



MAMA SEZ!

Volume 20, Issue 4

December, 2006



This is the newsletter of the **Maryland Automotive Modelers Association**

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2007 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month (unless noted otherwise). Do **NOT** assume meeting dates—confirm them with a club officer!

- 📅 January 20th
- 📅 February 17th
- 📅 March 17th
- 📅 April 21st
- 📅 May 19th
- 📅 June 16th
- 📅 July 21st
- 📅 August 18th
- 📅 September 15th
- 📅 October 20th
- 📅 November 17th
- 📅 December 15th



Inclement weather phone number: (301) 474-5255. 📞

Have Y'all been Good?!

Well gang, we all knew it musta been November. How, you ask? With the appearance of **Dirk "Calendar Man" Johnson**, natch! He's unable to attend every meeting, but never misses November and December. He comes in November to offer up deals on those beautiful **Paul Oxman calendars**, which he delivers in December. **Thanks Dirk—we 'preciate it!**

Thanks to everyone

for the **Toys for Tots donations**. And, special thanks to **Norm & Mary Veber** (with an assist by **Ron Bradley**) for the 'special delivery.'

Looks like we **finally** got a **kit review** (such as *it is*) for the newsletter. I can't remember how long the drought was. Like it or not, it is on a **NASCAR Monte Carlo SS**. Specifically, **Tony Stewart's "Home Depot" '06 car**, by yours truly. It may well be the last

modern **NASCAR** ride I consider doing, with the advent of the **"Car of Tomorrow"** (more inside).

The raffle raised **\$107.00**, while the door box kicked in an additional **\$41.00**.

Kudos to the following donors: **Brad, Ron Bradley, Steve M. Buter, Phillip Ditch, Ron Hamilton, Randy Kern, Lyle, Charlie Magers & Replicas & Miniatures Co. of MD**. **Thanks, y'all!** 🍷

Recycled Motorcycle Returns?!

Let's hope they're as good at keeping out the bombs as they are at keeping in the beauties.

For the second time in recent months, the Department of Homeland Security has prevented a stolen collector's-item vehicle from being shipped out of the Port of Los Angeles.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection offi-

cers Wednesday returned a classic **Yamaha motorcycle** swiped 34 1/2 years ago off a Long Beach street to its surprised and delighted owner.

The recovery mirrored that of a stolen, pristine **1968 Corvette**, which federal agents returned to its owner in January. The **\$18,000 sports car** was taken from

a **New York City garage** in 1969.

Customs agents found that vehicle in a steel shipping container headed to a car buff in **Stockholm**.

The motorcycle, still in good shape and running condition, was discovered in a shipping container destined for **Lahti, Finland**. A man

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Tony “Smoke” Stewart’s ‘06 Monte Carlo SS

[Revell #2029; 1/24th scale; white, black vinyl; clear, vinyl tires]

Since the last ‘stock’ car (*I use that term loosely!*) I bought was a 2003, I’ll compare the two, and make the assumption that Revell has used the same excellent tool this time around with a few releases in between.

First off, I was mildly amazed by the apparent chopped top look of this car. NASCAR should be proud of the custom that they have created.

Body: The instructions allude to a new for ‘06 Monte Carlo body. This is the first time in recent history that I’ve seen a modern stock car kit. I must say, that it appears to bear only a passing resemblance to its street twin. It is indeed new.

Engine: The 17-piece small block features the longitudinal seam, which is at least partially masked by the separate oil pan. I notice that there is not one iota of chrome on this engine. What’s more, with the possible exception of the headers (*steel*) and a portion of the front cover (*flat black*), Revell seems intent on having you paint the entire engine assembly (*distributor included*) aluminum, something I would question.

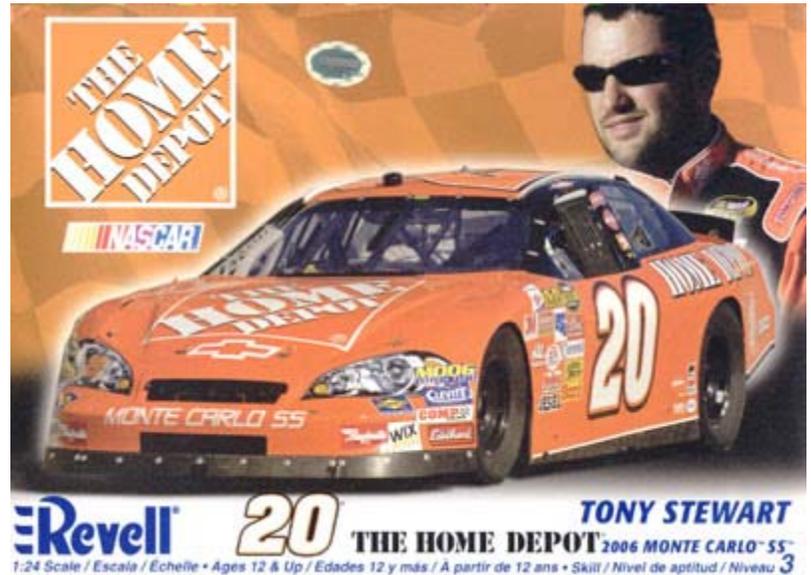
Chassis/Interior: The interior includes what, on the surface, seems to be miles and miles of rollbar tubing. They did retool a new dash, which moved the electronics from the rollbar to the top of the dash. The gauge face still mounts behind the dash, but due to the thickness of this part, and

not very legible once done. They also seem to have thrown in a new two-piece driver’s seat for good measure. Also new this time

around is a new driver’s safety net, that attaches to the right side of the driver’s seat, and extends to the dash. And let’s not forget the black vinyl hoses that duct fresh air into the car for the driver’s benefit.

Wheels/Tires: Here we are confronted with a victim of the licensing (*read: greed*) equation—the tires used to have the Good-year Eagle marking pre-lettered on. This set appear positively naked by the absence of any marking. The 10-slot rims feature slotted rotors all around, and rudimentary calipers on the front axles. The wheels are mounted up front by metal pins, while a metal axle is camouflaged inside the third member in the rear.

Glass: The glass features pre-painted black trim around the edges. All glass—front and rear window, passenger side door glass, and quarter windows—mount from the outside. There are holes in the rear window, a necessity to reach the chassis adjust-



ment (*spring & trackbar*) screws.

Decals: The decals appear pretty complete, and nicely done. Major and minor sponsors alike seem to have made the cut. Black decal is included for the area around the side windows, giving the builder the option of decals or paint for this area.

Instructions: What we have come to expect from the gang at Revell—step-by-step, with parts identified by name and suggested color. Also included is a decal placement guide on the last page, including placement of same on the included driver figure.

All in all, a seemingly accurate replica of the past champions’ ride. I’m bettin’ the little laser NASCAR logo on the box top, just to the right of the Home Depot logo cost Revell a pretty penny! You may not see many more of these around, though, what with the arrival of the ‘*Car of Tomorrow*.’ Generic bodies, with splitters on the front ends and tuner-style wings on the rear

(Continued on page 3)

'Smoke' (contd)

(Continued from page 2)

decks, it seems to me that they won't survive the first 'bump draft' under race conditions.

While on the subject of these new cars, the latest *Motor Trend magazine* (January, 2007) has an interesting article on this exact subject entitled, "You Think Bubba's Will Like Us?" I like their description of the COT— "...a larger, unfortunately frog-shaped vehicle with a big Pep Boys spoiler on the rear..." Also prominent in the article is a section on Bill Bagwell, a dedicated NASCAR fan, and General Motors employee for 21 years. Upset at the thought of Toyota entering his distinctly American sport, he has created a website—



'08 COT Impala SS? Time will tell!

fansagainstracingtoyotas.com (a.k.a. FART!). While I have yet to visit, I will. Surprisingly (or not?) in this same issue, Motor Trend awarded the 2007 Toyota Camry the *Car of the Year*.

With the introduction of the COT contingent, NASCAR should finally put to rest the

'Stock' portion of the term 'Stock car,' and possibly consider replacing it something a bit more descriptive, such as 'Tuner' car.

I think my non-drag racing TV viewing time for 2007 will be better spent watching the *Rocket Racing League* (see our November '06 newsletter for details). 🏆

"The Shoe" is Back!

Nostalgia Fuel Funny Car owner Justin Grant, of Bloomington, Ind., will reproduce one of the most exciting and visually stunning Nostalgia fuel funny cars of its time: the 70s "Stardust" Cuda nitro funny car.

The car, raced by Don Schumacher to an unequalled record in match races across the country—along with other cars he raced in the 70s that were dubbed "Stardust"—is a tribute to one of the biggest icons in the sport, says Grant. It will be driven by Joe Haas, of Findlay, Ill., in the Nostalgia Pro Comp Association (NPCA) and other nostalgia-racing events in 2007. NHRA funny car racer Dale Pulde is the technical

advisor and "remote crew chief" on the car.

The Tribute Stardust Cuda will make its debut in the spring of 2007 with help from DSR Racing, Valvoline, Brut, U.S. Army, DB Industries, and Lakewood Engineering.

"I am thrilled that Justin is recreating the car," says Schumacher, "and to see the car that I drove back in the 70s come back to life and return to the quarter-mile almost exactly as it was back then. This nostalgia racing craze has certainly taken off, and I'm proud to see this great history



of our sport so well received."

"With the coming addition of the Stardust, we are excited about the opportunity to relive the glory days of Fuel match racing against the likes of Troy Martin's Chi-Town Hustler, the Blue Max, Les Turilli's Caveman, and various other quality Nostalgia fuel funny cars." For more on vintage racing, go to <http://www.nostalgiafunnycarnews.com> 🏆

This 'n That

More new Stuff! As if our brains weren't reeling from last month's trade show 2007 model announcements, **Model King** has just announced a few more for good measure! They include the **Mack DM600 truck** and **three old 1/32nd scale drag kits** from Revell—the **Fiat**, '34 **Ford**, and **Dragster**. No word on release dates. Thanks to the HHMB... **Chinese Knockoff of German Car Busted!** A small Chinese automaker stopped production last month of a two-person electric car after **DaimlerChrysler AG** complained that it looked too

much like its Smart car. **Shandong Huoyun Electromobile Co.**, based in the eastern coastal province of Shandong, started production of the



City Spirit in August. Shandong Huoyun used a toy model Smart car purchased via the Internet to help with the design, the company says. "We definitely did not expect our car to resemble the original," says Wang Fei, an executive at Shandong Huoyun. **Doh!** To avoid lawsuits, the company will rework the car. Wang says it will be shortened by 7.9 inches. Engineers also will change the doors, rear end and cargo capacity. The City Spirit got into trouble when a manager at a trading company, China National Machinery & Equipment Import and Export Corp., described it as a

Smart car in a magazine interview. In the German Autobild magazine, Jerry Chen, international sales manager at China National, was quoted as saying, "Our city centre Smart was developed exclusively for Europe." In an interview later, Chen said his company stopped selling Shandong Huoyun vehicles after receiving a letter from DaimlerChrysler. He declined

further comment. Established in 2001, Shandong Huoyun has 150 employees, including 31 mid- and high-level engineers. It makes a range of golf cars, electric minicars and all-terrain vehicles... **Kewl website!** I have it on good authority from **Kustom 'expert' Chad Shapiro**

that another **long-distance MAMA's Boy**, this time none other than **Rik Hoving**, has a really cool website. I've not had the time to visit yet myself, but you can all go to <http://www.rikhovingkustoms.com/RHKI/Logo.html> and see for yourselves! I'll get around to it one of these days... **RWD Imp for '09?** Chevy's Impala is going rear-wheel drive in '09. GM sources say the car will share a rwd platform with the upcoming Chevrolet Camaro (**big surprise!** *Hope it's better lookin'!*), which will be built late in '08 in Oshawa, Ontario. Impala production will



start several months later, a GM source said. The rwd Impala also will be distinguished from the 2007 model by its long wheelbase and short front and rear overhangs. The car will be similar in length and width to the front-drive '07 Impala. The passenger compartment will be larger than that of the '07 Impala, the source said. The rwd platform is being engineered by GM's **Holden**

subsidiary... **Super Audi?** Audi's R8 will be the German premium automaker's first car to break the 300kph barrier. Powered by a 420hp V-8 engine, the supercar will have a top speed of 301kph. All other Audis will continue to be electronically limited to 250kph. "It is impossible to sell a vehicle like the R8 with a speed limiter," an Audi spokesman told Automotive News Europe. The mid-engine R8 is targeted at the Porsche 911, which has a top speed of 285kph to 310kph, depending on the model. Audi is breaking a voluntary agreement by German carmakers—excluding Porsche—to limit the top speed of their cars to 250kph. The agreement was made in 1988, when BMW's V-12-powered 750i upper-premium car was launched. Its theoretical top speed was higher than 250kph but carmakers wanted to avoid a public discussion about speed limits in Germany. The German autobahn system does not have a general speed limit. But politicians are under pressure from safety

(Continued on page 5)

T 'n T (contd)

(Continued from page 4)

campaigners to impose one. The voluntary agreement has been weakened in recent years. BMW M5 and M6 buyers can opt to have their top speed raised to 305kph if they take part in a special driving course. Buyers of cars from Mercedes' in-house tuners, AMG, can have their top speed raised to 275kph and 300kph as a factory-approved option, depending on the model. Audi unveiled its R8 at the Paris auto show last month, three years after a supercar concept called the Le Mans Quattro debuted at the IAA in Frankfurt. As Audi's halo car, the German carmaker will build about 5,000 units a year of the coupe. Deliveries are due to start in the first half of next year. Audi says it plans to offer optional LED front lights in its R8 supercar, and that the R8 will be the first series-production car to have LED high and low beams, daytime running lights and turn signals...**SuperVette Surfaces Again!** Judging by these spy shots that recently appeared on autoweek.com, it appears that the car is on the development fast track. These photos were taken recently outside of Ann Arbor. Possible visit to the EPA for the dreaded sniffer test... **Europe Invaded?!** On the eve of the recent Paris Motor

Show, 15 miles south of the city center, GM was writing a little piece of history. Europe's **first Authentic Hummer Center** officially opened for business, and other are set to follow in London and Rome, supported by a network of smaller dealerships. '06 sales are up 200 percent vs. '05, and sales are expected to run into the low thousands by the end of '07. Cadillac hasn't exactly been a hit: Total sales, forecast at 4000 units for '05, came in at about half that number. The figure for '06 is up, but not by much with just 1694 Caddys sold in the first six months. Chevy is also doing well; from January to September it sold a total of 247,871 vehicles in Europe, up more than 10 percent compared to '05. Chevy and other U.S. automakers may have a brighter future in Europe than here...**Dead Scions?** Toyota's Scion brand will stick to its promise of short product life spans when it ceases production of the

be Japan-market vehicles configured to meet U.S. crash and emissions standards. The third vehicle in the Scion lineup, the tC coupe, will stay. It went on sale in June '04...**Big, Bad Bimmer in '09.** BMW may have shut down production of its Z8 sports car in '03, but the engineers who came up with that car clearly haven't been sitting on their hands. Word is the company is working on another super-sports car, both in coupe and roadster form, which will best the Z8 in performance and attitude. This illustration



reflects the direction BMW is believed to be taking with the design of the new car, which is expected to hit the market in 2009...



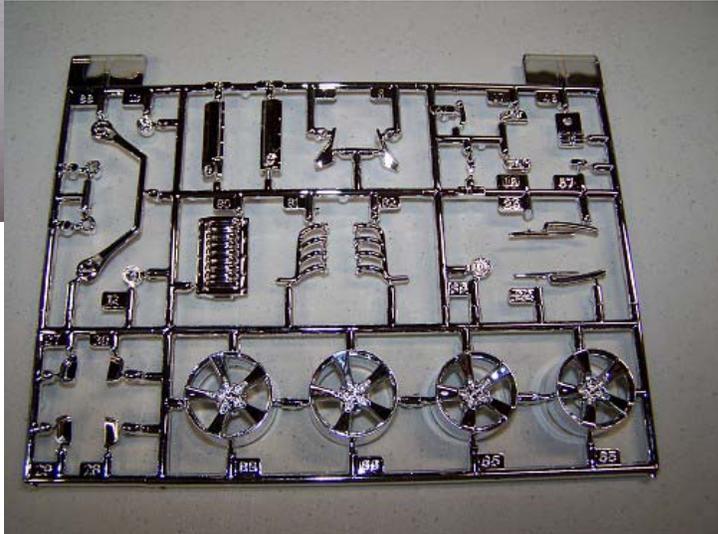
New Lambo? Lamborghini used the Paris show stage to reveal the Gallardo Nera, an exclusive model based on the '07 Gallardo. Limited to 185 cars, it is a showcase for personalized options available through Lamborghini's ad personam service. Standard, however, is the Gallardo's 5.0-liter, 520-hp V10 mid-mounted engine and permanent all-wheel drive (Thanks to the *Washington Times*, *autoweek.com*, and other Internet sources for this insanity! Ya just can't make some of this up!! Thanks also to those of you in the 'Peanut Gallery' who have attempted to help me entertain y'all by sending stuff along—I 'preciate it!) 🍷

xA and xB hatchbacks this month. The two cars will be replaced by unspecified vehicles in early '07. Scion execs declined to give details about the replacements. They likely will



'07 ('08?) Camaro shots!

Thanks to a modeler (*whose name escapes me at the moment*) on 'that' board. For those of you yet to purchase yours, we have shots of the currently available new RC2 'Concept' Camaro. If ya like what ya see, get with Ron Bradley! 🚗



Mini-Museum?!

With rows of Lamborghinis, Ferraris, Porsches, race cars and other coveted classic collectible vehicles stacked six layers deep into a hillside near the Hollywood sign, Tak Yamamoto has assembled the ultimate automotive museum. "Assembled" is the operative word, as the entire collection is a *1/87th scale model* the Art Center College of Design student built as his final project.

The museum is Yamamoto's Project X, a course in which Art Center students are given free rein to research and design whatever stirs their creativity. He confesses necessity was his main muse.

"I have been collecting scale model cars for 10 years and had about 100 of them just sitting around on shelves," he said.

Yamamoto had previously built smaller dioramas, including an auto dealership and adjoining park hosting a classic car show, but his collection outgrew those. An avid car enthusiast and scale model kit builder since he was a kid, Yamamoto settled on the smaller cars because the larger 1/18th and 1/24th

models were not compatible with a student-size apartment.

"I love cars so much that I was running out of room, so I said, 'What's the smallest, most detailed level I can work with.'"

It's a decision he does not regret, because not only are many of the cars better detailed than the larger models, but because they are primarily produced for HO scale model railroad use, there are thousands of different vehicles available.

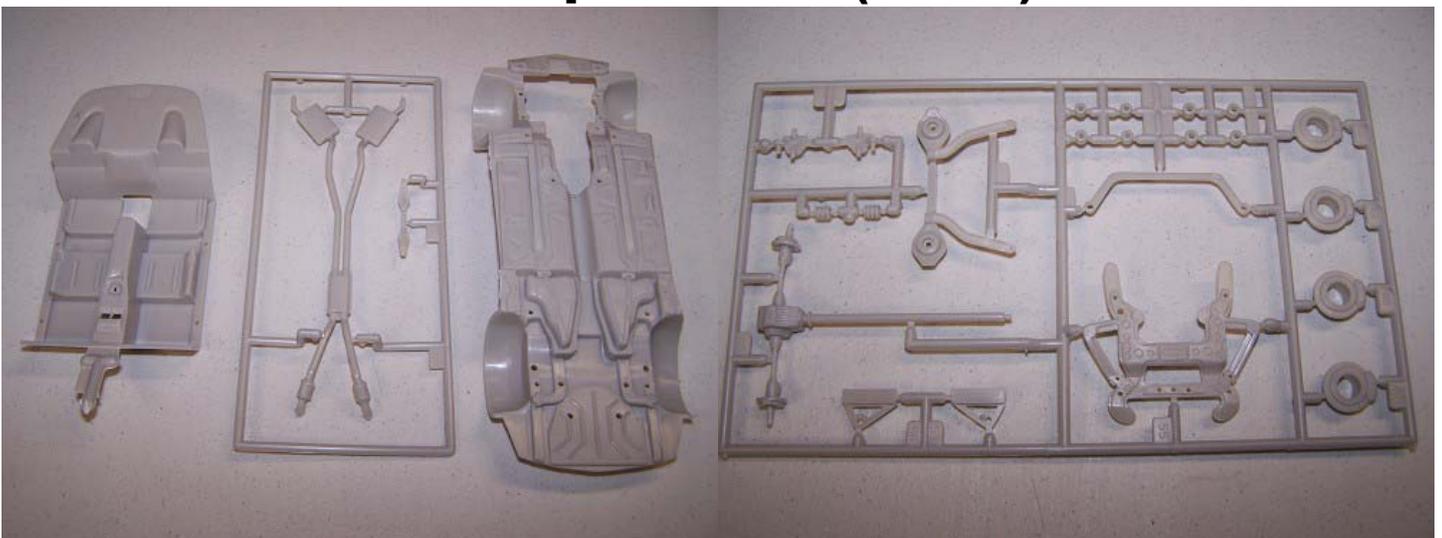
His research included not only finding an existing parcel of land to model but also meeting with Dick Messer of the Petersen Automotive Museum to study operations. As a result he included a restaurant, bar, restoration and service area, receiving and adminis-

trative offices. His idea for displaying cars on a series of descending ramps is similar to the approach taken in the new Mercedes-Benz museum, although he arrived at his system independently.

The mini museum, five feet long by two feet wide and two feet high, may end up in a real museum itself. Messer extended an invitation to include it in a future Petersen exhibit. 🏠



Concept Camaro (contd)



Recycled (contd)

(Continued from page 1)

there purchased it last fall on EBay from an unsuspecting Visalia, Calif., resident for \$1,725.

Just as before, agents turned to a national insurance group's database to track down 1971 crime victim Philip McMeen. Now an airline pilot who lives in Concord, N.H., he traveled to Long Beach on Wednesday to retrieve his motorcycle.

Homeland Security officials acknowledged that many people are more interested in what customs and border officers are keeping out of the United States than what they are keeping in.

Don't worry, Customs and Border Protection spokesman Michael Fleming said. "We screen all cargo coming in and physically inspect 6%" of shipping containers—those that the initial screenings deem high-risk.

As with most people, the threat of a dirty nuclear bomb in a shipping container slipping through American ports "is our worst fear," he said. That's why gamma ray and X-ray devices along with physical inspections are used for scanning high-risk shipments, he said.

McMeen, 57, is an American Airlines captain. He said he frequently flew American's Flight 11, which was commandeered by terrorists and crashed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Because of his work, he admires border and customs agents.

"From the air I see mile after mile of shipping containers. They

can't check every one, but I appreciate what they do," he said.

Heightened security at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors has paid unexpected dividends since the start of 2002, Customs and Border Protection administrators say.

Through the end of 2005, agents had seized 221 outward-bound vehicles worth a total of \$4.7 million.

Many were blocked from shipment because of improper export papers, because they were unmanifested or because of under-evaluation.

Most were luxury SUVs. But two were new Philippines-bound GMC Yukons worth a combined \$230,000 that were outfitted with armor plating and "tear gas dispersal" equipment. Sixty-eight vehicles, including the 1968 Corvette, were found to have been stolen.

Imported cars—such as the infamous Ferrari Enzo that some authorities believe Swedish video game executive Stefan Eriksson crashed into a Malibu power pole in February while driving 162 mph—are more problematic, port agents have discovered.

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies arrested Eriksson, 44, at his Bel-Air estate, alleging that he didn't own the Enzo or other imported cars in his \$3.5-million exotic auto collection. Instead, authorities said, they are owned by British financial institutions.

"We'd like to know how he got them in the country," Fleming

said.

As authorities returned McMeen's motorcycle to him, they had former Long Beach Police Officer John Finn hand over the keys. Finn, who retired from the department 16 years ago, took the stolen vehicle report Oct. 4, 1971, when a chain was cut and the *Yamaha RT 360* was taken from outside McMeen's apartment

on Nieto Avenue in Belmont Shore.

"I told Mr. McMeen we'd probably get it back," but not to expect it right away, Finn said.

When a routine check of the motorcycle's ve-

hicle identification number on the shipper's export papers showed it had been reported stolen, Long Beach police dug up the original report from microfilmed records.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau database turned up McMeen's phone number in New Hampshire.

Bureau Special Agent Richard Litsinger phoned with the news.

"I was skeptical when I got the call," McMeen said. "I thought it was a scam. I was waiting for him to ask me for my Social Security number or credit card number."

McMeen received a helmet from Long Beach Police Sgt. Dave Cannan, who reminded him that a helmet safety law had been enacted since the pilot's last California cycle ride. McMeen climbed aboard the Yamaha and gave it a couple of kick starts.

With a loud, lawnmower-like

(Continued on page 10)





- **Mar. 24th—21st Annual NNL East** at the Parsippany PAL building, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Themes are “*Deuces Wild—the 75th Anniversary of the ‘32 Ford,*” and “*Lucky Sevens—any Vehicle with a 7 in it.*” Info: Go to <http://members.aol.com/nnleast2007>, or e-mail nnleast2007@aol.com.

- **July 13th & 14th, 2007—Super Stock Nationals Reunion** at the fairgrounds in York, PA.

Th, th, that's all for now folks! Send stuff if you know of an upcoming event, and we'll get it listed! 🍷

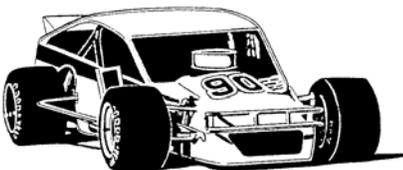
Classified

WANTED: 5-spoke & Minilite-style wheels, in both 1/32nd and 1/24th and/or 1/25th scales. Also want Revell 1/32nd scale '70 Trans Am kits, and 1 Revell un-built Rick Dobbertin J-2000. Contact Tim Sickel at gtoguy@verizon.net, or see me at a meeting.

FOR SALE/TRADE:

Thinning/narrowing focus, not quitting. Contact Tim Sickel at gtoguy@verizon.net, or see me at a meeting.

Got an ad? E-mail me, and we'll see if we can fit it in! 🍷



Poncho Reference Request

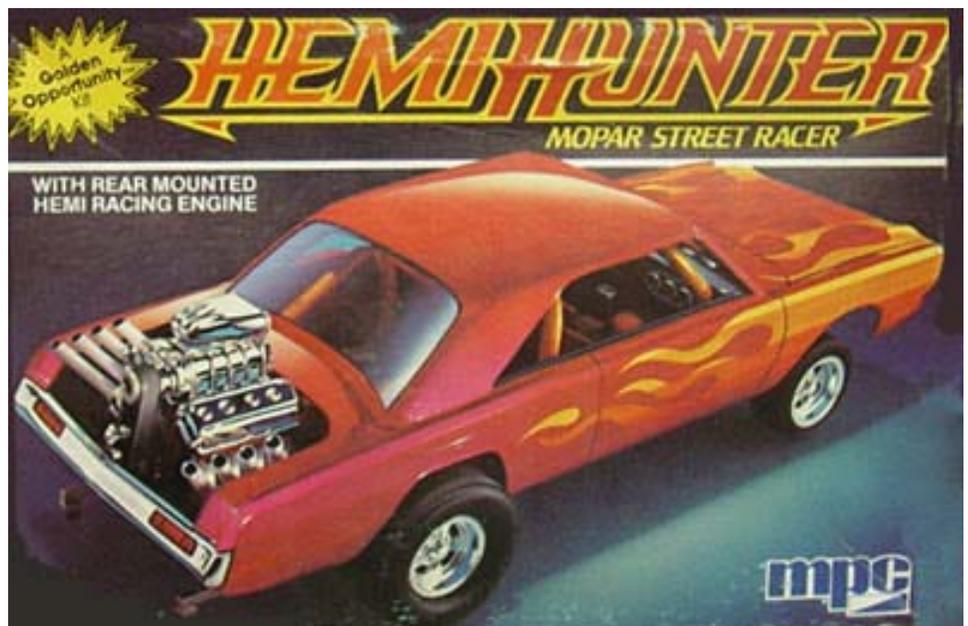
As I requested at the October MAMA meeting, I am attempting to compile a *Scale Pontiac Racing Gallery* of pictures of all facets of Pontiac racing. I'd really appreciate the use of any pictures

and/or website links that could 'bulk up' my library for future modeling projects, whatever the venue (*i.e., NASCAR, NHRA, D1 Drifting, you name it!*). E-mail me at gtoguy@verizon.net. *Thanks!*



How's this one grab ya?? It is driven by none other than Ralph Earnhardt (yeah, THAT Earnhardt—Dale's dad!). Neat, huh?

Blast From The Past!



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MAMA's BoyZ do it in scale!



Recycled (contd)

(Continued from page 8)

putt-putt-putt and a cloud of blue smoke, it started right up. He made several circuits around the impound lot.

The motorcycle had been his primary form of transportation in 1971, when he was living near the beach and working at a chemical company, he said. "I was reduced to tennis shoes—to walking—when it was stolen."

These days, he drives a Toyota pickup and, on weekends, a Dodge Viper.

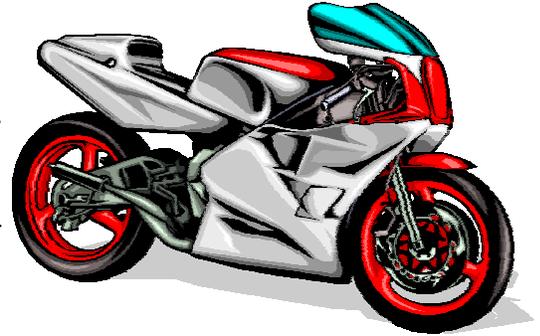
So he will make some minor cosmetic repairs to the Yamaha and polish it up "as a tribute" to those who found it and returned it to him, he said.

A Long Beach police officer volunteered to help him crate

the cycle for shipping today. It will be sent to New Hampshire by Amtrak rail. "They have a great shipping service," McMeen said.

Why not just fly it east in the baggage compartment of an American Airlines passenger plane?

"They'd lose it," McMeen said with a laugh (*taken from the LA Times*, <http://www.latimes.com/>)



We're on the web!
<http://www.mamasboyz.org/>

Websites

Carlisle Events: <http://www.carlisleevents.com>

East Coast Indoor Nationals
(Timonium, MD): [www/eastcoastindoornats.com](http://www.eastcoastindoornats.com)

Kahunaville: <http://www.kahunaville.com>

Maple Grove Raceway: <http://www.maplegroveraceway.com/>

Maryland Chevelle club: <http://www.chevelles.netmcc/mcc.htm>

Maryland Intl Raceway: <http://www.mirdrag.com/>

Norwalk (Ohio) Raceway Park: <http://www.norwalkraceway.com/>

Old Toyland Shows: <http://www.oldtoylandshows.com/>

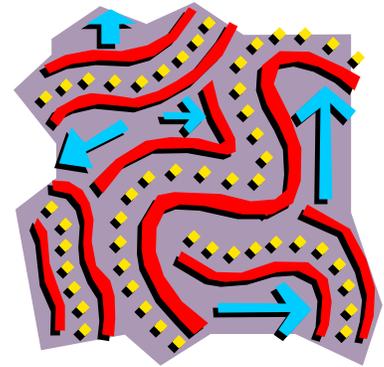
York US30 Musclecar Madness: www.yorkus30.com



Directions

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 495/95): 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 (*read on!*)



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