

MARYLAND AUTOMOTIVE MODELERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 3, No. 2 Oct. 1990

Editor: Tim Sickle

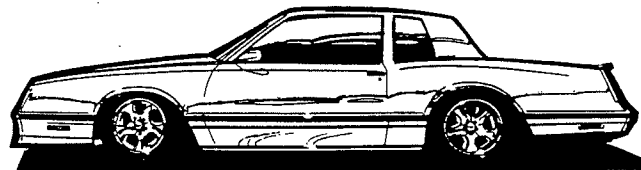
About 30 people were in attendance at the September meeting which, in case you missed it, was MAMA's 2nd Anniversary (YaY!). In commemoration of same, several club members supplied various food dishes (hot & cold), desserts, drinks & condiments. We actually found some rope strong enough to hogtie "Hot Rod" long enough so as to allow the rest of the club to partake in this feast! Seriously, the club would like to thank those who made this shindig possible! A list is published elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks also to Lyle Willits for his "Duplicolor demo"!

The September raffle raised \$72.00. The club would like to thank the raffle donors as shown below: "Hot Rod" Boothe, Al Branssee, Tim Powers, Dave Lewis, Ron Roberts, Harold Bradford & Replicas & Miniatures Co. of Md. Special thanks also go to those shown below:

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

Ed Sexton,
Monogram Models, Inc.
8601 Waukegan Road
Morton Grove, Ill. 60053

John Dewey,
Testor's Corporation
620 Buckbee Street
Rockford, Ill. 61101



***** PLEASE NOTE !*****

We will be located in room K-100 through the month of December. Be there! Aloha!

In last month's newsletter, there was an item about kit price increases of as much as 20% due to royalty and licensing fees. The following letter was received by Neil Vanzile Jr. (President of the Masscar Model Car Club) from George Pruetto Jr. - Director of Public Affairs Advertising of General Motors in reply to Mr. Vanzile's letter concerning the effect of GM's trademark & licensing policy on the model car hobby. The following letter is reprinted exactly as it appeared in the Masscar Model Club Newsletter of October 1990, where it appeared in exactly the form in which it was received from Mr. Pruetto:

Dear Mr. Vanzile:

Thank you for taking the time to write to General Motors so that we can clear up any misunderstanding that you may have about the relationship between General Motors trademark policy and the toy and scale model car industry. Contrary to the letter being distributed by a scale model car importer, Stevens International, General Motors has not "targeted" the model car hobby business nor are we seeking to impose excessive fees or royalties on manufacturers or to stop the importation of scale model cars into the United States. It would not be in our interest to do so. Unfortunately, Stevens International chose to distribute a letter full of false and inaccurate statements to the media and collectors, like yourself, rather than working with us to address their concerns.

We wish the toy and scale model car business to flourish and the companies manufacturing quality products to be successful. However, to ensure that the scale model cars and other products bearing the General Motors trademarks are safe and of acceptable quality, we require that certain procedures be followed.

Toy and scale model car manufacturers are required to have a current General Motors license agreement covering the vehicle and model names, emblems and vehicle designs they are using. The same applies to manufacturers of automotive parts and accessories, wearables, and other items bearing our trademarks. This has been GM's policy and practice for decades. It reflects GM's concern with the image and reputation of its trademarks in the marketplace and is consistent with legal requirements. Most toy and scale model car manufacturers are fully aware of our concerns and the legal requirements and are supportive because they have similar concerns in protecting the trademarks they own.

Over the past year, the U.S. Customs Service has become more aggressive in seizing counterfeit and unauthorized items bearing General Motors trademarks. Although we are primarily concerned with counterfeit parts and accessories, Customs has also seized some shipments of toy and scale model cars from unauthorized manufacturers, including a shipment destined for Stevens International. To avoid any interference with the importation of authorized toys and scale model cars, we provide U.S. Customs with an updated list of the names of licensed manufacturers. Some of the seized products, particularly those from Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China have been of such poor quality that we asked Customs to have them returned. Many manufacturers of high quality toy and scale model cars have advised General Motors that they support this kind of action. When Stevens contacted us and gave us all the necessary information about Customs seizing the shipment of scale model cars, we worked with Customs and the European scale model car manufacturer to resolve the matter and have the shipment released into the United States.

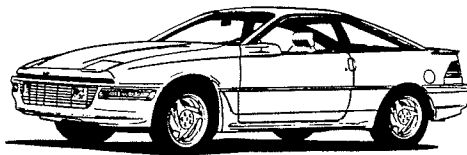
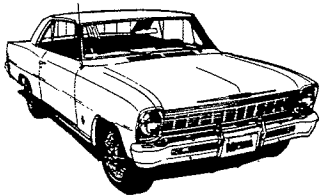
Your letter also questions GM's efforts to recoup a portion of its costs in servicing toy and model car companies by charging modest fees for the use of our trademarks and other services we provide. General Motors instituted this practice in the face of rapidly escalating costs relating to the control and

protection of our trademarks and the increasing costs incurred in the servicing of the many requests we receive from companies for technical information, vehicle specifications, drawings, photographs, old advertisements, and other types of assistance. Each of our vehicle divisions has had to commit additional personnel and other resources to respond to these requests for information and assistance. General Motors is not alone in charging licensing fees, as implied in Stevens' letter. While we do not confer with other vehicle companies on these matters, we know that many of them now charge for the use of their trademarks.

Many of the toy and model car companies are very profitable, and we believe that it is reasonable to expect them to pay their fair share for servicing their needs. We have met or spoken with the management of numerous toy and model companies, and they have consistently told us that our approach to licensing and the charges are very reasonable. In determining the terms of the licensing agreement, we always consider the financial condition and special considerations of each toy and model car company. For example, the "small cottage industry" companies have either been granted a royalty free license or been asked to pay a modest administrative fee. In numerous cases, our various car and truck divisions have accepted toys or model cars as partial or complete payment for the license fee. Many toys and/or model cars are used as promotional items by our divisions and dealers. Others have been donated to charities such as "Toys for Tots".

In cases where we have charged royalties, they are all substantially less than the six percent stated in some letters to General Motors and the twenty percent stated in Stevens' letter. Quite frankly, we have no idea where these numbers originated. Therefore, if some importers are looking to raise their prices by a minimum of twenty percent (which Stevens stated in his letter would be necessary), they are the ones profiteering and not General Motors.

I trust this answers to questions raised in your letter and allays your concerns and those of other car hobby enthusiasts like yourself.



Cordially,
(signed),
George Pruette

September Party Donors

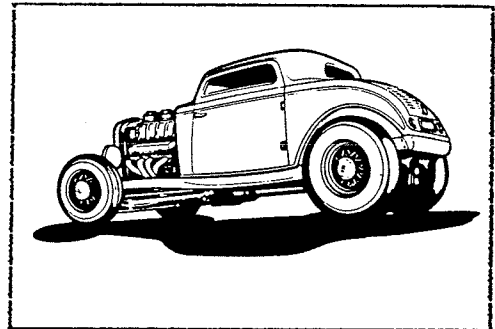
- Betsy (& "Hot Rod") Boothe.....Pasta Salad
- Karen (& Dave) Roehrle.....Cake & Dip
- Suzanne (& Harold)Bradford.....Meatballs
- Tim Powers.....Plastic Silverware (?)
- Norman Veber (& Mary).....Coffee
- Tim (& Nick) Sickle.....Sodas
- Al Gransee.....Paper plates & napkins
- Charlie Scheerer.....Cookies
- Chris Whalley.....Apple Crisp
- Mike Adams.....Deli Platter
- Ron Roberts.....Potato Chips

(Please Note: If your name and contribution do not appear here, it's not that we have forgotten you, it's just that your name wasn't listed. If in fact you did make a contribution and are not listed above, we apologize and thank you for your support!)

MAMA'S Boys

by: Tim Powers

If Al Gransee is on active duty in the United States Air Force and he builds models, doesn't that make him a military modeler of sorts? Seriously though, Al is 42 years old and stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland. Al is currently living in beautiful, downtown Glen Burnie with his wife of 11 and three-quarter years, Sherry. Al says Sherry backs his modeling all the way, but we have been as yet unsuccessful in confirming this fact. Here's what Al has to say about his adventures in scale modeling.



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

Al: An emphatic **yes** answers this one. I probably spend about \$75.00 on models, supplies, etc. But, also bear in mind that I buy other models such as Buragos, Polistils, etc. I also buy models for my friend in Europe and he in turn sends me items (preferably buildable!) that are more difficult to find here in the U.S.

MAMA: How long have you been building model cars?

Al: I started building model cars when I was about ten or eleven years old. Prior to that I built airplanes (Ed. Note: Those things with the wings!) as that is what was most readily available back then.

MAMA: What sparked your interest in model cars?

Al: My dad sparked my interest when he bought me my first kit (the T-Bird). He had bought it prior to our vacation thinking that it was an already assembled car and that it would keep me quiet on the trip. Needless to say, we were both quite surprised to open the box and see all the parts. He said "I'll take it back and get you something else." (Ed. Note: At which point Al responded, "over my dead body!"). I opted to take on the challenge of all those parts, and couldn't wait to start on it. That kit also met my dad's objective, it kept me quiet for darn near the entire trip to our vacation spot. That is what got me started and from then on I wanted to build nothing but cars.

MAMA: How many built and unbuilt kits do you have in your collection?

Al: Currently I have nothing completed. What I do have are several ongoing projects that are slowly, but surely nearing completion. I have 53 kits in my collection. It's probably one of the smallest collections around.

MAMA: What kind of work area do you have? Is it dedicated to model building?

Al: My work area is in the basement. Only a small area is dedicated to my model building. The rest is laundry and storage.

MAMA: Where do you do your painting?

Al: I do my spray painting outdoors.

MAMA: What kinds of paints do you use?

Al: I use all kinds of paints, but I really like Model Master.

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

Al: I have the normal array of files, pin vices, long beak tweezers, and a Dremel tool.

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

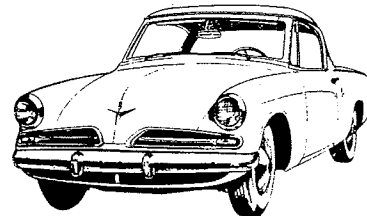
Al: Yes, and it just keeps growing. I'm not opposed to buying a kit for just a few parts to use on another project. When I have occasion to, I will use it for swapping.

MAMA: Do you use cottage industry products?

Al: Yes.

MAMA: Do you build other types of models?

Al: No, I build cars only.



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

Al: I've always had a soft spot for Street Rods, so I focus most of my building toward them. I also enjoy '50's and '60's cars, and an occasional Musclecar or an early dirt track stock car (Ed. Note: Hey, Tim Sickle! Here's where you might be able to pawn off that GTO dirt tracker!)

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

Al: 1/24 and 1/25.

MAMA: Which is your favorite model company?

Al: This is a hard question as I really enjoy the kits available from all the US manufacturers with the level of detail, etc. If I have to select one, I'd have to go with AMT. I think they've got the biggest selection of the type of cars I really enjoy.

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

Al: Without a doubt, I'd like to see the AMT '34 Ford Pick-Up truck reissued.

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

Al: I'd like to see a '34 Plymouth Coupe, a '34 Chevy Coupe or Sedan, a '57 Plymouth and some Model A Fords.

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

Al: I like the subject matter that they are choosing and the level of detail the manufacturers are achieving. I don't like the tires that AMT is including in most of their street rod kits.

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

Al: I'm currently working on a "smoothed" '41 Plymouth Coupe and a '32 Ford Vicky. Both are Street Rods. For the future I've got a chopped '33 Vicky, a non-chopped '33 Willys Coupe, and a '34 Ford resto rod planned.

MAMA: Do you subscribe to any model car magazines?

Al: Yes, I subscribe to Scale Auto Enthusiast, Car Modeler and the Blueprinter.

MAMA: What other hobbies are you involved in?

Al: I enjoy football (both college & pro), golf and most all forms of auto racing along with Custom Car/Street Rod shows.

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

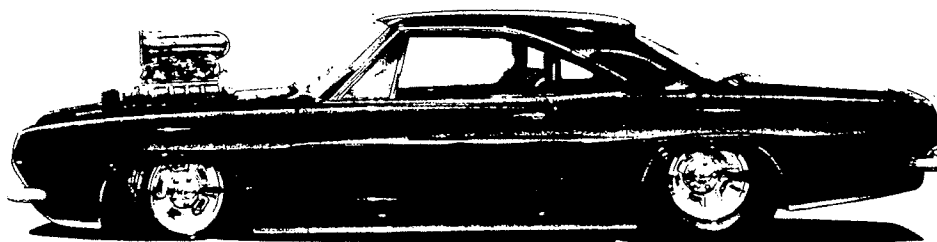
Al: First of all, I'd suggest getting involved with a group like MAMA, start easy and progress from there, practice patience, experiment and ask questions. Learn from your mistakes.

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

Al: Everything. We don't meet frequently enough. I'd like to see, and be involved in, some group projects.

MAMA: Any closing remarks?

Al: I think the club is heading in the right direction. Jus' keep on keepin' on, and the club can only get better. Thanks for the interview.



BITS & PIECES

- * Well gang! It seems as though another of our members has gained some measure of notoriety. Tim Powers was able to fill a need for a local PR (as in public relations) firm for some built-up kits to be showcased in a print ad for a mass mailing in the D.C. area. The ad was for Precision Tune and shows a bird's eye view of Tim's Monte Carlo SS & ZR1 Corvette "burnin' rubber" off the page while offering two tune ups for the price of one. Tim, Norm and myself have copies of the ad if you wish to see it. Hey, Tim! If you figger out how they got those two cars to do that, let me know, OK? And, speaking of notoriety, another of our members, specifically, Dave "Junkman" Roehrl, managed to get yet another of his vehicles pictured in the latest issue of SAE. It was his outrageous '49 Ford (with not one ounce of rust on it, I might add!). Keep this up Dave and we'll just have to rethink that "Junkman" moniker! Congratulations to both of you on your successes!
- * And, speaking of "Hot Rod", he is desperately seeking warm bodies interested in attending the **Second Annual AMS Convention in Charlotte, N.C. on Nov. 10 & 11.** If interested, give Larry a call at 972-7098 or see him at an upcoming meeting.
- * "Little Wheels, again!" the video will soon be a reality! The dates? Oct. 27 & 28. For all interested parties, Our Producer, Harry Charon & his Executive Producer, Chris Charon (look out Spielberg & Lucas!) need names & phone nos. of interested participants to allow him to set up placards to identify the builders. The cost for this celluloid masterpiece will be \$12.00 along with a blank tape. Please advise Harry & Chris as to which day you will show up for the "shoot" and then show up! Any questions?
- * **Rumor mill!** "Word on the street" has it that an unnamed kit manufacturer will be producing a 1955 Chevy Cameo Pick-up truck in 1991! Hopefully, this is one rumor which will pan out!
- * **Bad News!** It seems as though Gary McNutt had one of his display kits damaged at the September meeting. While it may have been done by a new attendee, it seems a good time to remind everyone--**Please do not touch or handle someone else's masterpiece!** If you want to get "up close and personal" with something on display, find the owner and ask his assistance. I'm sure he would be more than happy to assist you as well as answer any questions you may have!
- * **Hobby Shop news!** This month, we have one hobby shop moving and one new shop. Family Hobbies is moving to their new and larger location at 1348 Stevens Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21227. The new hobby shop is Hobbytown USA. and is located in Burtonsville at Routes 198 & 29. The manager(s) are John and Silvia Southan. Tentatively, their hours are Monday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you stop in, let 'em know who you are with

and get on their mailing list! And let's extend an open invitation to John & Silvia to attend our meetings and join in on the craziness!

COMING EVENTS

- * Oct 13 (Sat)-NNL Nationals #11 in Maumee, Ohio. For info, send SASE to John Strick, 6354 Smith, Brook Park, Ohio 44142 (Ed. note: also known as "the longest day!" by past attendees!).
- * Oct 14 (Sun)-41st Toledo Collector's Toy Fair in Maumee, Ohio. For info, write John Carlisle, 409 Bewley Bldg, Lockport, NY 14094 (Ed. note: If you can't find it here, it doesn't exist!).
- * Oct 21 (Sun)-Chesapeake Miniature Vehicle Collectors' Club Twentieth Collector's Toy Show in Shrewsbury, Pa. For info, call Joe Golabiewski at (301)592-5854 or Carl Daehnke at (717)741-3334.
- * 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.
- * Nov 4 (Sun)-Capitol Miniature Auto Collectors' Club 1990 Fall Meet in Fairfax, Va. For info, send SASE to Charles Francis Wilding, 10207 Greenacres Drive, Silver Spring, Md 20903 or phone (301)434-6209.
- * Nov. 10-11 (Sat & Sun)- Second Annual Automotive Modelers Society National Convention & Contest in Charlotte, N.C. For convention & contest info, call or write Scott Adams, 934 Montford Dr., Charlotte, N.C. 28209, (704)523-1518. For swap meet info, call or write Larry Reitz, c/o Deb's Model Car Emporium, 8909 Independence Blvd, Matthews, N.C. 28105, (704)847-4553.

CLASSIFIED



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

WANTED-AMT 53 Ford F-100 Pick-Up kit, built-up or junker, if usable. Revell '68 Corvette L88 hood (not '69) and one set of 1/25 scale '63-'67 Corvette factory side exhaust pipes, if they were ever made? Will pay reasonable prices or trade for items listed above. Contact Lyle Willits at 799-8766.

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

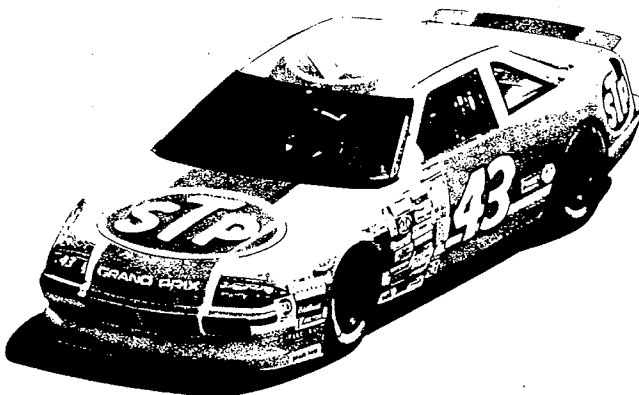
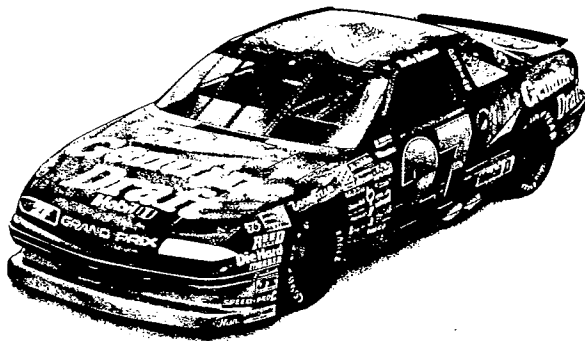
WANTED-Decal sheet for Monogram Corvette Pace car kit #2253. Call Tim Powers at 255-3976.

WANTED-4 Bob Glidden Pro star mag wheels (fronts only, if possible!). Contact Darian Willits at 799-8766.

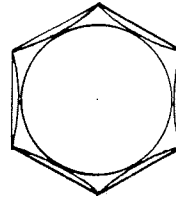
Anyone having an item for the Newsletter whether it is a Bit, a Piece or even a Classified, it can be included by contacting one of the individuals listed below:

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

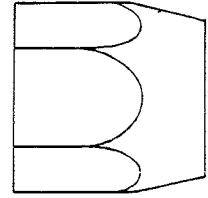
Norman F. Veber
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(SUNG TO THE TUNE OF "WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD"!)

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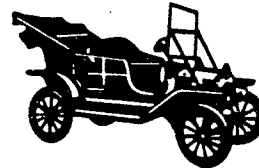
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