

MARYLAND AUTOMOTIVE MODELERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 13, No. 4, December 1999

by: "GTO"

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

Well gang, the *November meeting* had another good turnout, with around 50 people in attendance. The meeting had no highlights to speak of, except for the usual talk of the *December meeting*, which of course, all of you know what that means-*food!!* The club will, as always, provide a meat platter, and condiments, and the rest is up to you all! (*Ed. Note: Somebody keep Larry Boothe away from the brownies long enough this year for yours truly to get at least one, OK?*)

I would just like to take a few minutes to *thank everyone for his or her contributions* to this, your club (*and your newsletter!*) over the past year. This includes not only you, the *members*, but is also extended to *the Model Manufacturers* (AMT/ERTL, Revell, and Lindberg, and Testors), as well as the *local hobby shops* (*I do hope you support them!*), and *cottage industry folks* around the country. Think where we would be without not only their support, but their fanciful creations as well (*and sometimes even their friendship!*)? *Thanks a bunch!* I hope you all get what you want from Santa!

The raffle raised \$66.00 (*as well as \$47.00 from the box*). The club would like to thank the following raffle donors: *Ron Bradley, Lyle, Ron Roberts, Brad, Ron Hamilton, Mike Tate, Mike Hemp, yours truly, and Replicas & Miniatures Company of Maryland*. Special thanks also go out to those listed below:

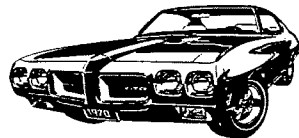
Tom Walsh,
The ERTL Company
Highways 136 & 20
Dyersville, IA 52040-0500

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 GR
November 20th
December 18th

GR 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*):

- '99 Ford SVT Lightning (Revell #85-7665): Molded in White...no chrome in this one whatsoever!...20+ piece Triton 5.4 liter supercharged V-8...Goodyear Eagle F1 tires, which mount unplated two-piece 5-spoke mag wheels...tub-style interior, with drop-in door panels...six-piece ground effects package...disc brakes at all four corners...one-piece front end includes both grille and front bumper...decals include white-faced gauges, SVT wheel center cap decals, 'SVT' emblems, assorted underhood decals, and two sets of license plates-'ZBN 697' MN, and '13A9387' SD (*Not 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

Panel Opening-Bill Geary ✓

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

Discontinued Kit List

Last month, we focused on all the new goodies, which we will be getting for 2000. This month, we can focus on what they are taking away from us! After seeing this list, you can all plan your purchases to ensure a continuing supply of kits not currently in production!

AMT/ERTL

'34 Ford 5-window Coupe (stock)

'34 Ford 5-window Coupe (street rod)

'41 Plymouth Coupe

'41 Plymouth Coupe (Coca Cola)

'55 Corvette

'55 Nomad

'57 Corvette (stock)

'58 Impala hardtop

'61 Falcon Ranchero

'62 Electra 225 hardtop

'64 Impala hardtop

'64 Galaxie hardtop

'65 GTO hardtop/convertible

'66 T-Bird hardtop/convertible

'67 Impala SS (street machine)

'67 Mustang GT

'68 El Camino
'69 Firebird Trans Am
'69 Olds 442
'69 Chevelle SS396 hardtop
'70 Monte Carlo
'70 Chevelle SS396 hardtop
'70 Challenger R/T hardtop
'71 Duster (street machine)
'76 Caprice hardtop w/trailer
'86 El Camino SS (w/paint)
'97 Corvette coupe
'97 Chevy Xtreme pickup
'97 Mustang SVT Cobra hardtop
'98 Corvette convertible

Dodge Viper GTS coupe
Dodge Viper RT/10
'70 Corvette coupe (snap w/paint)
'92 Camaro Pro Street (snap w/paint)
'92 Firebird Pro Street (snap w/paint)
'98 Corvette Indy Pace car convertible (snap)
John Deere 4430 Tractor
John Deere Backhoe
Coke Volvo Tractor Trailer
'Popcorn Wagon' show rod
'Hard Hat Hauler' show rod
3-car 'McDonalds' set (snap)
B. Allison's 'Coke' Matador

Revell

'Wrangler' T-Bird
'STP' Pontiac
'Piedmont' Monte Carlo
'Hardees' Monte Carlo
'McDonalds' Pre-decorated snap
'Cheerios' Pre-decorated snap
'McDonalds' Taurus
'Quality Care' Taurus
'Cheerios' Taurus
'Exide' Taurus
'Kelloggs' Monte Carlo ('97)
'Kelloggs' Monte Carlo ('98)
'Hot Wheels' Pontiac ('97)
'Scooby Doo' Monte Carlo ('97)
'Exide' Ford Truck
'ASE' Ford Truck
'Goodwrench' Truck
'Pioneer' Avenger funny car
'Exide' Dragster
'Blues Brothers' Dragster
'Mach I' boat team
'78 El Camino w/bass boat

Chevy chrome V-8 engine
Cadillac chrome V-8 engine
Pontiac chrome V-8 engine
Ford chrome V-8 engine
'37 Ford sedan street rod w/Drive-In
'Harley' '55 Ford Panel truck
'57 Nomad w/Gas Station
'59 Impala convertible
'64 Chevy Fleetside pickup
'65 Impala hardtop
'65 Impala hardtop lowrider
'67 Coronet R/T
'77/'78 Chevy street pickup
'92 Mustang GT convertible
'96 Mustang Cobra convertible
'97 Corvette coupe (snap)
'98 Corvette Indy Pace car
'99 Corvette convertible (w/paint)
Datsun Off-Road pickup
Ferrari Testarossa convertible
'Pie Wagon' show rod
'Beer Wagon' show rod
'67 Corvette coupe (1/12th)

Lindberg

'40 Ford coupe police car
'64 Dodge two-door sedan (stock)
'96 Caravan (snap)
Illinois police Caravan (snap)

'97 Dakota pickup (snap)
'61 'Dyno Don' Chevy S/S
'64 'Ramchargers' Dodge S/S
'64 'Maverick' Dodge S/S

1999 Ford SVT Lightning pickup

[Revell #7665; 100+ pieces; White, clear, and clear red (that's it!)]

Well gang, here is the latest player in the kick-butt hot rod pickup segment, the **Ford Lightning**. The formula for success for this segment started out simply enough-to one pickup truck, add liberal doses of horsepower, a nice set of wheels, and maybe a few graphics. Stir well, and voila! *The 'Little Red Express' Dodge pickup (circa 1978), and Chevy 454SS (circa 1990) were born (with the GMC Syclone immediately following it, figuratively speaking, of course!).* Not to be left out, in 1993, Ford quickly entered the fray with their **F-150 Lightning pickup**, which was cooked up by the gang within the Ford Skunkworks (*a.k.a. SVO at the time, which is now SVT*). With the appearance of the Ford Lightning into the fray,

the gang over at the Blue Oval raised the bar somewhat, in that the Lightning also included a wheel and tire upgrade and a few suspension tweaks, which enabled it to 'handle' the Chevy, ensuring its victory over the 454SS in braking and skidpad tests, allowing the Chevy to marginally outrun it (*the Lightning's top speed was electronically governed*).

Sadly, it seemed as though the big Chevy disappeared from the scene, while the Lightning remained. Sales numbers were never a big problem, as production of the current version will most likely not exceed 4,000 this year. And for 1999, the guys at Ford seem intent on 'improving' the truck with an **Eaton roots-type supercharger** bolted to the 5.4-liter Triton V-8, and the addition of **18" wheels** and a set of **5-spoke mag wheels**. The supercharger cranks out 8 psi of boost, good for **360 horsepower** and **0-60 times of 5.8 seconds** (*as recorded by Car & Driver magazine, January 1999*)! **We're talking musclecar territory here, folks!** The gang at Revell has kitted this truck. So, let's quit jawing and take a look!

Engine: The Triton 5.4-liter V-8 features a longitudinal seam, which will be covered by the oil and transmission pans. A set of nice, finned valve covers and the roots-type blower top off the engine. A separate oil filter, and power steering pump, A/C pump and alternator are also included.

Chassis: The chassis includes a simplified lower front suspension, and a sway bar. Front springs are molded in two pieces each, and tubular upper A-arms, and disc brakes round out the front suspension. Also included is a steering box. The exhaust system properly exits at the side of the truck, just in front of the rear tire. Two crossmembers and a two-piece gas tank are also added to this unit. The rear suspension includes separate third member, leaf springs, rear end cover, rear spring hangers, disc brakes, and shocks. A three-piece radiator and upper hose along with the driveshaft are also included. Sadly, a **plastic spare tire** rounds out the chassis.

Wheels/Tires: It appears as though the gang at Revell have included the new **Goodyear F1 wheels** from their excellent C5 Corvette kit. While this isn't all bad, I believe that the **Corvette** runs along **on 17" rims**, vs. **18" for the Ford**. They have tooled up a **positively gorgeous set of 5-spoke mag wheels** with inners, again similar in execution to the aforementioned Corvette. It won't be long before this **set of wheels** shows up **on a street rod** (*and for that matter, maybe even that Eaton-supercharged V-8 as well! That would be an awesum street rod!!*).

Body: The pickup cab consists of two main pieces (*main cab, and the rear cab wall*), to which are added the integral front bumper/grille, hood, outside mirrors, and ground effects. The windshield wipers are separate items, as is the rear cab light. The pickup one-piece bed includes a separate two-piece tail gate, rear step bumper, two clear red tail lights, three chassis crossmembers, and the remainder of the ground effects package (*two pieces per side*).

Interior: A tub-style interior, to which separate door panels are added. The dash is the same two-piece affair as in earlier versions of this truck, in that the instrument cluster is a separate piece, and a clear lens is included to cover the gauge cluster. The proper white-faced gauge decals finish off the dash. The stubby steering column features tilt/gear selector/turn signal stalks. The bench seat is two pieces.

Glass: Front and rear windows (*sliding rear*) are included, as well as the aforementioned gauge face cover, and fog light lenses.

Decals: Decals include SVT wheel center logos, assorted underhood markings, white-faced SVT gauge cluster, and two sets of license plates (*no vanity plates*).

Chrome: **There ain't none!** Revell has included not one whit of chrome in this kit!! Everything will be painted. **Thank yew!!**

My hat is off to the gang at Revell for kitting a truck that will see no more than 4,000 full-size copies in production. How long do you think the gang at **Chevy** will go before resurrecting the **SS** in some shape or form? Not long, I bet! And do you think a **Dodge Ram R/T** (*we could only hope that it would be heavily based on their VTS concept pickup truck!!*) is very far down the road as well?! It's gonna be interesting!

By: Tim Sickle

BITS & PIECES

- **"I'm with the dummy!"** Guess you guys already heard about the **woman caught recently on the HOV lanes of I-270 with a dummy in the car?** No, not a **mentally challenged person**, an **inflatable one!!** A trooper saw the woman exit the HOV lane near Shady Grove road in Gaithersburg, and pulled her over, citing her for violating HOV restrictions, which require two people in a car during rush hour, and making an unsafe lane change. Guess her defense was, **"The Dummy made me do it!?"** Thanks to **The Washington Times!**
- **Rumor Mill!** Word reaches me about what is supposed to be an all-new kit of a **car** belonging to the **Greatest Racer of all time** (*No, not Jeff Gordon!*)-**Speed Racer!!** Scale is unknown, and it is rumored to hit the shelves sometime next year. Oh, almost forgot-**Polar Lights** is the rumored manufacturer!
- **Kudos!** The **model car column** in the latest issue of **Rod and Custom** magazine features almost all of **"Uncle Norman's" flathead goodies!** So, if you are a **'Flattie'** (*not to be confused with a 'Trekkie'*), maybe you could leave the mag laying around opened to this page, and your 'significant other' would take the hint for Christmas-it's worth a try!

- **'Internet Bob!'** Not only does Model Car Garage proprietor *Bob Korunow* make it easy for all of us to buy his products by constantly updating his product line-up with new and exciting items, and taking credit cards on his secure website, now you can download his catalog, to peruse it at will! *Thanks, Bob!*
- **N-M BMW X5. BMW** is at it again. Seems as though BMW has created a new *'Limited Edition'* (there are those words again!) *BMW X5 'Sports Activity Vehicle'*. There will be only **50** of this 2001 model, which will feature Impala Brown metallic paint and Titanium line trim. Purchasers will given the opportunity to participate in a *three-day, two-night 'high-performance' driving experience* at BMW's new Performance Center in Spartanburg, SC, with professional drivers to help them develop, train, and test their reflexes in everyday and emergency driving situations. Interested? You can make your purchase of this unique vehicle from the *new Nieman Marcus Christmas Book* (the book, by the way, costs \$6.50!), and it'll dent your credit card to the tune of **\$57,995-Ouch!!** Thanks again to The Washington Times.
- **Drag Racing Museum!** Yours truly got onto somebody's 'list' (the wrong list-I'm not independently wealthy). I received a mailing from none other than *Jon Lundberg*, *"The Voice of Drag Racing"* to become a supporter of *The Drag Racing and Hot Rodding Archive*. Support packages range from a *One-year member* (\$50.00), up to and including a *Founder* (\$1,000.00). For more info, write to them at 951 W. Orange Grove Road, Suite 79-101, Tuscon, AZ 85704-4089; (888) 752-4900; Website-www.drhra.org; E-mail-jonl@drhra.org.
- **Karmann Ghia returns?!** VW says its *new Beetle convertible* is being developed by *Wilhelm Karmann GmbH* in northern Germany! The deal was recently announced at the *50th Anniversary celebration* of the long cooperation between Karmann and Europe's largest automaker. Karmann is also developing a *new version* of the *Golf model convertible*, both companies reported. Karmann has built *approximately 2.6 million cars* for VW over the years, primarily convertibles.
- **Mustang Crossbreed!** According to a recent article in the Wheels section of the Prince George's Journal, the Mustang will receive its first *all-new platform* in **2003**. This platform is currently used for the *2000 Lincolns* and *Jaguar S-Type sedan*. The article also goes on to state that the new 'Stang will still feature a *V-6* and a *V-8*, and that a *350hp Cobra V-8* (possibly hooked to a *6-speed tranny!*) may be offered! The above info was posted on a website (www.blueovalnews.com), which Ford recently sued to strip it of its internal reports. No comments from Ford on the veracity of this info!
- **New Trucks?!** *General Motors* recently unveiled what they refer to as *"Big Kids Toys"*. The first one was an *'Acid Yellow' Chevy S10 4-door pickup* (what'd they do, leave a yellow truck parked out in the *'acid rain'* for a while?!). After it was unveiled, they announced it would indeed build a *crew-cab S10* next year! It will feature four forward-opening doors; it will be built on the long-wheelbase chassis, and will feature a 4.3 liter V-6. Their next truck, the *Sierra extended cab Professional 4X4*, is more suited to contractors and builders. It featured a *winch, trailer hitch, stainless steel running boards, self-storing loading ramp, remote-controlled halogen work light, electronically extendable heated side mirrors, and a tool chest. Inside, a laptop with a wireless keyboard, linked to a bubblejet printer (in the center console), hands-free cell phone, and an Internet link, a briefcase holder fitted to the rear door, a removable case stored under the seat for blueprint storage, and a swing-out compartment for emergency/first aid gear.* Finally, the truck has a *battery-charging station, with three 18-volt batteries, and a generator that supplies 5,000 volts of power to 110- and 220-volt outlets!!* Argh! Argh! *More Power!* No word on production possibility of this puppy. On a related note, at a recent SEMA show, *Daimler-Chrysler* showed off a *'GT Cruiser'* based on the soon-to-be-released *PT Cruiser* (Gag me!), and a *250-horse Plymouth 'Howler'* (a hotted-up version of the Prowler).
- **"You-Out of the Gene Pool!"** In Moulton, Alabama, a 20-year-old man who has had his driver's license suspended twice in the past few years is in trouble yet again. Seems as though his license was confiscated during a recent traffic stop, and he was told he could pick it up at the police station later that day. Since he didn't want to be caught driving without a license, he got someone to drive him-his *4-year-old nephew!!* Several deputies in the police station parking lot saw his 1977 Cadillac De Ville enter the lot with the *boy behind the wheel*. He was standing on the seat to reach the wheel, and the man was working the pedals from the passenger's seat. They drove that way for *six miles!* The man was charged with allowing a minor to drive, reckless endangerment, and failure to use a child restraint, all of which are misdemeanors. Duh! Thanks, appropriately enough, to *'Knuckleheads in the News'* for this gem!
- **General Motors and Subaru?!** According to last Friday's Washington Times Auto Weekend section, *GM* and *Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd.* (Subaru's parent company) have agreed that GM will buy a 20% stake in Fuji Heavy for 100 billion yen (\$980 Million dollars).
- **Late-breaking news!** In the December 15th *Business section* of the Washington Times, it was reported that *General Motors* is asking *Daewoo* creditors to write off billions of dollars of debt to allow *GM to take over the South Korean company!* GM is attempting to expand its 4.1 percent share of the Asian market, and it would be a great way to increase their market share in Korea's tightly controlled auto market, where only 1 percent of cars come from foreign makers.

COMING EVENTS

- ❑ *Jan. 14th-16th- 41st Annual Big K Mart World of Wheels* at the Baltimore Convention Center. Also featured will be the companion *SAE Model Car Contest!* For info, call (410) 590-4950.
- ❑ *Jan. 20th- Super Sunday Collectors Toy Show* at the Shrewsbury Fire Hall in Shrewsbury, MD from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For info, call Joe Golabiewski at (410) 592-5854, or Carl Daehnke at (717) 764-5411.
- ❑ *March 4th-The Birmingham Classic NNL Model car show and swap meet* at the Oporto Armory in Birmingham, AL from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Theme awards this year are *"Birds and Bees"* (Anything with a bird or insect name in it!). For *Vendor info*, contact Dan Morgan at P.O. Box 988 Cullman, AL 35056, or call [(256) 739-1819]. For *Show info*, contact Tommy May at MCCM 5605 12th Ave. South Birmingham, AL [(205) 591-8038] (SASE for flyer), or E-mail TMayMCCM@mindspring.com.
- ❑ *April 9th- WCCA Millennium Spring Toy Show* at the York Fairgrounds in York, PA from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For info, contact club office at (717) 653-7327.
- ❑ *April 29th- The First Annual Scenic City Classic NNL Model Car Show/Expo* sponsored by the Chattanooga Auto Replicas in Scale at the Camp Jordan Arena in scenic Chattanooga, TN *Themes* are *"Anything with a 'I' in it"*, and *"Fun in the Sun."* For *vendor info*, contact *Lee Baker* at 927 Belvoir Hills Cir. East Ridge, TN 37412 [(423) 629-0121], or E-mail augie@vol.com; for *sponsorship* and *other show info*, contact *David Rose* at 3856 S. Quail Lane Chattanooga, TN 37415 [(423) 870-9619], or E-mail cars@vol.com. Check out their website at <http://www.CARSMoDelCarGallery.com!>
- ❑ *May 12th to 14th-Flowmaster Pro Street Invitational* at Norwalk Raceway Park in Norwalk, Ohio. For further info, check out the website: spittleproductions.com or E-mail Frank at s.spittle@worldnet.att.com.
- ❑ *July 15th & 16th-York US 30 Dragway Reunion* at York Fairgrounds in York, PA. *Race car art, vintage photos and T-shirts, diecasts, books, magazines, videos, toys, signs, models, well, you get the picture!* A one-day ticket is \$10, or you can get a 'York Club Package (two-day pass, VIP parking, name badge, and program) for \$25. Vendor space (one or both days) is 10X10, and costs \$50. Reply to *Frank Spittle*, P.O. Box 490, Cornelius, NC 28031; (704) 892-8008.
- ❑ *Dec. 2nd & 3rd-11th Annual Street Cars of Desire Car Show* at the MD State Fairgrounds, in the Cow Palace at Timonium, MD.

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED- SAE magazine binders; old custom parts; old model boxes, empties, any condition-even just tops. Call Mark Mason at (540) 371-8931, or see me at the meetings.

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. Sickie
15905 Ark Court
Bowie, Maryland 20716
(301) 249-3830

Norman F. Veber
317 Roosevelt Ave., S.W.
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061
(410) 768-3648

