

# MAMA Sez!

Volume 33, Issue 4

December, 2020

"Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 32 Years!"



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

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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!)

## Merry Christmas, MAMA!



Unfortunately, with rising COVID cases nationwide, the US reverted to Phase 1 restrictions. Additionally, Baltimore county politicians "squeezed" the limits further, with meetings of no more than 10 people approved, meaning that our November "Get-together" at the Fire museum was cancelled.

Still no word from

Tim P again this month. Hope he's OK.

This month, I took a page from his book and attempted to bring back the Pontiac parking column. So, if you have a Pontiac you would like to "park" there, send it along!

I am hopeful that you are all **STILL** doing what is necessary to ensure yours and your family's

safety.

*Please continue to stay safe! No idea when things will get back to some semblance of normal—Tim 🚗*



## Condolences

The Pontiac world was saddened by the passing of **Milt Schornack** in mid-November.

To those of you unfamiliar with Milt, he was an expert Pontiac tuner, having worked at ROYAL Pontiac back in the day when the Royal Bobcat packages were created and installed on numerous Pontiac models besides the performance models (a.k.a. GTOs and Firebirds).

Condolences go out to the Schornack family on the passing of this icon to Pontiac aficionados everywhere!—Tim 🚗



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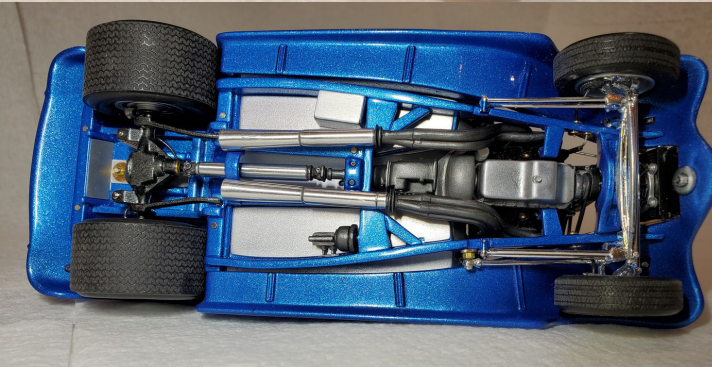
# Virtual Meeting



# LOOK



JC Reckner's new Porsche RSR project



Rick Martin's "Steam Roller" '34 Ford, for obvious reasons!~



Bobby Reyes' modded Toyota FT86



Paul Lee continues his accelerated building pace, with FIVE more completions, including this Pro Street Mk VII



Any guess where Rex Turner is going with this build?

# Virtual Meeting



# LOOK



Don Stone's Junie Donlavey/Dick Brooks Thunderbird



Rich Wilson's Tamiya Ford GT...



Paul Lee's Glidden "Motorcraft" T-Bird



...and his restomodded '64 Belvedere



Rex Turner's Toys for Tots donation



Hope you had a cookie—and a Happy Thanksgiving!

Transport Canada has issued a recall for **3,715 2013-16 Cadillac ATSSs, 2014-16 Cadillac CTSS and 2016-17 Camaros** over an issue with the vehicles' electric power steering racks. An equivalent recall has not yet been issued in the US.

According to Transport Canada, affected vehicles have bolts that attach the electric power steering assist motor to the steering gear, which are prone to corroding and/or breaking.

If the bolts break, the vehicle may experience a loss of electric power steering assist. If this occurs the driver may experience a sudden increase in steering weight, requiring more effort to steer the vehicle—especially at low vehicle speeds. This could increase the risk of a crash.

'GMC' dealers will replace the bolts that attach the electric power steering motor and apply a protective wax coating, Transport Canada says. If the bolts can't be removed due to corrosion, the en-

tire steering gear assembly will be replaced. These repairs will be done at no cost to the owner.

Transport Canada has issued another recall for **101 2020 Silverado HD Work Trucks** due to an issue with the vehicle's roof-mounted identification lamps.

An equivalent recall has not yet been issued in the US.

2020 Silverado HD Work Trucks with the available dual rear axle setup come with roof-mounted identification and clearance lamps. These lamps were not installed at the factory on certain trucks, according to Transport Canada, forcing 'GMC' Canada to recall them.

Transport Canada says that

Canadian regulations require identification lamps on vehicles that are more than 6 feet and 6 inches wide (80 inches). A vehicle without these clearance and identification lamps "could be less visible to other road users, which could increase the risk of a crash."

## GOVERNMENT MOTORS

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



AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION™

Transport Canada says 'GMC' will notify owners of affected 2020 Silverado HD trucks by mail and instruct them to take it to a dealer to install the missing clearance and identification lamps. This work will be done at no cost to the owner of the vehicle.

Owners affected by these two recalls should wait for 'GMC' Canada to contact them by mail, at which point they will be instructed to make an appointment with their dealer's service center. They can also contact 'GMC' customer service with questions.

'GMC' and NHTSA have issued a recall for **194,105 2018-19 LaCrosse, 2019-20 Encore, 2019-20 Enclave, 2019-20 Cadillac XT4, 2020 XT6, 2019-20 Chevy Blazer, 2018-19 Cruze, 2018-20 Equinox, 2018 Malibu, 2018-20 Traverse, 2019-20 GMC Acadia and 2018-20 Terrain models** as the vehicles' transmissions may leak transmission fluid.

According to a 'GMC' filing with NHTSA, the start/stop accumulator endcap on affected vehicles may have missing or loose

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## Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)  
bolts.

The filing indicates that missing or loose bolts could result in a transmission oil leak and may progress to a loss of propulsion, thereby increasing the risk of a crash. A transmission fluid leak in the presence of high heat or some other ignition source may increase the risk of a fire, as well.

'GMC' says it will notify owners of affected vehicles and instruct them to make an appointment with their dealership service center. The dealers will inspect the part and, if any bolts are missing, replace affected components free of charge.

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 was expected to begin on December 14th. 'GMC' owners can also search all recall actions or campaigns that may be active on their vehicle by punching their VIN into the dedicated GM Owner Center landing page.

'GMC' has issued a recall for **2,781 2020 Buick Enclave, Cadillac XT5/XT6, Chevy Traverse and GMC Acadia crossovers**, due to an issue with the vehicles' fuel delivery system.

According to a NHTSA document, the fuel pump jet nozzle in affected vehicles "may have a plastic burr remaining from the manufacturing process," at the tip, which can clog the nozzle and interrupt fuel flow to the engine.

NHTSA says this problem can lead to a sudden engine stall without warning, which can increase the risk of a crash. It's not clear if any accidents or injuries can be traced back to this problem.

'GMC' dealers will replace the entire fuel pump module in affected vehicles. These repairs will be done at no cost to the owner of the vehicle.

'GMC' will notify owners of affected vehicles and instruct them to make an appointment with their dealer. The recall is expected to begin on November 30th.

'GMC' has issued a voluntary emissions recall for the **2018 Chevy Equinox** due a problem with the airflow calibration for the vehicle's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. 'GMC' did not say how many vehicles are affected by this problem.

According to a 'GMC' document, vehicles affected by this recall were programmed with the incorrect HVAC calibration settings. Vehicles operating using this HVAC mode may unnecessarily deactivate the vehicle's engine start/stop system in order to maintain cabin temperature. This may only happen in certain weather conditions—likely when the outside temp is very cold.

This is an emissions recall and not a safety recall, so while this problem poses no safety risks to drivers of these vehicles, the af-



ected vehicles may emit higher-than-usual exhaust emissions if they are not repaired.

'GMC' dealers will reflash the HVAC control module with new software. These repairs do not require any replacement parts and will be performed at no cost to the owner.

'GMC' will notify owners of affected vehicles and instruct them to make an appointment with their dealer. Those who may be unsure whether or not their vehicle is affected by this recall can visit [my.gm.com/recalls](https://my.gm.com/recalls) and type in their VIN to see any recalls that may be active on their vehicle.

'GMC' has also issued a **stop-sale** for the vehicle and instructed dealers to remove all 2018 Chevy Equinoxes from dealer demonstrations or displays (*a 2-year-old vehicle?!).*

'GMC' has issued a new service bulletin to address **valve spring issues** some of its newer V8s are experiencing.

(Continued on page 8)

### 'GMC' Recall Ticker

# of Recalls  
**190 (!)**

# of Vehicles Affected  
**46,334,856**

## C8 Watch

Ever since the first example rolled off the assembly line in Bowling Green, the mid-engine sports car from Kentucky has been hampered by quality-related issues. Back in April 2020, problems began surfacing ranging from uneven stitching on the passenger side of the dashboard to leaky transmissions.

Seven months later, the eight-speed DCT still has a habit of leaking transmission fluid. Bruce Green, a member of the C8 Corvette Owners (And Friends) group on Facebook, reported a ***gasket failure at 568 miles*** on his Z51.

In other words, the DCT has ***failed before even completing the break-in period***. As a brief refresher, Chevy limits engine torque in low gears during the first 500 miles and recommends checking the engine's oil level with

every refueling in the first 1,500 miles. Of course, the golden bowtie doesn't recommend participating in track events or similar activities during break in.

Bruce also reports that his dealer "cannot locate one," referring to a replacement gasket for the transmission. That is particularly interesting—or terrifying—because the dealer has to fix this problem under warranty.

Our protagonist took the Z51-equipped sports car in for servicing at 8:30 AM, and the service tech got back to him at 3:00 PM saying that "they found the leak in the transmission pan. It was a small leak and they figured it would hold until they found a gasket." Mr. Green isn't alone, though, because another group



member has also reported a leak on his Stingray.

'GMC' obviously isn't a byword for quality, that's for sure, but you should also remember that the first model year of any vehicle is the most problematic as well. It's in this period that the manufacturer works out the issues that weren't apparent during development, and lest you forget, suppliers can make errors during the manufacturing of OEM components and subassemblies.

With any luck, there's hope that the 2021 C8 will be somewhat less problematic—*Assorted sources* 🚗

## T 'n T

***Stretch 'Rocky.'*** Earlier this year, ***Tom Brady's own Cadillac Escalade limo*** had been listed for sale by the coachbuilding company that originally built the ultra-lux SUV, ***Becker Automotive Design***. It seems as though Brady wasn't the company's only famous client, though, because now an Escalade limo that it built for ***Sylvester Stallone*** has also been listed for sale by the Cali-based company. Stallone's Escalade started out as a regular Escalade ESV before Becker gave it a 20-inch extension and a pair of lengthened rear doors for easier access to the ul-

tra-lux rear cabin. Inside, the mobile office features a home theater system with a ***43-inch TV*** and Crestron audio system, onboard

wi-fi, two fully electric VIP bucket seats with electric leg rests, Japanese Tamo ash wood veneer, folding tables and electric window curtains. Stallone originally paid ***\$409,000*** for this private jet on wheels, but it's now for sale at a ***discounted \$375,000***, or best offer (*Ed. Note: whatta deal!*). Strangely, Stallone only managed to put around ***700 miles*** on this



custom Cadillac Escalade limo before deciding to part ways with it. He says he had a specific reason for needing the limo and no longer finds himself in a situation where owning this luxury cruiser is necessary. "I ordered my Becker ESV for a specific purpose, however my requirement for

(Continued on page 7)

## T 'n T (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

it has recently changed and I no longer have a need for this beautiful vehicle,” he said. “I enjoyed personally designing the luxurious interior with Howard Becker. The electronics and ride quality are second to none. I hope the new owner gets years of fulfilling use from this sensationally appointed Becker Cadillac ESV”...**\$100K Fiero?!** Not quite. The last Pontiac Fiero ever produced sold for a **significant \$90,000** at a recent classic car auction in Greensboro, North Carolina. GM Authority first reported on this car in October, before it went up for sale at the GAA Classic Car Auctions event this past weekend. They were confident it would attract a good deal of attention at the auction, seeing as it was in like-new condition and was the last Fiero ever produced after ‘GMC’ discontinued the mid-engine sports car in 1988, but they certainly didn’t expect someone to pay nearly \$100,000 for it. Before the Pontiac Fiero ended production at the ‘GMC’ Pontiac Assembly plant in Michigan, ‘GMC’ held a raffle for employees giving them the opportunity to win a Fiero for themselves. This was actually the prize car in that draw, which was won by an enthusiastic employee who wanted



to preserve it. As such, it has **just 582 miles on the odometer** (all delivery miles) and even still has the protective delivery plastic on the steering wheel, seats and other parts of the interior. This is also a well-equipped Fiero, featuring the optional 2.8L V6 engine and four-speed automatic transaxle, which further adds to its value and collectability. The buyer of this car also received extensive documentation for it and photos of it on the assembly line at Pontiac Assembly before it was auctioned off. GM Authority is willing to bet this car was purchased by a collector who plans to preserve it, as there’s really no point in paying so much money for a mint, low-mileage vehicle like this if one isn’t going to keep it in that condition. After all, there are tons of Fieros out there in decent condition for about \$10,000 or less that would still be great to drive, so the only rea-



son to pay so much for an example like this is for collecting or investment purposes (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!)  
—Assorted sources 🚗



## Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

The bulletin indicates that vehicles equipped with certain 'GMC' V8s may produce a service engine light along with a misfire and strange engine noise. The issues can be linked back to faulty valve springs, with the bulletin instructing the service department to check for a broken valve spring and, if necessary, perform a cylinder leakage test on the cylinder with the broken spring. The bulletin also says that "if no cylinder leakage is observed it will be necessary to replace all valve springs on both banks if the vehicle is built between June 1st to September 15, 2020."

The bulletin also indicates that the above fix only applies to the following 6.2L GM V8s: L87, LT1, LT2 and LT4. For all other current 'GMC' V8 RPOs (*L82, L84 and L8T*), the service department is instructed to "just replace the affected valve spring," and that if they determine there is cylinder leakage, it "will be necessary to further inspect the extent of the engine damage to determine correct repair required." 'GMC' is also requesting that the service department return valve springs from affected engines for further inspection.

This service bulletin can affect a very large range of current 'GMC' vehicles. The LT1 and LT4 V8s are found in the Camaro, while the LT2 V8 powers the Corvette. The L82 and L87 V8s are found in the latest 'GMC' full-size truck and SUVs, while the L8T is offered in the Silverado/Sierra

HDs, along with the Chevy Express van.

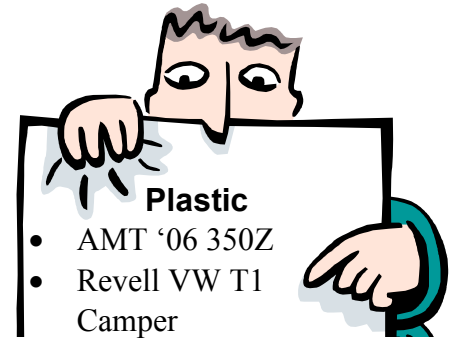
A nationwide class-action lawsuit filed in Ohio against 'GMC' alleging defects with the 5.3L V8 engine has been thrown out by a federal judge.

This plaintiff in this class-action suit, which was filed in December of 2019 in US District Court in Ohio, said the 5.3L V8 in their 2011 Silverado consumed an unusually large amount of oil due to alleged problems with the engine's piston rings and crankcase ventilation system. The suit said these issues can lead to significant engine damage, including spark plug fouling, ring wear, lifter collapse, bent pushrods, camshaft and valve wear, rod bearing wear and rod breakage, among more.

The suit claimed the following vehicles are affected by these issues: *2010-13 GMC Canyon, 2010-13 Savana, 2010-13 Sierra, 2010-14 Yukon, 2010-14 Yukon XL, 2010-14 Chevy Avalanche, 2010-12 Colorado, 2010-13 Express, 2010-13 Silverado, 2010-14 Suburban and 2010-14 Tahoe.*

A federal judge dismissed the suit, saying the "named plaintiffs lack standing to assert claims under the laws of the states in which they do not reside or in which they suffered no injury," as quoted by *Car Complaints*. Additionally, the judge threw out a separate complaint in which the plaintiff claimed 'GMC' breached the terms of its warranty agreement. The plaintiff cannot state claim for an express violation of the warranty, as the oil consumption is due to an inherent design defect and not a part failure, the court found. Design defects are not cov-

## New Stuff!



### Plastic

- AMT '06 350Z
- Revell VW T1 Camper
- Revell '69 6-Pack Superbee 2 'n 1
- Revell '56 Del Ray 2 'n 1

### Diecast

- Zippo! 🚬



ered under 'GMC' warranty.

There were other problems with the plaintiff's claim, too. *Car Complaints* notes the person did not experience any engine trouble or failures with their 2011 Silverado, even though it may have burned oil at a higher than usual rate, and was able to drive it problem-free for eight years before deciding to file suit for millions of dollars.

While this lawsuit has been dismissed, 'GMC' is still facing a number of other similar claims, including one filed in April.

Is this any way to run a car company? It is with any government involvement in the process!—Assorted sources 🚗





I will break with tradition here a bit, and talk about full-size Pontiac power (*and I do mean POWER!*).

**Steve Buter** was a *one-man Pontiac show* this month, submitting **FOUR** pint-sized Ponchos for this, the first “Virtual Poncho Perfection Parade” of hopefully not **TOO** many more.

Interestingly, they seem to be evenly divided into “Old School” and “New School” offerings.

Start off with his Apple Green Banshee, tastefully trimmed out

with matte black accents, and “potential passenger.”

Next up is the white ‘64 GTO, which, at

first glance, appears to be a Polar Lights version, complete with a “period correct” Rock ‘n Roller.

Going back to newer stuff, he presents his blue ‘93ish Firebird Trans Am, complete with its female owner and her “pet.”

Finally, to round out this month’s column, he presents his ‘62 Bonneville convertible, with what looks like the owners, preparing for a night on the town. That is quite a car to be seen in **ANYWHERE!**

So, despite our government-

imposed quarantine, c’mon—let’s continue bringin’ ‘em and showin’ ‘em—virtually! Thanks, Steve! **‘PoP’** (*Pontiacs on Parade!*) **Sickle signin’ off! And don’t forget—MAMA may not need all these Ponchos, but I’m diggin’ ‘em—thanks!! —Tim 🍷**

1965  
**ROYAL GTO**  
**ROYAL 2+2**  
complete ROYAL BOBCATS  
are now available  
only to members of the  
**Royal Racing Team**  
at very special prices !!!  
MEMBERSHIP now open. Annual dues \$3.00. Includes ROYAL DECAL, club card, parts list and prices on '65 performance cars and accessories. If you are not already a club member write  
**ACE WILSON'S ROYAL PONTIAC**  
400 N. MAIN, ROYAL OAK, MICH., DEPT. 210



This is the newsletter of the  
Maryland Automotive Modelers  
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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](http://www.eastcoastindoornats.com)

**York US30 Musclecar Madness:**

[www.yorkus30.com](http://www.yorkus30.com)

**Online Event Calendar:**

[www.NortheastWheelsEvents.com](http://www.NortheastWheelsEvents.com)

## Club Contact Info



## Classifieds

**WANTED:** I am looking for 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 Prix, '70-'81 Firebirds, and empty *Pontiac kit boxes*. Would like to buy/borrow *old model car catalogs*. Contact me at [gtoguy@verizon.net](mailto:gtoguy@verizon.net), or see me at a meeting. *Thanks!* 🚗

Were on the web!

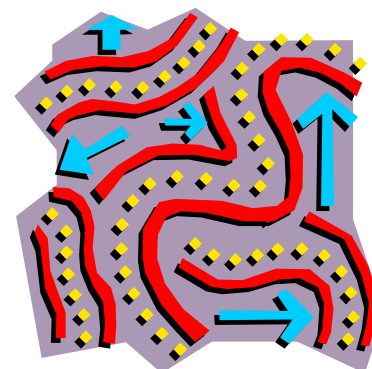
<http://www.mamasboyz.org/>

## 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. 🚗

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