah! Sing your praises to the heavens (and include the gang at Monogram while you are at it!). The manufacturers have finally seen fit to tool up a Winston Cup T-Bird for those of us with Ford blue (or even just Winston Cup racing) in our veins! Not since the 4 '83-'86 T-Birds of Rudd, Elliott & Earnhardt have we had T-Birds, the manufacturers opting for some strange reason not to tool up an '87-'88 "Bullet nose" T-Bird, leaving a conspicuous gap in NASCAR history now being filled by numerous cottage industries. (Editor's note: in all fairness, AMT/ERTL will be releasing several 1990 Winston Cup T-Birds starting with the "Coor's" car in May and will also be doing the "Citgo" car of Neil Bonnett and the "Zerex" car of Alan Kulwicki but we'll get around to those as they become available!)



Most of the running gear (engine, transmission, chassis, wheels, etc.) appear to be the same as earlier issue T-Birds (not to say that is bad!). The kit is molded cleanly and is free of flash. The real focal point of this kit obviously, is the body. It is molded in 4 pieces (body, front clip, hood & rear bumper). It appears to be a superspeedway car, having the roof rails & the rocker panel strip along the passenger side. The front clip has 4 screened-in openings-1 at the driver's side headlight, 2 on the bumper & 1 large one below the bumper. A minor problem which could be very easily corrected-the kit seems to be missing the passenger side door glass consistent with a superspeedway car. The front and rear clips fit together very nicely. While on the

subject, the glass is nicely done, being frosted on the back side where it will be painted black. This kit has a new & long awaited feature—front window braces which are separate pieces mounting to the dashboard and upper roll bar, allowing the window to be molded without the braces and installed independently of the braces. The rear glass still has the braces molded on which is fine. **The driver's seat is also new**, being the type that more fully encloses the driver to better protect him in the event of an accident. There is also some padding directly behind the driver's head on the roll cage which appears to be new as well.

The decals contain the orange to blue side stripe and appear to be registered very well. It would be necessary to paint the striping around the nose of the car in red and the blue around the rear to complete this colorful car.

On to the other new area of this kit—the "Plus" (no pun intended!) Monogram has included a 28 piece set of diorama accessories (including a seated driver figure). These include a very nice 6-piece large tool box, a 3-piece gas can, a 2-piece overflow can, 4-piece air tank, a pit board, an air wrench, a 6-piece jack (properly lightened, I might add!) and a 5-piece driver. It shouldn't be too long before we see some nice stock car dioramas as well as different sets of T-Bird decals not currently being modeled (Are you listening Fred Cady & JNJ?) I'm headed out to the Hobby Shop right now to lay in a case or two of these "Birds" to help round out my NASCAR Winston Cup collection, and I suggest that you do the same! (Editor's note: See NASCAR-related news item in "Bits & Pieces" section.)

by:Tim Sickle

#### BITS & PIECES

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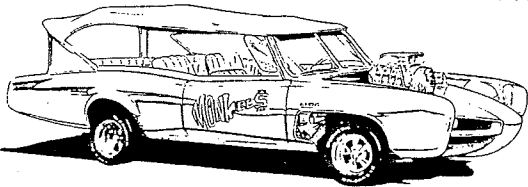
- \* We have our priorities straight, so we lead off with the important stuff. Thanks Muchly to Karen Roehrlé for the Brownies & Cupcakes (right, Larry?) and to Larry Welck for the sodas & potato chips!
- \* **New Kit News!** First of all, for NASCAR fans, how about not one, but 3 Winston Cup Luminas? Monogram will be releasing the Mello Yello, City Chevrolet & Hardee's Luminas from the soon to be released "Days of Thunder" movie about stock car racing starring Tom Cruise. These new stock cars will include new "state of the art" 1990 chassis & roll cages, complete trailing arm rear suspension, NASA side window intakes with ducting and spark plug wires. **Awright!** New releases from the gang at AMT/ERTL at the present time are limited to the "Dick Tracy" 1936 Ford 5 window coupe in their licensed line along with 2 Winston Cup vehicle assortments (one set will be tractor trailers while the other will be cars, both in 1/64 scale) which will include the "STP" Pontiac, "Kodak" Olds, "Citgo" T-Bird & "Country Time" Pontiac. Also being released will be a "Dick Tracy" vehicle set consisting of 4 old Fords of that era in both 1/64 scale as well as "micro machine" size. And last, but not least, a "Bigfoot" monster truck & tractor trailer.

- \* **Contest News!** The Hot Rod Model Car Nationals Regional Contest (Whew!) which was held at The D.C. Armory in connection with The Budweiser World of Wheels on the weekend of March 9-11 held some pleasant surprises for some MAMA members who made the loonngg trek from their home base of Baltimore to enter. Chad Fetter, Lyle Willits, John Kelly and Kelvin Brown all managed to receive awards of some type (which gets them an invite to the 1991 Hot Rod Nationals in Indy!) Way to go guys!
- \* **Hobby Shop news!** Family Hobbies will hopefully be open for business in their new location by April 2. Their new address is: 5411 East Drive, Baltimore, Md. 21227. Wheels Hobby Shop in Frederick is offering club members 10% off on their purchases! Thank yew verry much! Another Hobby Shop on the move—Touch's Hobbies, Crafts & Frames is relocating to the Annapolis area on or around the middle of April. Their new address is: 2341-I Forest Drive, Annapolis, Md 21401. They will be instituting a new release section for models in the new store and will also offer club members a 10% discount on their purchases as well as special ordering any new kit for you! Thank yew verry much as well!
- \* **Custom Fans!** Cadzilla has escaped! And apparently, Don Holthaus has it! (in his catalog, that is!) Larry Boothe already has his ordered (to the tune of \$35.00) Larry has seen it, and says it is the best yet! He should have it shortly, if anyone is interested in seein' it.
- \* Here we go again! "Little Wheels, the sequel". Harry Charon is interested in furthering his career as a producer and would like to line up interested modelers (and their creations!) for another video later this year. As in the past, copies will be made available to members (for a slightly higher nominal fee) as well as a donation to the club for every tape made. So c'mon guys, let's drag out (or build!) some fantastic plastic to help a struggling Producer/Director. 'Nuff said?
- \* Several of the local model car clubs (MAMA, Central Pa. Model Car Collectors and Car Addicts) are toying with the idea of joining forces to stage an NNL-Type Show/Swap Meet in this area! This would be a laaarrnggee undertaking, so anyone interested should consider this before they get too deeply involved! It does sound kinda neet, though!
- \* **Detail fans!** Our very own Jerry Flynn now has available the **Ultimate AN fitting!** They are custom machined brass bar stock with holes predrilled! According to Jerry, you merely slide them on, superglue, paint to suit and you are finished! Seven sizes are available as shown below:

BF-1 FOR .020 Wire	AN-1 for Multibraid 1
BF-2 for .026 Wire	AN-2 for Multibraid 2
BF-3 for .035 Wire	AN-3 for Multibraid 3
	AN-4 for Multibraid 4

8 fittings per package for only \$5.95. If interested, either see Jerry at a meeting or contact him at 7901 West

End Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21226, or call (301)255-3776 after 6 P.M. EST. We thank you for your support!



COMING EVENTS

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- \* May 3-6 (Thurs-Sun) - First Annual Philadelphia Model Hobby Show. For info, write Philadelphia Model Hobby Show, 2400 East Devon Avenue, Suite 205, Des Plaines, Ill. 60018 or call (312)299-3131.
- \* May 4-6 (Fri-Sun) - GSLMCC'S 11th Championship. For info, send LSASE with \$.45 postage to GSLMCC 11, 1348 Longdale Ave., Sandy, Ut. 84092 (Hey, Larry!)
- \* June 16 (Sat) - 4th Annual Northeast Challenge Model Car Contest/Swap Meet & Banquet held at the Holiday Inn on Route 46W in Totowa, N.J. For info, write E.C.M.A. c/o Tony Pocius, 449 Jauncey Ave., Lyndhurst, N.J. 07071.
- \* July 15 (Sun) - 1990 Model Car Collector's Association National Convention #8 held at the Sheraton-Springdale Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio. For info, contact Randy Wilson, 5416 Country Lane, Milford, Ohio 45150 or call (513)831-6879.
- \* July 15 (Sun) - 15th Pa. Model Car, Diecast & Kit Collector's Meet held in Gilbertsville, Pa. For info, contact John Carlisle, 409 Bewley Building, Lockport, NY 14094.
- \* July 13-15 (Fri-Sun) - 1990 Good guys East Coast Nationals held in Carlisle, Pa. For info, write Goodguys, P.O. Box 424, Alamo, Ca. 94507 or call (415)838-9876.
- \* Sept 3 (Sun) - Plastic East Model Car Show & Swap Meet part of Lead East Car Show/'50's Weekend. For info, contact Joel Naprstek, 76 Park Place, Morris Plains, NJ 07950 or call (201)285-0692.
- \* Nov 4 (Sun) - 16th Pa. Model Car, Diecast & Kit Collector's Meet held in Gilbertsville, Pa. For info, contact John Carlisle, 409 Bewley Building, Lockport, NY 14094.

CLASSIFIEDS

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WANTED-AMT Orange Blossom Special & 1/43 scale '57 Chevy. Call Dave Roehrl at 876-8007.

WANTED-AMT 1940 Ford Coupe kit. Call David Johns at 437-1893.

WANTED-AMT '37 Chevy Coupe rear fenders, AMT '49 or '50 Ford fender skirts, 1, 2, 3 or 4 blade spinners (for '50's cars). Call Al Branssee at 969-1737.

WANTED-Any Ferrari-related items as well as back-issues of Cavallino magazine. Call Harold Bradford at 604-8591.

WANTED-'87 & '88 Mustang GT's, '89 Regal Promo, 1990 Revell catalog. Call Tim Sickle at 249-3830.

FOR SALE (OR TRADE)-AMT "Kraco" Indy car, Monogram 1969 GTD Judge. What have you got? Let's talk! Call Tim Sickle at 249-3830.

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

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

Norman F. Veber  
7479-D Furnace Branch Road  
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061  
(301)768-3648

