

#### 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!

- √MJanuary 18th
- February 15th
- March 21st
- April 18th
- May NONE (!)
- June 20th
- July 18th
- AMAugust 15th
- September 19th
- October 17th
- November 21st
- ♠ December 19th (10 3!)

# MAMA Sez

Volume 33, Issue 1

September, 2020

"Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 32 Years!"



# **Happy Anniversary To Us!**

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

Unfortunately, due to a tight work schedule and personal issues requiring his attention, there will be no column from Tim Powers this month. He will likely return next month.

It appears as I write this newsletter (early September) that, not surprisingly, more cancellations have arisen—the *Motor City* NNL (Detroit) in mid-November and York Toy Fair, again, due to COVID concerns, both from governments and the general populace.

"hits" The

(Pontiacs!) just keep coming, this month in the form of the Salvinos JR Models' 1981-84 LeMans. As with the 2+2, I have included a few pix that I found online.

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



# **Enjoy!!**

On past MAMA Anniversaries, we are normally treated to an excellent cake from Tim and Dawn Powers. With the current pandemic preventing us from meeting (for the time being), I'll take a page from Tim's book—a "virtual" cake! Happy Anniversary to us, on the occasion of 32 years of service to the Delmarva modeling community (and beyond?!) and many more! Thanks to all of you! 🚔



MAMA Sez is the official monthly publication of the Maryland Automotive Modelers Association. Articles as attributed by author and source, and may be reprinted with proper credit given. Opinions expressed are those of nobody of any importance. Any correspondence or contributions should be sent to: Timothy Sickle, 15905 Ark Court, Bowie, Maryland 20716.

## **News Flash!**



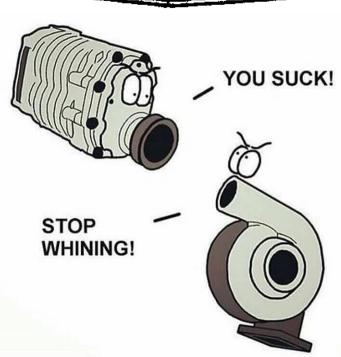
Mark the date—March 13th, 2021. This is the date for the *Fourth Annual Philly NNL model car show* held at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum.

Thanks to social media, it recently came to light that the club will not only award '21 theme winners per the enclosed flyer, but they will also hand out *THIS* years' too—*The Year 1970*, *Drag Racing* and *Porsche 917s!* Kudos to the Philly boys! Now get back to work on those stalled projects! Thanks, guys!









## **Please Note**

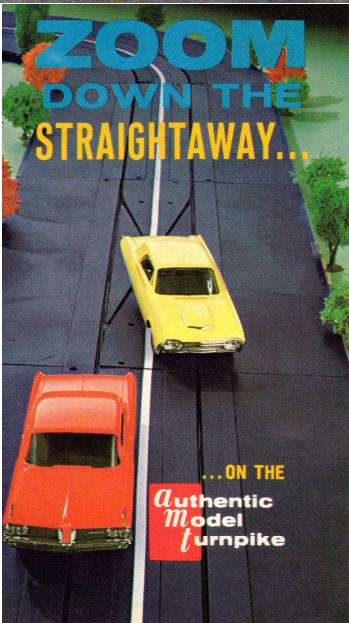


After last month's newsletter made its way out to the membership, it was brought to my attention that all articles should include the author's name, in order to assess the validity of the comments and their source. My humble apologies for not doing so. I felt that it would have been clear from my comments about publishing information in the newsletter where they were coming from. Rest assured that from here on out, all articles will include this info, so there will be absolutely no question as to the source—*Tim Sickle* 









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**Virtual Meeting!** 





Steve Buter's Monogram '30 Ford resto (and diorama "accessories")



"Hobo's House of Hot Rods" (a.k.a. Lyle Willits) is on a tear with older models sitting on his shelves with this 'Vair!!







Steve Buter's AMT '40 Ford (and passenger)



Jim Maness's Cumberland Green/Colonial White 1957 Ford Fairlane Club Victoria kitbash project



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'GMC' has recalled 769 of the following 2020 vehicles in the US over faulty airbags: Buick Enclave, Cadillac XT5, XT6, Chevy B l a z e r, Silverado 1500/2500/3500, GMC Traverse, A c a d i a, a n d Sierra 1500/2500/3500.

In affected vehicles, the "diffuser component of the Roof-Rail Air Bag (RRAB) inflator may not have been properly crimped to the inflator and could separate from the inflator during air bag deployment," according to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration filing. The RRAB is otherwise known as a side curtain airbag.

NHTSA says that if the diffuser component separates from the inflator during airbag deployment, the performance of the RRAB may be degraded, increasing the risk of injury in the event a crash.

'GMC' says it will notify owners, and dealers will replace the suspect RRAB modules at no cost to the owner.

Vehicle owners affected by this recall should wait for 'GMC' to contact them, at which point they will be instructed to make an appointment with their dealer's service center. The recall is expected to begin September 14th.

Earlier this 'GMC' vear had classa action lawsuit filed against it over claims that the brake vacuum pump used in certain fullsize trucks and SUVs is defective. The original plaintiff in

that suit, which was filed in the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, claims affected vehicles may experience a sudden loss of vacuum pressure, which can cause the brake pedal to become hard and reduce overall braking power.

Now another lawsuit has been filed in the US District Court for the Northern District of Florida for the exact same reason. The plaintiff in this latest filing echoes the complaints made in the Illinois case, saying affected vehicles have a defective brake vacuum pump that may stop working, causing the brake pedal to become

hard and reducing braking performance,

The plaintiff also says engine oil may enter the vacuum line connected to the brake booster, requiring both the vacuum pump and the brake booster itself to be replaced. The person claims

## **GOVERNMENT MOTORS**

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



#### AN AMERIKAN REVOLUTION

they were left on the hook for a \$500 repair to replace the brake booster, but have not made the repair as the replacement parts are just as defective as the originals.

According to <u>Car Complaints</u>, 'GMC' issued a Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) to dealer service departments addressing the problem back in 2015—suggesting the company has known about the issue for some time.

"A customer may comment on a hard brake pedal or that increased effort is needed to depress the brake pedal," the TSB said. "While performing normal diagnostics, fluid may be found in the brake booster and/or the booster vacuum line."

The plaintiff in the case says the TSBs 'GMC' has released regarding the matter also contain

(Continued on page 7)

'GMC' Recall Ticker

# of Recalls 182 (!) # of Vehicles Affected 46,128,817



# Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

"false, misleading, or deceptive information about the potential for curing the defects," as the same problems will return once the dealership performs the suggested repairs.

This latest class action proceeding alleges the problem affects the exact same models as the initial suit. These include the following vehicles: 2015 to present Cadillac Escalade, 2014 to present Chevy Silverado, 2015 to present Chevy Suburban, 2015 to present Chevy Tahoe, 2014 to present GMC Sierra, and 2015 to present GMC Yukon/Yukon XL.

'GMC' overhauled its full-size SUV lineup with a range of fresh next-gen models, all of which were introduced for the 2021 model year. Now, however, the automaker has issued a new TSB (Technical Service Bulletin) that addresses a potential issue related to the engine oil cooler lines on the Chevy Tahoe, Suburban, GMC Yukon and Yukon XL.

The bulletin was issued last month, and states that some of the full-size SUV models could have one to two engine oil cooler lines that are not fully seated into the quick connect at the radiator.

This TSB applies to both gaspowered engines offered in the 2021 Chevy Tahoe and Suburban, 2021 GMC Yukon and Yukon XL, including the naturally aspirated 5.3L and 6.2L V8s.

The TSB was issued specifically for vehicles in dealer inventory. Dealers are instructed to inspect the engine oil cooler lines at the quick connector on the radiator in order to ensure they are properly seated before selling or dealertrading the vehicle.

No parts are required for the fix. However, catastrophic engine failure can occur if the oil cooler line is not properly seated. There are a total of two lines to check.

Most of the vehicles this TSB applies to are in dealer inventory. The fix should be done by the dealer prior to delivering them.

All four full-size SUVs affected by this TSB enter a new generation for the 2021 model year. They ride on the new 'GMC' T1 platform, and are produced by 'GMC' at the 'GMC' Arlington Plant in Arlington, Texas.

Buick's sedan lineup for North America was already running thin, but now, it's completely done for, as *GM Authority* has learned that the Buick Regal has been discontinued

An official announcement of its demise is still forthcoming, but according to *GM Authority* sources, production of the Regal Sportback and TourX has now ended.

Confirmation that the Regal would not live past 2020 came late last year, with Buick spokesman Stuart Fowle indicating a drop in sales for the model.

Regal sales were down nearly 20 percent year-over-year through the first nine months of 2019.

It's believed that the primary reason behind the discontinuation of the Regal for North America is down to contractual obligations, specifically 'GMC's' agreement



with the PSA Groupe. 'GMC' sold Opel to the PSA Groupe in 2017, and now, their agreement to purchase the Regal is over.

The PSA Groupe previously produced the Regal as a rebadged Opel Insignia at the Opel plant in Russelheim, Germany.

Meanwhile, the Regal nameplate will continue on for the Chinese market (Ed. Note: of course—it's a BUICK!), where it is produced as a sedan that's unique to the Chinese market.

The demise of the Regal leaves the Buick lineup without any sedans, as the Regal follows the discontinuation of the Lucerne, Verano and LaCrosse.

The final North American Regal models will be for the 2020 model year, offered as either the liftback Sportback model, sporty Regal Sportback GS, or the Regal TourX, a ruggedized wagon model.

The final sixth-gen Regal for the North American market was built on 'GMC's' E2 platform, with two engine options on offer – the turbocharged 2.0L I4, or the naturally aspirated 3.6L V6, with varying states of tune for the I4 depending on the model selected. Both FWD and AWD were offered.

Your dose of "GMC" "greatness" for the month! ≒

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#### **C8 Watch**

NHTSA has received two complaints from C8 owners alleging the car's hood, or "frunk", opened while the vehicle was in motion.

As first reported by <u>Corvette</u> <u>Blogger</u>, NHTSA has only received two complaints regarding the C8 thus far and both pertain to the hood opening while driving. One of the complaints said the hood popped open as they were driving along at roughly 25-30 mph, which caused damage to the hood hinges and front fenders.

"I turned onto the main road and accelerated," the complaint said.

"When I reached a speed of approximately 25 to 30 mph, the front hood (also called a frunk), flew up and completely blocked my vision of the roadway. "I was able to successfully brake and pull to the shoulder of the highway without further incident."

"The 'frunk' completely blocked my vision of the road and damage was done to the hinges, hood and fender on the driver's side," the person added.

The person who filed the sec-



ond complaint recalled a similar experience and also said the problem was due to the lack of a secondary handoperated latch.

"They failed to engineer the appropriate safety latch features into the 'frunk' that would prevent this from happening," the person said. "Hoods are re-

quired to have a secondary latch that must be physically operated to open completely."

All previous Corvette hoods were hinged at the front and opened forward, leaving little chance that they would open with the vehicle in motion. The C8, by comparison, is hinged in a more traditional spot near the windshield on either side in order to provide easier access to the front storage area. Corvette engineers may not have designed a robust enough front latch, or some vehicles may be defective, but it's difficult to say without a full NHTSA investigation.

A YouTuber also uploaded a video showing the hood on their C8 opening while driving. Similar to the NHTSA complaint, the hood opens at relatively low speed. The YouTube user also said this incident caused "a fair amount of damage," including to the hinges and hinge attachment points, along with paint scratches on the hood and on both fenders. They said there was no warning before this happened and no audible alarm to warn them that the hood had popped loose.

The car has only been out for a few months now, but already



we've seen all sorts of custom examples. From *Hennessey's nitrous-equipped C8 Corvette* to a YouTuber's home-built twinturbo'ed take on the mid-engine machine, it is quickly proving to be a hit with the aftermarket.

One owner has gone a bit offthe-wall when it comes to customizing their car, however. Rick Dyer currently owns two C8s and decided to have one wrapped in an eye-popping yellow, blue, pink and black scheme, making it look like a bit like a big, rolling psychedelic art installation.

This particular car appears to feature the Napa leather interior, so it's a bit more restrained inside. We can't imagine how outrageous this car would look with the extrabright Tension Blue interior that 'GMC' offers on the C8.

While this multi-color vinyl wrap will be detested by most, you have to commend the execution. It looks well-executed based on these photos and the attention to detail is impressive. The wrap even seamlessly covers the side rear intake vents and rear spoiler. We appreciate the extra detailing the side mirrors as well.

It's much easier to get an idea

(Continued on page 9)

## Watch (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

of just how bright this wrap is when the car is parked next to Dyer's other C8—a Sebring Orange Tintcoat example. It's worth noting that both of his cars appear to be equipped with the available Z51 performance package and five-spoke wheels, though one car has Bright Silver wheels and the other has Carbon Flash rollers. Dyer has so far had a total of three 2020 Corvettes, but sold one to a business partner of his. It's possible to get your hands on the soldout 2020 C8, it seems—as long as one knows where to look.

The car's release was accompanied by much fanfare and no small amount of enthusiasm, but it didn't take long before tuners decided to up the ante with all manner of power-adders. No surprises there—that's the way things go with any performance vehicle, especially one as hotly anticipated as the new mid-engine Corvette. But of course, the natural consequence of mods on a new platform are...let's call them "learning ex-

periences," as evidenced by the video.

Recently posted to **YouTube** by Emlia Hartford, the video kicks off with some non-C8 content, but it's stuff viewers will still enjoy.

To begin, the video host upgrades a few things on her '79 Buick Regal Sport Coupe dragster, a vehicle lovingly nicknamed "Mimi." The host first swaps in a new custom QA1 carbon fiber driveshaft, a component so light, it can be lifted off the floor with a single finger. It's also rated at an absurd 6,000 pound-feet of torque. The host also installs a set of Mickey Thompson drag radials.

While the new tires are being mounted, the host picks up a new C8 transmission filter (Ed. Note: \$200!) at a local dealer for some basic maintenance. The host and her C8 then decide to do a few quick pulls to test out the new twin-turbo kit before heading out on a road trip. And that's where the trouble starts.

The first pull starts ok, but quickly goes sour when some un-



settling noises start emanating from the engine bay. After getting the C8 Corvette back to shop, the crew starts to diagnose the issue. The first guess is something in the valvetrain of the 6.2L V8, but after further inspection, something deeper is most likely the culprit.

After grabbing a borescope, we get confirmation that detonation grenaded one of the C8's pistons, most likely from the local low-octane fuel. Yikes.

But hey, that's the way things go when testing the limits of a brand-new car. The host vows to build it back stronger in the pursuit of a nine-second quarter mile.

If you are interested in seeing the video, try here: <a href="https://youtu.be/UOK35gjzsOM">https://youtu.be/UOK35gjzsOM</a>.

Teething pains, some minor, some major, for designers to work out! €

## **Condolences**

RIP Yoshihiko Matsuo, the man who led the Nissan design team that penned the S30 Fairlady Z, known as the Datsun 240Z in the western hemisphere, a car that not only revolutionized the concept of what a sports car could be, but made it accessible to the masses. Matsuo passed away on July 11th and, as is the custom in Japan, the family made public the

news a few days later. Read more about Mr. Matsuo's amazing life and career at <u>JapaneseNostalgicCar.com</u>.

Thank you for your contribution sir, and Godspeed.





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★ Date: MARCH 28, 2020 ★ Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- ★ Location: The Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum 6825-31 Norwitch Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19153
- \* Entry Fee: \$12 includes Museum admission plus unlimited mag
- ★ Vendors: Please email Tommy Kortman at kortmatr@yahoo or Bob Doebley at rdoebley@comcast.net
- ★ Info: Visit simeonemuseum.org, email kortmatr@ya or on facebook at facebook.com/PACMSimeone



#### Coronavirus In

With the uncertainty of the current Corvid-19 rest of everyone's safety,

both the Philadelphia NNL and NNL East as scheduled this spring.

Our joint team met on 3-14 and at we hope benefits everyone

#### Th e rrifecta!

We will be holdin year on September 26 in Wayne, New Jersey

If you are building a illy NNL theme, all the themes announced by all three

of our host organiz pice Ballots and will be awarded at this extra special event hope everyone can attend!

And we hope this announcement is a bright spot during these uncertain times!

Everyone stay safe and we will see you in September!

Thank you.

The Tri-State Scale Model Car Club / NNL East Philadelphia Area Car Modelers / The Philadelphia NNL

**Diversified Scalerz** 

(as always, please watch this website for the latest announcements)



This Year's Theme:



al Drive, Wayne NJ 07470

Show Information: WWW.NNL EAST.COM Or Write: nnleast@aol.com

27th Annual Mid-Atlantic NNL

www.mamasboyz.org

9 AM-3 PM

Admission \$10.00 (under age 16, free)

"Tri-Five Vehicles" (ALL!)







"Vehicles of 1970"



**Level Volunteer Fire Company** 3633 Level Village Rd Havre De Grace, MD 21078

Vendor/Show Info—Contact Dave Toups E-mail: davetoups351@gmail.com Phone: (410) 239-7081



proudly present the:



Contest fee (up to 3 entries):

Adult \$15.00 (washing a Junior (16 & under) \$5.00 Iniformed individuals admitted free! Make & Take for kids 15 and under

Walk-in and Display only: Individuals \$7.00

Families \$10.00

For more information visit: www.cenpennipms.com Contact: Chet Mohn (717) 774-4803 e-mail: Magus 47@aol.com

Vendor Contact: Robbin Crossley (717) 439-4353 e-real: rictfin@sol.com

fnplastics@aol.com. For trophy sponsorships & contest information, e-mail centralpmcc@hotmail.com or go to www.cpmcc.org

For vendor info, contact Len at 610-923-7534 or

exember 13th, 2020 / 9AM- 2PM

Please limit your entries to 10 per class per person.

Food will be available on site.

Hall / 240 N Walnut St, Boyertown, PA 19512

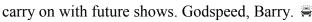
is STILL JUST \$5 and covers your registration!

Len Feinberg & The Central Pennsylvania Model Car Club

#21

CPMCC

Per Ron Bradley, not surprisingly, the York Tov Show has also been cancelled due to the pandemic. Worse yet, its founder and promoter, Barry **Skelly**, recently passed away from the virus as well. His son, Mike, is set to







DETROIT AUTO MO

Our 60th Show — One of the Biggest Shows in the Midwest! Sunday, November 15, 2020 9am-3pm

omb C munity College Sports & Expo Center

hwest corner of 12 Mile Rd & Hayes Rd in Warren, Michigan Jordon Featuring Vintage & New: But Accessories • Diecast Models • Collectibles of All Kinds sion is Still only \$5.00!



People's Choice Awards will be given in each of the theme classes — Plus: The bon Borowice Memorial Award - The Built Bud's Way Award For Vendor or Show Information: Please Call (586) 344-9496 (9am-9pm) Announcing our 2021 Shows:

Spring - Motor City Madness 22 Fall - NNL 17

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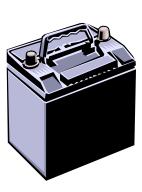


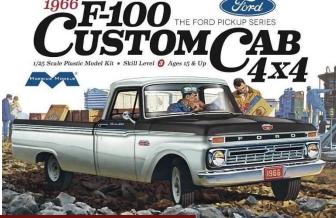


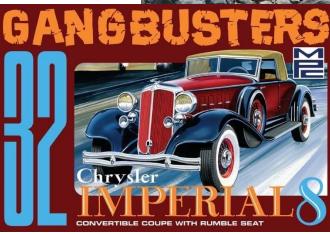














## **Ron's Rant**



- AMT '32 Chrysler
- AMT Tiki Trike
- AMT International Payhauler Dump
- AMT '70 1/2 full bumper Z28

#### **Diecast**

- '66 Ford GT40 MKII Ken Miles 2nd place LeMans finisher (ACME, 1/12<sup>th</sup>, \$599.95)
- '20 Torch Red Stingray (ACME GT Spirit, 1/18th, 900/pcs)
- "Hellayella" '19 Wrangler Rubicon (ACME GT Spirit, 500/pcs)
- '69 Gloss Black Mustang Gasser (ACME, 750/pcs)
- '70 Pork Chop's
  "Barn Find" Boss 429
  (ACME)
- '20 "Heritage Edition" (Gulf) Ford GT (ACME GT Spirit, 800/pcs)
- '70 "FoMoCo Genuine Parts" F-350 ramp truck (ACME)
- '67 "OK Used Cars" Chevy ramp truck (ACME)

(Continued on page 14)

(1/18th, unless noted)



The hits just keep coming! What you see pictured here is a release from Salvinos JR Models—the 1981-84 Pontiac **LeMans!** This version appears to be the "generic" Mike's Decals release (judging from the lack of sponsorship and lighter rectangle in the lower right corner, where one of several driver/sponsor possibilities could reside, based on the 2+2 kit release). It will likely be handled much the same as the 2+2 was. Mike will have the early "exclusive" version, with an assortment of decals available, thereby making the generic box art more economically feasible.

This would then be followed by the Salvinos version. From what I hear, it'll be available this month. I'll be waiting! *Oh*, and it's about time!

Meanwhile, I have included a

BOYALBOBAT

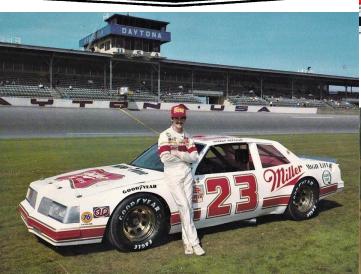
few LeMans racers to give you an idea of who you could expect to see—Tim Richmond and Bobby and Davey Allison, just to name a few, had seat time in these cars.

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!!











This is the newsletter of the Maryland Automotive Modelers Association

#### **Chapter Contact:**

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MAMAs BoyZ do it in scale!



## **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

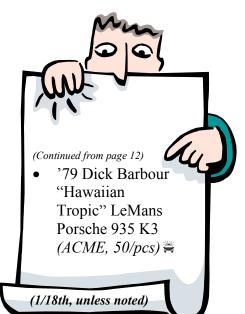
East Coast Indoor Nationals: www/eastcoastindoornats.com

York US30 Musclecar Madness:

www.yorkus30.com

Online Event Calendar:

www.NortheastWheelsEvents.com



## 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 gtoguv@verizon.net, or see me at a meeting. Thanks!



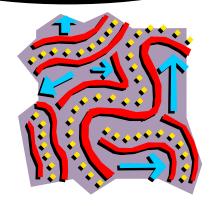
Were on the web! http://www.mamasboyz.org/

#### **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 offramp, 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 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 🚔

# **Club Contact** Info

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Club Photog: Lyle Willits