

MAMA Sez!

Volume 32, Issue 10

June, 2020

"Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 31 Years!"



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

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2020 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month from **11 am to 2 pm** (unless noted otherwise). Do **NOT** assume meeting dates—confirm them with a club officer!

- ☞ January 18th
- ☞ February 15th
- ☞ March 21st
- ☞ April 18th
- ☞ May **NONE (!)**
- ☞ June 20th
- ☞ July 18th
- ☞ August 15th
- ☞ September 19th
- ☞ October 17th
- ☞ November 21st
- ☞ December 19th (10 - 3!)

STILL Sheltering in Place?!

Hopefully, you are all **STILL** doing what is necessary to ensure yours and your family's safety, given the current state of world affairs.

In an attempt to push out yet another form of club communication, I have attempted to compile the June newsletter earlier than usual. As a result, the club's "Virtual Meeting" con-

cept as put forward by Tim Powers (*and his column*) may be MIA.

First and foremost this month, please pay particular attention to Ron Bradley's update on the liquidation of **MAMA's Boy Gary Sutherlin's considerable collection**. Once you have done so, please make every effort to contact Ron

Bradley and arrange to visit and help to "diversify" it. **Thanks!**

The "hits" (*Pontiacs!*) just keep coming, in the form of a few Salvino's JR Models' 2+2 Grand Prix builds that I found online.

Please be safe! With any luck, things will get back to some semblance of normal soon! 🙏

MORE C8 Insanity

One stupid mistake ruined this new Vette, and the owner is understandably upset.

We're proud to admit that we're Corvette obsessed here at **Corvette Forum**. Besides our usual work for the homepage, scouring the forums, and browsing car listings, we've filled our social media feeds with Corvettes, too. Over on Facebook, we're members of the [C8 Corvette Owners \(And Friends\)](#) group.

Usually, the mood is pretty positive over there. Everyone is showing off their shiny new Vettes,

and everyone is still buzzing with excitement about the '20 Vette. However, we saw a recent post that made our

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C8 (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)
heart sink.

A dealership was servicing a Torch Red C8 belonging to Jake Miller, when it ***fell off of the lift and crashed to the ground.*** [Auto Evolution](#) came across the post in a different Facebook group, where the owner responded, understandably upset. ***“That’s my f***ing car, how the hell did this get on Instagram?”***

He knew about the incident, but didn’t know the photos had been shared and that he had become an overnight celebrity for all of the wrong reasons. He explains that it was not an equipment issue, but operator error that ruined his Vette.

With the engine now being in the middle of the car, the weight bias is shifted rearward. Lifting a C8 the same way you’d lift a C7—or any other Corvette—is a recipe for disaster. Falling backward off the lift is exactly what will happen. Luckily, no-one was hurt, but the incident could have been a whole lot worse.

Chevy has developed training for every aspect of [C8](#) service, from basic to major. Naturally, lift training is part of the program, and this balance issue is explained in the training. However, it’s pos-

sible that the tech who made the mistake wasn’t trained on the Corvette—or they simply forgot.

We reached out to Miller, but haven’t received a response. It’s probably for the best, as he’s still in the process of working with the dealership to figure out how to make things right. We wouldn’t want to compromise that.

We can’t imagine how frustrating this must be for Miller. If it were up to us, the dealer would buy back his car at full MSRP and find him [a brand new one](#). We hope that, no matter what happens, he’s happy in the end.

‘GMC’ generated a ton of buzz when it announced that the new mid-engine ‘[20 Stingray](#) would be [priced at a very reasonable \\$59,995](#) in the US. Even though many ‘[20 Vette](#) models were ordered with an abundance of options that drove the price up well beyond the sub-\$60,000 base price, even the most expensive of them ring in at under \$100,000.

Considering a brand-new ‘[20 Vette](#) starts at under \$60,000, we’re left scratching our heads as to why this completely wrecked example is [valued at \\$108,000 by salvage company Copart](#). This Vette appears to be the same model that was [seen sitting in a muddy field](#) with its front fascia ripped off in images that were widely circu-



lated online. It’s not entirely clear how the car was damaged, but if we had to guess, we’d say the driver lost control of the car and slid off the road before crashing through a drainage ditch or into some sort of stationary object.

There’s probably no bringing this car back from the dead due to the abundance of front end damage and the fact that the airbags deployed. The only use anyone has for it is to pull the [6.2L V8](#) engine and eight-speed ZF dual-clutch transmission out of it for another build, but these items are not worth \$108,000 combined. Anyone can get a powerful small block and good transmission from Chevy Performance or other aftermarket suppliers for much less, so we’re not sure why anyone would want to buy from Copart, but hey, who are we to say how other people spend their hard-earned cash?

The ‘[20 C8](#) was selling for quite a bit at dealers and online, being in short supply due to the ‘[19 UAW](#) strike and the pandemic, but with the plant back up and running, customers [will be able to place orders for the ‘21 Vette](#) hardtop and convertible before production starts this year. 🚗



To MAMA:

A contingent of Gary's friends and I visited his widow at the end of May and retrieved **TWO** vanloads of sealed kits totaling approx 1,200 plus kits. We have scheduled a follow-up visit for early June for another 1,000 plus kits. It will very likely take at least **TWO** more trips for the unbuilt but unsealed kits, books, paints and miscellaneous parts. I am quickly running out of room. Con-

sider yourselves all on notice that since our meetings are still not happening on a regular basis, I strongly encourage club members to call me for an appointment to come to my house and browse Gary's kits. All regular sealed kits will be \$10.00, large kits/trucks \$20.00 and unsealed kits are \$5.00. And remember, you are not only helping me out, more importantly, you are helping Gary's widow in this difficult time.

Attention!

Signed,
Ron Bradley
Bradley's Car Collectibles
1445 Boulder Lane, Hanover, MD
410-551-8960 (home)
410 916-3239 ☎



A PORTION of Gary Sutherlin's car & truck models

A PORTION of Gary Sutherlin's race car models

A PORTION of Gary Sutherlin's car street rod models



Few vehicles will cause passersby to stop and stare. This [Chevy truck](#) makes **EVERYONE** stop and stare, and for good reason. That's because its body is mounted backwards on the frame.

In the picture below, we see a Massachusetts local, known as Ron, driving his [Chevy C/K 1500](#). The perspective in the video is the car that's driving behind Ron, and, as you will see, they are looking at the front of the Chevy C/K. If you think you're going crazy, look at the second picture as Ron's pickup makes a left turn into a neighborhood (*notice the turned REAR wheels*).

This truck is based on a Chevy C/K 1500 from the early 90s. The result of a four year-long undertaking by its owner, the pickup appears completely original on the outside. But when you look inside, you'll notice that the interior and all the controls, like the seats, steering wheel, dashboard and in-

strumentation, have been flipped around so it can drive like a normal truck...or as normal as this truck can be.

Amusingly, the online video notes that this truck conversion has passed the Massachusetts state vehicle inspection process. Part of that inspection is a brake and light test, which is no problem for Ron's truck because the front turn signals now serve as brake lights and tail lights, while the tail lights have been modified to work as headlights.

The video concludes with Ron turning into a cul de sac, with the front wheels, now located under the bed, steering just like any other truck. Show's over folks...move along.

Massachusetts State Police recently posted images of a ['20 Chevy Trax crossover SUV](#) that was **absolutely demolished** earlier this year after it struck several overpasses while loaded onto a car carrier semi truck.

The collision reportedly occurred on the morning of Tuesday, March 3rd, in the Massachusetts city of Peabody. Massachusetts State Police say the vehicle struck two different overpasses, including the overpass for Endicott Street, and the overpass for Route 114.

GOVERNMENT MOTORS

IN SOVIET AMERIKA, THE CAR DRIVES YOU... BANKRUPT!



AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION™

Luckily, no one was injured in the incident. What's more, the two overpasses were reportedly undamaged by the collision. However, traffic was shut down on Route 128 in order to clean up the wreckage.

The new Trax was apparently fixed to the top of the car carrier, and was too tall to fit under the overpasses. How the driver managed to hit not one, but two overpasses with this poor Chevy remains somewhat of a mystery, but it's possible the first collision was minor and went unnoticed, while the second collision destroyed the vehicle.

And when we say destroyed, we mean utterly, flat-out **demolished**. This crossover looks like it didn't stand a chance, like it was dropped off a cliff then run over

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'GMC' Recall Ticker

of Recalls
179 (!)

of Vehicles Affected
46,127,455

Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

by a tank for good measure. It's broken in half, with most of the body panels either completely gone or falling off in tatters, while the interior is a tangled mess of wires and ruined upholstery. The wheels might be salvageable, but the rest of it is toast.

"MA traffic update: Cleanup is underway. Collision destroyed the '20 Trax. Right lane still closed on Rte 128 SB in Peabody, just south of the Danvers line," Massachusetts State Police tweeted, along with pictures of the destroyed Trax.

Investigations into the incident are currently ongoing.

Back in December, [a class-action lawsuit](#) was filed against 'GMC' in the U.S. District Court in Ohio that claimed its [5.3-liter LC9 V8 engine burns high amounts of oil and has other design flaws](#).

Now, a *separate class-action suit* has been filed in the U.S. District Court in Portland for an identical reason. Just like the Ohio case, this case claims the 5.3L V8 engines found in a number of 2010-14 model-year 'GMC' trucks and SUVs has piston rings that do not maintain tension well enough to keep oil in the crankcase. Both suits also allege the PCV system can vacuum engine oil out from the valvetrain and expel it into the intake, where the oil is then taken in and burned in the combustion chambers.

The Portland suit, first reported on by [Car Com-](#)

[plaints](#), says the engine is prone to experiencing further damage due to low oil including "ring wear, lifter collapse, bent pushrods, camshaft wear, valve wear, rod bearing wear, rod breakage, wristpin wear, wristpin breakage, crankshaft wear and main bearing wear."

Additionally, both proceedings claim affected trucks and SUVs have defective oil monitoring systems, as the system only monitors temperature and engine speed to estimate oil quality and not oil levels in general. The owner could presumably just open the hood to check the oil levels using the dipstick, it is worth noting.

As we pointed out when the Ohio lawsuit was filed, 'GMC' actually redesigned its 5.3-liter V8 engine after the 2014 model year. Newer versions of the engine use redesigned piston rings and valve covers and have a shield that deflects oil away from the piston skirts. 'GMC' also added an oil level sensor so oil level can be



monitored from the cockpit. Vehicles involved in the Portland class action lawsuits were all built between 2010 and 2014. They include: [2010-13 GMC Sierra](#), [2010-14 GMC Yukon and Yukon XL](#), [2010-14 Chevy Avalanche](#), [2010-13 Chevy Silverado](#), and [2010-14 Chevy Tahoe and Suburban](#).

Both suits also allege that 'GMC' knew about the oil consumption problems with the 5.3 V8 engines, evidenced by service bulletins and owner complaints, but chose to not act on the matter.

Back in December of 2019, 'GMC' unveiled the all-new '[21 Tahoe](#) and [Suburban](#), both of which were ground-up overhauls. Part of the overhaul includes fresh styling, and now, [GM Authority](#) has learned that both full-sizers will offer the new look in conjunction with [illuminated black Chevy badges](#).

The illuminated black front Chevy Bow Tie emblem is marked with [RPO code R88](#), and will be offered as an LPO (*dealer-installed*) option. The option also includes

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T 'n T

Honda Veyron? Bugatti Civic?!

There are vehicles make that make you question people's better judgment, [and this Honda Civic-based Bugatti Veyron](#)—Hondatti? Civeyron? '93 Bugatti Other, as the eBay listing says—is one of them. Ironically, the included YouTube video has the seller (*not the builder*) saying he's not here to judge, just find a buyer. He's a better man than me. So yes, the Civegatti is a '93 [Honda Civic](#) underneath. The body kit that turns it into a \$2 million Veyron (*yes, it's unfortunately a kit*) was sold eight years ago by eBay seller "Fiberglassdesign4you." You will not be surprised to hear that they were shipped out of Florida. For \$4500 dollars a pop (*not including a Civic*), you too could [publicly embarrass yourself](#). What about performance? The good news is it's a less-than stock Civic. In addition to the fiberglass body, the car has received a new sound system and custom upholstery on the seats. It has also gained a cold air intake, an intercooler and turbo-charger, meaning it's just three short of the quad-turbo W16 in a real Veyron. The output is probably a bit short of the Bugatti's 1,200 hp, too. The only thing I can really appreciate about this car is how the owner leaned into the fact that it was based on a Civic. They aren't one of those people who actually wants you to believe the car is a million-dollar hypercar. The car is painted in a Veyron-inspired color scheme. Behind the iconic horseshoe grille is the intercooler and upgraded radiator, so I

suppose it isn't any less reliable than it was before. The dual-element headlights are a nice touch, although they do make the car look a bit like a work of taxidermy. For a bargain price of just \$4500 bucks, the Civegatti could be an eyesore in your driveway. You may think it's not worth it at this price, and although you're right, there's still a stock (?), fifth-gen Civic with 70,000 miles under there somewhere. Maybe it's worth saving...**Flooded Fieros!** Floodwaters from Tittabawassee River recently ravaged the Michigan town of Sanford, claiming several local businesses including a [Pontiac Fiero museum](#) and workshop known as **Fieros Forever**. It is owned by Pontiac Fiero enthusiast Tim Evans, who has been collecting, repairing and selling them for over a decade. The flood destroyed the building itself and scattered his Fieros across the town of Sanford, with news reports showing some cars flipped on their roofs and others filled with mud and water. According to [The Detroit Free Press](#), Evans had 20 Fieros stored in the building and just one survived: the



car he used to flee the area as the floodwaters began to descend on the small mid-Michigan town. Parts of Michigan are experiencing extreme flooding after the Edenville and Sanford dams broke, causing floodwaters from the Tittabawassee River and two neighboring lakes to spill over. Evans had tried to move his cars to dry ground as news of the im-

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T 'n T (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

pending flood circulated, but was unable to get all of them out in time. He said he has not yet contacted his insurance company about the cars, but he has already learned damage to his building will not be covered. Evans told the **Free Press** the flood damage has been “devastating” for him and his wife, who began amassing their collection a bit more than a decade ago. Among the cars lost in the flood were an Indy 500 Pace Car and a Fiero-based Diablo replica. He also explained that his love for the car is tied to it being a fairly advanced vehicle for the time. “It had a chassis that was made out of steel,” he told the **Free Press**. “They built the car in five sub-assemblies, and then they put it into this mill and drill machine.” It is doubtful that Fieros Forever will return to its former glory. Evans was trying to sell the shop and car collection after recently suffering a stroke, but had to put the planned auction on the backburner due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the shop and its contents now destroyed, this appears to be the end of the road for the Fiero enthusiast destination... ***Cannonball!*** What would pass as typical highway/interstate speeds today was bona-fide illegal during the heyday of the ***Cannonball Run***. Not the movie, the stealth race that spanned coast-to-coast. Devised as a method of enjoying the Interstate system while at the same time taking solid aim at restrictive driving laws and later, the nationwide 55-mph speed limit,

the Cannonball Baker Sea-To-Shining-Sea Memorial Trophy Dash has become legendary, a goal for the road-going anarchist with a stopwatch and enough radar detectors to qualify as a mobile military airport. Over the years powerful sedans, exotics, daily drivers and musclecars tuned up by NASCAR royalty all took on the journey, but one vehicle stands out above the rest, namely because it was so outlandish that it was one of the strongest punchlines in the comedy movie version of the story. There was no mention about a guy in a Chevy dually threatening to bite the head off of a would-be tailgater, let alone what the second half of that threat constituted of. For the 1979 running, Brock Yates and Hal Needham decided to go with a sure-fire way to keep cops out of their hair while screaming across the country: an ambulance. Using Yates' wife, Pamela, as the “patient,” and LA-based Dr. Lyell Royer riding along as the team, a '78 Dodge B200 van was ordered up in two-tone orange and white, built to kill, fitted with as much trickery as you could do in 1979 and...it didn't finish. About fifty miles short of the finish line the van's transmission had enough of their bullshit and packed it



up in the parking lot of an inn. And that's not even the end of the main story. The real Dodge is lost to history...but that didn't stop this guy from building a dead-nuts replica. And we mean detailed, with help from Brock Yates himself, detailed down to the rear-view mirrors from an Opel almost nobody remembers, with the big-block swap and the overdrive transmission and all. It's been just as much of a pain in the ass as the original one was, but reportedly it's got a date with destiny, to remove the DNF from the unofficial roster once and for all. Check it out at <https://youtube/usfahgUOTZ0...IN Shit's Creek?!> A suspected DUI driver spent the latter half of his Memo-

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Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

a Black non-illuminated rear Bow Tie emblem.

Note that this is a departure from the last-gen models, which offered both black and gold illuminated Bow Tie emblems. Going forward, customers will now only be offered black emblems.

In addition, the new trucks will also be offered with Black nameplates. This option is tagged with the RPO code RIK, and is offered as an LPO (dealer-installed) extra. The nameplate is a script that spells out the model

name (as in "Tahoe" or "Suburban," depending on the model), and can be found on the liftgate and the front doors.

Finally, they will also be offered with simple Black Bow Tie emblems, front and rear. These are tagged with RPO code SFZ, and are also offered as LPO (dealer-installed) extras.

Note that both the RST and the Z71 trim levels are equipped as standard with the Black nameplates and Black Bow Tie emblems.

This is what we are reduced to—bolt-ons, and light-up emblems?! Oh, how the mighty have fallen. 🚗

Ron's Rant



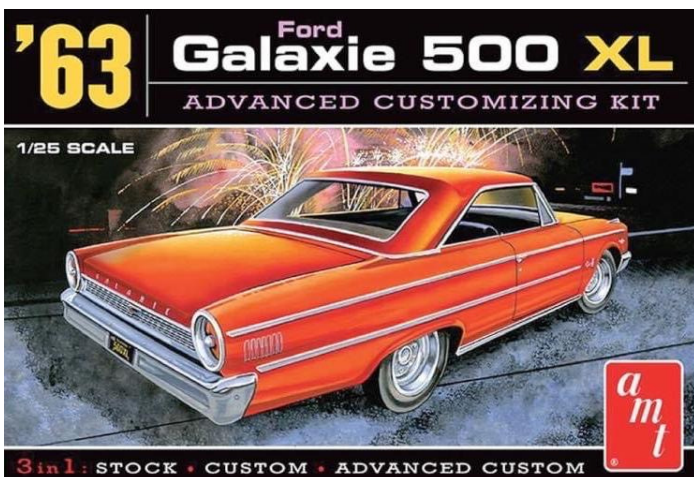
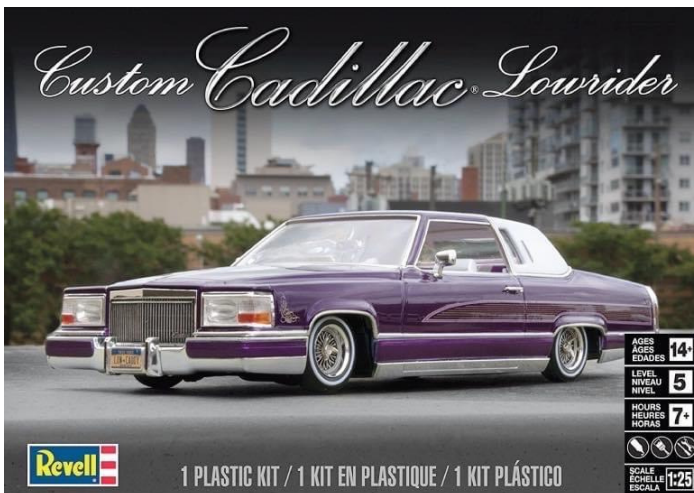
Plastic

- Revell '68 SS396 Chevelle
- Revell '78 El Camino 3 'n 1
- Revell '62 Impala 3 'n 1
- Revell '71 Fast & Furious GTX 2 'n 1

Diecast

- Red/Black '70 Challenger R/T "Street Fighter" (ACME, 750/pcs)
- Performance Blue '20 Shelby GT500 (GT Spirit, 1/12th, 300/pcs)
- '67 Grotto Blue/blue D88 striped Camaro SS (ACME, 500/pcs)
- '67 Matador Red/red D88 striped Camaro SS (ACME, 500/pcs)
- '19 Red Jeep Gladiator Rubicon (ACME, 500/pcs)
- '70 "Mod Squad" GTX (ACME, 996/pcs)
- Burgundy '34 Ford Hot Rod flathead roadster (GMP, 996/pcs) 🚗

(1/18th, unless noted)





With no MAMA meetings in sight anytime soon, we are reduced to the “virtual” aspect of “Show and Tell.” With that said, I thought I would share a few more Salvinos JR Models’ 2+2 builds that I have encountered on social media.

With any luck, it won’t be too much longer, before we can congregate again. Man, it seems like an *ETERNITY* since we’ve been able to socialize!

So, c’mon—bring ‘em and show ‘em! *‘PoP’* (Pontiacs on Parade!) *Sickle signin’ off!* And don’t forget—MAMA may not need all these Ponchos, but I’m diggin ‘em!! 🍷



Courtesy of COMA member and SA no E contributor
Bill Coulter



The Mike’s Decals limited issue of the Salvinos JR Models kit

This is the newsletter of the
Maryland Automotive Modelers
Association

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MAMAs BoyZ do it in scale!

T 'n T (cont'd)

(Continued from page 7)

rial Day weekend in a stinky situation after crashing into a **liquid manure storage pond** in Sacramento County, CA, officials said. The CHP said the driver called dispatch around 1:30 a.m. asking for help after crashing into what was at the time an unknown water source at a dairy farm on Franklin Boulevard near Elk Grove. He had not yet realized

what exactly he was submerged in. Forty-eight minutes after the initial call, firefighters from the Cosumnes Fire Department found the driver and his vehicle, which was well submerged in the manure pond, CHP said. Officers later discovered that—on top of showing signs of intoxication—the driver had been trying to pull his vehicle out for about an hour before calling 911. That's two hours he spent in liquified excrement (*Thanks to GM Authority Autoweek, and other Internet sources for this insanity! Ya just can't make some of it up!! Thanks also to those of you in the Peanut Gallery who have helped entertain y'all by sending stuff—I 'preciate it!*) 🍷

Classifieds

WANTED: Unbuilt/rebuildable Ponchos (*GTOs, specifically '68 MPC hardtops and convertibles, and '71 hardtops in particular!*). I have a collection to trade from. Want a Red Baron, an 1/8th scale Monogram '79 T/A, , '66 Bonneville (*MPC or Hasegawa*), '69-'72 Grand Prixs, '70-'81 Firebirds, and empty **Pontiac kit boxes**. Would like to buy/borrow **old model car catalogs**. Contact me at gtoguy@verizon.net, or see me at a meeting. **Thanks!** 🍷

Were on the web!

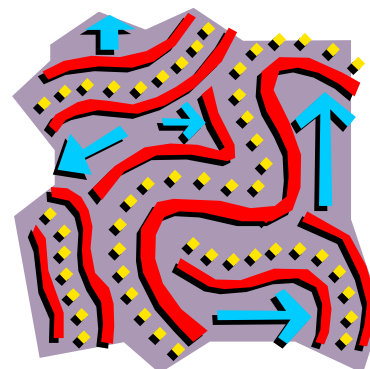
<http://www.mamasboyz.org/>

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. 🍷

Websites

Central PA Model Car Club:

<http://www.freewebs.com/cpmcc/>

LIARS Model Car Club:

<http://www.liarsmodelcarbuilders.com/#>

Philly Area Car Modelers:

<http://www.pacms.org/>

NNL East:

<http://www.nnleast.com/>

Carlisle Events:

<http://www.carlisleevents.com>

East Coast Indoor Nationals:

www.eastcoastindoornats.com

York US30 Musclecar Madness:

www.yorkus30.com

Online Event Calendar:

www.NortheastWheelsEvents.com

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