

MARYLAND AUTOMOTIVE MODELERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 4, No.12 Aug 1992

by: Timothy Sickle

About 36 people were in attendance at the July meeting which had as its highlight a clinic on opening doors by our own Larry Boothe. Thanks, Larry!

The raffle raised a total of \$79.50 (\$59.50 in the raffle and \$20.00 at the door). The club would like to thank the raffle donors as shown below: Matt Guilfoyle, Randy Paschke, Mike Adams, Nick Sickle, Eric Novak (Model Tech), Frank Andersen, and Replicas and Miniatures Co. of Md. Special thanks also go to those as shown below:

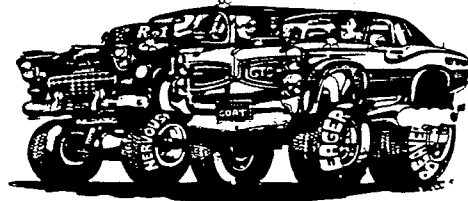
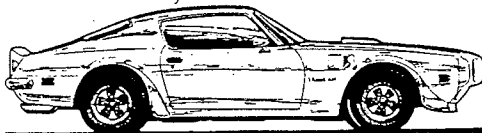
Tim & Dawn Powers,
Scale Resin Detailers
808 224th Street
Pasadena, Md. 21122

Charlie Atkinson,
Family Hobbies
1348 Stevens Avenue
Baltimore, Md. 21227

John Mauchamer,
Wheels Hobby Shop
45 Waverly Drive, Unit O
Frederick, Md. 21701

Gary Becker,
The ERTL Company
P.O. Box 500
Dyersville, Ia. 52040

Dan Johns,
RPM Craft House Corporation
328 N. Westwood
Toledo, Ohio 43607



It also bears mentioning at this time that Dirk Johnson (a.k.a. Detail Master, P.O. Box 1465, Sterling, Va. 22170) will be a very active supporter of not only our club, but many other clubs across the country as well. It's up to us to actively patronize Detail Master in appreciation of his continued support [Ed. Note: With the detail items he has currently available (or on the way!), I don't believe this will be a problem!]

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

The meeting schedule has been set for the Fall Semester and is as follows (pay attention, 'cause there will be a test on it at the end of this newsletter!): August 15 (In the Barn), September 19 from 12-5, October 17 from 12:30-5:30, November 21 from 12-5, and December 19 from 12-5. All meetings other than August will be in Room K100. Got it? Be there, Aloha!

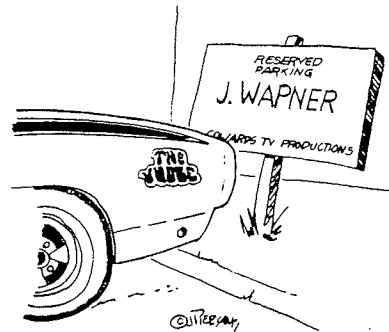
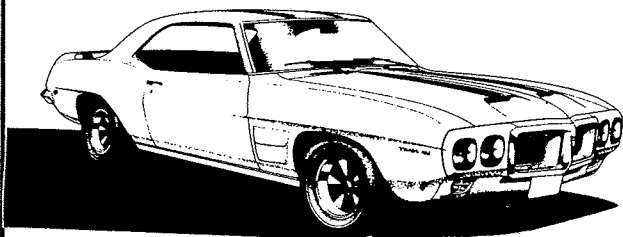
20th Anniversary Pontiac-Oakland Club Grand National Convention
by: Tim Sickle

The 20th Anniversary Pontiac-Oakland National convention was recently held under beautiful skies in Gaithersburg, Maryland. This was the first time a national convention was held on the east coast, and from all indications, it was quite successful. In talks with one of the show promoters, 300 cars were pre-registered before the show even started on Thursday, July 8. Final figures were unavailable at press time but take your humble editor's word for it, they had quite a turnout! I knew I would have a good time when, in walking across the hotel parking lot, I was very nearly run down by a restored original 1970 GTO Judge resplendent in its Orbit Orange paint job, rumbling from its twin tailpipes (Ed. Note: In 1970, Pontiac nicknamed this car "The Humbler" and I can see why!).

It made no difference where your tastes ran, they had something for everybody. Starting with some original, restored Oaklands from the 30's, you could find fuel injected Bonneville's, Tri Power Bonneville's, 2 + 2's, Tempests, Grand Prix's. However, the emphasis seemed to be on Pontiac muscle with many fine examples of it in attendance with every year GTO, and Firebird represented. GTO's present included the "first musclecar" '64 vintage, the lithe '65-67's, the sleek '68-'72's, and even included the "option status" GTO's of 1973 and 1974. Everywhere you looked, all you could see were GTO's so clean, you could eat off of any part of them, lots of chrome and first and foremost, that most magical of all GTO options, **Tri Power!**

The Firebirds were well represented as well. Anything from the first generation 1967 Firebirds, from Overhead cam 6's to 400's, 350 HO's, to the first Trans Am ('69). The second generation ('70-'81) was well represented also. '70-'73 Trans Ams equipped with anything from the stock 400 to the rip-snorting 455HO and 455SD could be easily found. The third generation was also even represented with a 1991 1LE Trans Am (supposedly one of only 17 produced!) and a 1991 Formula.

MAMA was well represented at this show. Our illustrious President, Larry Boothe was tapped by a good friend of his to judge a Pontiac-only model car show (for participants only) and Larry contacted yours truly for moral support (plus, I seemed to be one of the only club members to have any Pontiac models built to display!). When it was all said and done, Mike Adams, Irv Arter, Larry Boothe and myself ably represented the club to the "full size" Pontiac guys, proving to many people that model car building is not just for kids anymore. All in all, a nice sunny day, spent shooting some beautiful machines and soaking up some rays at the same time. Could you ask for anything more? Next year's convention will be held in sunny California. Maybe if I'm real good this year, Ol' Santa will leave some plane tickets in my stocking, ya think?



Painting Lights and Markers by: Chris Breeze

Most newer kits come with lights and markers in appropriate colors, already molded in clear red and amber. However, many of the older kits, and re-issued ones display a real lack of quality in this area. So a few simple steps will help your lights look more realistic.

Chrome Headlights:

Many older kits came with the headlights and bumpers molded together, then universally chromed. Headlights are not chrome, nor do they look chrome. You can easily change their appearance by taking flat white paint and "washing" it over the chrome lens area. Using a little paint thinner will make the white flow easier and show off some of the chrome from the underside of the paint. If nothing else, this will add a contrasting look to the lenses.

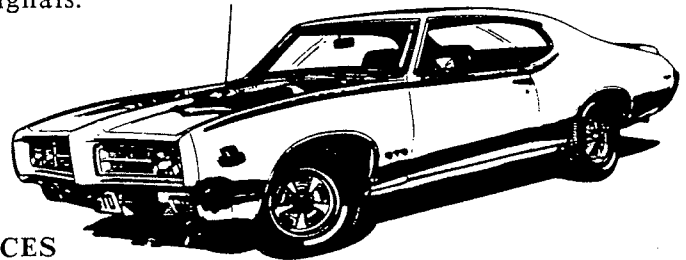
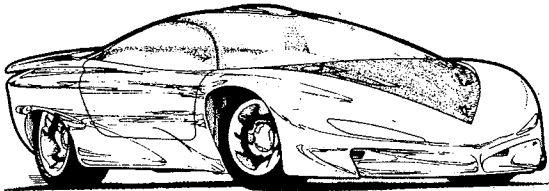
These same old front ends had molded turn signals in them as well. Either base coat them in white and then overcoat with **amber**, or use the **amber** straight up. Never leave these untouched or the models will look like promos or toys.

Also, if you have to paint chrome tail lights or marker lights, several methods may be utilized. You can base coat the light with a darker hue of red or orange, then overcoat with **TESTOR'S Turn Signal Amber** or **Stop Light Red**. This will give the appearance of the lights being off. If you simply apply the amber or red paint over the chrome without the basecoat, it will appear translucent as if the light is on.

Clear Lenses:

If you have red tail light lenses and want to change their appearance, several methods may be employed. Painting the rear of the lens with white will brighten them, painting them with solid red will darken them. Chrome foil may be used on the car body or paint the area behind the tail light flat white. I would suggest the latter if you are painting the car a dark color.

Turn signals and marker lights are often overlooked by model builders. Since most marker lights are molded into the body, you should either foil them or paint them flat white and overcoat them with the amber or red. **Do not use chrome silver paint** and try to topcoat it, or you will end up with a grubby looking mess. See above for chrome markers or turn signals.

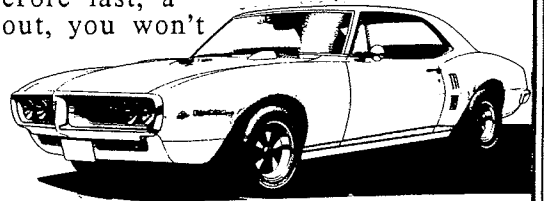


BITS & PIECES

- * **Food! (Sit down, Larry!)** As always, we have **Dave & Karen Roehrle** to thank for the always well-received brownies. Thanks, guys, we needed that!
- * **T-Shirts!** Shirts were discussed at last month's meeting. If you are interested, you need to speak with **Dave or Karen Roehrle** to sign up for your shirts in whatever quantity and size you like (as well as coughing up some

dough for same! They should run about \$6.00-\$6.25 each). If you don't sign up, don't be upset when the shirt order comes in and you don't get one. We thank you for your support!

- * **Congrats!** MAMA's boyz have done it again! Now appearing in the latest issue of **Car Modeler** under coverage of NNL East are Charlie Scheerer's '87 **Buick Regal El Camino** and Norman "Dear 'ol dad" Veber's (MAMA's founding father!) **Ford GT40 MkII**. Also featured was John Currie's display of '55 to '57 Mercs. While John isn't a "MAMA's Boy", many of you will remember him from our NNL show this past April. Congrats to everybody!
- * **Attention Roundy Rounders!** (as opposed to 1/4 pounders!) New decals on the way from **Blue Ridge Decals** include # 28 "Havoline", #15 "Motorcraft", #55 "Jasper Engines", #71 Dave Marcis (Daytona Markings), #73 "XR-1", #11 "Budweiser" (!), #83 "Purex", and dash gauge decals just to name a few! Interested? Contact them at **523 Merrimon Ave., Ashville, NC 28804 (704)253-7648** and tell 'em I sent ya! Thanks to our own **Gary Sutherlin** for the info!
- * **Car Show!** A late addition to the car show circuit- **2nd Annual Cruise to the Country Car Show** hosted by the Myersville Vol. Fire Co. The date, you ask? How 'bout **September 19** (rain date is September 26) at the Myersville Fire Hall, Main Street, Myersville from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Car Cruise 5:00-6:00 PM, and 50's and 60's dance from 6:30 PM until ? Expected to show up will be Street Rods, Street Machines, Stocks, Customs, as well as full size and mini trucks (both 2- and 4-wheel drive). There is a \$2.00 spectator "donation" (sounds cheap at twice the price!), so if you're in the area, stop in and check 'em out!
- * **Car Show, too!** Another late addition to our car show regimen would have to be the annual **Lion's Club event** at **Laurel Raceway in Laurel, Md.** This show is scheduled for **August 29** from 8 AM to 5 PM. and there will be a \$4.00 admission charge. Anyone who has attended this event in years past will tell you that it is well worth it because this show attracts **antiques, classics, street rods, street machines, and restored musclecars** (year before last, a **Thunderbolt** was in attendance!). Check it out, you won't be disappointed!



Tri-Axle Gravel Trailer (AMT # 8628, Retail cost \$18.00)

This is a long-awaited re-issue of a very popular trailer that now commands a price of about \$80.00 in the original box. I was eagerly anticipating delivery on this AMT classic and had actually never seen it in its original form. I must confess to some disappointment at what finally arrived. Not that the kit was unsatisfactory to the point that I would pass it up, however there were quite a few shortcomings and some major defects in this kit.

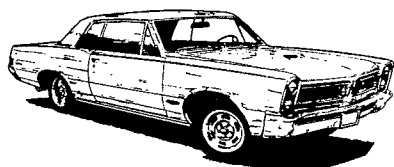
The kit was molded in Grey only, with 12 very nice hollow rubber tires and clear red for lenses (no orange marker lights as one would expect for a trailer). There were 86 major parts not counting the tail light lenses, which makes this a rather simplistic kit.

Features include rolling axles, air lines, hydraulic lines,

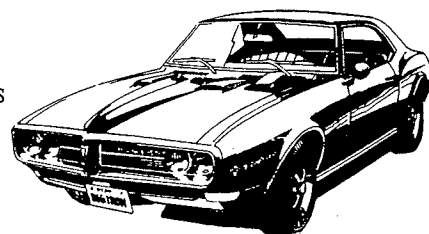
opening tail gate and the hopper can be in either full up or full down position. The molding is very nice with virtually no flash. One good feature which might be debatable is the fact that the wheels were unusually free of chrome. Most AMT kits come with chromed wheels, and in most cases I paint them, especially on utility trailers or fleet trucks. But it is far easier to paint over chrome, than trying to match chrome over plain plastic. So this is certainly a debatable proposition. One of the best features, which was a surprise, since it is not noted on the kit box, is the extra part if you desire to build a regular dump body rather than a trailer. It comes with a complete modification set including an over-cab protector, an extended exhaust stack, frame rails, and the hopper is marked inside for modifying it for the short version. On the short side of this kit, there were some rather obvious failures. The trailer was double-walled, but the tailgate wasn't, which made for a rather unpleasant appearance in the back side of the mold. This had to be covered with sheet styrene to match the hopper. Also, the inside of the trailer support struts that support the trailer when it isn't attached to the cab were devoid of an inside cover or crossmember. Both of these areas needed correction. The "legs" could only be assembled in either the up or down position. The hydraulic fluid reservoir had no bottom to it and was not designed to be mounted on the trailer frame but rather an accompanying tractor. The rear of the trailer was designed to have a pin hitch for tandem trailers as well as rings for emergency chains. Only after these items were added did I realize that they inhibited the trailers full upward tilt (not that it mattered much, since it will remain down in my collection, but it is these stupid design flaws that try one's patience). The most obvious defect was the fact that the trailer has a nasty twist in it. It is somewhat more than slight, about 1/8", but it is obvious when sighting down the trailer's length.

Scratch-built items added to the trailer include a slide chute for sand. This was designed to be operated by compressed air cylinders on either side of the chute. It is movable, so it may be opened or closed. Also, a tarp frame (as required by most states now) and a cargo of sand will be added over a styrofoam base.

Overall, the kit is a pleasant addition to my ever-increasing collection of trucks, and somewhat overpriced for the number of parts, the occasional lack of detail and poor design, but I am still very glad AMT has decided to re-issue it. I have another on order.



by: Chris Breeze,
Tri State Scale Modelers



Sneakin' a Peek!

This column will appear as frequently (or infrequently!) as new releases from the manufacturers. The idea behind it is to give a "thumbnail review" of the releases as they hit the shelves with a detailed review to follow at a later date (hopefully!). We'll see how it goes!

* **Batskiboat** (AMT #6615): Molded in black...Snapfast Plus kit...Box art changed to Cartoon-style (for the kids?)...
...minimal piece count (less than 20 pieces)...typically good AMT instructions w/painting suggestions and building tips.

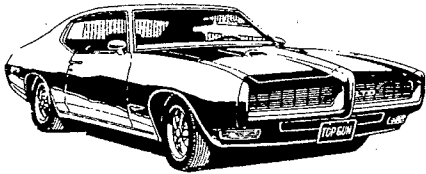
* **Snapfast "Purolator" Lumina** (AMT #8722): Molded in White/Black....uncharacteristically fuzzy decals...(red) checkerboard provided, leaving builder to paint front half of car proper color....nearly flash-free....usually good instructions....colorful box art using photos of actual car.

* **Snapfast "Motorcraft" T-Bird** (AMT #8730): Molded in Red/black....nice, crisp Motorcraft markings....remainder similar to "Purolator" Lumina above.

* **Snapfast Viper RT/10** (AMT #6456): Molded in Red/Black....deeply tinted windshield and headlight covers....separate roll bar (similar to "Big Brother")....big and bigger open-backed Michelin XGTZ tires....strange extra plastic "rim" evident between spokes of big and bigger Viper wheels....separate mirrors.

* **Snapfast Ford F-150 XLT** (AMT #8739): Molded in Lt. Blue/black....tailgate trim decal, Ohio plates, nice "strobe" stripes....very nicely done F150 body w/all trim and emblems....odd-looking front bumper....rear step bumper and hard tonneau cover....Ford 10-hole mags....plastic open-backed tires w/nice Firestone sidewall detail....instructions include painting instructions (ala "big brother").

* **"Philips 66" T-Bird** (AMT #8754): Molded in Lt. Gray.... ..again, great box art using photos of actual car...colorful decals....remainder identical to earlier T-Birds.



COMING EVENTS

- * Aug. 21-23: **Chryslers at Carlisle** at Carlisle Fairgrounds in Carlisle, Pa.
- * Aug. 26: **Mountain Motor Nats** at MIR (Wednesday night!). Only one rule-there ain't no rules!
- * Aug 28-30: **'Vettes at Carlisle** at Carlisle Fairgrounds in Carlisle, Pa.
- * Aug. 29, 30: **1992 NMCA Flowmaster Muffler Muscle Car Challenge** car show 'n shine, drag racing, nostalgia Super Stock class, swap meet, car corral, model car show, manufacturer's midway at Maple Grove Dragway in Reading, Pa.
- * Sept. 17-20: **Sunoco Keystone Nationals** at Maple Grove Dragway in Reading, Pa.
- * Sept. 18-20: **Fallfest '92** at Prince William Fairgrounds in Manassas, Va.
- * Oct. 1-4: **Fall Carlisle** at Carlisle Fairgrounds in Carlisle, Pa.
- * Oct. 3: **Royalfest '92 Model kit Contest** and swap meet. Contest theme: **Musclecars of the '60's & '70's**. Event to be held at the Front Royal Youth Center on Commerce Ave., Front Royal, Va. Doors open at 10 A.M., registration from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., judging to begin at 1 P.M., awards presented at 4 P.M. Admission-\$3.00 per contestant, \$10.00 per vendor table (limit 2), General admission \$1.00. For further info, call Mark's Models and Toys at (703)635-TOYS (8697).

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED- Old Woodies. Call Eric Novak at (410)391-4627.

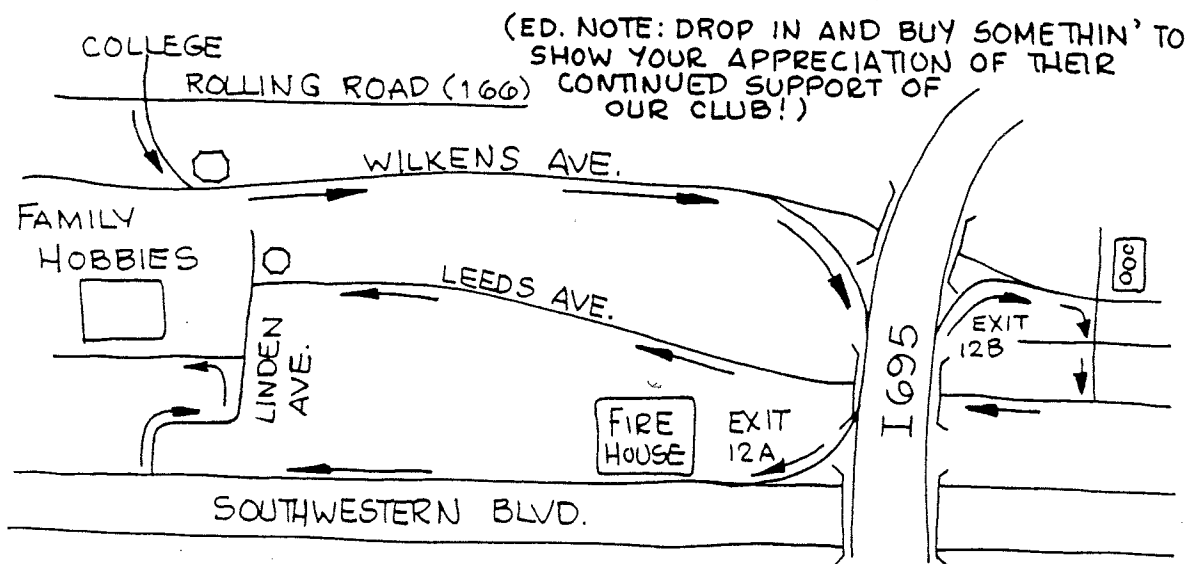
WANTED- I am in the process of planning a large scrap metal hauler and need your junk. Engines, exhaust systems, car bodies, anything you have no use for. Please help! Contact Chris Breeze at (304)267-3140 or bring your contribution to the next meeting. Thanks!

FOR SALE- Musclicar and Musclicard cards (both singles and sets). Display cards with your built-up musclicar models. \$15.00 per set or \$.25 each, 6 for \$1.00. Call Tim Sickle at (301)249-3830 or see me at a meeting.

FOR SALE- Fujimi 1/16 scale Ferrari 288 GTO, Ferrari Testarossa-\$35.00 each. Tamiya 1/12 scale Ferrari 641 F1-\$125.00, plus shipping. Contact Marshall Buck at Creative Miniature Associates, 105 Columbus Place, Stamford, CT 06907, (203)322-9750.

WANTED- Stock wheels from 3 in 1 kits. If you build Custom or Drag and have those old stock wheels and tires laying around, and don't plan to use 'em, I need some very badly. Thanks. Contact Chris Breeze at (304)267-3140 or see me at a meeting.

FAMILY HOBBIES



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
317 Roosevelt Ave., S.W.
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061
(301)768-3648

