

MARYLAND AUTOMOTIVE MODELERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 12, No. 7, March 1999

by: "GTO"

(The *Maryland Automotive Modelers Association* is a chapter of the *IPMS*)

Well gang, the February meeting had almost 70 people in attendance! The *highlight* of the meeting had to be the fact that we *celebrated the lovely Delia Connor's Sweet Sixteenth Birthday, complete with cake!* Thanks for the chance Chuck and Delia (the cake wasn't bad, either!). We also had *part 1* of a *seminar* by our own *Bill Geary* on *panel hinging!* *Part 2* will hopefully take place at the March meeting. *Thanks a bunch, Bill!!* Nothing else to speak of. Oh yeah, we also *re-elected officers*, with the same slate of officers- *Lyle Willits (President)*, *Norman Veber (V.P.)*, *Matt Guilfoyle (Treasurer)*, and *yours truly (Editor)*. Boy, you guys must be gluttons for punishment, 'cause you had your chance to get us out of office, and you blew it! Any of you guys vote for Bill Clinton? We'll try to reward your confidence in us all by living down to the low standards we are famous for!!

The raffle raised *\$90.00 (as well as \$44.25 from the box)*. The club would like to thank the following raffle donors: *Ron Bradley, Brad, Mike Hemp, Shinobu Fuchimoto, Ron Hamilton, Chad Shapiro, Ed Brown, and Replicas & Miniatures Co. Of MD.* Special thanks also go out to those listed below:

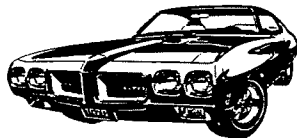
Tom Walsh,
The ERTL Company
Highways 136 & 20
Dyersville, IA 52040-0500

Ed Sexton/Bill Lastovich,
Revell-Monogram Models, Inc.
8601 Waukegan Road
Morton Grove, IL 60053-2295

'99 MEETING SCHEDULE

Well guys, here it is, just as I promised ya! Ain't it great when things work out like they are supposed to? Thanks to Matt Guilfoyle for his hard work in ensuring that we have a place to meet every month next year! Yup, we are back at the *Greenbelt Community center* multipurpose room for the dates listed below. As usual, the meetings start at noon, and last until 3 or 4 P.M. (*and maybe even later, depending on what is going on!*).

January 16th
February 20th
March 20th
April 17th
May 15th
June 19th



July 17th
August 21st
September 18th
October 23rd &
November 20th
December 18th

~ Note: This is the *Fourth Saturday!*

From the Baltimore Beltway (RT 695): Take Exit 7, Route 295 (*Baltimore-Washington Parkway*) south towards Washington approx. 18 miles to Route 193 (*Greenbelt Road*), and exit. When on the off-ramp, stay to the right and merge right onto Southway (see below).

From the Washington Beltway (RT 495): Take Exit 22 north, towards Baltimore. Stay in the right lane and take the first exit onto Route 193 (*Greenbelt Road*). When on the off-ramp, bear to the right and take Greenbelt road west, towards College Park. Stay in the right lane and immediately after passing over the Parkway, make a right (*at the light*) onto Southway (*see below*).

Once on Southway: Go straight to the second (*2nd*) STOP sign. Make a left onto Crescent road. Go to STOP sign and make a right into the parking lot behind the Greenbelt Library. Once in parking lot, look to right. The large, white building is the Greenbelt Community Center. Enter building using doors near fenced tot lot. The multi-purpose room is on the second floor. There is an elevator to the left of the entrance.

SNEAKIN' A PEEK!

This column appears 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 more detailed review to follow at a later date (*hopefully!*). We'll see how it goes! How about this, gang? To better identify possible kit reviews, at the end of the item on the kit, the words 'Available' or 'Not Available' will appear. Obviously, a club member may reserve any kit that is available with a simple call to the Editor. Conversely, a kit which is 'Not Available' was either already reserved by someone, or was something new inserted by yours truly, and paid for with my hard-earned moolah! (*Ed. Note: The kits are listed in no particular order*):

- **Show Off Hauler Superset** (AMT #30080; includes #6082-Chevy Stepside pickup, #8216-Super Trailer, and #8213-'57 Corvette Street Machine): Molded in Lt. Gray....Stepside pickup includes stock small block V-8, as well as tunnel ram w/2 X 4-barrel option....stock wheels, and optional Centerlines, mounting Goodyear rubber....tub-style interior....bed cover, clear front end air deflector....Trailer is a 4-wheel unit w/fenders....one-piece solid deck, w/separate, three-piece trailer hitch, and two ramps....six-piece clear cover (incl. operable doors)....accessories include 55-gallon drum, 5-gallon can, fire extinguisher, compressor, oil cans (?), and trailer hitch for tow vehicle....Corvette includes a single 4-barrel fat block, w/choice of air cleaner/velocity stack....platform-style interior....5-spoke mage w/Goodyear rubber....two-piece (per side) exhaust headers/Supertrapp mufflers....4-bar rear suspension wheelie bars....two-piece hood scoop. (*Available*)
- **'64 Galaxie 500XL Pro Shop** (AMT #30057):Molded in white....unassembled promo....hood molded closed....chassis includes promo engraving describing features of '64 Ford....tub-style interior w/separate dash/steering wheel, and shifter....blackwall tires....(3) sets of plates- 'GLX 500' NC, 'FORD 66' NY, and 'MK 0116' MN (*all vintage, and all undersize*). (*Available*)
- **'69 Musclecars Superset** (AMT #30079; includes '69 Hurst Olds, '69 Torino Cobra, & '69 Barracuda): Hurst Olds molded in white....multi-piece big block includes optional finned valve covers and headers....excellent multi-piece chassis....tub-style interior, w/separate dual gate shifter/console....Olds Super Stock mag wheels, 5-spoke mage optional, mounting L60-15's and/or slicks....'69 Barracuda is molded in Lt. Gray, and is a 2 in 1....choice of induction systems (both 4-barrels)....Mopar cast wheels, or Centerlines....tub-style interior....optional Super Stock-style hood scoop....black/white 383 side stripes....'69 Torino Cobra is also molded in Lt. Gray, and a 2 in 1 (*stock/NASCAR*)....choice of slotted GT rims, or 12-hole slotted wheels....multi-piece big block includes choice of single 4-barrel intake (*stock or NASCAR*), or 2 x 4-barrel intake....tub-style interior w/full NASCAR roll cage/seat option....6-piece exhaust (*stock*), 4-piece racing....racing rear spoiler, tail light block-off plates, bumper fairings. (*Available*)
- **Street Machine Superset** (AMT #30104; includes '66 Chevy Nova Pro Street, '67 Chevelle Pro Street, & '67 Impala Street Machine): '66 Nova molded in white....reissue of earlier kit, including tunnel-rammed small block....full-on Pro Street chassis, w/multi-piece front suspension, tubbed rear end....platform-style interior w/full rear seat....2-piece hood scoop....bare block and heads included along w/an engine stand....'67 Chevelle molded in White....reissue of earlier kit, including tunnel-rammed big block....multi-piece front suspension....platform-style interior w/full 6-point roll cage....4-spoke mage mounting treaded tires....snorkel hood scoop....'67 Impala Street Machine molded in Lt. Gray....reissue of earlier kit, including fuel-injected big block....multi-piece chassis w/separate floorpan....platform-style interior....6-piece exhaust system....very nice billet wheels mounting Goodyear Eagle GS-C tires. (*Available*)

[Note to all concerned: It has been brought to my attention of late that there is a potential problem with regard to the review articles published in this newsletter. Let me give you a little background on this subject. The model manufacturers (AMT/ERTL, Revell-Monogram, and Lindberg) all attempt to send our club current releases in exchange for our critiques on what we liked and didn't like about them. That means that we need to get written reviews published in the newsletter in a reasonable time frame to accomplish this. If you will recall, I have stood up at recent club meetings to enlist the aid of the members in attendance to get kit reviews. At present, Ron Hamilton has done more than his fair share of reviews. In the past, Lyle Willits also did his share of reviews, as well as yer Fearless Editor. If anyone wishes to see reviews written by someone else (or take a crack at it him or herself), they need to contact me, in order to determine which kits are available for review. I don't have the time to chase anyone down and browbeat him or her for a review. Rest assured though, if you take a review sample, I will be your worst nightmare if I don't get a review within a reasonable time (right, Leonard?). You may also rest assured that if you take a kit for a review, and do not return a review of it within a reasonable time, that you will not receive another!]

Seminar Listing

Bare Metal Foil-Ron Hamilton ✓

Gold Foil application-Matt Guilfoyle ✓

Fear of Photoetch-Lyle Willits (?) ✓

Interior Detailing

Door Hinges

Engine Detailing-Norman Veber

Paint Polishing

Airbrush Technique

Restoration of a Built-up model

Decal Application

Scratchbuilding small details (acetate windows, antennas, etc.)

Building a resin kit/conversion

Tire Detailing

Hot off the Press!! Aftermarket News!!

I've just seen a resin aftermarket body for a *chopped-top '48 Ford Woody wagon* that will start your mouth to watering! The body was mastered by *Rik Hoving*, and is to be produced by *Replicas & Miniatures Company of Maryland*.

The '*chop*' is a very subtle two scale inches front to rear. The windshield area has been extensively reworked to create a more accurate scale appearance. The windshield has also been moved slightly to the rear and laid back.

The *roof* itself was sectioned approximately one scale inch. It was also shortened to accommodate the laid-back windshield. The roof fabric seams have also been reduced to achieve a more accurate look.

The hood has been trimmed (*one scale inch at the front, to zero at the rear*) to create a more aggressive stance. The hood peak has been extended onto the cowl and the cowl vent is filled.

The *front wheel opening* has been raised one scale inch, and the splash pan smoothed. The front fender seams have also been filled.

The *rear fenders* have been removed for ease of painting. Along with the fuel filler door being filled, the stone guards have been removed. Additionally, the *rear fenders*, as well as the wooden body, *have been extended* approximately two scale inches behind the wheels to give the car a more aggressive rake.

The wood side trim detail has been corrected to reflect the actual look, which is another subtle correction, which needed to be done.

Included will be *sectioned interior wood trim*.

The subtle modifications only add to the beauty of the original design. This custom is everything we have come to expect with Rik's work (*Norm-where's that #?%&*! custom Lincoln?!).* You will all have to get in line, as I've already ordered mine!

By: Matt Guilfoyle

Dodge® Concept Car Snapfast Plus

[AMT/ERTL # 8129; 1/25th scale; 35 pieces (despite the 32 shown on the box); metallic copper-orange, midnight blue, black, clear, transparent red, vinyl tires]

Don't let that title fool you, this is the *Dodge Copperhead*. It's just that the car curiously isn't referred to by its name on the box or in the instructions. Fortunately, the *decal sheet does include* the *Copperhead script* for the rear end.

Oft compared to its it's older stable mate roadster, *Dodge Viper*, Copperhead is more aptly viewed in light of such *modern sports cars* as *BMW's Z3* or *Porsche's Boxster*. Copperhead was designed strictly with the sports car enthusiast in mind. Although there are no plans to put the Copperhead into production, *John Herlitz, Chrysler's Vice President of Product Design* says it would fit comfortably into any sports car enthusiast's budget. *Chrysler's Design Director, K. Neil Walling* says that it's the sports car for those "*...who like lithe, aerodynamic treatments combined with a low center of gravity.*" Indeed, the car's ground clearance is a scant 5 inches.

Introduced in 1997 as a follow-up to the Viper roadster, Copperhead is a smart amalgam of existing assemblies and new engineering. This approach is reminiscent of the way *Pontiac developed their Fiero* so many years ago. From the existing inventory of assemblies, Dodge selected the short-and-long arm (SLA) Coil Over Shock front suspension of the Chrysler LH, the SLA Coil Over Shock rear suspension of the Eagle Talon, and the heavy-duty, close-ratio five-speed manual transmission of the Dodge Dakota.

All-new is a sleek, steel body wrapped around *Chrysler's aluminum new generation, high-output, 2.7 liter, four cam V-6 engine*. The V6's impressive *220 horsepower output* is ultimately delivered to a *massive set of cast aluminum 20 x 9 inch rear wheels encased in a unique set of Goodyear P255/40 R 20 tires*. The tires are unique in that they feature an *asymmetric snake scale tread pattern*. The front wheels measure up at *only 18 x 8 inches* with a matching set of squamous tires in a slightly smaller *P225/40 R 18 size*. Even though the engine compartment currently houses a V-6, *Dodge wisely left enough room for a V-8 to snuggle down in there later on*.

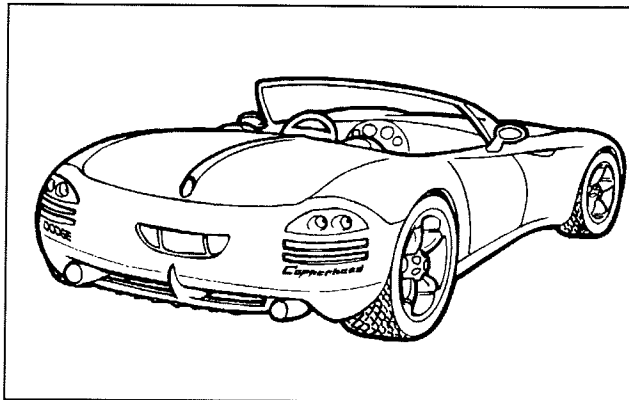
AMT/ERTL has really done an outstanding job rendering Copperhead in plastic. The proportions are dead-on and the details are right. **The only down-side to this model is that it is a curbside kit**, meaning there is no scale representation of its *venomous V-6*, save for the oil pan and starter images molded into the chassis.

The one-off **cast aluminum wheels** found supporting the farthest corners of Copperhead have been accurately replicated with a minor exception - the finish applied to the wheels is just too dark. Though flawless in its application, you'll want to cover them in a brighter metalizer finish for realism. The **asymmetrical snake-scale tread of the tires** is well represented, but the sidewall markings are not. The scale tires feature oversized, raised lettering rather than the small, debossed markings needed for accuracy. Still, the very modern wheel and tire package from this kit should show up on some contemporary street rod projects in the near future.

Eleven pieces are provided to build an almost-perfect replica of Copperhead's **interior**. The only detail preventing perfection is the absence of vent details on the door panels. The recesses for the vents are positioned high on the panels and the absence of the vents themselves is rather conspicuous. The **interior is molded in a dark blue plastic** that closely matches the **Deep Amethyst hue** of Copperhead's snake skin-textured leather interior. The dash, console, and door panels appear quite correct. If the seats have any flaw it is that the bottoms appear flat in comparison to Copperhead's billowy seats. Because AMT/ERTL did not provide any painting guidance, you'll have to reference the backside of the box to see where to paint the **Vermillion Red interior accents**. Pay close attention to the area on the back wall of the interior, right between the seats. This area should also be Vermillion Red, but there is no marking on the part to indicate the size of the insert. The painted example on the box will guide you correctly. Also note on the console that the bezel surrounding the door lock and window controls should be painted aluminum, not left blue as the sample on the box indicates.

The **chassis** is technically a simple plate to which the wheels attach, but it seems a shame to say that. The engraving and detail on the chassis plate are quite impressive. Molded in black, it makes good use of texture to bring out highlights and hide lowlights. A set of **four disc brake rotors and calipers** attach firmly to the chassis before the metal axle are slipped into place and capped off with the wheels.

Five major pieces (*basic body, hood shell, rear fascia*.) Copperhead's constrictions are faithfully nuance. The body is including the outside rear-view CHMSL is correctly molded that runs down the rear deck. color chosen is noticeably too **Pearl paint over a white base** like the **Copper-Fire-Orange**. You may want to consider taillight lenses prior to final



constitute the **body windshield, front fascia, and distinctive front fender** rendered, as is every other punctuated with minor parts mirrors and light lenses. The into the end of the windsplit Although molded in color, the dark. **Testor's Boyd's Orange coat** should appear much more **coating** used on the original. installing the headlight and assembly of the body as the

instructions call for. This will make pressing them in easier and will allow you to apply some glue to the backside of the pins to ensure that the lenses will stay in place. The same holds true for the outside rear-view mirrors. If you choose to open the hood and rear deck lids, keep in mind that the hood opens from back to front and the rear deck opens from front to back. The only omission from the body is a minor one: the mounts on the rear deck for the soft-top are missing.

All **four gauges and the tachometer; body scripts and emblems; and back-up light lenses** are provided as **well-registered, water-slide decals**. The decal sheet even includes a very nice **Dodge factory license plate**. **Rear-view mirror faces and headlight reflectors are provided as good-looking, die-cut Mylar stickers**.

There are some general missing items of note, some good, some not so good. On the list of **good missing items** we have **sprue attachment points**. **The kit designers went out of their way to hide them**. For example, the wheels are attached in an area that is well hidden beneath the tires on the finished model rather than right on the edge of the outer face as is customary. On the **not so good list of missing items** we find several helpful bits of information missing from the instructions. **The parts are not numbered** and the **instructions do not call out differences in left and right parts such as the seats, headlights, and taillights**. Also missing is any descriptive text about Dodge's Copper-Fire-Orange concept car. Also, **no painting guidance is provided**, so you'll have to do some research to get your interior details colored correctly. Start by looking at the backside of the box.

This kit assembles with minimal effort and provides a very nice-looking replica straight out of the box. Its few foibles are minor, destined to go unnoticed by many. With nothing more than a slight lowering, detail painting in the interior, a brighter finish on the wheels, and a lighter color on the body, this can be an outstanding curbside replica of Dodge's Copperhead. As for detailing this kit, the sky's the limit. It looks as though opening the hood and trunk should be relatively easy efforts. Hinging the doors would take considerably more effort. Finding chassis components would be downright tough, though several components from AMT/ERTL's Plymouth Prowler glue kit may be readily adaptable such as the V-6 engine.

Some recommended Internet reference sources for Dodge Copperhead:

<http://www.auto.com/newmodels/copper1.htm> - From the North American International Auto Show 97
<http://www.automobil.medstroms.se/dodge.html> - The only photo with top in place
<http://motoring.xtra.co.nz/copperhead.html> - Motoring, on-line auto magazine
<http://www.car-truck.com/chryed/concept/copper.htm> - Car and Truck News, on-line auto magazine
http://www.thecarconnection.com/columns/dutchtreat/old/cc_hem4.asp - The Car Connection, on-line auto magazine.
Features best view of the interior.
<http://www.tk7.net/jmahan/Dodge%20Copperhead%20b.jpg> - One of three photos in a private enthusiast's collection. Left side view.
<http://www.tk7.net/jmahan/Dodge%20Copperhead%20a.jpg> - One of three photos in a private enthusiast's collection. Right rear 7/8 view.
<http://www.tk7.net/jmahan/Dodge%20Copperhead%20c.jpg> - One of three photos in a private enthusiast's collection. Right side 3/4 view.
<http://www.media.chrysler.com/wwwpr97/235a.htm> - Chrysler Corporation press release dated 5 January 1997

by: *Tim Powers*

'62 Buick Electra 225 Pro Shop

[AMT/ERTL #6116; 1/25th scale; 100+ pieces; Grey. Chrome, clear, clear red, vinyl tires]

This is a straight reissue of the original kit, including some really odd customizing parts.

Engine: This very basic assembly consists of eight pieces. There is no separate carburetor. The exhaust manifolds are molded to the block. The kit contains only one building option.

Chassis: It don't get any simpler than this, folks! The wheels mount on steel rods that are run through the chassis. All 'detail' is molded to the chassis. The chassis mounts to the body using four metal screws (*Better stop now-I'm getting nostalgic!*).

Wheels and tires: My main complaint in this area, as I was not expecting much, is that the tires do not have white sidewalls as shown on the box art. I consider this a very bad misrepresentation by AMT. You'll have to raid your parts box or see one of the aftermarket suppliers for whitewalls. There are stock and 'custom' wheel covers provided.

Body: The body appears to be crisply molded in gray plastic. This mold has obviously over-utilized over the last 37 years. There are some 'period' (*read: Ugly!*) customizing parts included.

Interior: Tub-style interior with molded-in bucket seats. Also included are a center console, and period accessories.

Glass: One-piece front and rear glass. Clear red taillights (*Be careful, they are tiny!*).

Chrome: The chrome plating on the grille and front bumper, while shiny, shows that the mold appears to have sustained some damage over the years. I have seen similar "lumps" on other examples. This is where I have some serious issues with AMT. It seems that any kit produced in the last few years has 'bad' chrome, either because of failure to protect the tree by bagging it separately, or poor part preparation and finish. I hope that the new owners pay more attention to Quality Control.

Decals: There are somewhat understated black and magenta accent stripes, and 1962 California "HARDTOP", in addition to Arizona license plates, and a tachometer face.

Because of the high cost for an original (*either built or unbuilt*) kit, I do recommend this kit, in spite of the problems. I would hope that in the future, attention to preparing to molds before issuing (*or reissuing*) a kit.

By: *Matt Guilfoyle*

(Note: Review sample provided by Matt Guilfoyle using his own hard-earned money)

BITS & PIECES

- **Congrats!** In the latest SAE, they reviewed the hobby, and two of our own received recognition for their contribution to our great hobby-Larry 'Chromedome' Boothe, and Norman Veber. Also mentioned was our 'Bud', Bob Korunow of *Model Car Garage*. Congrats to all of you, and thanks for your diligence and hard work on behalf of our hobby-we are all much better for it!
- **More Congrats!** Also of note is the fact that in *Pat Covert's* recently released *book* on *model car building*, two of our members had their cars featured-Treasurer Matt Guilfoyle, and Prez Lyle Willits. Again, congrats guys!
- **Cops ain't no dummies!** Surely, you guys have heard about those *decoy cruisers*, set out by the police to slow people down? And about the one that was *stolen*? Well, the *Maryland State Police tried again*, but were present to *nab 3 men* in their twenties and charge them with *theft*, after they saw the men in the median of Route 50, *pushing the life-sized cutout of a state police cruiser!* Another suspect was found in a car nearby, and charged with *driving while intoxicated!*
- **New Stuff!** Word reaches me that Art Anderson at *All American Models* has obtained one of the new *Galaxie '48 Chevy sedans*, and he is busy *adding wood trim* to it to duplicate the "Country Sedan" trim package which was a

limited option on these cars. He also apparently also has a *new Judkins body coupe Duesenberg transkit* available, which includes body, fenders, and parts to convert the engine to non-supercharged form.

- **Rumor Mill!** We reported last month about *Racing Champions* buying up *AMT/ERTL*. Well, rumor now is that *Testors is attempting to buy ERTL's plastic kit line from Racing Champs!* A *new kit rumor* has Japanese kit giant *Tamiya taking measurements of a Panoz!* Again, time will tell!
- **"On the Prowl!"** For '99, Daimler-Chrysler will introduce a *new color* for their *hot rod Prowler-red!* This will be in addition to *purple*, as well as *bright yellow*, and *black*, introduced last year. Red should be available as you read this. *If that was what you were waiting for, then ya better get movin'!*
- **Cougar prowls the Internet.** The *Delmarva Cougar Club* is curious as to whether or not any other car clubs were formed via the Internet! A Classic Cougar E-Mail list service started up last year by *Jim Karamanis (VA)*, and *Carl Graziano (MD)*. It has since grown to almost *300 International subscribers*, they estimate. An event gathering took place last June at a Richmond, VA Lincoln-Mercury dealership. Officers were elected-*Mr. Karamanis (dkaraman@doubled.com) as President*, and *Mr. Graziano (graziano@cais.com) as Vice President*. A \$20 dollar membership per family is open to Cougar owners and enthusiasts in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and DC! *For more info, go to www.geocities.com/~classic-cats/dcapp.html or call (804) 550-1130, or fax (804) 550-1131.*
- **Land Yacht SUV!** A *new SUV (Sport Utility Vehicle)* from *Ford Motor Company* named, appropriately enough, the *Excursion*, holds the distinction of being the *biggest of them all!* It is reportedly *19 feet long (1 foot longer than a Suburban!)*, *weighs in at 3 and ½ tons, stands a bit over 76" tall, and is reported to get 12 mpg (downhill, with a stiff tail wind, no doubt!).* Ford hopes to sell *50,000 to 60,000* of these behemoths at a cost of *\$45,000 to \$50,000 per copy.* *The Sierra Club* summed it up best with their suggested ad campaign-*"The Ford Valdez. Have you driven a Tanker lately?"*
- **"Mommy, can I borrow the van?"** Police chasing a *suspected drunken driver* through Manassas city streets for about three miles were in for a surprise when they caught up with the swerving van-*the driver wasn't drunk, she was 12!* The chase began about 11:40 p.m. Saturday evening when police spotted the Dodge Caravan driving erratically, and additional units were called in. Police followed the van at twice the posted 25 mph speed limit, once pulling away after stopping at a light, then nearly losing control on a sidewalk. When police corralled the van about ten minutes later, the girl said she had taken the van while her mother was at work. *Charges are pending against the girl, who was released to her mother.*
- **The "Naked Truth?!"** A *woman who took off all her clothes after a rush-hour fender bender*, verbally assaulted a paramedic who was trying to wrap her in a blanket and then punched her in the face twice, police said. The woman had just been involved in a *minor accident* about 8:30 a.m. when *she got out of her car*, and then *her clothing!* By the time two Fairfax county fire units arrived, *the woman was nude and shouting obscenities* and verbally attacking the paramedics. Upon approaching the woman, a paramedic got too close, and the woman lashed out, hitting the paramedic twice in the face. They subdued the woman, who was taken by ambulance to the hospital, where she was being evaluated.
- **Diecast Ice Cream!** The gang at *Danbury Mint* is at it again, this time, with a *1953 Chevy Good Humor truck!* The wheels turn through the steering wheel, it features a removable spare tire, and the ice cream storage doors open (*one to reveal a wooden pallet*). It even features the *'53 ice cream prices posted on a sign in the driver's compartment!* Cost is *\$129 (not incl. shipping and handling)*. Contact 'em at Danbury Mint 47 Richards Avenue Norwalk, CT 06857.
- **Smart tires?!** *US Engineers* have designed a new *'smart tire'* that will tell drivers when it is going flat or needs to be replaced. Developed by researchers from *Case Western Reserve University* in Ohio and *Goodyear Tire & Rubber company*, it uses tiny temperature and pressure sensors with microscopic components. Each tire also contains an ID chip that helps tire makers keep track of their stock. To identify a tire, or read its temperature or pressure, a radio signal is sent out by a transmitter built into a vehicle, or a handheld scanner. No word on when it'll be available, or at what cost.
- **Late Night Pacer!** Looks as though late night talk show host *Jay Leno*, an avid car collector, will get the nod to drive the *all-new 2000 Chevy Monte Carlo pace car on Memorial Day weekend in the Indy 500!* It is also hoped by Chevrolet officials that the new Monte Carlo will pace the *Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte, er, Lowe's Motor Speedway on the same weekend.*
- **"People don't kill cars, guns do!!"** Recently in Spring Hill, TN (*isn't that home of the Saturn?*), a man got so mad when his car died on him, that he pulled out a *military assault rifle and shot it-nearly 100 times*, police say!! "I understand he unloaded 3 30-round clips into the vehicle," Sheriff Enoch George said. Boyd Kelly, 39, told police he was angry that the *1988 Oldsmobile quit on him after 10 p.m.* on a Saturday evening. Mr. Kelly was charged with a *weapons violation*, and released on *\$2,500 bond. Without the AK-47, I hope!!*
- **Speaking of Saturns!** *Saturn is sponsoring another 'homecoming' celebration for its owners* in Spring Hill, Tenn., *July 30 and 31.* The *first homecoming* in 1994 attracted *40,000 owners*, while this years' gathering is expected to attract more than *60,000 owners.* The *new 2000 model midsize LS sedan and wagon* will be in showrooms before the homecoming, Saturn says, and will be at the event. *For info, call 800/2SATURN (272-8876).*

- **Talk about your cream-filled center!?** A *1999 Volkswagen New Beetle filled with Oreo cookies* is the *Grand Prize In Nabisco Biscuit Co.'s new contest*. The cookie maker created molds to imprint prizes onto the Oreos for its *"Don't Eat the Winning Oreo" campaign*, which began in February. Consumers who buy specially marked Oreo packages may find their snacks imprinted with the words *"Oreos for Life"*, *"\$Cash"*, or *"Free six count Oreo"*. The one to really be careful not to eat would be *"Car"*- for the *New Beetle! Better start crunching those Oreos! And, don't forget the milk, either!*
- **Online Madness!** Check out our own *Dirk Johnson's online Model Car Buyer's Guide*. It provides alphabetized listings, as well as by company of many of the firms that do business in this rather large hobby of ours. Dirk's site is at <http://www.modelcarhub.com>. Check him out, and tell him I sent you!
- **Ho9nk if you love me!** Buster Mitchell applied for a *marriage license* in Knoxville, Tennessee, and listed his *fiancée's birthplace* as *Detroit*, her *father* as *Henry Ford*, and her *blood type* as *10W-40*. *Yup, you guessed it-he tried to marry his true love-his 1996 Mustang GT!* But, the clerk broke his heart, reminding him only men and women could marry. He apparently attempts to try again at a wedding chapel in the Great Smoky Mountains. Thanks to *Okey Spaulding* and the *Kentucky Auto Modelers* crew for this gem! (*Ed. Note: Guy's got no class-settling for a Mustang when he could have a GTO, and a real V-8!*)
- **Hot Rod Caddy?!** Yup, Cadillac is in search of something similar to *Mercedes' AMG*, and *BMW's M series*. They are currently testing versions of the current Seville in conjunction with the program, code-named *Blackfin*. Blackfin is an internal study, and as of right now, no specific vehicles are planned. This is in conjunction with the release of two *hot rod Cateras* at the *Chicago Auto Show*-the *Catera Sport* showcasing about \$800 of styling, suspension, and trim upgrades, while the other, the *Steinmetz Catera concept*, *features a 284 hp supercharged engine, and was built to gauge public reaction to these hot rod Caddy's*. It is named for the aftermarket tuning firm, *Steinmetz-Opel-Tuning*, a subsidiary of *AC Schnitzer* in Germany. And of course, let's not forget the *Caddy Evoq roadster*, which debuted at the Chi-Town auto show in Detroit. *Looks like Caddy is serious about getting rid of the wide whitewalls, padded roofs, and continental kits!!* Time will tell.
- **Merger Mania!** It was reported in *The Washington Times* this week that *French car maker Renault (Hey Matt-Ptooi!!)* offered to *buy a controlling 35 percent stake in Japan's debt-ridden Nissan Motor Company!* Terms were not disclosed, but Renault is expected to *invest more than \$4 billion (!) in Nissan*, which will consider the offer at a board meeting on Friday. *I wouldn't think about it too long before accepting if I were Nissan!!* How long before we see Renault Alliances wearing Nissan sheetmetal?!
- **Blackhawk President dies!** *Lorin H. Tryon, Jr.*, one of the world's most respected classic car aficionados, and *president* of the *renowned Blackhawk Automotive Museum* died of a heart attack at the San Ramon Valley Medical Center. He was 71. In addition to his association with the museum, Mr. Tryon was known worldwide for his leadership of the prestigious *Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance*. For 27 years, he had been the driving force in the revitalization and popularity of the renowned Pebble Beach display of classic machinery.

COMING EVENTS

- *March 26th & 27th- 1999 IPMS Region 4 Scale Model Exposition and Contest* sponsored by IPMS Three Rivers/Pittsburgh IPMS Shenango Valley Area Scale Modelers at the Sheraton Inn Pittsburgh North, 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046, (724) 776-6900. Vendors, seminars, and food available. **Theme is "History in Your Hand"**. For info, contact Tim Swisher (*IPMS Three Rivers*) at (412) 367-8690/tswis88665@aol.com; Tim Reeher (*IPMS SVASM*) at (724) 962-2876/timrace@infone.net; or Chuck King (*vendor info*) at (724) 443-5767/cmking@nauticom.net.
- *March 27th- The Tri-State Scale Model Car Club* presents the **13th Annual NNL East** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Parsippany P.A.L. building on Baldwin Road in Parsippany, NJ. This year's theme is **Rods & Customs**, and **50 years of the '49 Merc**. For show info, contact Ken Walkley at (201) 641-0344, or E-mail TSSMCC KJW@aol.com, or Tom Geiger at (732) 264-9305, E-mail ModlCitizn@aol.com.
- *April 3rd- Model Classic 99* hosted by the Northern VA IPMS gang at Fairfax High School, 1500 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA. Entry fee of \$8.00 (*any # of models*), or a walk-in entry fee of \$5.00, Juniors (*age 17 and below*) are free. For further info, contact Frann Tunstall at (703) 569-9164, or Tom Henderson at (703) 680-9354.
- *April 11th-1999 Annual Spring Meet (Note Date Change!)* sponsored by the Capital Miniature Auto Collector's Club from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Fire House Community Hall, 2148 Gallows Road Dunn Loring, VA. For info, SASE to James William Brostrom, Show Manager 6632 Cardinal Lane Annandale, VA 22003.
- *April 16th & 17th-IPMS Region 6 Convention '99* at the Radisson Inn, 2150 Veterans Boulevard, Kenner, Louisiana sponsored by Flying Tigers, Inc., Scale Model Builders IPMS New Orleans. This year's theme is ***'Vive La France' (Hey, Matt!)***. That would include ***armor, aircraft, figures, ships, autos, and more***. For further info, contact IPMS Flying Tigers Scale modelers, Inc. 710 Carondelet Street New Orleans, LA 70130. Phone Lee Coll (*evenings*) (504) 751-9181 or Jerry Chatelkain (*days*) (888) 340-2121; e-mail leecoll@eatel.net.
- *April 22nd thru the 25th-Spring Carlisle* at the fairgrounds.

- *May 1st & 2nd- Seventh Annual Mid-Atlantic Swap Meet & Car Show (rain or shine)* at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds in Carmel, NJ. Swap meet, car corral, car show. For info, write **Mid-Atlantic Car Productions, Inc. P.O. Box 2481 South Vinelan, NJ 08362-2481.**
- *May 8th- 8th Annual Mid-Atlantic NNL* from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ruhl Armory in Towson, MD. **Themes** are **'Decade cars'** (cars ending in '9'), and **'Media cars'** (cars in movies, TV, & songs).
- *May 16th- Diecast & Collectible Vehicle Toy Show* from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the new Morris Meadows Historic Preservation Museum, 1523 Freeland Road, Freeland, MD. Admission is \$2.00 (kids under 5 free w/adult or guardian). For info, contact Joe Golabiewski at 12317 Harford Road, Kingsville, MD 21087 (410) 592-5854 (after 6 p.m., please!).
- *May 19th-U.S. Pro Stock Open* at Maryland International Raceway in Budd's Creek, MD.
- *June 5th- Late Great Chevy Car show* at Win Kelly Chevy, on rts. 108 & 32 in Clarksville, MD. For info, call Matt Brashears at (410) 785-8578.
- *June 6th-5th Annual Performance Years Pontiac Nationals* at Maple Grove Raceway in Reading, PA.
- *June 13th- Washington Antique & Collectible Toy Show* from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA. Admission is \$4.00. For info, contact Ferdinand Zegel at P.O. Box 589 Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 (703) 524-2061 (evenings), or Richard Wilkinson at (301) 907-3441 (days).
- *June 18th to 20th-15th Annual Ford Motorsport Nationals* at Maple Grove Raceway in Reading, PA.
- *June 26th & 27th- 12th Annual Mid-Atlantic Chevelle Show and Swap Meet/ACES Northeast Regional* sponsored by the **MD Chevelle Club**, at Northeast Community Park in Northeast, MD.
- *July 10th & 11th-Supercar Showdown '99 Nostalgia Nationals* at Maple Grove Raceway in Reading, PA.
- *July 21st-Mountain Motor Nationals* at Maryland International Raceway in Budd's Creek, MD.
- *July 23rd to 25th-Super Chevy Show XVII* at Maple Grove Raceway in Reading, PA.
- *July 30th, Aug. 1st- Summer Carlisle* at the fairgrounds.
- *Aug. 14th & 15th-HOT ROD Magazine Power Festival* at Maple Grove Raceway in Reading, PA.
- *Aug. 21st-Jet Car Nationals* at Maryland International Raceway in Budd's Creek, MD.
- *Aug. 27th to 29th- Corvettes at Carlisle* at the fairgrounds.
- *Sept. 12th- Washington Antique & Collectible Toy Show* from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA. Admission is \$4.00. For info, contact Ferdinand Zegel at P.O. Box 589 Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 (703) 524-2061 (evenings), or Richard Wilkinson at (301) 907-3441 (days).
- *Sept. 30th to Oct. 3rd- Fall Carlisle* at the fairgrounds.
- *Oct. 1st thru 3rd-8th Annual President's Cup Nationals* at Maryland International Raceway in Budd's Creek, MD.
- *Oct. 6th-Fall Hershey AACA meet*
- *Oct. 17th-Thirty-Eighth Collector's Diecast Toy Show* hosted by the **Chesapeake Miniature Vehicle Collector's Club** from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Shrewsbury Fire Hall in Shrewsbury, PA. For info, call Joe Golabiewski at (410) 592-5854 or Carl Daehnke at (717) 764-5411.
- *Nov. 7th- Annual Fall Meet* sponsored by the **Capitol Miniature Auto Collectors Club** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Fire House Community Hall, 2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA For info, contact James William Brostrom, 6632 Cardinal Lane, Annandale, VA 22003.
- *Nov. 21st- Washington Antique & Collectible Toy Show* from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA. Admission is \$4.00. For info, contact Ferdinand Zegel at P.O. Box 589 Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 (703) 524-2061 (evenings), or Richard Wilkinson at (301) 907-3441 (days).
- *Dec. 4th & 5th-10th Annual Street Cars of Desire Car show and Automotive flea market* at the MD state fairgrounds, Cow Palace in Timonium, MD. Call (410) 876-3842 (until 9 P.M. S.T.) for further info.

CLASSIFIEDS

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
(410) 768-3648

*And, remember, if you haven't already done so, make a run out to **Wheels Hobby Shop**, and check out **Dave Toups' Going Out of Business Sale**. He may just have something, which you have been in search of. If he does, chances are excellent that you can get a really good deal on it to boot!! While there, **show Dave your gratitude** for being there for MAMA club members! Even store fixtures are available! So, if you need a display case for built models, or maybe need to add shelving for unbuilt kits, Dave might be able to help you out!! The doors at **Wheels Hobby** will close forever on **March 31st, 1999**, so times awastin'!! **Thanks, Dave!** Maybe now Dave can start getting back to our monthly club meetings, eh, Dave?!*